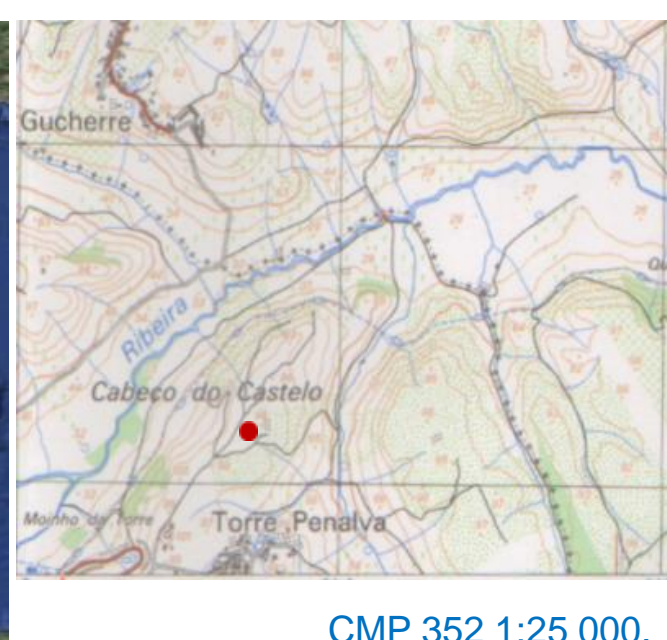


A ditch in the archaeological record: revisiting Vila Nova São Pedro's bibliography (Azambuja, Portugal)

