APPENDIX

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THE EARLY MEDIAEVAL SITE OF A POUSSADA
(SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, A CORUÑA, SPAIN)

1. THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERVENTION

During Impact Evaluation work carried out by the archaeological company Ambittec for the construction of the Santiago-Alto de Santo Domingo motorway (Fig. 25) a series of ceramic materials were documented on the surface in the area known as A Pousada (San Cristovo do Eixo, Santiago de Compostela, A Coruña), which were ascribed to the Roman and Mediaeval period. This led to an area being cordoned off in which more detailed explorations would be carried out during the Archaeological Monitoring work associated with the construction project. These actions took place within the framework of the Programme for the Correction of Archaeological Impact for the Santiago-Alto de Santo Domingo motorway, contracted by the construction company Dozón UTE from the Laboratory of Archaeology and Cultural Forms (LACF, part of the Institute of Technological Research at the University of Santiago de Compostela). The director of the programme was Felipe Criaño Boado (director of the LACF at that moment), and the Technical Monitoring Director was Pilar Prieto Martínez (a member of the LACF).

As part of the archaeological monitoring process, intensive prospecting work was carried out on the area, during which nine dispersions of material were found\textsuperscript{47}. It was decided to extend the archaeological protection zone, and to cut six mechanical test ditches. In two of them, which were very close together, archaeological structures were found: wall foundations and what appeared to be a pile of fallen stones. It was decided to intensify the work and carry out a manual sounding that extended the ditch in which the wall had been found, making it possible to confirm the existence of a site from the Mediaeval period (as a result of the materials documented). Work on the soundings and digging the ditches was directed by Roberto Aboal Fernández (a member of the LACF) (Fig. 27).

Finally, an area excavation was planned (Fig. 27), directed by Luis Fco. López González\textsuperscript{58}, aimed at reducing and correcting the impact the construction work would have on the archaeological site. The results of this work are detailed in this article.

This work was carried out between January and July 2001. At present, this and other sites that were excavated during this Impact Correction Programme are being studied as part of the project entitled «Motorways to the Past: Research and Protection of Archaeological Heritage during a Public Works Project» (ACEGA D+I)\textsuperscript{59} (Fig. 25).

2. AGRICULTURAL SPACE AROUND THE A POUSSADA SITE.
A CHRONOLOGICAL APPROXIMATION

The site of A Pousada is located in a thalweg between two small spurs that run in a NW-SE direction from the hills of Pena de Poboa (Figs. 25 and 27). Specifically, it is found at the bottom of a hill facing towards the valley cut through by the stream known as Poza da Valiña\textsuperscript{60}, which runs into the Santa Lucía river, an affluent of the Ulla River. The area is currently used for growing crops and pasture, although the higher land has been repopulated with eucalyptus trees. It is in the area known as Bornais, in the parish of San Cristovo do Eixo, which belongs to the local council of Santiago de Compostela. It is therefore a typical valley landscape, which has been used for growing crops for years, with traditional points of settlement scattered around it.

The archaeological evidence provided by the excavation revealed that this area formerly had a different use, although it was possibly already connected with a similar type of agricultural exploitation to that seen today. The chronological data for the moment of use of this site are taken from the \textsuperscript{14}C datings made in two structures from its first stage, placing it at the threshold between the late Roman period-early Middle Ages.

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\textsuperscript{58} The excavation was carried out jointly with the archaeological company Terra Arqueos S.A., which employs Luis Fco. López González, and the LACF, with Rebeca Blanco Rotea, a member of the Laboratory, as assistant director. In this case, as one of the authors of this text, she would like to thank the director and his team for the opportunity for having worked with them and everything they taught me.

\textsuperscript{59} This project forms a part of the Galician R+D Plan 2002-2005 (Technological programmes for Innovation – Construction Technologies and for the Conservation of Heritage) of the General Directorate of Research and Development, Department of Innovation, Industry and Commerce. Xunta de Galicia. Project Code: PGIDIT04CCP606003PR.

