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**CASTANHEIRO DO VENTO,  
A LATE PREHISTORIC MONUMENTAL ENCLOSURE  
IN THE FOZ CÔA REGION, PORTUGAL  
– RECENT RESEARCH (1998-2002)**

by

Vitor Oliveira Jorge\*, João Muralha Cardoso\*\*,  
Leonor Sousa Pereira\*\*\* & António Sá Coixão\*\*\*\*

*In memoriam Fernán Alonso Mathías, CSIC, Madrid, Spain*

*“ (...) the Vilanovan enclosures (...) may be more to do with display and the formalisation of movement in chosen places. It is significant that the plan of Zambujal changes so often. This recalls the modifications frequently made at other kinds of monuments and enclosures, rather than evoking a never-ending succession of attacks and hasty responses.”*

A. Whittle, 1996, p. 338

**Abstract:** The authors describe very briefly the main structures uncovered from 1998 to 2002 in the prehistoric settlement of Castanheiro do Vento (Horta do Douro, in the community of Vila Nova de Foz Côa, NE Portugal), and set out the main problems raised by these excavations. The report also underlines the importance of an archaeology of prehistoric structures, stressing that this kind of research goes far beyond a simple determination of the chronology/function of sites, or even of the ‘styles’ of their artefacts. Instead, it must be understood that these monumentalised spaces underwent successive transformations, aiming at constructing meaning (ordering the world) by imposing certain features on the natural environment. In stressing this we are moving away from the long-lasting tradition of generalist archaeology, concerned with ‘settlements’ and their ‘occupation phases’, to a more stimulating study of prehistoric spaces and their modes of structuration and re-structuration as meaningful acts in social and cognitive terms.

**Key-words:** walled enclosure; Copper and Bronze ages; archaeology of prehistoric architectures.

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**Resumo:** Os autores descrevem brevemente as mais importantes estruturas exumadas entre 1998 e 2002 no sítio pré-histórico do Castanheiro do Vento (Horta do Douro, no concelho de Vila Nova de Foz Côa, NE de Portugal), e expõem as principais questões que essas investigações sugerem. Para além do relatório dos trabalhos, visam acentuar a importância de uma arqueologia das arquitecturas pré-históricas, a qual ambiciona muito mais do que uma simples determinação da cronologia ou função dos sítios, ou mesmo dos “estilos” dos artefactos neles encontrados. Em vez disso, é crucial compreender que estes espaços monumentalizados foram submetidos a sucessivas transformações, as quais se relacionavam com a necessidade de criar sentido (uma ordem para o mundo) através da imposição de determinadas características ao ambiente natural. Trata-se de passar de um tradição tenazmente mantida, de arqueologia generalista de “povoados” e suas “ocupações”, para um estudo mais estimulante dos espaços pré-históricos e das suas estruturações e re-estruturações, entendidas como actos social e cognitivamente significantes.

**Palavras-chave:** recinto murado; Calcolítico/Idade do Bronze; arqueologia das arquitecturas pré-históricas.

## 1. LOCATION AND APPEARANCE OF THE SITE

The site of Castanheiro do Vento is situated in the parish of Horta do Douro (Vila Nova de Foz Côa municipality), in the district of Guarda, north-east Portugal.

The geographical coordinates of a central point in the site, according to the *Carta Militar de Portugal*, scale 1:25000 (sheet 140), are:

41° 3' 49" Lat. N.

7° 19' 18" Long. W. Gr.

The site is at the top of a roughly circular hill rising to 730 m above sea level, which is usually considered to extend down to the 680 m contour line.

The hill top, above the 720 m contour line, has a geodesic mark (alt.: 723 m.) at the southern end, on ploughed land. The northern end is flat and slightly higher, covered with bushes, and here farmers have heaped up piles of stones which almost certainly come from partially demolished prehistoric structures.

