



# LATE PREHISTORY AND PROTOHISTORY: BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE XVII UISPP WORLD CONGRESS  
(1–7 SEPTEMBER 2014, BURGOS, SPAIN)

**Volume 9 / Sessions A3c and A16a**

**1. THE EMERGENCE OF WARRIOR SOCIETIES AND  
ITS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSEQUENCES**

Edited by

**Fernando Coimbra and Davide Delfino**

**2. AEGEAN – MEDITERRANEAN IMPORTS AND  
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EUROPE – BRONZE AND IRON AGES**

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**Valeriu Sîrbu and Cristian Schuster**

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# Contents

List of Figures and Tables.....	ii
Foreword to the XVII UISPP Congress Proceedings Series Edition .....	vi
<i>Luiz OOSTERBEEK</i>	
Introduction – 1. The Emergence of warrior societies and its economic, social and environmental consequences .....	vii
<i>Fernando COIMBRA and Davide DELFINO</i>	
Introduction – 2. Aegean – Mediterranean imports and influences in the graves from continental Europe – Bronze and Iron Ages .....	x
<i>Valeriu SÎRBU and Cristian SCHUSTER</i>	
1. The Emergence of warrior societies and its economic, social and environmental consequences	
Walled enclosures in Western Europe as marks of conflict in Late Prehistory. A psychological, anthropological and archaeological approach.....	3
Davide DELFINO	
Symbols for protection in war among European societies (1000 BC – 1000 AD).....	15
Fernando COIMBRA	
The emergence of war in human societies .....	27
Gabriele L. F. BERRUTI and Stefano RUZZA	
The Bronze Age battlefield in the Tollense Valley, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Northeast Germany – Combat marks on human bones as evidence of early warrior societies in northern Middle Europe? .....	39
Ute BRINKER, Annemarie SCHRAMM, Detlef JANTZEN, Jurgen PIEK, Karlheinz HAUENSTEIN and Jorg ORSCHIEDT	
The Late Bronze Age two-piece cuirasses of the Danube region in the Carpathian Basin.....	57
Katalin JANKOVITS	
Warfare in Valcamonica rock art, new emerging data from Paspardo area .....	79
Dario SIGARI	
Model of metalwork and scrap's bronze circulation during Late Bronze Age in the Middle Tagus .....	91
Davide DELFINO	
Settlements and Houses in Galicia in the Middle and Late Bronze Age.....	103
M. Pilar PRIETO-MARTÍNEZ and Mikel DÍAZ-RODRÍGUEZ	

<b>From the regional to the extra-regional: Wide Horizontal Rim vessels and stamping in the second half of the second millennium BC in the NW Iberian Peninsula .....</b>	<b>127</b>
Laure NONAT, M. Pilar PRIETO-MARTÍNEZ and Pablo VÁZQUEZ	
<b>2. Aegean – Mediterranean imports and influences in the graves from continental Europe – Bronze and Iron Ages</b>	
<b>About the connections during the Bronze Age between the Carpatho-Danubian area and the Eastern Mediterranean space. Possible funerary proves.....</b>	<b>147</b>
Cristian SCHUSTER	
<b>Middle Tagus Region and the Autochthonous evidences in Late Bronze Age I (Central Portugal) .....</b>	<b>171</b>
Ana CRUZ	
<b>Southern and Pontic Amphorae Found in Several Getae Necropolises in the Lower Danube Area (5th-3th c. BC) .....</b>	<b>187</b>
Valeriu SÎRBU and Sebastian MATEI	
<b>The Southern Group of Tumuli of the Eastern Necropolis in the Sboryanovo reserve. Greek Amphorae and a Getic Royal burial.....</b>	<b>197</b>
Diana GERGOVA	
<b>Early-Hellenistic barrel-vaulted tombs from Kallatis .....</b>	<b>211</b>
Maria-Magdalena ȘTEFAN and Valeriu SÎRBU	

# **Settlements and Houses in Galicia in the Middle and Late Bronze Age**

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## **Abstract**

*Settlements from the second half of the second millennium BC and the first few centuries of the first millennium BC are relatively unknown in Galicia. The best-studied sites are metallic deposits and burials, while less attention has been paid to the settlements, a problem that is further aggravated by having practically no datings. However, in recent years a number of studies have been published that deal with the record from these types of sites. Based on the data that is now available, we believe it is possible to offer a preliminary summary of the basic features of certain elements from these settlements, such as studies concerned with how their domestic space was organised, or regarding their emplacement. A great deal of work still has to be done on the internal organisation of these settlements, as only very small areas have been excavated, but our aim is to offer a general overview of the current situation. Our empirical base is quite small (9 sites), although we do have radiocarbon datings for most of them, and it is possible to clearly define the typical structures found in the settlements. The province of Pontevedra contains the majority of these sites (5), which are Carballeira do Espíritu Santo (Silleda), Monte Buxel (Pazos de Borbén), Os Pericos (Ribeira), Setepías (Cambados) and Chan das Pozas (Campolameiro). In the region's other three provinces we have a considerably smaller number, with two sites in Ourense: O Fuxiño (Piñor) and O Cepo (San Cibráo de Viñas); one in Lugo, the petroglyph of Pena Fita (Lugo) and another in the province of A Coruña, the fortified settlement of Punta de Muros (Arteixo). Based on the existing data we have found clear similarities with other European regions, both in the Atlantic and Mediterranean areas, especially with regard to the layout of the dwellings in the settlements. As a result, in addition to identifying similarities between the metallurgy and pottery, we can demonstrate a connection between Galicia and other regions through studying these settlements. Our aim is to identify and offer an initial definition of the features that make it possible to identify connections between Galicia and other parts of Europe, and from there to try and understand a number of possibly European influences not only on the organisation of the dwellings, but also the families in this part of the north-west Iberian Peninsula.*

**Keywords:** Second millennium BC, longhouse, NW Iberia Peninsula

## **Résumé**

*Les peuplés de la seconde moitié du deuxième millénaire avant JC et les premiers siècles du premier millénaire avant JC sont relativement inconnus en Galice. Les sites les plus étudiés sont les dépôts métalliques et les sépultures, tandis que moins d'attention a été accordée aux peuplés, un problème qui est encore aggravé par avoir pratiquement pas de datations. Cependant, au cours des dernières années un certain nombre d'études ont été publiées qui traitent avec l'enregistrement de ces types de sites. Basé sur les données qui sont maintenant disponibles, nous croyons qu'il est possible d'offrir un résumé préliminaire des caractéristiques de base de certains éléments de ces peuplés, telles que des études concernés par la façon dont leur espace domestique a été organisé, ou en ce qui concerne leur mise en place. Beaucoup de travail doit encore être fait sur l'organisation interne de ces peuplés, desquels seules de très petites zones ont été fouillées, mais notre objectif est d'offrir un aperçu général de la situation actuelle. Notre base de données empiriques est assez petit (9 sites), bien que nous ayons datations au radiocarbone pour la plupart d'entre eux, et il est possible de définir clairement les structures typiques, dans les colonies. La province de Pontevedra contient la majorité de ces sites (5), qui sont Carballeira do Espíritu Santo (Silleda), Monte Buxel (Pazos de Borbén), Os Pericos (Ribeira), Setepías (Cambados) et Chan das Pozas (Campolameiro). Dans trois autres provinces de la région nous avons un nombre considérablement plus petit, avec deux sites à Ourense: O Fuxiño (Piñor) et O Cepo (San Cibrao de Viñas); l'un à Lugo, le pétroglyphe de Pena Fita (Lugo) et un autre dans la province de La Corogne, le village fortifié de Punta de Muros (Arteixo). Basé sur les données existantes, nous avons trouvé des similitudes évidentes avec d'autres régions européennes, à la fois dans les régions Atlantique et Méditerranéenne, en particulier en ce qui concerne la disposition des logements dans les peuplés. En conséquence, en plus d'identifier les similitudes entre la métallurgie et la poterie, nous pouvons démontrer un lien entre la Galice et d'autres*

*régions à travers l'étude de ces peuplés. Notre objectif est d'identifier et de proposer une première définition des caractéristiques qui permettent d'identifier les liens entre la Galice et d'autres parties de l'Europe, et d'ici essayer de comprendre un certain nombre d'influences européennes éventuellement non seulement sur l'organisation des peuplés, mais aussi les familles dans cette partie du nord-ouest de la péninsule ibérique.*

**Mots clés:** Seconde Millénaire BC; Maisons Longues; Nord Ouest de la Péninsule Ibérique

## 1. Introduction

Megalithic funerary sites are the contexts that have been studied the most from the Late Prehistory of Galicia (NW Iberian Peninsula), perhaps because they are more obvious to identify and characterise. On the contrary, open-air sites are less well known and more difficult to define, as only a few sites have been excavated to any major extent, making it possible to clearly define the structures they contain that form domestic spaces.

There are still few publications on this theme in this region, although several have appeared since the 1990s (see Tables 1 and 2 in the References section). Most of the studies on prehistoric habitats have focused on aspects associated with the territory, more than on the internal distribution of settlements, due to the limited number of sites of this kind that have been excavated to any significant degree. Landscape Archaeology has proposed models of emplacement for these types of sites, based on the study carried out in the area of Bocelo-Furelos (Criado Boado *et al.* 1991). Other zones have been studied intensively, such as the Morrazo peninsula (Criado Boado and Cabrejas Domínguez 2006), the Baixa Limia (Eguileta Franco 1999) or the area around the city of Santiago de Compostela (Parcero and Cobas 2005). Studies of this kind are now rarely carried out, and new approaches have been proposed using GIS as a supporting methodology, in particular the recent study by González-Insua (2013).