Mariana Diniz*; César Neves*; Andrea Martins**; José Arnaud ***



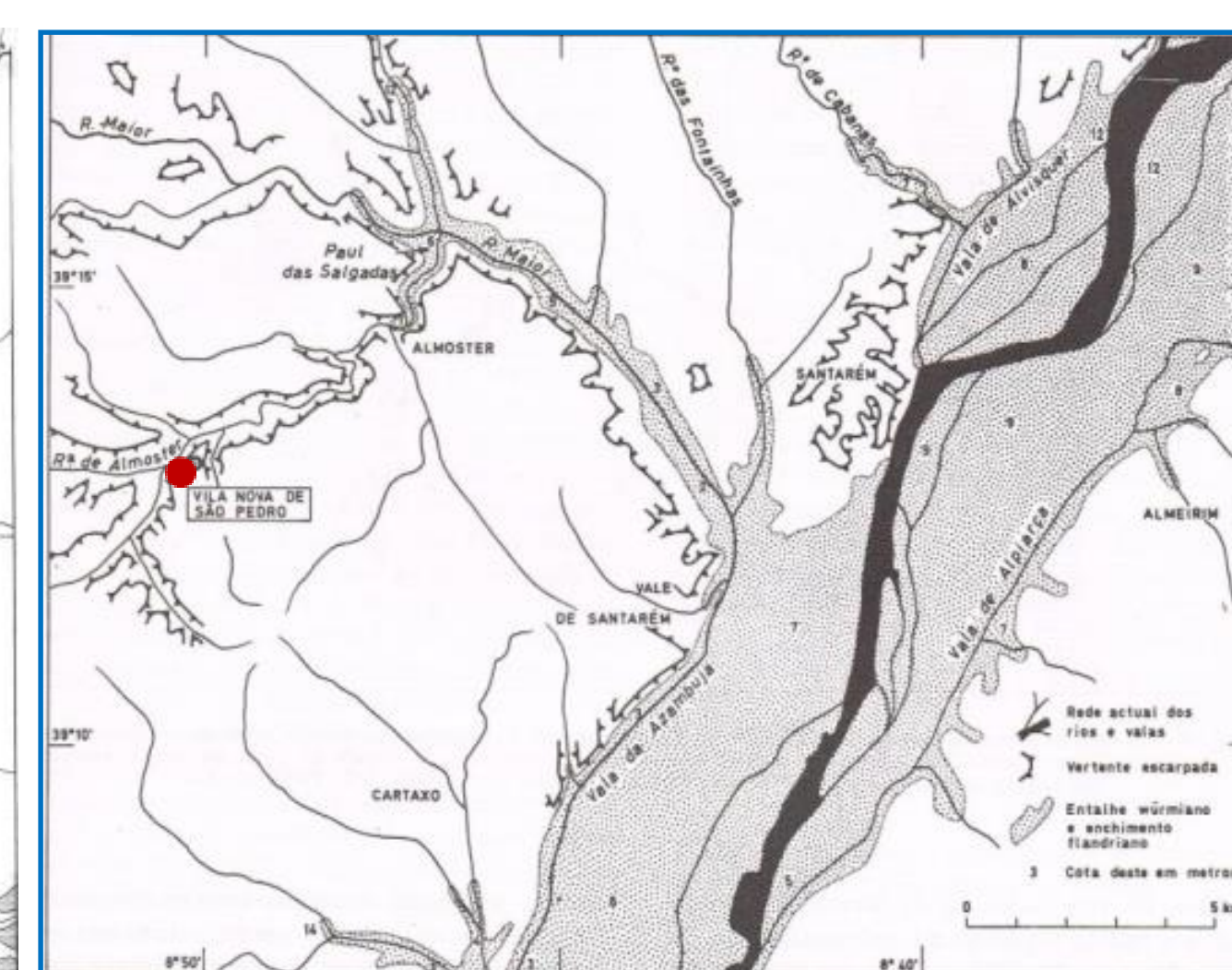
