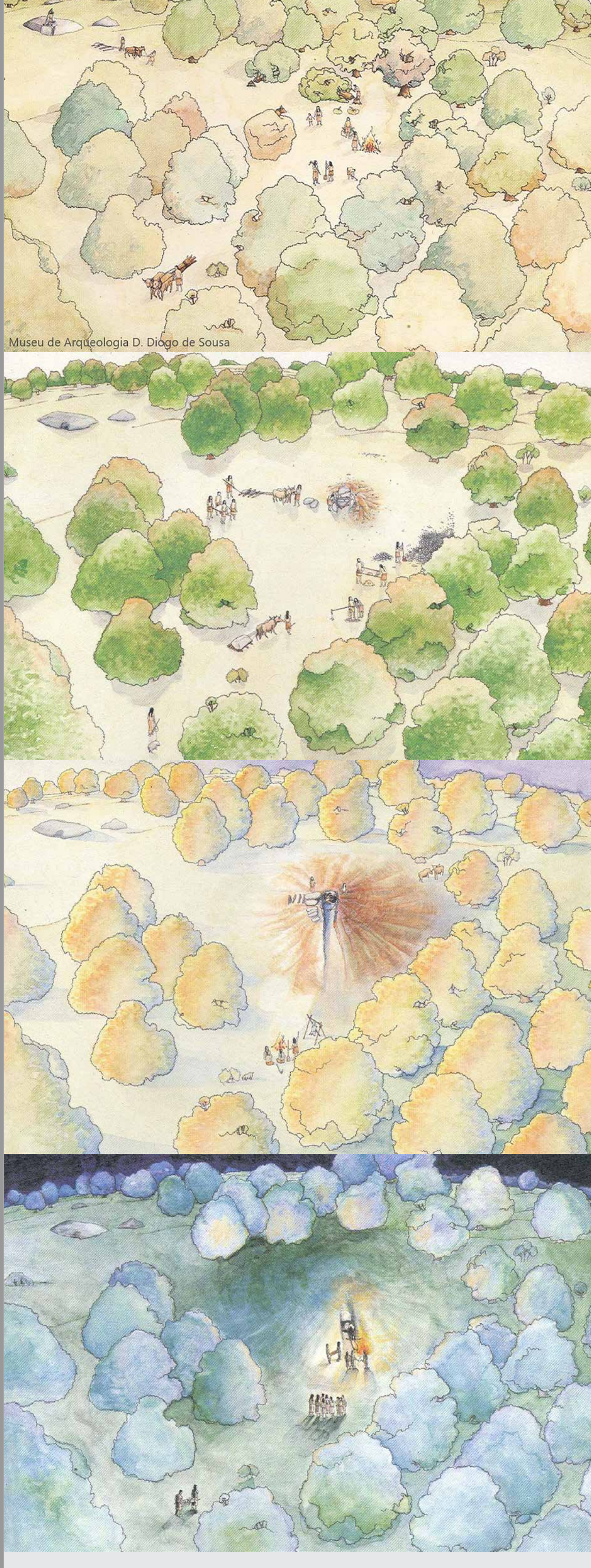


MÉGALITHISME

Megalithism is the material culture represented by the use of large stones, with which, from the 5th millennium BC until the end of the 3rd millennium BC, several monuments were built, such as menhirs, cromlechs, alignments and dolmens. Among all, the dolmen (megalithic tomb) are the most representative in Portugal, namely in the North region, and known in Portuguese as “ANTAS” or “DÓLMENES”.