Based on the existing publications and a number of unpublished reports to which we have had access, we have been able to make a selection of 34 prehistoric sites in our region which have provided us with partial but interesting information on these types of contexts (Figure 1, Table 1). In particular, we will focus on the settlements that were clearly occupied during the Bronze Age (Figure 2), as these are the sites that can provide us with more complete information about their characteristics, allowing us to offer a preliminary insight into how the habitat was organised in Galician prehistory.

Therefore, an archaeology of these prehistoric settlements is still pending. Territorial studies have to continue which do not only define the patterns of distribution and emplacement of the sites, but also their relationships with the surrounding environment and possible long-distance relationships. Nevertheless, there is also an urgent need to characterise the domestic space at internal level, delimit the sites, describe the dwellings, define the existence of areas used for specialised functions and how they were articulated within the sites, and even to attempt to identify the possible existence of different levels of complexity in the formation of the sites, something which may possibly reflect their hierarchisation. In this case we have to use as a reference the areas in which studies of the site at this level have been carried out successfully in the last 20 years, including a number of recent studies such as those carried out in Denmark (Artursson 2009), Holland (Fokkens 2003), Central Europe (Müller *et al.* 2009) or the Spanish Meseta (Morín and Urbina 2012), amongst many others.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Problems with the record

The main obstacles that are hindering the development of an archaeology of prehistoric settlements in Galicia are the small surface area excavated per site, the lack of suitable funding, the scarcity of publications that appear once the archaeological excavation is complete, and the nature of the

<sup>1</sup> There is a vast amount of literature on this subject in Europe and the rest of the Iberian Peninsula, and so we have only selected a few titles that have recently been published for this study.

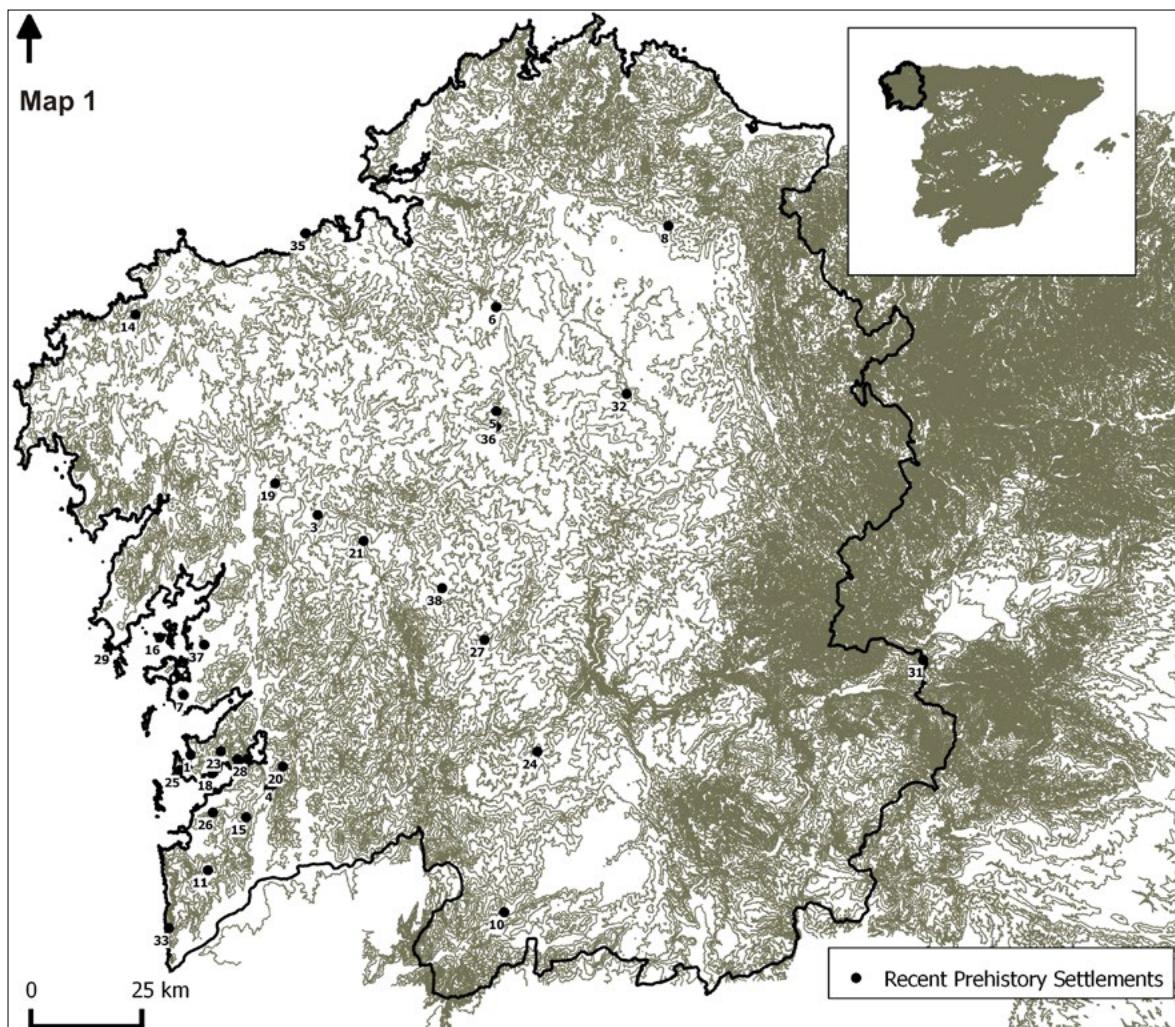


FIGURE 1. MAP SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF SITES FROM LATE PREHISTORY.

archaeological structures that are documented. This last reason strongly limits a deeper understanding of the archaeological record:

- Settlements are invisible sites, which means that they are difficult to detect during the prospecting stage. They do not stand out in the topography, and tend to be identified as a result of material appearing on the surface, as a result of prospecting work or monitoring public works. For this reason only a small surface area is excavated in these sites, and in most cases they are only catalogued as surface findings.
- Once they can be excavated, they provide structures without any stratigraphic connections and with a horizontal stratigraphy that is difficult to interpret. It is very difficult to comprehend the stratification of a site comprised of wooden structures occupying a large surface area. Archaeologists are increasingly aware of the problems connected with the horizontal stratigraphy, and this way of presenting the record continues to cause dilemmas when it comes to reconstructing these sites (Aboal *et al.* 2005).
- During the research stage, a small number of samples are selected for dating. The radiocarbon results available for the sites that have been investigated usually indicate that they are highly complex, usually having lasted for a long period of time, and normally corresponding to a variety of functions depending on the period of prehistoric activity (something we could refer to as diachronic multifunctionality).

LATER PREHISTORY TO THE BRONZE AGE: 1. THE EMERGENCE OF WARRIOR SOCIETIES

Nº	Place Name	Council	Province	AN	MN	FN	EB	LB	Typology	Dating	Bibliography
1	A Cunchosa	Bueu	Pontevedra	X				X	SH		Suárez 1997
2	A Devesa de Abaixo	Moaña	Pontevedra		X	X	X	X	FC	X	Vázquez and Prieto 2011
3	A Devesa do Rei	Vedra	A Coruña		X		X	X	OAAA-CM	X	Aboal <i>et al.</i> 2005
4	A Gándara	Mos	Pontevedra		X	X			PF (enclosure)	X	Lima 2002
5	A Lagoa	Toques	A Coruña				X	X	H	X	Prieto 2011
6	As Cruces/Reborica	Aranga	A Coruña		X	X			P	X	Bonilla 2011
7	As Mamelas	Sanxenxo	Pontevedra			X	X		P		Cano 2011
8	As Pontes	Abadín	Lugo	X	X				SS	X	López <i>et al.</i> 2003
9	Sáidos de As Rozas	Campolameiro	Pontevedra			X	X		OAAA+T+PG	X	Prieto 2001
10	Barxés/Illa de Pazos	Muíños	Ourense	X		X			OAAA		Aira 1989-1990; Eguileta 1999
11	Carballeira do Espírito Santo	Silleda	Pontevedra					X	V	X	Blanco and Prieto 2010
12	Cartas de Vilar 4	Mos	Pontevedra			X			V	X	Lima 2000; Prieto 2001
13	Chan das Pozas	Campolameiro	Pontevedra	X	X	X	X	X	V	X	Bonilla and César 2013; Martín 2013; Méndez and López 2013
14	Dombate-settlement	Cabana de Bergantiños	A Coruña				X	X	OAAA-P		Bello <i>et al.</i> 2011; Cebrán <i>et al.</i> 2011
15	Entrepíñeiro	Mos	Pontevedra				X		OAAA-T		Vázquez 1993
16	Guidoiro Areoso	Vilanova de Arousa	Pontevedra				X		C	X	Rey 2011; Rey and Vilaseco 2012
17	Lavapés	Cangas	Pontevedra			X	X		P	X	Peña 1981-1982
18	Mesa de Montes	Cangas	Pontevedra			X		X	HP		Fábregas 2011; Gorgoso <i>et al.</i> 2011; Suárez 2002
19	Milladoiro-Lamas de Abade	Ames	A Coruña			X	X	X	P	X	Martin <i>et al.</i> 2011; Parga 2001
20	Monte Buxel	Pazos de Borbén	Pontevedra					X	P	X	Lima & Prieto 2002; Prieto 2001
21	Monte dos Escurus-settlement	Silleda	Pontevedra			X			OAAA-T		Parga and Prieto 2010
22	Monte dos Remedios	Moaña	Pontevedra	X(EP)	X(PF)	X	X	X(OAAA)	OAAA	X	Bonilla & César 2005; Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2006; Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2011; Fábregas <i>et al.</i> 2007
23	Montenegro	Moaña	Pontevedra			X	X	X	P	X	Gianotti <i>et al.</i> 2011
24	O Cepo	Vigo	Pontevedra					X	SH-V		Parga 1996; Prieto 2001
25	O Fixón	Cangas	Pontevedra				X	X	H	X	Eguileta 1999; García-Lastra 1984; Suárez 1995
26	O Folón	Vigo	Pontevedra			X			CV		Alonso <i>et al.</i> 1996; Costas <i>et al.</i> 1998; Hidalgo <i>et al.</i> 1996-97
27	O Fuxiño	Piñor	Ourense				X	X	P	X	Vidal 2011
28	O Regueiriño	Moaña	Pontevedra	X			X		AB		Fábregas & Suárez 1999; Prieto 2010; Suárez 1997
29	Os Pericos	Ribeira	A Coruña				X	X	SH+HP	X	Criado & Vázquez 1982; Vilaseco & Fábregas 2008; Vilaseco 2012
30	Os Torradoiros	Moaña	Pontevedra				X		H		Criado & Cabrejas 2006; Vázquez Liz 2011
31	Pala da Vella	Rubiá	Ourense			X			CV	X	Fernández 2003; Pérez & Fernández 2005
32	Penafita	Lugo	Lugo					X	PG		Ferrer & González 1993
33	Portecelo	O Rosal	Pontevedra					X	P	X	Fábregas & Ruiz 1997; Vázquez & Cano 1988, Cano 1997
34	Porto dos Valos	Mos	Pontevedra		X				SS	X	Lima 2000
35	Punta de Muros	Arteixo	A Coruña					X	FS	X	Cano & Filgueira 2010; Cano 2012
36	Requeán	Moaña	Pontevedra			X			P	X	González 1991; González 2000
37	Setepías	Cambados	Pontevedra			X	X	X	V-P	X	Acuña 2002; Acuña <i>et al.</i> 2011; Barbeito 2004
38	Zarra de Xoacín	Lalín	Pontevedra			X	X		V	X	Aboal <i>et al.</i> 2010