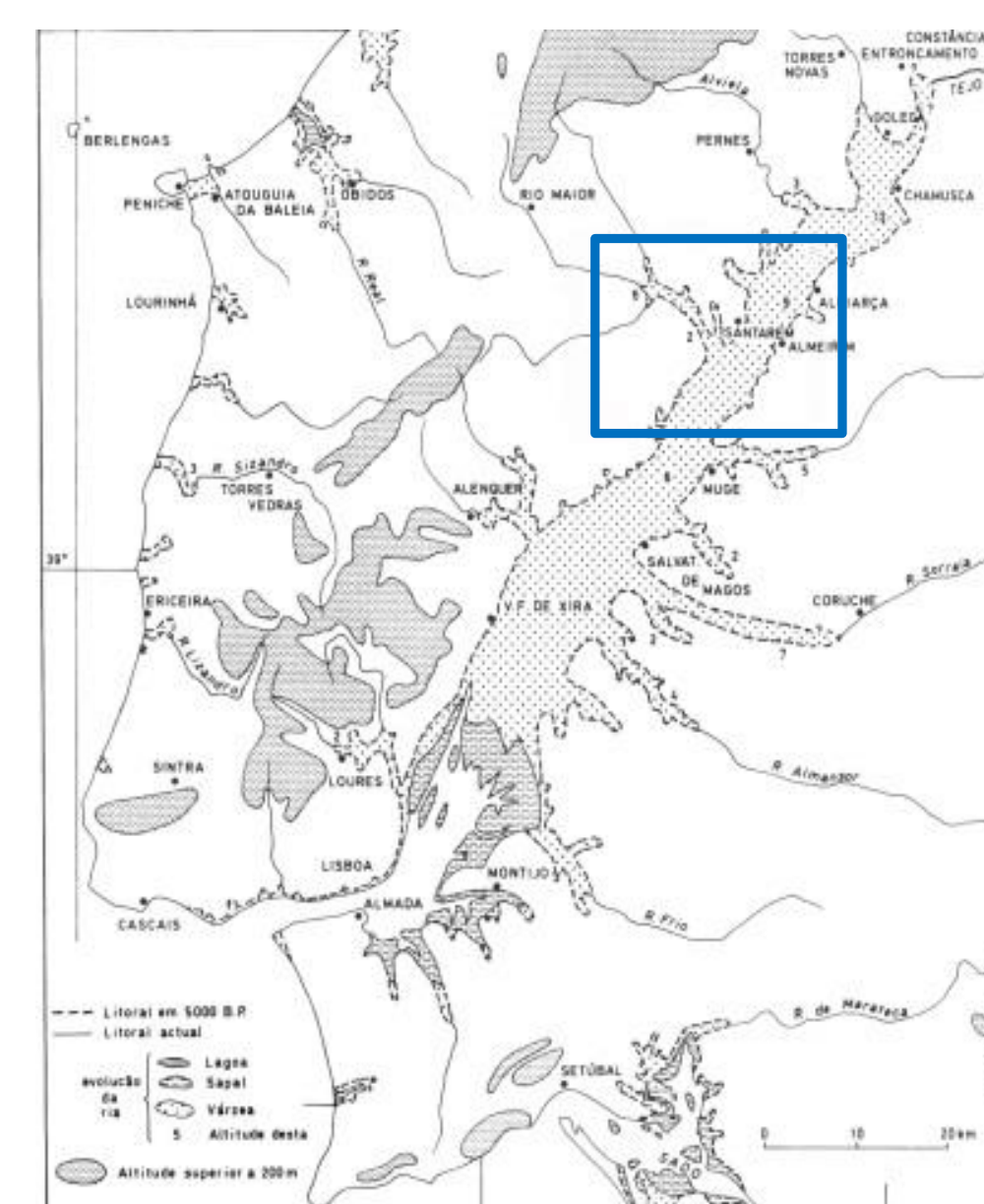
Vila Nova de São Pedro (VNSP) in the Iberian Peninsula (Google Earth)