As far as we can deduce from the five excavation campaigns between 1998 and 2002 (but with a total of only about 60 working days), a fundamental aspect of these structures is an enclosure, bounded by one or more walls, with roughly circular structures annexed to them (which simply by convention we have called ‘bastions’): four of these – A, B, C, and D – have been unearthed. We must emphasise here that we are using the word ‘bastion’ in a purely typological or formal, not a functional sense, with no intention of interpreting the site ‘militaristically’ as a ‘fortification’, in the line of traditional functionalist archaeology.

The site is one of a type of ‘monumental enclosures’, probably also with monumental platforms (which here looked over the Teja stream, a tributary of the Douro), as at Castelo Velho de Freixo de Numão, excavated by Susana Oliveira Jorge since 1989.

The site dates from the Chalcolithic and perhaps also from the early Bronze Age (possible chronology between c. 2900 and 1500 BC). However, the immediate post-Chalcolithic ‘occupation’ is still relatively poorly documented, and if it existed there could not have been any significant break with the previous phase; the subject is quite open, however, and remains to be clarified in future work.

A fragment of an electrum piece of jewellery found in 2001 *in situ* (layer 2 – ‘combustion structure 1’, south of ‘bastion’ B) indicates the late Bronze Age or even the Iron Age, giving rise to the hypothesis that the site had a longer time-span. In fact various late C14 dates, clearly falling within the Iron Age (between the 8th and the 4th centuries BC) point in this direction; some of these are related to this ‘combustion structure’ leaning against and obviously later than ‘bastion’ B. It is possible to imagine the ‘combustion structures’, apparently inside the enclosure near the surrounding wall (although the area so far excavated does not yet allow us to see the outline accurately) as corresponding to later – proto-historic? – uses of earlier prehistoric ruins.

Given that even then the ruins were probably reduced to mounds of stones, and given the absence of materials – especially pottery – attributable to the Iron Age (apart from the possibility of the fragment of jewellery mentioned above), we may hypothesise that the activities there were not continuous, and made only sporadic use (for charcoal-burning?) of the scattered heaps of stones.

As a whole, Castanheiro do Vento, although reduced in size by cultivation (especially by eucalyptus plantations) is an enormous monument, with its central part relatively well preserved; it has clear generic resemblances to Castelo Velho de Freixo de Numão, although on a larger scale. But on the other hand, as is to be hoped, we are beginning to see certain specific features as work on the site progresses. The degree of similarity between Castelo Velho de Freixo de Numão (the typical site, serving as a reference point) and Castanheiro do Vento will therefore need to be re-evaluated as research continues.

## 2. WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE 2002 CAMPAIGN

The main actions were:

– Cleaning and laying out grid squares (by the topographer Armando Guerreiro) in the area to be excavated, continuing what had been done in 2001, but extending the area, especially to the south. Clearing large quantities of stones from the surface of this and the surrounding area (exhausting work by ‘human chains’ of students and researchers).

Our excavation is near and to the west of a local road (formerly a path), in the north-east part of the site. The area studied so far runs generally NW-SE for about 80 metres. We have attempted to follow the line of the wall(s) or around the enclosure, examining annexed structures, without going too deeply in the excavation of any particular place (apart from certain well-defined structures, such as ‘bastions’). Generally it is a large-scale but very superficial excavation, only intended to show the top of the principal structures, and thus relatively shallow.

Along the walls, on the inner and outer sides, we have tried to find the scattered stones which covered them, accidentally or intentionally, and which stopped us seeing or following the lines of the walls. Sometimes we have had to remove small ‘wedges’ (filling of empty spaces with slabs parallel to the lines of the walls) or “buttressing”/ “propping” slabs (slabs perpendicular to these lines, vertical or oblique, continuous or discontinuous) for these ‘lines of the walls’ to become superficially clear; but that was the extent of such work, necessarily rather destructive but essential to reveal, among a jumble of single blocks loosened by bush-roots, some indication which might direct our work.