\textsuperscript{60} The toponym of this stream was given to us by the local residents, although on the maps it is listed as Rego de Bornais or Rego de Coca. We preferred to keep the local toponym.
However, our analysis goes a little further, and we believe that it is necessary to contextualise the site within a wider framework, and define the territory in which it is situated. This means that data also had to be obtained from the surrounding area; if we work with the hypothesis that many of the current centres of population in the area, including Bornais, were also founded at the same time, then we would be affirming that the fields of crops belonging to these settlements were also those used in previous periods. What was conserved in A Pousada\textsuperscript{61} may be a domestic site, like the current village of Bornais, while what we find in the surrounding area is a space used for the exploitation of agricultural resources, a space that had to be used for growing crops if there was already a settlement there. This means that it is inevitable to refer to other archaeological studies carried out in the surrounding area, whose results refer to a present-day landscape with a historic ‘depth’ that dates back to the early Middle Ages, and which we will discuss later on in this article.

And so, in the rural area we may differentiate domestic space – the inhabited areas composed of houses and other constructions such as granaries and mills, as well as other shared spaces, such as squares, churches, etc. – from areas used for the exploitation and appropriation of resources, either for agriculture (fields of crops), pasture (hillsides) or forestry (woodland) etc., all connected by a series of paths of different sizes joining all of these spaces together.

For this reason, any archaeological study of a given area should not only focus on built space as we understand it, the study and recording of the archaeological remains we find, but instead we must take into account the whole area that would have been used by their dwellers for obtaining resources, as they underwent a decisive change with the implantation of an economy aimed, in the specific case of Bornais, at agricultural exploitation. In this case Shani (1979) refers to the village as a peasant economic unit, in which peasant communities are the true producers and protagonists of the configuration of space (Fig. 26).

3. Traditional Agrarian Space in the Area of A Pousada. Land Use and the Morphology of Division

As already mentioned, Bornais is situated within an area between two hills surrounding a valley that opens out towards the southeast and the productive land of the Deza region. In this area, watered by the stream known as Rego do Pozo da Valiña, the nucleus of population\textsuperscript{62} is situated half way up the slope, between shrubland and land given over for agricultural use, which is highly fragmented into small plots. The smallest plots are next to the houses, and used for growing vegetables. Lower down, filling the whole valley, are larger areas of land divided into sections, laid out along a main road that

\textsuperscript{61} The toponym Pousada means ‘inn’, which may be related to the remains documented in the area.

\textsuperscript{62} It is important to note that this centre of population is basically composed of large farmhouses, a good indicator of the wealth of this valley.
Aerial view of Bornais and the area used for growing crops. Its agricultural structure stands out from others in the region, with highly concentrated plots situated in a valley surrounded by the hills of Rego do Pozo da Vaiña and Rego de Santa Lucía.

Formation of terraces built using the clearance-embankment system in Monte Gaías.

Fig. 26 – Aerial view of Bornais and a reconstruction of the process involved in the shaping of the terraces of Monte Gaías. a) Aerial view of Bornais and the area used for growing crops. Its agricultural structure stands out from others in the region, with highly concentrated plots situated in a valley surrounded by the hills of Rego do Pozo da Vaiña and Rego de Santa Lucía. b) Formation of terraces built using the clearance-embankment system in Monte Gaías.
leads down to the stream. Above the village is woodland and shrubland, which are also used in the process of exploiting the agricultural surroundings. On the other side of the stream is a steep slope which has been left as an untouched hillside. In the system of allotments we may see the marked division into small plots known locally as tenzas, which were once used for cultivating cereals using the slash and burn method, which have now been repopulated with foreign tree species.