CMP 352 1:25 000.



Google earth



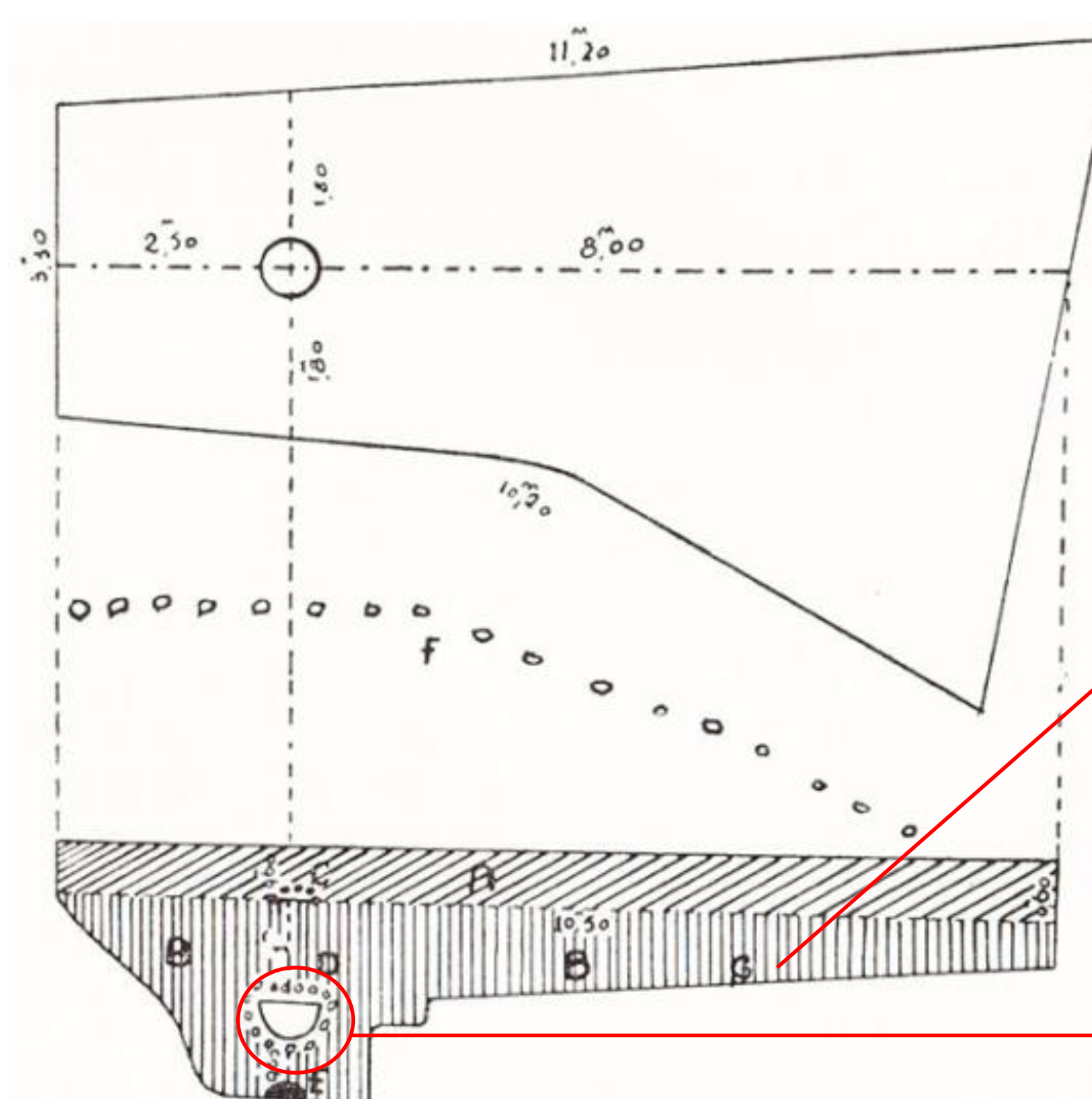
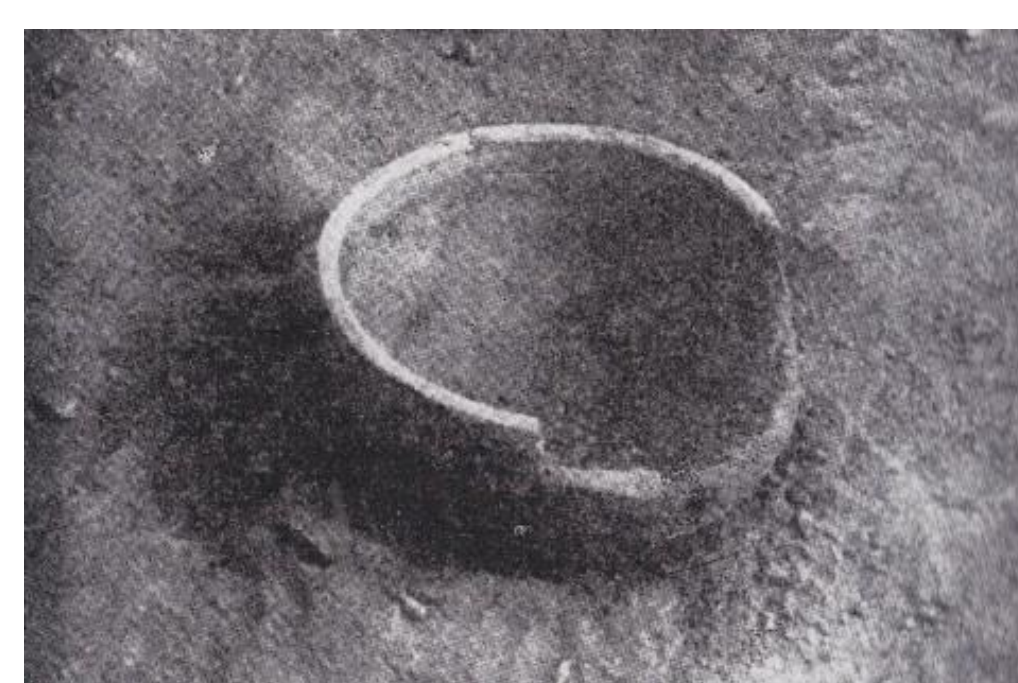
Lower Tagus valley around 5000 BP (after Daveau, 1980)

- Lower Tagus Valley right bank
- Fortified chalcolithic settlement (3 lines of walls) on a hilltop rounded by two water streams
- Naturally defend, except from south