– Clearing of the surface (made difficult by the many deep roots of oak bushes) and recording of the visible structures, over a total surface area (together with the work of previous years) of c. 680 to 720 m<sup>2</sup> (c. 170/180 units of 2m<sup>2</sup> – we are giving only a general estimate, simply to show the scale of the effort involved, since some of the units were not completely cleared, and others were only partially preserved, because they are crossed by the road).

This clearing allowed us:

- to see and draw a major extension of the *periphery wall* (which bends to the south, especially from ‘bastion’ C);
- to continue excavating the area inside ‘bastion’ C;
- to discover and partially excavate the area inside a new ‘bastion’, D;
- to detect and partially excavate the area inside a *monumental entrance* facing east and south of this ‘bastion’, beside a probable “tower”;
- to find the apparent end of the wall to the south, where it meets *another ‘arc’ of wall* coming from the west, which seems to delineate a large semi-circular or sub-circular ‘forward’ area in the extreme south of the area under investigation, perhaps with a radius of c. 20 m. (?);
- and finally, at the opposite end, in the NW part of the area investigated, to carry out further observation, clearing and collection; in this zone the structure and nature of the site (‘atrium’ – ? –, stone ramp) is still insufficiently defined. It was here that we collected, for its protection and study, a slab with engravings at one end, mainly consisting of spindle-shaped motifs, some very fine, linear and probably crossing each other.

To give further detail, in 2002 the following tasks and observations were carried out, with certain conclusions and perspectives following from them:

– Continued excavation of the internal part of ‘bastion’ C (including underlying levels) which necessitated removing the protection of gravel put there the year before. Like the other ‘bastions’, it is a very well preserved Chalcolithic structure next to the Chalcolithic wall. Internally it is complex, with many aspects to be recorded, both structural (a near-vertical slab, of stele type, set up inside the southern end, with a post hole next to it) and non-structural, such as pockets of darker earth of varying sizes. Central stratigraphic evidence has been preserved in an east-west direction, by a non-excavated rectangular area; and at the end of the work (which did not however reach the bed rock, and so cannot be conclusive) the internal elevation at the southern end was drawn.

– Delimitation and partial excavation of the internal area of the semi-circular ‘bastion’ D, after the usual systematic removal of the levels of stone which had covered it. It contained, among other things, a structural niche, made of pieces of granite grinding stones. Inside the ‘bastion’, on the west side, there is a series of sloping, overlapping slabs, of unknown significance, and two *stele* type slabs set up, one at the north end (not far from the wall) and the other at the south (not far from the possible ‘tower’).

All objects collected from this and from the previous ‘bastion’ were recorded three-dimensionally, and all the sediment was sieved.

– Delimitation, south of ‘bastion’ D, of what seems to be a roughly circular ‘tower’ (the outline of which might have been partly altered at some time, especially in the eastern part, so as to make it more rectangular). Further study of the nature of this structure is one

of the aims of the 2003 campaign. To the east (that is, facing into the enclosure), on the periphery, a slab was found with one surface facing outwards, with what seem to be pecked engravings. It was removed for further study, and replaced by one of similar shape and size.

– Finding of a monumental entrance to the enclosure, south of the ‘tower’. It was blocked, and seemed to have had various levels of paving. Clearing it completely can only be undertaken as part of a future general study of this part of the site.

This passage was made narrower by a well-constructed wall of piled up slabs, set between the wall of the precinct and the so-called “tower”. On the opposite side of the passage, two slabs with engraved surfaces face the space of the entrance: one has a series of mainly spindle-like motifs, while the lower one has shallow cup-marks.

We may recall that this is not the first time that cup-marks have been found at this site – there are some on a horizontal slab of the enclosing wall with the ‘combustion structure’ built onto ‘bastion’ B. A slab with cup-marks was also found in Castelo Velho (1994 campaign), on the first platform on the western side, part of the external reinforcing structures of the perimeter wall of the upper enclosure, not far from the ‘bastion’ with human bones (which Susana O. Jorge called a ‘ritual structure’).