The location of the village and the surrounding land is a good example of the model of ecological rationality based on humanising the natural chain of soils and vegetation that it typical in the Galician countryside, making use of its environmental conditions to adapt land use. This is what we refer to as the concave landscape model[63], with the valley used as the basic topographic unit around which the peasant system of exploitation is organised. These function as a focal point to attract population, and to organise this population (Ballesteros 2002: 13-14).

The analysis of the shape and structure of the plots of land, land uses, the network of roads and the mark left by the local toponomy are all elements to be taken into consideration when considering the evolution and creation of the landscape throughout time. These are 'footprints' that humanity has left on the landscape, and which offer us information about its adaptation to the environment, and its needs over a long period of time. Here we use cartography and aerial photography in order to examine the changes that have taken place in the rural landscape and land usage, to detect any possible anomalies that may correspond to ancient elements previously used to configure space. The aim is to make a superficial analysis of the space in question. The material used in order to study the agrarian structure was aerial photography from 1983, 1999 and 2003, as well as plans showing the current field layout.

By carefully examining the photographs and maps, and despite the short time between them, we have been able to detect changes in the way of configuring the agrarian landscape. Despite the fact that there has not been any rationalisation and concentration of plots in the area, it was possible to see that the area has been organised in a way that differs from ancient times. For example, while in an aerial photograph from 1983 we see a distribution of plots in a 'herringbone' formation, perpendicular to the most solitary path, but in particular the paths running between the plots, in the current map we see that these stretched shapes now run perpendicular to a network of paths that organise this space, making it possible to use machinery and have contact with other centres of populations. We also see the appearance of square shapes that may be the result of a different orientation of agrarian production.

Also, the microtoponomy of the area describes an agrarian landscape that has close links with the network of streams and rivers that surround it. Regueiro, A Fonte, Lameiros, are all toponyms that characterise land with high freatic levels. Others such as Souto da Agriña or Chousa Nova define uses and extensions of the agrarian structure itself. This is also the case with the toponym Pouada, used to designate a place for stopping over, resting or sleeping.

4. ARCHAEO-CHRONOLOGICAL DATA FOR THE AGRARIAN SPACES IN THE AREA: MONTE GAÍAS AND SANTA LUCIA

The study connected with the Upper Mediaeval chronological period is very scarce in terms of archaeological data and the associated research. For this reason, in order to situate this site, and possibly the use of the surrounding land, within the Upper Middle Ages, we interrelate it with the results from other archaeological studies carried out in the area, which have made a more detailed study allowing us to reach the conclusion that between the sixth and ninth centuries AD, work started on organising and configuring agrarian spaces in Galicia, which we still find in use today. The data given below comes from two archaeological projects:

- Monte Gaías: as part of the archaeological control and monitoring project for the construction of the Galician City of Culture[64].
- Santa Lucía, as part of the archaeological control and monitoring project for the Santiago-Alto de Santo Domingo motorway[65].

The relationship between these sites and A Pouada is not unwarranted, but instead apart from the physical proximity between these areas, they are connected in historical terms thanks to the roads that run through them. Here we turn to the description offered by Ferreira (1988) of the mediaeval Way of St. James running through the Deza region, by Puente Ledesma and Losón, and precisely alongside the areas we are describing. He states that «The way branches off from the Sar road, and on reaching the Sar Crossroads, enters via San Martín de Arines, crossing the Arines river over a "great bridge" documented in 1115 (...) it continues along the "Port of Marzán"[66], Noenlle, Santa María de Oural, Boquevón, San Lorenzo de Pouada, Santa María de Oural, then crossing the Ulla river at Puente Ledesma, which is Roman in origin and was therefore definitely in place in the fifteenth century» (Ferreira 1988: 123). Today we also find a path known as the Santa Lucía road, that joins the hill fort with the area of Bornaís, establishing a connection between both points. We also find the local toponym in Bornaís, Portoselos, which may be connected with a portus, an obligatory point of passage where the portorium was charged, or refer to a 'port' as a geographical feature (Ferreira 1988: 30).

