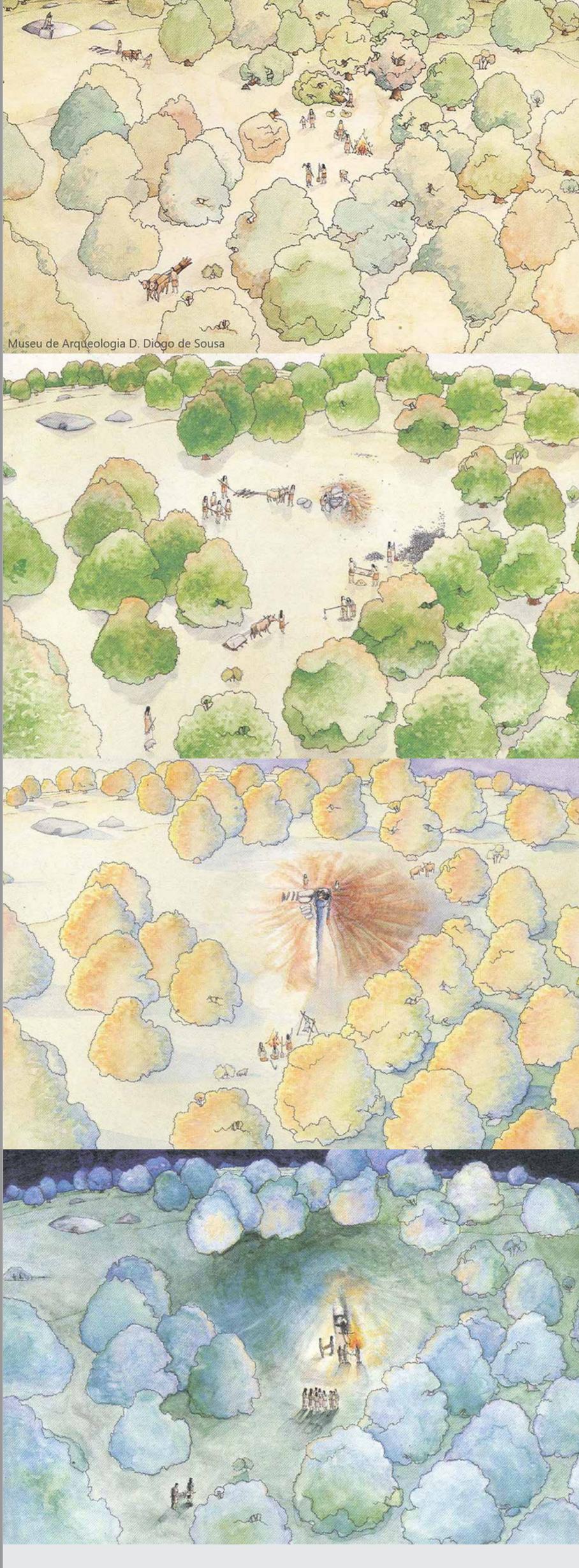


# MEGALITISM

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”.

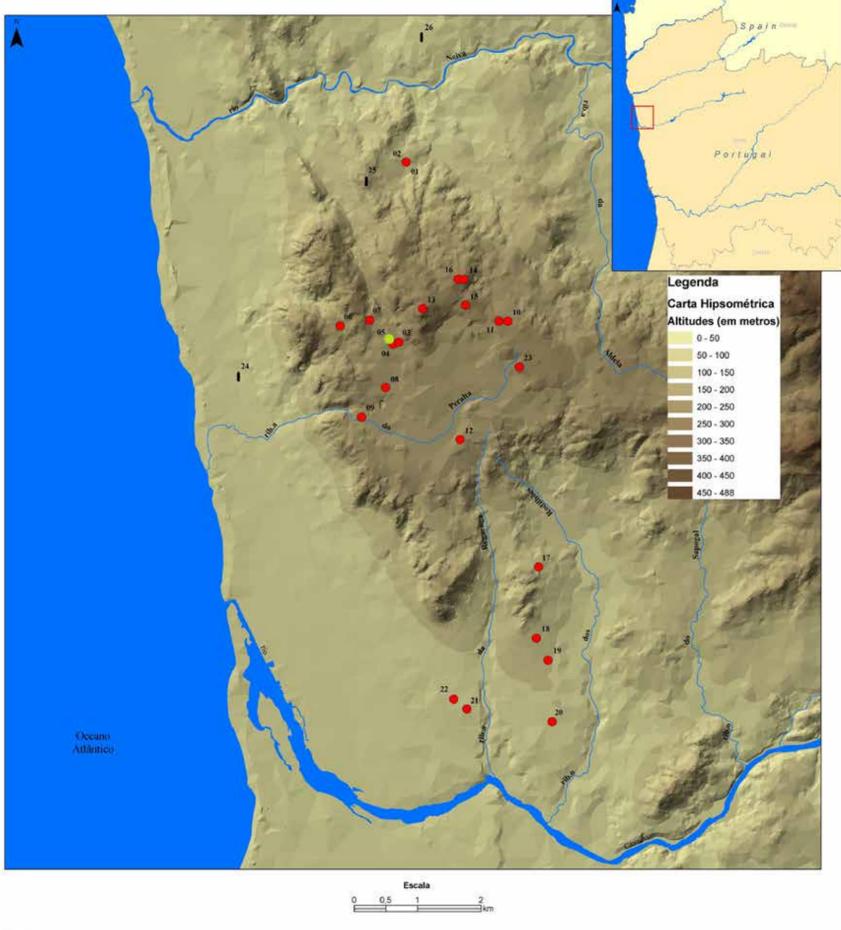
These monuments are characterized by the presence of the dolmen, covered by a circular mound of earth. The dolmen is composed by a funerary chamber, with or without a corridor, with or without a vestibule, and the space may or may not be defined by a lytic ring. Some monuments are also characterized 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 ocher 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 - Mamo de Agra Antas	07 - Mamo da Bouça da Guia
02 - Mamo Soleimas	08 - Mamo do Descampado
03 - Mamo do Rapido I	09 - Anta da Portelagem
04 - Mamo do Rapido II	10 - Mamo do Outeiro
05 - Mamo do Rapido III	11 - Mamo da Bouça do Barraca
06 - Mamo de Fontelas	12 - Mamo da Cruzinha
13 - Mamo da Cerca	14 - Mamunha da Serra I
15 - Mamunha da Serra II	16 - Mamunha da Serra III
17 - Mamo de Cimo de Vila	18 - Mamo de Eira de Ana
19 - Mamo da Bouça das Antas	20 - Mamo de Gemeses
21 - Mamo do Vizo I	22 - Mamo do Vizo II
23 - Mamunhas	24 - Menir de São Bartolomeu do Mar
25 - Menir de São Paio de Antas	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 - Mamo do Rapido III – Vila Chã; 9 - Anta da Portelagem – Vila Chã; 12 - Mamo da Cruzinha – Vila Chã; 13 - Mamo 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)