A complete monumental system ‘closed’ this passage from within (the eastern side) by means of a set of horizontal slabs arranged in an arc, supported by a very elaborate arrangement of overlapping stones. All this shows that the “closure” of the passage was given equal importance to any other aspect of the structure, or to the ‘condemnation’ of the ‘bastions’ by stones. We must emphasise, in other words, that the opening and closing of spaces were both equally valued and carefully structured activities, as though they were symmetrical, or as though the ‘condemnation’ of a structure was as important an act as its construction.

This is in fact a very significant point, since it shows the highly symbolic nature of these monuments, which are far from being functional enclosures abandoned at a certain point, but which rather show evidence of a whole sequence of significant operations (transformations, deposits), highly structured and probably ritualised, carried out on the chosen place. What we have here are true scenic microcosms, in which, against a more or less fixed background, a whole vision of the world was probably re-presented.

Furthermore, in the wall next to and to the south of the entrance, on its east side (facing out from the enclosure) a slab with an engraved surface was found (which was also removed for study, and replaced by a similar one). It has two nearly vertical engravings, similar to spindle-like forms, made by abrasion, apparently surrounded by pecked points which seem to show a roughly circular outline.

All these slabs with engravings, concentrated near a passage, are surely not casual (we are tempted to connect them with a particular symbolism of the passage, or access to the inner part of the enclosure, like in a megalithic tomb); besides, their inclusion in the monument could have functioned as a kind of ‘quoting’ or reference to places with “rock art”. For example, in the Côa valley, quite early in the process of studying the palaeolithic and other engravings, at least one engraved panel with spindle-like shapes was found. There are very common near water courses, in the oriental part of northern Portugal.

– Further uncovering of the wall to the south, which seems to follow a slight arc, about 11 m. long; the centre of this stretch of wall may contain a new ‘entrance’, since there is a clear break in the structures. This has not yet been fully investigated: careful

removal and observation of the layers is needed.

– A start on the cleaning (removal of vegetation and loose stones) of a new monumental area of the site, at the southern end of the area being studied, surrounded by an enormous curved wall.

– Finally, placing plastic covers on ‘bastions’ C and D and filling them up to the top with gravel (sometimes reinforced with loose stones); similar treatment was carried out in other very sensitive areas of the site. These are obviously only temporary measures, to be removed when further study is carried out. We do not choose them, but we are forced to do so, because for the moment we do not have means to a more appropriate protection of the site. It demands an urgent interest from the authorities (local and national) because Castanheiro do Vento, like Castelo Velho, is one of the most important late prehistoric sites of all the Iberian Peninsula.

### 3. OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN STRUCTURES AFTER THE 2002 CAMPAIGN

After the 2002 campaign, the following characteristics of the site were clear:

– a double-faced wall (about 1.5 m. wide on average), describing an arc, with the first stretch (in order of discovery) generally running NW-SE, and the second N-S. Four ‘bastions’ (A, B, C and D) had been built onto the outside (to the north – ‘bastion’ A –, and to the east – ‘bastions’ B, C and D –, that is, on the side of the access road surrounding the area under study).

We may call this first stretch of the boundary wall of the enclosure ‘m1’. It describes a very wide arc, and it is interesting to note that it is on the bend (when it changes its general direction from NW-SE to N-S) that we find ‘bastion’ B, the most irregular (and apparently ‘twisted’ in relation to the original plan) of those discovered. In other words, while the other three seem to accompany the curve of the wall, with their axes perpendicular to it, this is not the case with ‘bastion’ B.