63 This theoretical model situates the house half way up the hillsides, surrounded by intensively farmed cropland. The bottom part of the valley would have contained the pasture and areas of woodland. Uphill would have included forested areas, and further up, where the land is less steep, areas of shrubland or extensively-worked sections.

64 About this site see Ballesteros, Criado Bondo, Andrade Cerdán 2006.

65 The results of these soundings are the subject of an article to be published shortly by R. Aboal Fernández and P. Ballesteros Arias.

66 Documentation from 1563 details the shoring up of land in Angros: Porto de Marzán, on the royal road running from Santiago to Puente Ledesma via Arines (Ferreira 1988: 123).
<table>
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<th>$^1^4$C AGE</th>
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Table 5 – Ratio and results of samples of concentrated organic material dated using $^1^4$C. The calibrated and conventional dates are provided, and the stratigraphic location in which they are found.

4.1 Monte Gaiás

As a result of construction work being carried out on the Galician City of Culture in Santiago de Compostela, an integral archaeological study was carried out on the structures that comprise the traditional agrarian landscape and which still remain in the area. As in Boreais, here we find traditional agricultural methods based on self-sufficiency for the family. It is a closed economy that is not based on selling any products, defining an agrarian landscape characterised by multiple types of crops used for subsistence. The terraces used are configured by a series of plots that vary in size depending on the importance of the crop cultivated, and the size of the farm.

In the archaeological study carried out in the terraced area known as Portiňa-Barreiras, a series of stratigraphic levels were found in the profile from the test ditch that revealed how the system of terraces was created artificially, with their chronological details shown in Table 1. After making a stratigraphic reading of the whole profile of the terraced slope, it was observed that over the original soil (level B, resulting from the alteration of the original material, amphibolites and a paleosol), this was broken down to create a horizontal surface. The material produced by this excavation work was then used to make a slope lower down, creating the first infill level, extending the level surface. At the same time, the upper level was terraced, repeating the same process of excavating and sloping. The same process occurred with the third terrace (Fig. 2). As a result, a series of terraces were formed with very similar morphological features, not only in terms of their surface area, but also their dimensions.

4.2 Santa Lucia

The archaeological data we possess so far on Santa Lucia come from a stratigraphic analysis made on the profile of a ditch cut transversally across four terraced structures connected with the hill fort of the same name (Fig. 25) and possibly connected with an agrarian system that occurred after the hill fort period. The stratigraphic reading revealed a similarity with the terrace of Portiňa-Barreiras, described above, using the same construction method of destruction and sloping.

Once again, anthropic action led to a considerable variation in the natural qualities and quantities of the soil – its depth, slope, etc., the result of attempting to obtain the greatest benefit from the land. Finally, in this traditional agrarian landscape we were not only able to observe the continuous changes that occurred over time in its configuration, but also the re-use of these structures over the centuries. This may possibly indicate a parallel in the construction system of these plots on the hillsides.

5. A Pousada as a Site

Having contextualised the agrarian area around A Pousada, we will move on to describing the results of the archaeological excavation.

As mentioned, the different actions finally led to an archaeological excavation being carried out (Fig. 27) covering an area of 432 m². Despite extending the area initially planned in the project, as the architectonic structures continued beyond this area, it was not possible to define where it ended. In fact, material was found scattered over all of the immediately surrounding area. Thanks to cutting test ditches and the excavation itself, we were able to define the site to the north and south, but not to the east and west, where it appears to extend (Fig. 27).

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67 The code corresponds to that used for the column of samples which may have up to forty samples, depending on the height obtained by the terraced structure.

68 For this article, as with many others, the help of Anxo Rodríguez Paz with the graphic section has been essential. At the same time, we would like to also thank Sonia García Rodríguez for her work with in the archives during the process of summarising the results and research carried out in A Pousada.
5.1 Stratigraphy, architecture and spatial configuration

During the excavation, a series of structures were found in the central and southern part of the excavated area, which we will describe using the sequence we identified within the site. In this stage we find five pits or open silos in type B soil (the result of the alteration of the original material, which in this case was amphibolite) (Fig. 28).