- Over Santarém Limestones
- Easily access to Tagus valley by boat

1. Vila Nova de São Pedro - Foundational deposit

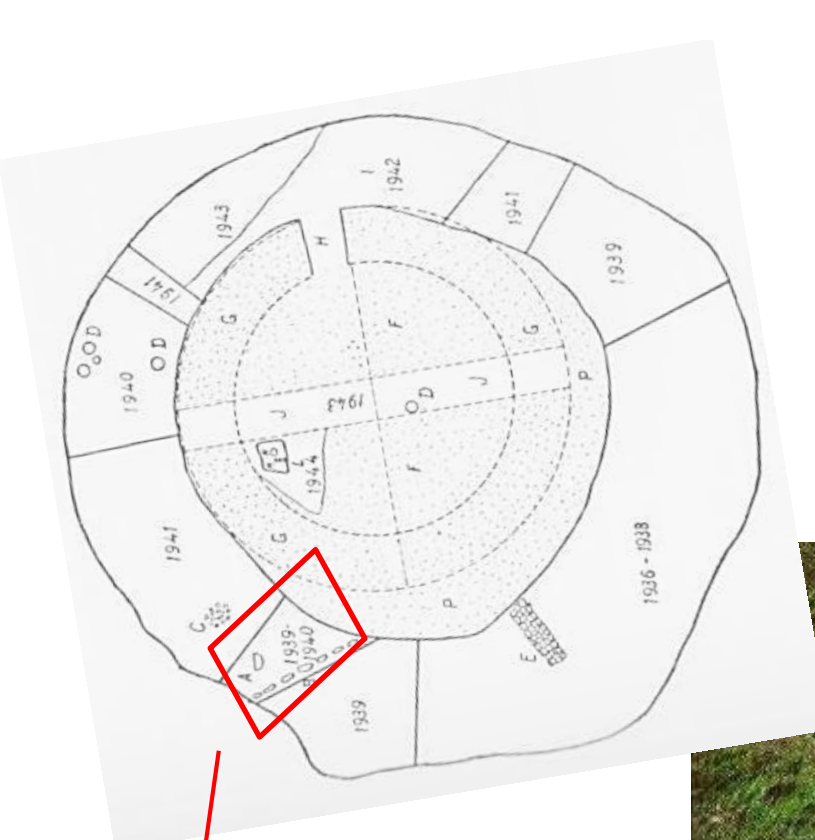


Foundational deposit section (Adapted from Paço and Jalhay, 1945a)

- 1.º - the Eneolithic people of Vila Nova de São Pedro conducted a large excavation in the ground (...)
- 2.º - this excavation reached 2,60m in the deepest part, counted from the soil surface (...)
- 4.º - That before filled the gap with kneaded clay, one bovid and perhaps other animals were deposited in the deepest part (...)
- 8.º - over this layer of stones was deposited a clay pot with 0,38m high and 0,58m wide, with coarse manufacture and without ornamentation (...)
- 12.º - after that, [they] continued to fill the ditch with the same kneaded clay kneaded until it reaches the height of one meter or so, above the vessel rim. (...)
- 13.º - for east of this [pot] (Figure 1, G) within the same ditch (...) were found abundant bones of a strong bovine that seemed to have been placed there (...) obeying, like the rest, to a ritual end."

2. Vila Nova de São Pedro

"Foundational deposit" – where is the ditch?