As mentioned above, this last part of the wall ‘m1’, to the south, describes an arc, and has a break (d) which might have been a possibly important opening;

– the second stretch of wall (m2) - which seems to come from the west, from inside the main enclosure, which it divides, (a theory to be tested in 2003 and subsequent excavations) – describes an arc to the east, seeming to form a kind of ‘advanced’ or ‘forward’ area (AV) relative to the enclosure. Its size and method of construction are very similar to ‘m1’, and it is possible (even in the small stretch so far excavated, from squares 90.58 to 87.62) that it has former ‘entrances’ or ‘doors’ which may have been blocked at some point, a pattern which seems to have been common in this type of structure (as in Castelo Velho de Freixo de Numão), in which, while the overall plans are stable, the details are extremely fluid (and chronologically complex);

– ‘bastions’ as structures for ornament or prestige, for strengthening the wall (serving as buttresses near a slope) and creating restricted spaces where special actions or depositions may have taken place. The small pits, niches, *stelae* - the varied micro-spaces inside the ‘bastions’ – have to be carefully recorded and interpreted, with reference, naturally, to their stratigraphical position and to the general chronology of the internal space created by each ‘bastion’.

The repeated occurrence of such peripheral micro-spaces (next to walls) in Chalcolithic sites of the ‘walled enclosure’ type is typical of a certain ‘architectural style’, although it would of course be absurd to attribute any uniform ‘function’ to such spaces, either in time or space (at the same site and, logically, at different sites).

We must always remember, when dealing with prehistoric architecture, that it was the only permanent system of inscribing meaning and order in space, and that in the absence of writing, these meanings must have had a ‘grammar’. This consisted of syntax (rules for dividing and linking modules, for mutually connectable units), and semantics (the ability of at least part of the community to ‘decipher’ the intended meaning or meanings expressed in each ‘statement’ – that is, in each structure, or fixed scenario, and in the more or less patterned behaviours, or mobile scenario, associated with it). This does not imply that such ‘meanings’ were seen as intentional or artificial, since one of the effects of architecture is to make ‘habitual’, ‘normal’ and ‘natural’ something that has previously been artificially ‘constructed’. When a literate society wants to produce new meanings, however, it writes new texts. This is obviously reductionist, since architecture is still used today as a system of inscribing meanings, but now it has to coexist with others (such as the present system of graphic images, or media such as television).

In a society which expresses itself through physical marking of space (that is, through architecture), at significant points of time (when meaning is inscribed) structures may be destroyed, or newly created, or else changed. Such change may be effected either by the addition of similar new structures nearby (more of the same, in an additive relationship), or by change in the design and conception of the forms/spaces as a whole (radical innovation) or in part (partial, probably gradual innovation, the relationship being one of changed details, where the meaning of the group, the architectural ‘message’ it embodies, conveys and secures, will only be altered over time).

In the case of Castanheiro do Vento, at the point when the ‘bastions’ ceased to exist, they were filled with stones, but not chaotically or by chance. The stones, and sometimes very long slabs, delimited micro-spaces, almost deliberate ‘niches’, all seeming to be part of highly planned and structured behaviour, even at the point of ‘condemnation’ (filling in the spaces) of the structures.

In fact only the stone base of the structures may have been filled, since the upper part, probably made of clay and perishable, hence more fragile, materials, was either simply left to decay, or was pulled down (which would have been relatively simple), so that what had once been an internal space, a hollow structure, something which could be entered, was transformed into something solid.

This is the same process as that found by Susana Oliveira Jorge and her team at Castelo Velho de Freixo de Numão, where the part that was often symbolically closed (by laying down large slabs of hard bluish schist, with other stones on top) was the base of the structure and its clay filling.

This conclusion is important, since it shows that what was ‘condemned’ was the most resistant part of a particular micro-space, the stone foundational structure, thus making permanent what had previously been easily transformable and more or less ephemeral. The conversion of the relatively ephemeral to the permanent (by ‘condemnation’, for example – which in the case of passage graves was by closure of the forecourt), and the view of these sites in general as architectural complexes permanently changing in detail (and thus, diachronically, as a complex ‘system of transformations’) is also highly significant.