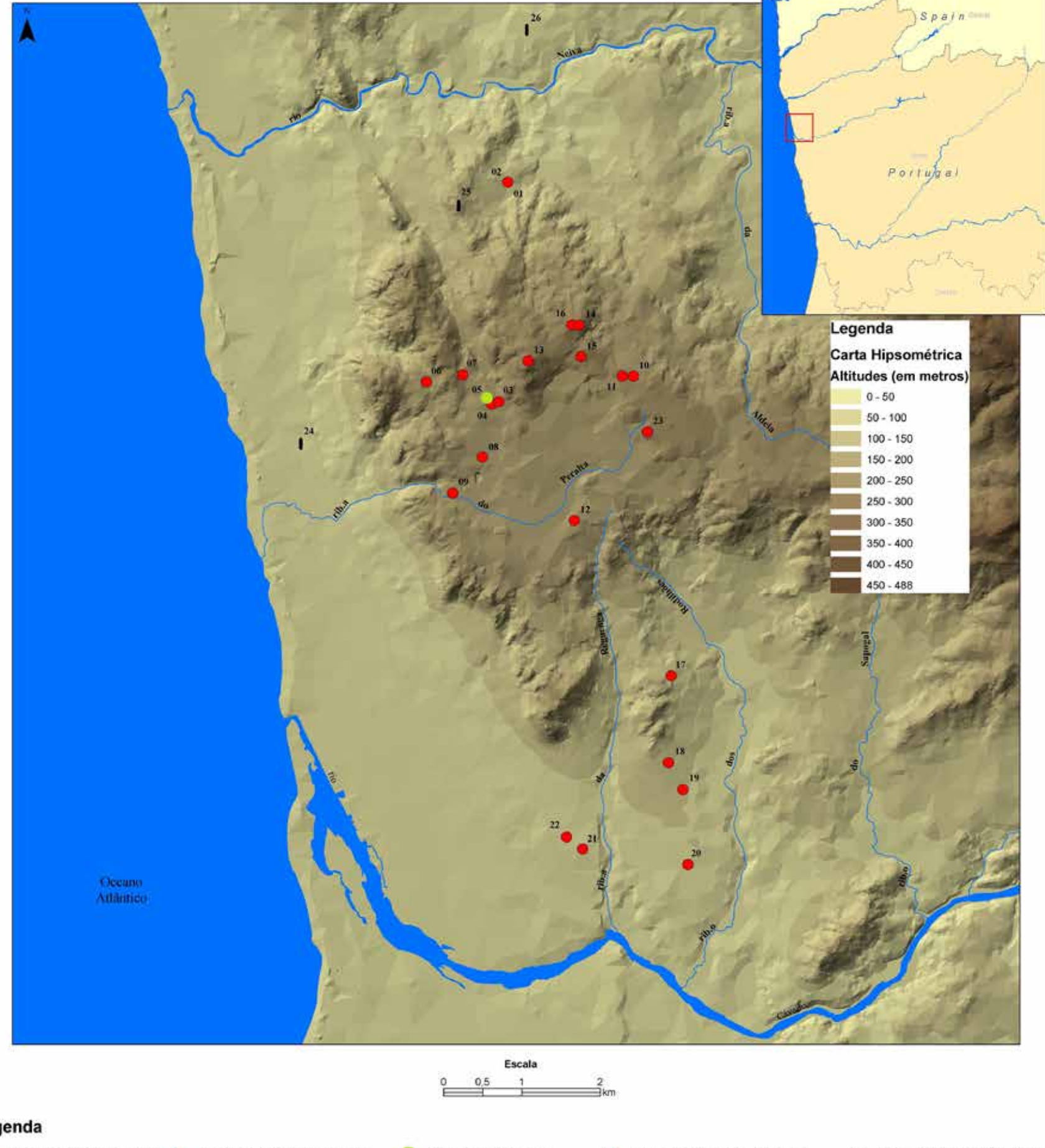
These monuments are characterized by the presence of the dolmen, covered by a circular mound of earth. The dolmen is composed by a funerary chamber, with or without a corridor, with or without a vestibule, and the space may or may not be defined by a lytic ring. Some monuments are also characterized by the presence of a protective stone armor around the dolmen. The chamber is covered with one or more large flat capstones forming a roof as well as the corridor (when it exists), this set being covered by an earth slab.



With the estimated average life span between 25 and 35 years, theoretically a high number of community members could participate in the construction of dolmens and even in some choices related to the art motifs. In Esposende, some of the dolmen have engraved motifs such as wavy and serpentine-like forms. The use of colors, such as red ochre and white, is also present.

In the Esposende territory, between the Cávado and the Neiva rivers, a total of 26 megalithic monuments have been identified, 3 of which correspond to menhirs.

Monumentos megalíticos de Esposende
Sua localização geográfica



- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Legenda
● 01 - Mamoa de Agra Antas
● 02 - Mamoa de Soleimas
● 03 - Mamoa do Rapido I
● 04 - Mamoa do Rapido II
● 05 - Mamoa do Rapido III
● 06 - Mamoa de Fontelas | ● 07 - Mamoa da Bouça da Guia
● 08 - Mamoa do Descampado
● 09 - Anta da Portelagem
● 10 - Mamoa do Outeiro
● 11 - Mamoa da Bouça da Barraca
● 12 - Mamoa da Cruzinha | ● 13 - Mamoa da Cerca
● 14 - Mamunha da Serra I
● 15 - Mamunha da Serra II
● 16 - Mamunha da Serra III
● 17 - Mamoa de Cimo de Vila
● 18 - Mamoa de Eira de Ana | ● 19 - Mamoa da Bouça das Antas
● 20 - Mamoa de Gemeses
● 21 - Mamoa do Vizo I
● 22 - Mamoa do Vizo II
● 23 - Mamunhas
● 24 - Menir de São Bartolomeu do Mar | I 25 - Menir de São Paio de Antas
I 26 - Menir da Enfia |
|---|---|--|---|--|

The research of this heritage dates back to the end of the 19th century, when some monuments were excavated and studied by F. Martins Sarmiento. More recently, in the 1990s, four were (re)excavated by a team led by Dr. Eduardo Jorge and three of them in 2020, by the Municipality, through the expertise of a private company.

MEGALITHIC MONUMENTS INTERVENED:

5 - Mamoa do Rapido III – Vila Chã; 9 - Anta da Portelagem – Vila Chã; 12 - Mamoa da Cruzinha – Vila Chã; 13 - Mamoa da Cerca – Vila Chã (not visitable); 14-16 – Mamunhas da Serra – S. Paio de Antas/ Forjães (not visitable); 17 - Anta de Cimo de Vila – Palmeira de Faro (not visitable)