TABLE 1. TABLE WITH INFORMATION ON THE SITES FROM LATE PREHISTORY. KEY INDICATING THE TYPE OF SITE:

SH=SHelter, FC=FUNERARY-CEREMONIAL, C=CEREMONIAL, P=SETTLEMENT NOT FORTIFIED, H=HAMLET,  
 PS=FORTIFIED SETTLEMENT, V=VILLAGE, SS=SPECIFIC STRUCTURE, OAAA=OPEN AIR ACCUMULATION AREA,  
 HP=HEIGHT SETTLEMENT, CV=CAVE, PG=PETROGLYPH, T=FUNERARY MOUND AND CM=CAMP. CHRONOLOGICAL KEY:  
 EN=EARLY NEOLITHIC, MN=MIDDLE NEOLITHIC, FN=LATE NEOLITHIC, EB=EARLY BRONZE AGE AND  
 LB=LATE BRONZE AGE. THE NUMERATION OF THE MAPS COINCIDES WITH THIS TABLE (FIGURES 1 AND 2).

We have based the study of the site on 5 groups of structures, which remain similar over time:

(1) *Holes dug into the mineral substrate*

- Large pits
- Small pits
- Post holes

(2) *Trenches cut into the mineral substrate*

- Used to delimit and protect domestic spaces:
  - Pits
  - Pallisade-type trenches
- Used to organise and arrange internal spaces within the habitats:
  - Long lengthways trenches
  - Short lengthways trenches
  - Kidney-shaped trenches
  - Circular trenches
  - Oval trenches (longhouses)

(3) *Combustion structures*

- Stone hearths
- Hearths without structures
- Grille-type pits

(4) *Rock walls*

(5) *Stone walls*

### **3. Proposals and aims**

Despite only having a small amount of data, a study of the domestic spaces can help us to better characterise the societies we are studying and focus our work at chronological level.

We start out from the idea that towards the middle of the second millennium BC, changes can be seen in European communities that are reflected in different aspects of the archaeological record (Fokkens 2003), one of which is the habitational context, by studying the different dimensions of which it is comprised: construction strategies and architecture, the internal organisation of the spaces, the distribution of materials, emplacement, etc.

Due to the limited amount of information we have for our region, by systematising the available data we have the aim of summarising the most significant aspects for this chronological period, in order to offer a preliminary perspective of the characteristics of the sites from the second half of the second millennium BC and the start of the first millennium BC.

To achieve this, we have selected a number of significant sites that can act as a model. We will also focus on the element that can provide us with the most information: the dwelling. Based on this type of construction we can search for possible relationships and connections between the NW Iberian Peninsula and other parts of Europe.

### **4. The empirical basis**

There are at least 18 sites in the region where activity has been documented that can be attributed to the Bronze Age, especially the second half of the second millennium BC and early first millennium BC (Figure 2). In many of these sites, this occupation forms a part of the phases of activity of the site.

Before focusing on the results of the study, we need to generally define the structural features that were documented in the archaeological record, in order to be able to understand the selection of sites

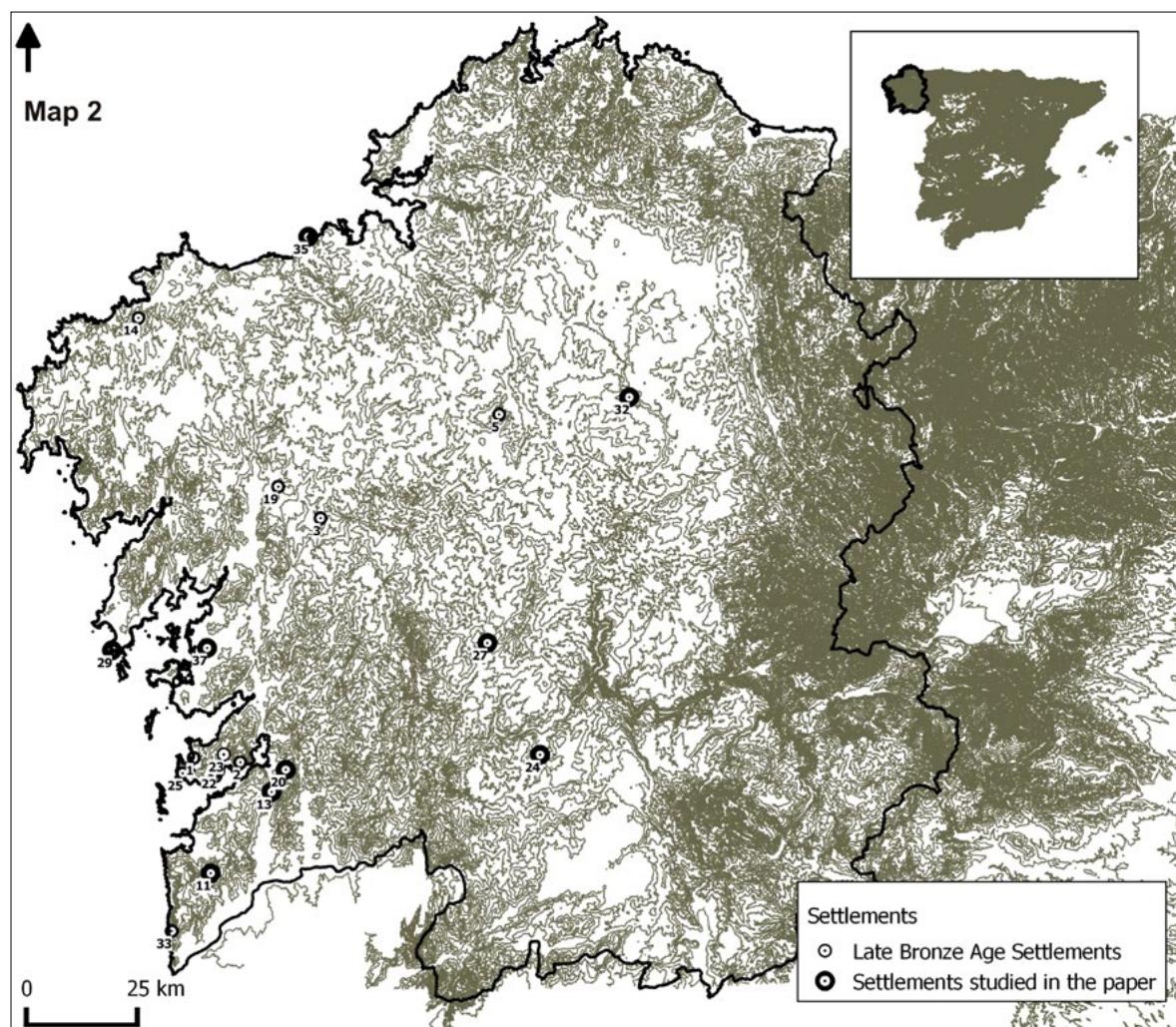


FIGURE 2. MAP SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF SITES FROM THE LATE BRONZE AGE KNOWN IN THE REGION, HIGHLIGHTING THOSE SELECTED FOR A DETAILED EXPLORATION IN THIS STUDY.

included in the following section. These features can be organised in three groups, and most of them can be found at any moment of prehistory.

**(1) Natural rock structures. Types:**

- Shelter
- Cave
- Petroglyph

**(2) Open air areas of activity**

These are unexcavated areas which are pending classification in greater detail once more intense activity is carried out in the area, and in many cases are classified as findings. Types:

- Concentrations of isolated materials without any clear associations with previously known sites.
- Concentrations of materials associated with ‘monumental landscapes’, i.e. those where a burial mound or rock art station is located.

- Ritual or ceremonial type: in this case they are sites with excavated areas with plenty of material, but with hardly any structures associated with them.

### (3) Settlements

Five types are classified, depending on their size and complexity.

- Camps or transitory structures
- Hamlets
- Villages
- Villages in high locations
- Fortified villages

We will only focus on those that provide information about dwelling-type structures, where possible with datings, highlighting a petroglyph, the hamlets and villages of different kinds.

In particular, we have made a selection of 9 sites that are representative of the Late Bronze Age, 7 of which have radiocarbon datings. This selection has been made taking into account the fact that each of these sites can be representative of the tipological variety of this stage, and will therefore allow us to achieve a wider general perspective of the settlements.