This transformation obviously involved the deposition of certain items (in the sense in which we usually speak of depositions in the context of ‘funerary spaces’) in particular places, which leads us again to conclude that these were not places used for the simple day-to-day life of the group, but rather genuine symbolic complexes or arrangements of ‘micro-spaces’ connected with circuits and other significant movements which sometimes even look like ‘steps’ in a sequence of behaviour which may be seen as ritual. It was this new paradigm that Castelo Velho de Freixo de Numão introduced (new to Portugal, but in many European countries – Britain, for example – the subject is commonplace and has been discussed for decades in relation to the ‘functions’ of enclosures, particularly causewayed camps and henges), and for this reason alone it would be part of the history of Portuguese archaeology.

Coming back to our description, ‘bastion’ A is roughly elliptical; its excavation began in 1999, and analysis was concluded in 2000.

‘Bastion’ B seemed to be more or less circular at the end of work in 1999, but as explained in previous papers, the interior was found to be quite different. We shall not deal with this here – a later paper will publish results of the detailed analysis now being carried out on this and other individual structures. The roughly triangular interior of this ‘bastion’ was completely excavated in 2001.

‘Bastions’ C and D are semi-circular and face east. Their excavation – though much delayed in the case of C – is now in progress, and final year degree students from the University of Porto are analysing the data from inside ‘bastions’ B, C and D. There are many aspects of ‘bastion’ D which need to be clarified in later excavations, and its connection with nearby structures within the enclosure can evidently only be understood in the context of future large-scale excavations.

– The NW zone of the area under study, located between the last obvious stretch of wall, where the second ‘gate’ or ‘entrance’ was found (the limits of which are still not clear, and require future more detailed excavation), and the start of the monumental stone ramp, is far from the southern area where we have to concentrate our small team (small in relation to the huge size of the site). For the time being, therefore, we must once again limit ourselves to simply recording (and remembering) that it exists.

#### 4. OTHER OBSERVATIONS

As usual, thousands of pieces of artefacts were found – fragments of containers and other ceramic objects, granite grinding stones, both the moveable and the fixed parts, either whole or more usually broken, hammers, generally of quartz, river pebbles (usually quartzite), quartz flakes and cores. Again there was clay for coating, in varying quantities in different areas. Clay must certainly have played an important part in all the building techniques used, implying the availability of water. This is more a construction of clay, then of stones, which were used mainly for the bases of the structures. As always, archaeologists need to pay a continuous attention to what is missing, which was sometimes the most important in the past.

As written above, four slabs with engravings were also found, and stored in the Museum at the Casa Grande in Freixo de Numão.

Other spatial markers, such as *stelae* (long slabs, usually roughly finished, apparently not structural elements of buildings but with a symbolic function) have been left *in situ*.

All the material, after being cleaned and marked, is being analysed. It is too soon to report on the finds, and anyway the information would only make sense in relation to the respective micro-context of each piece.

Many samples of charcoal were again collected for anthracological analysis (carried out as usual by Dr. Isabel Figueiral), and in some cases for C14 dating by laboratories in Uppsala and Madrid. Note that in general abundant charcoal for datation is not common, at least in the Copper Age levels of the site.

Small pieces of animal bone were collected by Cláudia Costa, and are being studied by her in collaboration with Prof. João Luís Cardoso of the Universidade Aberta in Lisbon.

All results from the excavations of the site, both records (including digital photographs, copies of videos, original drawings, etc.), and ‘finds’ (archaeological material, various samples) will be kept in the Museum of Freixo de Numão, which is to have a Prehistoric section with its own building.

## 5. GENERAL STRATEGY FOR 2003

It seems to us that we should follow the general strategy outlined in previous years, that is to explore the structures surrounding and delimiting the upper enclosure – ‘wall(s)’, ‘bastion(s)’, etc. – before going on, with suitable support, to a large-scale excavation of the interior, and later the exterior, of this enclosure.