Four of these pits were practically circular and slightly stretched, with the largest measuring 2×1.45 m (the last measurement is incomplete, as the excavation area enters into the pit) and the smallest measures 1.67×1.32 m all of them were full of a single deposit formed by highly organic earth. One was situated to the north east of the architectural structures, another under the walls belonging to Stage II, and the other two to the south of the construc-

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It is important to note that we only have two datings of the differentiated structures, which are ascribed to the first two stages of its use. For the following stages, we have made use of both the stratigraphic analysis documented in the excavated area, as well as the material culture study and documentary sources consulted.
tions. With the exception of the pit under the wall, whose filling material contained rubble, a piece of stone and a few fragments of tile, the others contained a large amount of pottery and fragments of tile in a smaller quantity.

The fifth was longer, measuring 1.20×0.79 m, and was filled with a deposit similar to the others, and was cut across at its northern edge by another circular pit measuring 0.85×0.80 m, filled with a deposit of amphibolite stones mixed with mortar. Neither had any materials mixed in with their deposits.

Stage II: Seventh to eighth centuries

In this stage there was a transformation of the previous space, with the appearance of architectural elements. The pits were situated in a gently sloping area running north to south towards the stream of Pozo da Valiña. To the north of the excavated area the natural slope was maintained, but in the central and southern areas a small terrace was built, over which a series of stone structures were raised, whose depth increased in the direction of the slope. To the north, this architecture is situated partly over soil B, and another part, as to the south, over a deposit of highly organic soil, which also seals the pits from the previous stage.

The structure comprises a room facing NNE-SSW measuring 15.48 metres along its longest edge and 3.71 m along the shortest, although the longer edge may be larger, as it appears to continue outside of the excavated area (Fig. 28).

It still conserves the foundations of the walls, which have been seriously reduced (to a height of 0.3-0.4 m) and only appear intermittently (due to subsequent removals of materials). The foundations are made using large blocks of stone. These were basically blocks of amphibolite cut squarely into practically horizontal lines, fitted edge to edge, with the joints filled with smaller fragments. They were made using two sides filled in with smaller stones. In some areas the blocks were set with the longest section perpendicular to the parament. The width of the wall varied between 0.58 and 0.60 m.

We have associated these foundations with a posthole, of which four amphibolite wedges remain, aligned and situated in the same direction as one of the walls that enclose this structure. In this case we did not find any foundations, which may be due to the area having been cleared, either during the destruction stage, or for use as a ramp leading into the building.

Despite lacking any archaeological evidence to support this, as a result of the subsequent transformations observed, we believe that this stage may correspond to a mixed construction, with a stone plinth and the upper part in perishable materials.

The interior of the building had a floor made of flattened clay and a hearth, of which we conserve part of the inclined slabs that enclosed it, and a burnt layer. This hearth was subsequently demolished to make a new floor of flattened clay mixed with abundant tile fragments, located to the west of the building. This spatial differentiation at floor level may be due to a second period within this stage, in which the building was divided internally using perishable materials, with both spaces destined for different uses. This fact is reiterated in the next stage, with the division of both spaces using a stone wall.

Stage III: Eleventh to thirteenth centuries

At this time the interior space of the building was reconfigured, using stone to make a dividing wall that may have been associated with the previous stage (Fig. 28). The foundations were conserved, with the same features as those of the previous walls, although narrower, with a width of between 0.48 and 0.52 m, dividing the original space into two asymmetrical areas, with the area to the east being the largest. The wall cut across the floor made of trodden clay and tile fragments. Together with the wall a curved hearth was also built, except on its eastern edge, where it is straight. It is closed in to the north by embedded amphibolite slabs, with a preparation of trodden earth mixed with tile fragments, over which a burnt level was documented. A small ditch was documented running around the wall to the west and all of the slabs used in the hearth.