## 5. Results

In this section we will briefly describe nine sites that are representative of the settlements, with a chronology ranging from 1600/1500 BC through to 900/800 BC. This selection is aimed at offering an initial overview, as based on the data we currently have available, we do not know how frequently these appear or the importance of each of them in the region. We include a table with radiocarbon details for the prehistoric settlements in the region (Table 2), which may be of use to readers, as it helps to explain the chronological complexity of a number of sites, especially those which have been selected for this section.

### ***Chan das Pozas. The continuity of a tradition: hamlet-type settlements***

This site is close to a rock art station (Figure 3). An area of 1680 m<sup>2</sup> has been excavated in two different stages, and now contains the reception space and museum of the Rock Art Archaeological Park of Campolameiro.

This site has been occupied over time, and contains three kidney-shaped and oval cabin bases made of wood, laid out in an NE-SW and E-W direction. Other structures have been documented that were associated with the dwellings: 4 pits and a large number of post holes, (Bonilla & César 2013, Méndez & Alonso 2013, Martín 2013).

A dating for the occupation stage from the Late Bronze Age was obtained of 1460-1200 BC, in the sediment from an oval-shaped cabin and a small kidney-shaped foundation trench (4 m<sup>2</sup>), a construction known since the Late Neolithic in this region in sites such as Zarra de Xoacín or Montenegro (see Tables 1 and 2), and which was the most frequent construction model used in the third millennium BC. The identification of this type of structure associated with a dating from the end of the second millennium BC allows us to hypothesise a continuity of the construction models for dwellings in some sites.

### ***Carballeira do Espíritu Santo. A Late Bronze Age Village and Possible Family Settlement***

This site is close to an Iron Age hill fort, with an excavated area of 5300 m<sup>2</sup>, which apparently was only occupied during the Late Bronze Age. We have several datings from between 1319-1005 BC (Figure 3). A round cabin was documented on the site with a diameter of 4 m, built over a trench, and

LATER PREHISTORY TO THE BRONZE AGE: 1. THE EMERGENCE OF WARRIOR SOCIETIES

Site	Lab. Code	BP	Cal ANE (2σ) BC	Samples and contexts	Bibliography
Porto dos Valos	CSIC-1112	5572±32	4470-4350	Charcoal. Interior of a structure	Lima 2000
A Gándara	CSIC-1264	5412±42	4348-4101	MU970812Ñ03	Lima 2000
A Gándara	CSIC-1263	5356±49	4329-4023	MU970806Ñ01	Lima 2000
A Gándara	CSIC-1265	4095±42	2868-2944	MU970826Ñ04	Lima 2000
As Pontes	CSIC-1533	4656±41	3619-3357	Charcoal taken from combustion structure	López-Sáez <i>et al.</i> 2003
As Pontes	Beta-141789	6250±140	5476-4814	Remnants of a paleosoil	López-Sáez <i>et al.</i> 2003
Cartas de Vilar 4	CSIC-1383	4027±28	2588-2466	Belongs to a well-preserved hearth located at the base of the structures	Lima 2000
Devesa do Rei	UA-21686	3055±45	2023-1758	Residue inside a vessel	Aboal <i>et al.</i> 2005
Devesa do Rei	UA-20011	5190±55	4220-3804	Deposit of carbonised earth	Aboal <i>et al.</i> 2005
Devesa do Rei	UA-20012	2990±45	1380-1051	Base sediment on which the circular structure is supported	Aboal <i>et al.</i> 2005
Devesa do Rei	UA-21685	5340±45	757-212	Deposit inside the perimeter structure interior	Aboal <i>et al.</i> 2005
Devesa do Rei	UA-21684	2290±40	404-207	Sediment from inside a pit	Aboal <i>et al.</i> 2005
As Cruces-Reborica	UtC-4002	4927±48	3794-3638	Charcoal (As Cruces-17). Well-preserved hearth located at the base of the structures	Bonilla 2011
As Cruces-Reborica	UtC-4004	4835±45	3701-3520	Charcoal (As Cruces-19). Inside of a post hole	Bonilla 2011
As Cruces-Reborica	UtC-4003	4170±44	2886-2586	Charcoal (As Cruces-40). Beneath a pile of fallen stones	Bonilla 2011
Monte dos Remedios	UA-32670	5780±40	4720-4530	Sediment. Silo with grindstones	Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2011
Monte dos Remedios	UA-33141	5385±50	4340-4150 (.80)	Charcoal. Oval combustion structure.	Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2011
Monte dos Remedios	UA-33142	5285±50	4240-3980	Charcoal. Circular combustion structure to the south.	Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2011
Monte dos Remedios	UA-32667	5015±40	3945-3707	Sediment. Filling material on bottom of perimeter trench	Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2011
Monte dos Remedios	UA-32666	5000±40	394-3675	Sediment. Filling material on bottom of perimeter trench	Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2011
Monte dos Remedios	UA-32669	4725±40	3635-3375	Charcoal. Hearth in pit in perimeter zone	Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2011
Monte dos Remedios	UA-33144	4420±45	3125-2915	Sediment. Circular hearth with windshield	Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2011
Monte dos Remedios	UA-32668	4315±25	3025-2880	Sediment. Hearth on paving in central zone	Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2011
Monte dos Remedios	UA-33140	4240±40	2920-2740	Sediment. Perimeter trench of circular hut	Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2011
Monte dos Remedios	UA-33143	4150±40	2880-2620	Sediment + charcoal. Hearth to the east of the circular hut	Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2011
Monte dos Remedios	UA-32665	2630±35	845-767	Sediment. Upper filling of the perimeter trench	Bonilla <i>et al.</i> 2011
A Devesa de Abaixo	Beta-278856	4200±40	2900-2670	DVS-20. Deposit of charcoals and ashes	Vázquez -Liz and Prieto 2011
A Lagoa	Beta-74272	3820±60	2462-2052	Carbonised remains on bottom of a vessel (PA 44.04)	Prieto 2011
A Lagoa	CSIC-1000	3800±30	2339-2139	Charcoal PA 45.04	Prieto 2011
A Lagoa	CSIC-899	3900±70	2571-2150	Charcoal PA 45.04	Prieto 2011
A Lagoa	CSIC-900	3030±50	1411-1129	Charcoal PA 45.01	Prieto 2011
A Lagoa	CSIC-901	3140±70	1606-1215	Charcoal PA 45.01	Prieto 2011
Saídos das Rozas	CSIC-1131	4219±32	2900-2690	Bottom of a pit	Prieto 2000
Carballeira do Espíritu Santo	UA-20006	2985±40	1319-1109	Organic matter. Bottom of foundation trench of the hut d	Blanco and Prieto 2010
Carballeira do Espíritu Santo	UA-21689	2845±45	1130-896	Charcoal. Circular hut	Blanco and Prieto 2010
Carballeira do Espíritu Santo	UA-20008	1340±40	641-732 AD	Organic matter. Pit in eastern side of the site	Blanco and Prieto 2010
Carballeira do Espíritu Santo	UA-20007	2935±40	1261-1005	Organic matter. Interior of oval-shaped pit	Blanco and Prieto 2010
Guidoiro Areoso	GrN-16108	4020±40	2225-1950	Valve of <i>Ostrea Edulis</i> from a shell dump	Rey and Vilaseco 2011
Lavapés	GAK-11188	3939±120	2866-2053	Charcoal. Found in a hearth	Peña Santos 1981-2
Lavapés	CSIC-1532	4000±36	2619-2462	Charcoal. Found in a hearth	Peña Santos 1981-2
Lamas de Abade	Beta-289831	3980±40	2471-2209	Hut	Martín <i>et al.</i> 2011
Lamas de Abade	Beta-289830	4094±40	2866-2493	Same hut as previous sample, or possibly nearby hearth	Martín <i>et al.</i> 2011
Lamas de Abade	Beta-289825	3880±40	2471-2209	Charcoal	Martín <i>et al.</i> 2011
Lamas de Abade	Beta-289832	3530±40	1963-1745	Charcoal	Martín <i>et al.</i> 2011
Lamas de Abade	Beta-289824	2910±40	1261-996	Charcoal	Martín <i>et al.</i> 2011
Montenegro	CSIC-1986	3813±52	2470-2130	Charcoal from the basal deposit (UE 362) covering a rectangular pit (UE 155)	Gianotti <i>et al.</i> 2011
Montenegro	Ua-23589	4120±40	2872-2577	Charcoal from a similar hut to the one dated with code UA-23591 from the circular enclosure of the settlement	Gianotti <i>et al.</i> 2011
Montenegro	Ua-23591	4125±40	2872-2579	Charcoal from one of the deposits sealing the foundation trench to the west of an oval hut with a diameter of 3.5 x 1.5 m	Gianotti <i>et al.</i> 2011
O Fixón	GaK-12317	3830±130	2828-1900	Dispersion 2	Suárez 1995 and 1997
O Fuxiño	CSIC-2087	3370±25	1530-1440	Charcoal. Circular pit with charcoal	Vidal 2011
O Fuxiño	CSIC-2087	3370±25	1650-1480	Charcoal. Circular pit with charcoal	Vidal 2011
O Fuxiño	CSIC-2089	3325±26	1650-1480	Charcoal. Circular pit with charcoal	Vidal 2011
O Fuxiño	CSIC-2090	3292±27	1660-1490	Charcoal. Circular pit with charcoal	Vidal 2011

