

BIBBONA - LA MACCHIA DELLA MAGONA

Among all the municipalities of the Bassa Val di Cecina, Bibbona is the one that has the privilege of hosting the BIOGENETIC NATURAL RESERVE of Magona, a wooded complex that is part of the National Property.

The name of this reserve derives from the fact that, in the Grand Ducal period, it became a source and reserve of firewood for the smelting of iron in the *Reale Magona di Cecina* foundry (magona in fact means the workshop where the first iron processing is carried out, obtaining cast iron from casting). Traces of this ancient activity remain along the paths that lead into the woods, where the open spaces of the charcoal pits are still visible.

The charcoal burner was a technique used to transform wood into charcoal.

Although this technique has undergone minor changes over the centuries, the charcoal pit has always maintained the shape of a mound, formed by thickly arranged timber according to a precise pattern, leaving only space for a central chimney and other lateral vent passages, used with the purpose of regulating the air draft. The whole was covered with grassy or mossy clods.

The coal production process in fact exploits pyrolysis, a sort of imperfect combustion of wood, which occurs in conditions of poor oxygenation.

With its more than 16 paths, the reserve area allows you to organize numerous itineraries, from the simplest and shortest to the longest and most demanding, generally well marked and articulated between small paths and forest tracks.

It's hard to choose between all of the paths, many trips to give a hint of what we can find in this amazing territory.

Since there is no space here to describe them all, please refer to those interested in existing cartography (see bibliography).