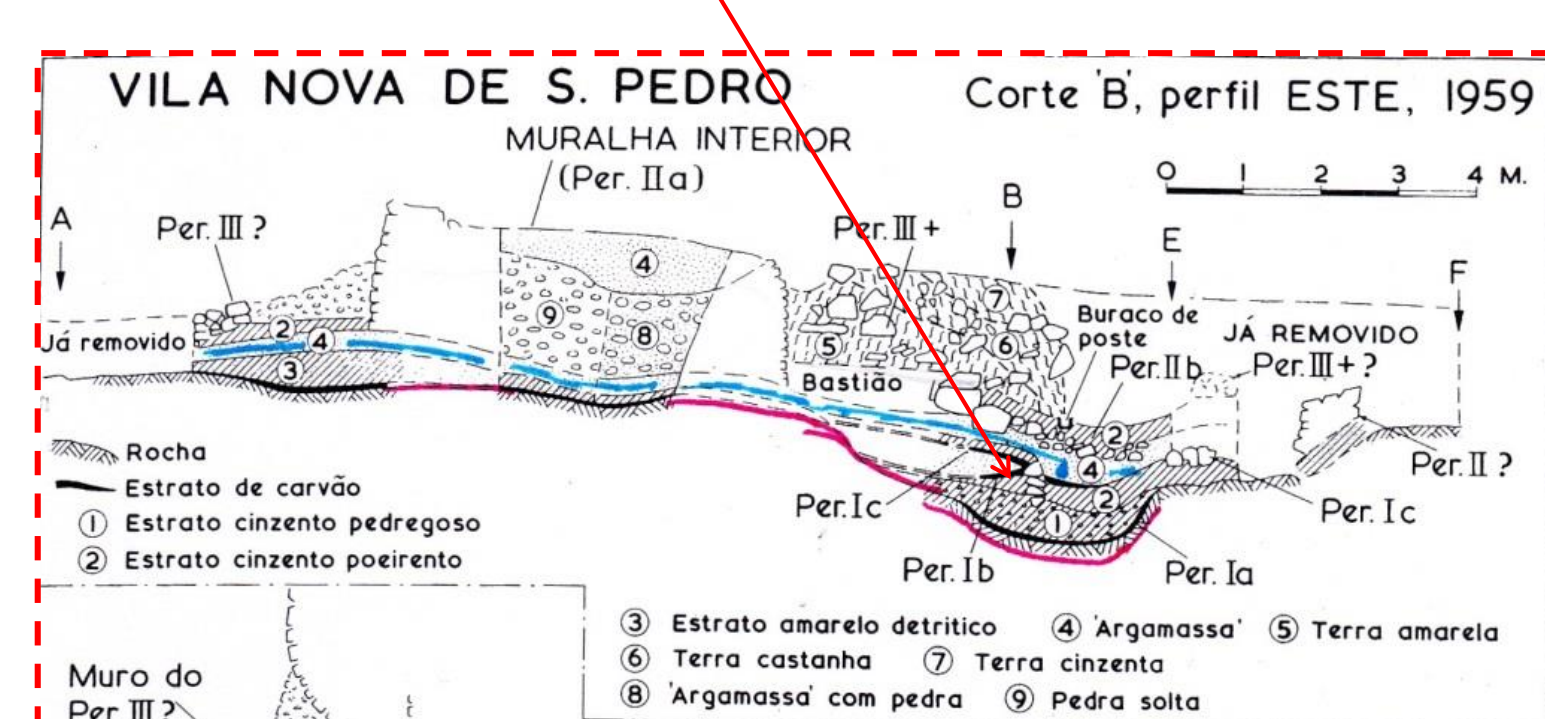


Afonso do Paço and Jalhay's work (1939)