Site	Lab. Code	BP	Cal ANE (2σ) BC	Samples and contexts	Bibliography
Os Pericos	Ua-32504	2895±45	1260-930	Charcoal. Recovered from a level of earth over the last deposit of pebbles	Vilaseco and Fábregas 2008
Pala da Vella	GrA-1021	4500±35	3356-239	Human vertebra	Pérez <i>et al.</i> 2005
Pala da Vella	GrN-19395	4790±120	3892-3139	Charcoal	Pérez <i>et al.</i> 2005
Setepías	Ua-21849	3670±45	2197-1927	Organic matter. Hut with kidney-shaped trench	Acuña <i>et al.</i> 2011
Setepías	Ua-21850	1383±50	1383-1054	Organic matter. Longhouse with post holes	Acuña <i>et al.</i> 2011
Zarra de Xoacín	Ua-21692	3925±45	2568-2286	Charcoal	Aboal <i>et al.</i> 2005
Zarra de Xoacín	CSIC-1857	4232±33	2911-2697	Charcoal	Aboal <i>et al.</i> 2005
Dombate	CSIC-892	4230±70	3011-2583	Enclosure of monument with vertical slab at entrance to the corridor and pile of stones behind it, blocking the entrance	Alonso and Bello 1995
Dombate	CSIC-948	4200±30	2893-2670	Exterior of wall	Alonso and Bello 1995
Dombate	CSIC-1066	4090±60	2872-2489	Exterior of wall	Alonso and Bello 1995
Dombate	CSIC-962	4020±30	2619-2471	Exterior of tumulus. Use of monument in Bell Beaker period.	Alonso and Bello 1995
Dombate	UtC-3201	3950±60	2619-2212	Interior of chamber	Alonso and Bello 1995
Chan das Pozas	Ua-34562	4295±40	3022-2871	Sediment M-11. Post hole	Bonilla and César 2013
Chan das Pozas	Ua-34564	4270±40	2942-2859	Sediment M-75. Post hole	Bonilla and César 2013
Chan das Pozas	Ua-34563	4270±40	4181-3988	Sediment M-34-1. Pit covered by paving	Bonilla and César 2013
Chan das Pozas	MO-003	3870±40	2470-2200	Charcoal from <i>fabaceae</i> . Interior of kidney-shaped trench of hut GE001	Martín 2013
Chan das Pozas	MO-001	3080±60	1460-1200	Shrub charcoal. Hut GE005	Martín 2013
Chan das Pozas	MO-002	6640±60	5650-5480	<i>Quercus sp.</i> Deciduous. Hut GE005	Martín 2013
Monte Buxel	CSIC-1266	3103±44	1446-1220	One of the excavated structures	Prieto 2001
Portecelo	CSIC-744	3050±50	1410-1157	No information available	Cano 1997
Punta de Muros	Ua-34772	2480±35	774-476	PEC 8345 (charcoal). Interior hut IV	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34773	2550±35	803-734	PEC 8347 (charcoal). Interior hut VI	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34744	2495±35	789-507	PEC 8353 (charcoal). Interior of settlement	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34775	2485±35	782-479	PEC 8354 (charcoal). Wall area	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34776	2620±40	895-759	PEC 8407 (charcoal). Interior hut XI	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34777	2500±35	790-512	PEC 8425 (charcoal). Interior hut X	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34778	2710±40	929-802	PEC 8429 (charcoal). Interior hut XIV	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34779	2485±40	784-476	PEC 8432 (charcoal). Interior hut IX	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34780	2460±40	543-369	PEC 8433 (charcoal). Interior hut IX	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34781	2010±40	112-75 AD	PEC 8441 (charcoal). Interior hut VII	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34782	2620±35	842-766	PEC 8444 (charcoal). Exterior of settlement, wall area	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34783	1035±30	960-1036	PEC 8446 (charcoal). Filling material inside wall	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34784	2480±35	774-476	PEC 8447 (charcoal). Interior hut XVI	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34785	2375±35	542-388	PEC 8451 (charcoal). Sector 2.4 between stones in first row	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34786	2555±35	804-736	PEC 8455 (charcoal). Exterior of settlement, wall area	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34787	2660±35	895-795	PEC 8486 (charcoal). Interior hut XIX	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34788	2425±35	591-403	PEC 8496 (charcoal). Interior hut XXV	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34789	2375±35	542-388	PEC 8498 (charcoal). Interior hut XXIII	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34790	2480±35	774-476	PEC 8513 (charcoal). Interior XI	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34791	2510±35	793-536	PEC 8529 (charcoal). Interior hut XXX	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34792	2385±35	544-393	PEC 8532 (charcoal). Interior hut XXXII	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-34793	2480±35	774-476	PEC 8536 (charcoal). Interior hut XXXII	Cano 2012
Punta de Muros	Ua-74794	2395±35	548-395	PEC 9647 (charcoal). Interior hut XXIV	Cano 2012
Requeán	CSIC-909	4180±110	3023-2471	Charcoal. Hearth built next to hut.	González-Méndez 2000
Requeán	CSIC-898	4200±50	2903-2831	Charcoal. Hearth	González-Méndez 2000

TABLE 2. LIST OF DATINGS FOR THE SITES FROM LATE PREHISTORY IN GALICIA THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED TO DATE.

with other associated structures (8 shallow pits in different sizes, some post holes and short straight ditches, and a small hearth associated with the cabin) (Blanco & Prieto 2010).

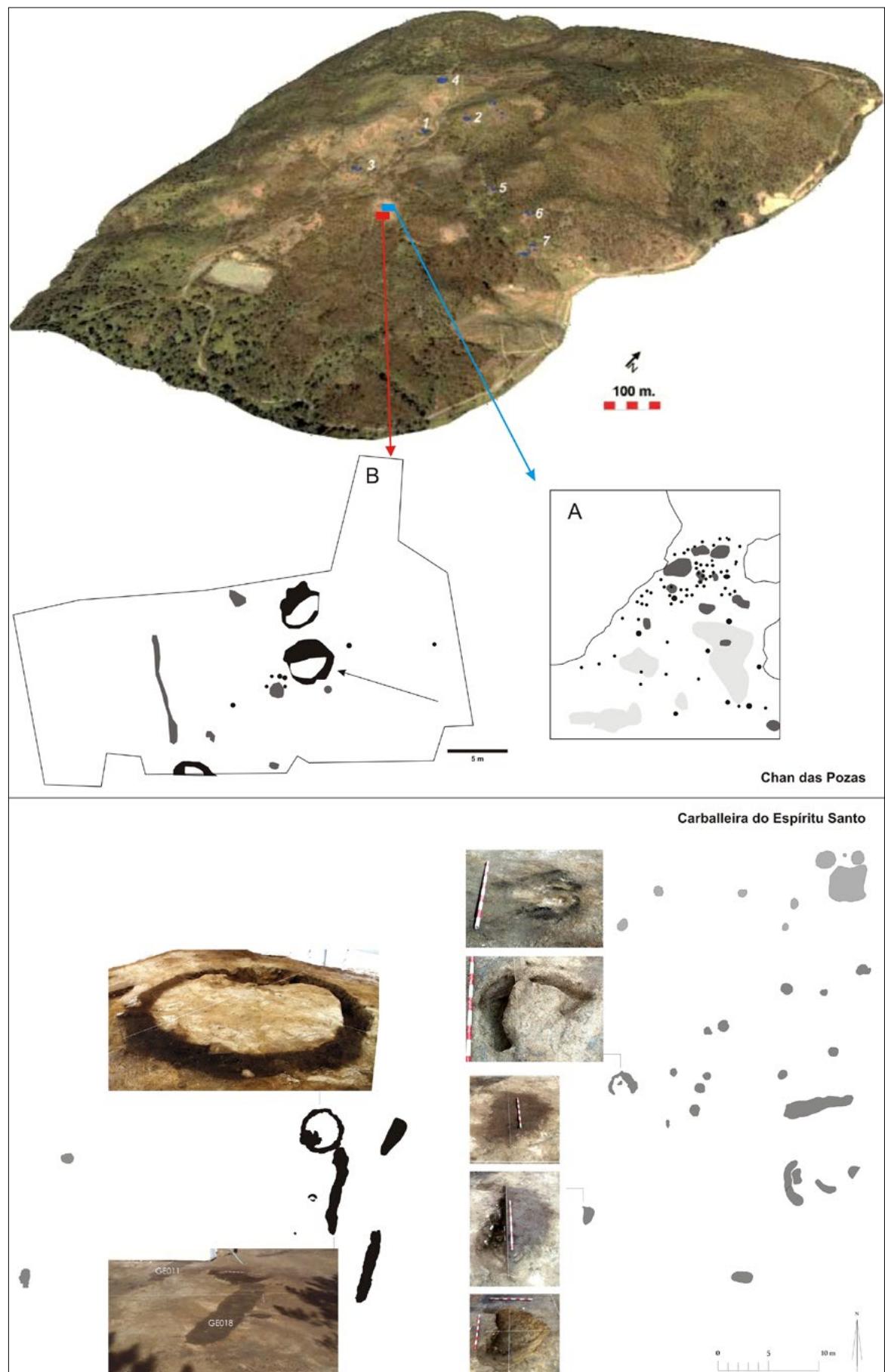


FIGURE 3. SITES OF CHAN DAS POZAS AND CARBALLEIRA DO ESPÍRITU SANTO.

This type of construction has been documented in two locations in Galicia, in the site of Monte de Os Remedios and A Lagoa (Tables 1 and 2), where the datings situate it in the Late Neolithic. Therefore, the model for this type of circular dwelling exists but is not frequent in prehistoric Galician settlements, and instead was the model used in Iron Age hill forts in the region, although in the first millennium BC these dwellings were made of stone instead of wood. The site of Carballeira do Espíritu Santo is a typical example of a village-type family settlement consisting of a cabin with a number of associated structures.

***Monte Buxel. A new feature: the resurgence of the village. The creation of areas of functional specialisation: storage***

As with the previous site, it seems likely that this site was occupied during a single stage dating from 1446-1220 BC. Only the area dedicated to storing foodstuffs has been excavated on this site, containing large pits with narrow circular mouths, around 2 m deep (Lima & Prieto 2002). There are numerous sites from the same period in the north of Portugal and Spain, especially in the Meseta and Ebro (from the so-called Cogotas Culture, where the sites are also known as ‘fields of holes’). These include Bouça do Frade (Jorge 1988) which is the site closest to the study area, as far as La Loma del Lomo (Valiente 1992) in the central Meseta, amongst others.