A large amount of building material has been found amongst the collapsed sections (stone blocks and fragments of tiles) indicating that at a given moment the construction was made wholly of stone with a tiled roof. In this third stage the previous architecture would have been replaced with stone. We do not have an absolute dating for it, but taking into account the processes documented for other parts of the peninsula identifying this process as taking place after the eleventh century, we have chosen to apply these dates (Azkarate, Quiros 2003) (Figs. 28, 29). These figures should be printed on a whole page, in landscape format and running consecutively, so that the whole sequence of the site may be seen in the first six stages.

Stage IV: Low mediaeval period

In this stage we have identified the construction of a new stone structure, of which only the foundations of its northeastern corner remain (it was not enclosed to the south, and continued to the west, outside of the defined area). It was located to the western edge of the excavation area (Fig. 29).

It ran from north to south, unlike the previous structures, and was cut across and partially reused the western edge and part of the southern edge of the western building in Stage III. Its construction materials were the same as those used in previous stages. The width of the wall varied between 0.55 and 0.60 m the deposit identified as the floor level from this building had different features from the floors from the other stages: it was made of flattened light brown earth, and not clay.

70 A sample from this infill has been dated with the following result: ROCASOLANO (carbon); 1430 ± 34 (years BP); 560-663 cal AD (95.4%).

71 This is an initial hypothesis, as there could have been some kind of architectonic structure connected with a residential use in the area, although these have not been identified in the area excavated.

72 We have the following dating for this post hole: ROCASOLANO (carbon); 1349 ± 26 (years BP); 642-716 cal AD (89.8%); 749-764 cal AD (3.6%).

73 No differences were observed at construction level between the walls associated with the three stages identified.
Stage V: Low mediaeval-Early Modern Period

At this moment the site was abandoned; there was a small fire, and the buildings collapsed.

During the process of excavation, our attention was drawn to the fact that there were two different types of accumulations of building materials: some that appeared to be the result of the collapse, and others that were tidier, like piles of rubble, located to the south of the foundations. Also, some foundations, particularly those to the south, did not have any of the collapsed material around them, as if they had been cleared out at a particular moment in time (Fig. 29).

The first correspond to Stage V, the result of the process of abandonment and the fire. The stratigraphy documented was as follows: there is a deposit of tiles over the remains of the paving, which in some areas has burnt levels, and over this there is a deposit of stones. Both were intermittent, and did not extend over the whole interior surface of the buildings.

In order to date them, we chose to include them in a date that is *ante quem* to Stage VI, for which we have fragments of pottery that have been identified as belonging to the modern period.

Stage VI: Early Modern Period

To the south of the buildings is a deposit of stones running in a line from east to west, parallel to the foundations of the southern side of the structure associated with stage III. It is formed by amphibolite stones, smaller than those that remain in the foundations of the walls. Some 0.22 m away from these to the south is another deposit in an oval shape (3.95 × 2.43 m), which appears to be a second selection of the material over the previous rubble pile, as the material was smaller in size.

Apart from these two piles of rubble, a pit was found to the western edge of the excavation area, which cuts into the profile. It was circular, with perfectly straight walls, which curved slightly where they joined the flat floor. It was completely full of fragments of tiles (very flat sections with a small lip on the end) in different colours, with their inner edge facing outwards.

This is the moment when the demolished materials and part of the wall foundations were removed, together with the breaking of the floor in the eastern building with the largest dimensions.

Once the site had been demolished, it was covered with a layer of organic soil containing fragments of tiles and pottery.