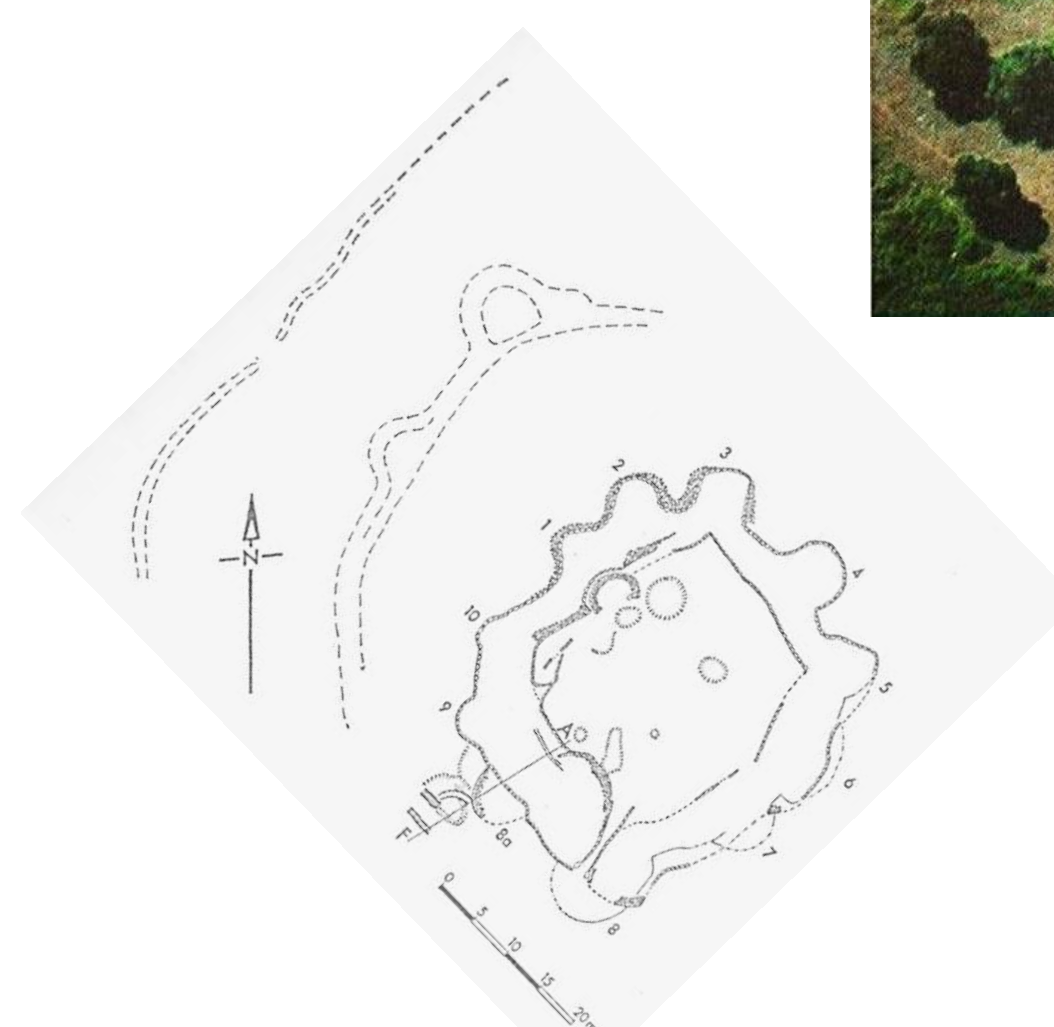


Savory section A-F

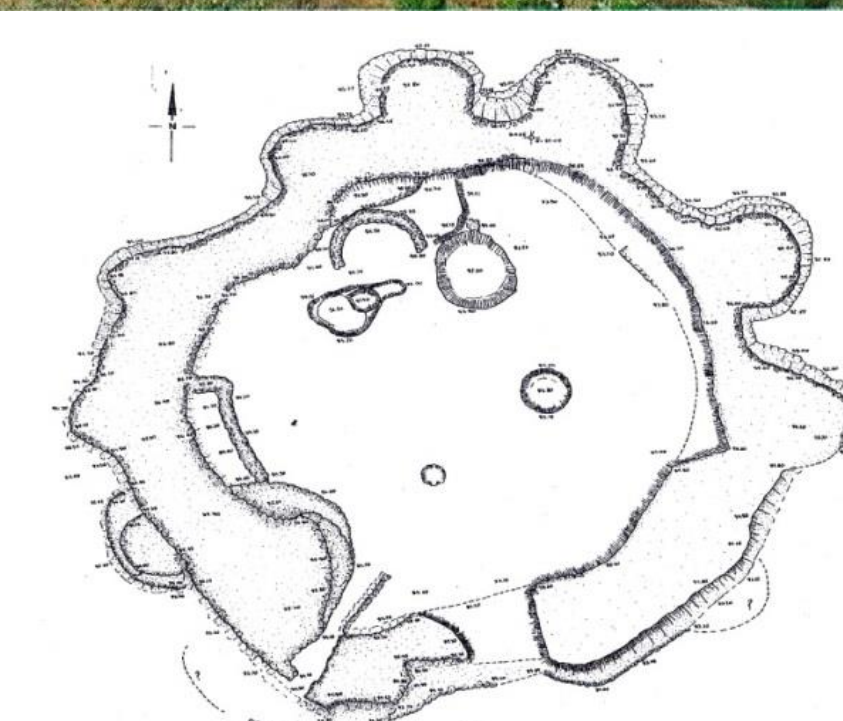
Savory's section (1959)



3. More than a foundational deposit – a ditch intentionally filled up



VNSP plan - Savory (1972).



VNSP plan - Arnaud and Gonçalves (1988).



VNSP plan. (Adapted from Paço, 1952)

In spite of 50 years of excavations (1936-1986) there are still many basic questions that remain unanswered, such as the real shape and extension of the walls, the functionality of different structures and areas of the site (such as the so-called "foundation ritual", etc), as well as a detailed chronometric framework.

Where there one or several ditches before the construction of the wall, and what those that means in technical, symbolic and chronological terms.

New questions without answers.