This settlement is an example of a village with functional areas set apart from each other, typical of large, complex settlements (Figure 4), with a clearly defined storage area containing 9 large globular pits distributed over a large excavated area of 1200 m<sup>2</sup>, although the total area is probably larger. Unfortunately, the area of the dwellings has not been excavated, and instead a number of isolated structures have been uncovered, such as 2 linear structures, 13 post holes, and a pair of trenches that could be signs of poorly conserved habitationa structures. The presence of settlements based around a domesticated space of some size has only been found from the Late Neolithic, and this complex organisation seen in sites such as Requeán (Tables 1 and 2) is not documented again until the second half of the second millennium BC in this region.

***O Fuxiño. A new feature: The rise of ship-houses in the region***

This site, with an excavated area of 5000 m<sup>2</sup> contains two stages of occupation: an initial phase without any associated datings, to which 4 circular cabin bases are attributed together with another oval cabin and a number of short, shallow trenches, and a number of pit silos, and a second stage, associated with a large cabin base (approximately 30 m<sup>2</sup>) in an oval ‘ship-house’ shape, facing NW-SE, dated from 1650-1480 BC (Vidal 2011) (Figure 4). Based on the data we currently have available for Galicia, we can affirm that this is the oldest ship-house in the region built using a foundation trench, with an opening in its SE part for a doorway.

***Setepías...and the rise of the longhouse as the starting point for organising domestic space in a more complex way***

This is the largest site that has been documented to date in the region, although only a total of 5250 m<sup>2</sup> have been excavated out of a total potential area of occupation of 300,000 m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 5).

There may have been up to 3 different phases of occupation on this site, the oldest of which is associated with Bell Beaker pottery. The final stage, from the Late Bronze Age and with radiocarbon datings placing it at between 1383-1054 BC (Acuña *et al.* 2011), is associated with 3 huts that are similar to long houses, with a predominance of structures made of thick wooden posts or foundation trenches, facing NW-SE. The size of the house made of posts is 34 m<sup>2</sup>. We also find internal divisions within the houses, the only known case in the region so far. This feature is clearly documented in sites from the north of Europe (Boas 1993) as far as the Central Meseta, such as the site of Las Camas in Madrid which was recently published (Agustí *et al.* 2012).

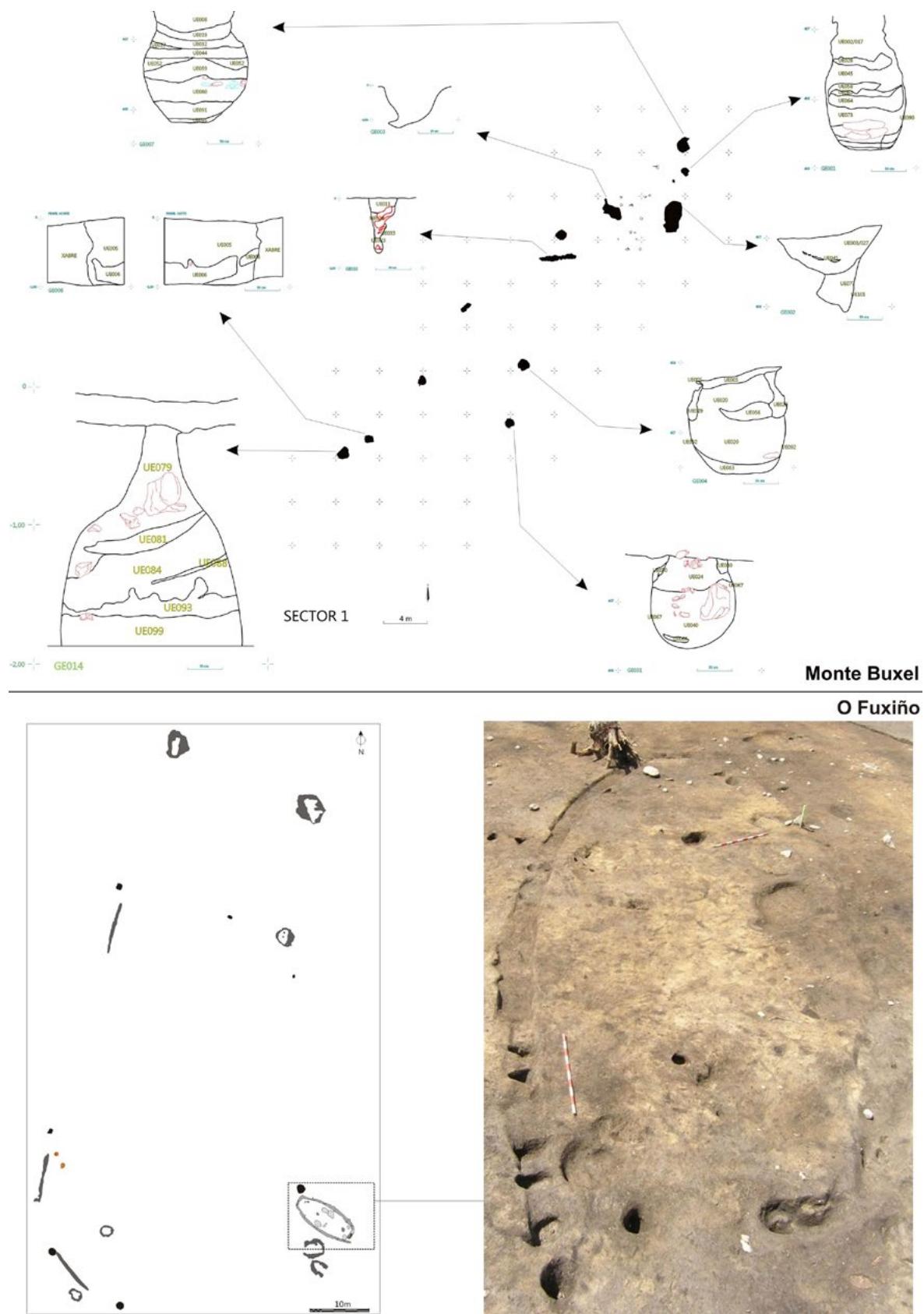


FIGURE 4. SITES OF MONTE BUDEL AND O FUXIÑO.

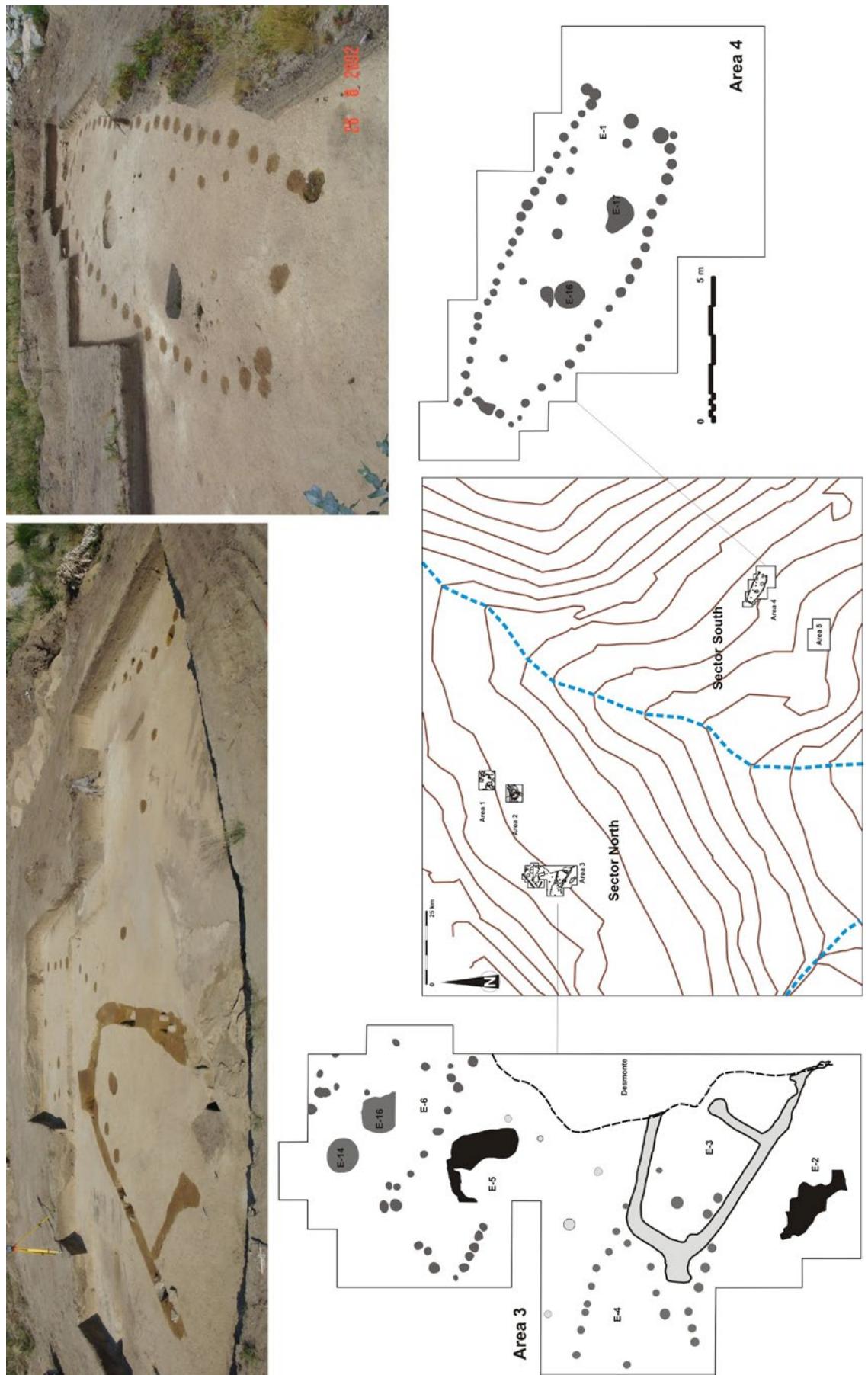


FIGURE 5. SITE OF SETEPÍAS.

