

KALE SHIROKOVO

The late antique and medieval fortress Kale Shirokovo is located on a naturally protected rock promontory at the confluence of the Baniski and Cherni Lom rivers.

Part of the main fortress wall with its adjacent tower number 2 and proteichism (auxiliary wall) of the late antique fortification has been explored. The walls that have been discovered are amazing with their size and construction technique. They were built from large up to 2 m long stone blocks, on which archaeologists found numerous signs by ancient master stonemasons. The documented width of the fortress wall and towers is from 3.50 to 4.80 m, which makes it the widest currently known fortress wall in today's Bulgarian lands. Thanks to its powerful fortification system, the fortification, built in the middle of the 5th century, managed to survive the Avaro-Slavic invasions of the end of the 6th century, becoming one of the three fortresses in the Rusensky Lom River valley inhabited as early as in the first half of the 7th century.

One of the latest ancient coins in Northern Bulgaria was discovered in the fortress. The coin is of the Roman Emperor Constans II and was mint from bronze in 651.

The fortress can be reached following a path from the farmyard of the village of Shirokovo.