Given the small team we have (compared to the size of the site), it makes better sense to focus on one area than to scatter our efforts on various distant ‘fronts’, which would make the work more arduous and difficult. That area will be the “sub-circular” enclosure (?) coupled to the main one, in the southern part of the best preserved surface of the site.

## 6. WEB PAGE

Castanheiro do Vento has the following page, created by Alexandra Leite Velho and Gonçalo Leite Velho (Instituto Politécnico de Tomar)<sup>1</sup>:

<http://freixonumao.pt.vu>

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<sup>1</sup> Our many thanks to them for this, and for their help in organising the excavation teams. Gonçalo Velho is actually preparing a PhD dissertation on Castelo Velho; he has participated actively in the last part of the 2003 campaign in Castanheiro do Vento. We want also to thank Ana Vale, Bárbara Carvalho, José Manuel Varela, Danilo Pavone, Isabel Figueiral, Susana Oliveira Jorge, Miguel Rodrigues and Ana Leite da Cunha for their help in various ways.

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<sup>2</sup> This paper will only be printed after the 2003 campaign, which lasted for 5 weeks (from the 7th July to the 2nd of August and from the 18th to the 23th August) and was very productive. We decided not to change the report, although calling the attention of the reader for next papers to be produced by the authors.

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**Fig. 3** – Castanheiro do Vento in the 1/25,000 map (reduced).

**Fig. 4** – General plan of the site. To the north, the periphery of the monumental precinct, with the main structures exposed up to 2002.  
Marco geodésico = geodesic point. Caminho = path.

**Fig. 8** – Detail of the monumental entrance with its inner base made out of slabs (dark grey in the drawing). Li2 – 725,42 m. a.s.l. M – wall; T? – Circular structure;  
Lj – engraved slab (see Plate 12 - photo 7); Ef – enclosing structure;  
Mi – inner secondary wall.

**Photo 4** – Detail of one of the areas worked on in 2002. M – wall.  
PM — monumental passage. D – sub-circular structure.  
T – circular structure. N – niche of granitic grinding stones.

**Fig. 1** – Situation of Castanheiro do Vento within the Iberian Peninsula.

**Fig. 2** – The sites of Castanheiro do Vento (1) and Castelo Velho (2) in the area of Freixo de Numão / Horta do Douro. The 600 m. level curve is underlined in order to make interpretation easier. The central area approximately corresponds to a major part of the alluvial basin of the Ribeira da Teja.

**Fig. 5** – Schematic plan of the main structures exposed in the upper precinct: walls, sub-circular structures A, B, C, D, circular structure (T?) and monumental passage (EM).

**Fig. 6** – General plan of the zone most intensively worked on during the 2002 campaign. Sub-circular structure D (bD), circular structure (T?), monumental passage (EM) with its external enclosing wall (FM), part of the first wall to be exposed (M1) and second wall (M2).

**Fig. 7** – Plan of part of the area shown in the former plate: sub-circular structure D (bD), circular structure (T?), monumental passage (EM) with its external enclosing wall (FM), and part of the wall M1 (M).

**Photo 1** – Aerial view of the upper area of Castanheiro do Vento (September 2002) (photo Danilo Pavone). A, B, C, D – peripheral sub-circular structures. AV – area surrounded by an apparently sub-circular wall. P – ploughed field (modern agriculture).

**Photo 2** – Castanheiro do Vento seen from approximately the north (photo António da Silva Pereira).

**Photo 3** – Partial view of the excavated area in 2002. M – wall. PM – monumental passage. D and C – sub-circular structures.

**Photo 5** – Sub-circular structure D, seen from the east.

**Photo 6** – Monumental passage seen from the inner part of the precinct. The external enclosing wall of this entrance can be seen at the top of the picture.

**Photo 7** – Engraved face of a slab located at the northern part of the passage of the monumental entrance. Several sub-vertical linear (spindle-like) motifs are visible.