We believe that the site of Setepías is the best available example to show that the longhouse may be the key domestic structure for organising domestic space in a more complex way.

#### ***Pena Fita. Rock Art: The importance of the longhouse in non-domestic spaces.***

This is a cabin-like structure with the shape of a longhouse carved into a rock measuring some 400 m<sup>2</sup>. The area of activity associated with the petroglyph is unknown, although some pottery has been found on the surface, possibly associated with the carving, close to the rock (Ferrer and González 1993). Also, this rock forms a part of a rock art ‘station’ with five rocks carved with cup marks and crosses inside circles, with the rock containing the image of the longhouse positioned in the centre (Santos and García-Quintela 2003). A total of 18 post holes are represented, outlining a cabin base, connected by shallow channels that could represent the foundation trench of the cabin from a domestic settlement (Figure 6). The size of the house covers 44 m<sup>2</sup>, it is a little bigger than the other Galician longhouses (which in turn are a little smaller than those found in the rest of Europe). Therefore, this site is an exceptional case, not only because of the ‘ritual’ size of the house, but also because it is carved into the rock and situated within the rock-art tradition of the region. These aspects support the hypothesis that it did not have a strictly domestic function, even though it imitates the shape of a house. It has been interpreted as having a ritual function, possibly from the First Iron Age (Santos and García-Quintela 2003). No datings are available for this site or the neighbouring areas where material has been documented, and so we can suggest as a working hypothesis that it may date from even slightly before the First Iron Age, if we consider that this carving represents the construction of a type of longhouse from the middle or end of the second millennium BC, based on other houses documented in settlements with datings from this same region, especially Setepías.

#### ***O Cepo. A Galician version of the longhouse, or stockades to protect the area?***

At least 10 short lengthways foundation trenches have been documented in this site, which seem to form long cabins with one or two sections. One of the sections that is completely preserved measures 1 m wide x 7 m long. The elongated shape of these cabins would suggest that these are an imitation of the longhouse dwelling, and that the site of O Cepo may contain a Galician version of the standard European longhouse. The excavated area of 1130 m<sup>2</sup> where these structures were found is small and next to a number of rocky outcrops similar to shelters. Their excavator believes that the site dates from the early first millennium BC, based on metallic materials documented in a pit (a bracelet and a thick bronze pendant) (Figure 6)<sup>2</sup> (Parga 1996).

#### ***Os Pericos. The birth of the fortified settlements***

Excavation work carried out on this site has revealed the presence of an embankment-like structure made of stone which could have formed a part of a defensive structure dated from 1260-930 BC. This is the only example known in the region so far from this date. No other associated structures were documented, partly because the excavated surface is very small, only 8 m<sup>2</sup> (Vilaseco 2008) compared to a potential area where the site would have been located of at least 450 m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 7). It is also interesting to note the position of the site looking out over the estuary, as it is located to the south of a small headland, more sheltered from the wind, where activity has been documented from other periods (Iron Age, third millennium BC-early second millennium BC), with some fragments of Bell Beaker pottery.

#### ***Punta de Muros. The first fortified settlement as a prelude to the hill forts of the Iron Age: Documentation of specific areas with metallurgy in the settlement***

This site has a special place amongst the Galician sites known from the Late Bronze Age. Firstly, we see the use of stone to build dwellings, something quite novel, as throughout late prehistory houses

<sup>2</sup> We are currently waiting to send samples for dating.

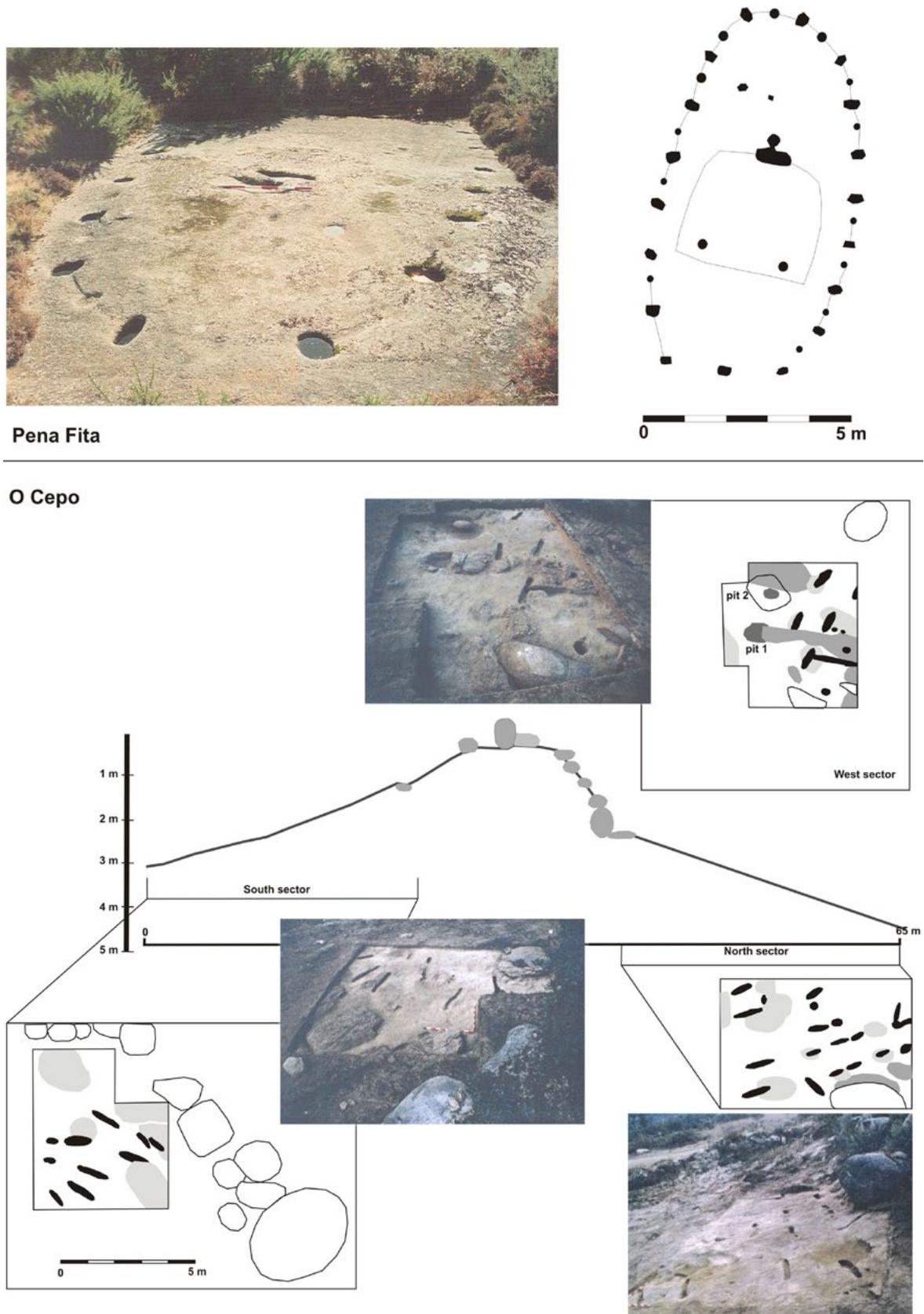


FIGURE 6. SITES OF PENA FITA AND O CEPO.

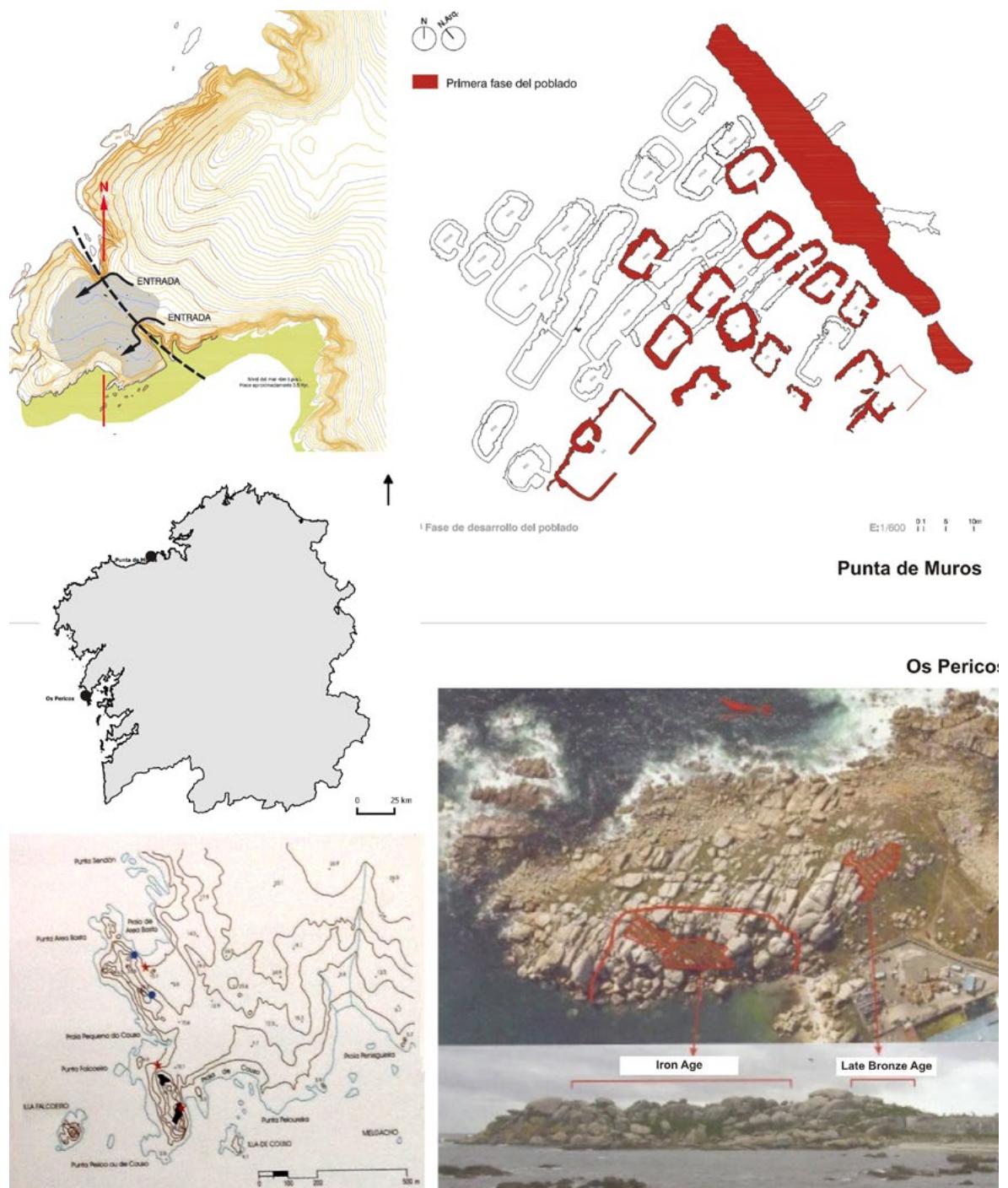


FIGURE 7. SITE OF OS PERICOS AND PUNTA DE MUROS.

were normally made of wood, and stone only appears in the Iron Age. A total of 34 dwellings have been documented, facing NE-SW, of which 14 are from the oldest phase. Other structures have been documented on the site, such as post holes, pits and hearths.

The site also contains a stone wall, the only one of its kind known in Galicia to date, with the possible exception of the previously-mentioned site of Os Pericos.

An area dedicated to metalworking has been uncovered on the site, revealing the presence of spaces set aside for more specialised activities.

It has also been possible to register almost continuous occupation of the site in three stages, with the 23 radiocarbon datings pointing towards a period of activity between 1036 and 734 BC, between the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. Signs of urban development were found, with the organisation of 'neighbourhoods', finding differences in the sizes of the houses (varying between 160 m<sup>2</sup> which is the largest, and 28 m<sup>2</sup> which is the predominant size), and in its internal structure, corresponding to differences based on hierarchies and functions (Cano 2012).

The site occupies a strategic location and has a similar pattern to Os Pericos, as it is on a small headland in the north of the region, covering a surface area of 18,625 m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 7).

## 6. Final comments

In summary, we can highlight the fact that towards the middle of the second millennium BC a change can be seen in domestic settlements in Galicia. Although the construction tradition is maintained in specific structures, the construction strategy used for dwellings varies in comparison to previous periods, reflecting a change that the society in the region was undergoing. This can be seen in a number of aspects we will now explore in greater detail.

Firstly, village-type settlements continued to exist, with a simple organisation of domestic space that was a legacy of the construction methods dating back to the Late Neolithic at the start of the third millennium BC.

Secondly, we see that new ways of conceiving settlements appeared, with the introduction of new construction models that are concreted in the development of four main strategies:

1. Larger settlements were built, considerably increasing their size.
2. A new type of internal organisation appeared in the settlements, separating functional spaces such as dwellings, artisans' workshops and storage areas. We have still not documented the funerary area that could be associated with these locations, if indeed these exist at all. This is the standard layout of settlements in other parts of the Iberian Peninsula: the closest example found in the north of Portugal is in Bouça do Frade (Jorge 1980).
3. New shapes and sizes appear in the construction of houses (boat shapes, longhouses, short trenches used to build rectangular houses) (Figura 8). The sizes of the houses increased, while the foundations used a wide range of excavation methods, ranging from trenches of different shapes and depths into which wooden posts were inserted, to walls made of clearly individualised posts in different diameters, and the appearance of stone towards the end of the period. This strategy was developed on a large scale throughout the continent, from the Spanish Meseta (Morín and Urbina 2012) to the Scandinavian countries (Artursson 2009).
4. Large defensive structures were introduced, and villages with stone houses. This construction model is faintly reminiscent of some fortified settlements from Catalonia dating from the Late Bronze Age, which also have strategic emplacements. In Catalonia at this stage of prehistory, settlements made of stone and wood existed simultaneously (López-Cachero 2007: 101), a situation which that could also have occurred in Galicia.

These data provide clearer indications than in previous stages to affirm that the settlements were stable, and perhaps organised hierarchically, as they have different sizes and complexities, and we even find that different emplacements have been selected based on their individual characteristics. For example, the areas located in shelters are strategically positioned in headlands (Punta de Muros and Os Pericos) controlling long-distance contacts by sea, or in high rocky emplacements that control extensive swathes of the interior (O Cepo). Also, at this moment of the Bronze Age emplacements

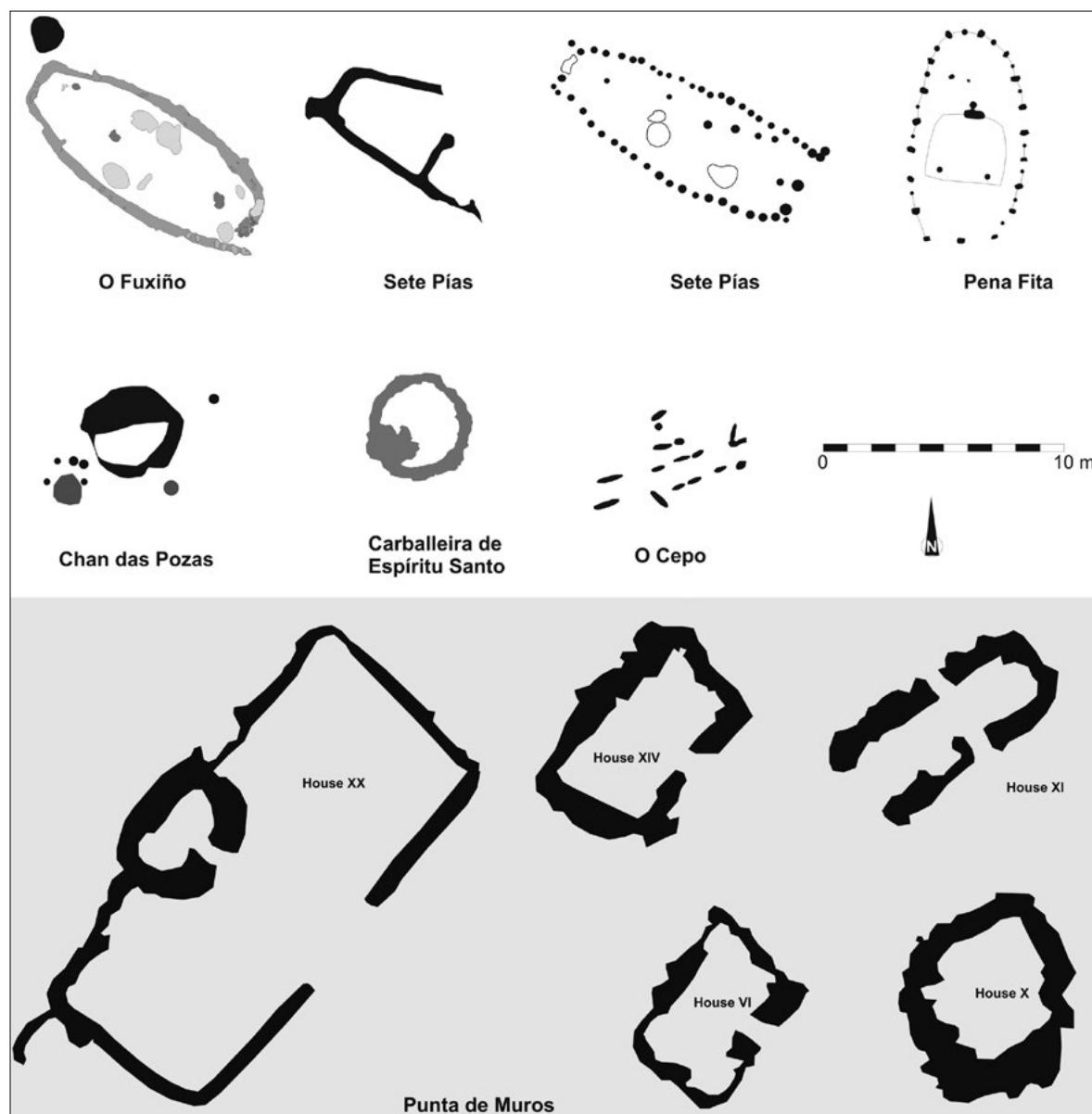


FIGURE 8. SUMMARY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DWELLINGS FROM THE SITES SELECTED IN THIS STUDY.

were selected that were connected with successful agriculture or livestock farming (Setepías, O Fuxiño).

Despite the fact that at this current stage of research it is too soon to refer to direct contacts between Galicia and far-distant areas, it does seem to be clear that the type of record documented in the NW Iberian Peninsula is similar to the situation found in the rest of Atlantic Europe and the Iberian Peninsula. We can therefore affirm that Galicia is not a region that is lacking in sites or culturally ‘endogamous’, but that on the contrary it would seem that it was perfectly integrated in the socio-economic networks that were established on a large scale at this moment in our prehistory, associated with a new type of family organisation, hierarchisation within the village, and the introduction and consolidation of the aristocracy, a phenomena which has been interpreted in this way for the north of Europe (Artursson 2009).

## Acknowledgements

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