Stage VII: Modern Period-Contemporary Period

Over the deposits and structures documented for the previous stages, a large area of arable soil was spread, with a width of between 0.4 m at the northern edge to 0.8 m at the western limit of the excavation and 1 m to the eastern edge of the excavation, following the slope of the land. This contained heterogeneous material (both in terms of the type of material and the period to which it belongs), probably due to soil being broken up by ploughing, as well as agricultural work in general. However, its positioning towards the site may have been carried out in modern times, after the removal of the construction material.

Stage VIII: Contemporary

Finally, the whole of the site was sealed with a deposit with a slightly lighter colour than the previous, more uniform in depth and also with heterogeneous material, associated with contemporary agricultural activity.

5.2 The Material Culture documented

The material recovered in *A Ponsada* amounts to a total of nine hundred and eighty pieces, of which nine hundred and eighteen are fragments of pottery (four hundred and thirty five are from construction materials, and four hundred and eighty three from vessels, with two fragments of a spindle whorl), ten are anthropic stone materials, thirteen metal fragments (twelve made of iron, two bronze and one yet to be determined), twenty one glass fragments, four plastic fragments, and six undetermined pieces.

In the north-western Iberian Peninsula, and particularly in Galicia, sites of this kind are virtually unknown, and therefore little studied. Proof of this is the fact that most publications start to characterise mediaeval pottery from the ninth century onwards, and that from the previous centuries is only mentioned intuitively, referred to in the same general terms as pottery from the early Middle Ages. Therefore, considering the excellent contextual conditions of this site, it is important to present the main formal features of the ceramic material found and its relationship with the stratigraphic distribution and other elements of material culture documented in the site, in order to finally complete this information in the global context of the site.

We will firstly focus on the pottery vessels: our study made it possible to register a total of seventy-three (corresponding to 61% of the total fragments from vessels), of which we have been able to reconstruct sixteen in a reliable manner. They are mainly hand-made. However, if we consider that some of their formal aspects, we may divide them up into several groups, making it possible to define several moments of activity on the site that are clearly defined, from the high middle ages until the present day.

We have made a classification taking into account all of the formal features of the pottery; however, the most significant group is marked by the characteristics of the clays, as we will see. The vessels reveal a group of production and domestic use, reinforced by the presence of two spindle whorls, whose features do not differ from those known in previous periods, revealing that cloth was woven on the site, generally associated with women. This is frequently found in most rural Galician homes, even today.

The vessels in stages from the high Middle Ages

In the first two stages of the site, the vessels have features that refer to habitual use, as the morphologies are varied (Fig. 28). They are hand made vessels, with a predominance of closed or open compound profiles (pots or jars) with a degree of variety in their edges, with short or 'strangled' necks, and globular bellies, with a presence of simple open profiles (glazed earthenware pots or bowls). All of the bottoms documented are flat and with little variability, with a usually gentle transition from the belly. These morphological aspects suggest a domestic function, as table or kitchen ware (using the terminology of Turina 1994). The different morphological features are combined with a more limited number of
Fig. 28–29. Plan showing outline and detailed photographs of structures from stages I, II and III, together with some representative materials from each stage. 29 Showing the outline plan and detailed photographs of structures from stages I, II and III, as well as some representative materials from each.
clays, which are essentially the following: (1) grey tones with compact, floury textures and grey monochrome fractures (2) black tones with rough or fine compact textures, and black monochrome fractures, and (3) red tones with rough or fine porous compact textures and red monochrome fractures, relatively similar to the previous. The decorations are limited to a very simple design on the upper third of the vessel, reduced to one or more wavy horizontal lines (mainly on the outer face), documented in vessels with grey or black clays, or horizontal cord on with finger marks, on vessels made using grey clays. Incised and plastic decoration is typical in mediaeval pottery from its earliest manifestations, as may be seen in other Galician sites such as As Pereiras (in piece PER.1/2/56: ABOU, COBAS 1999: 25).

With the exception of the pottery using grey clays, all of the rest revealed a continuation of previous traditions, combining aspects of mainly indigenous pottery making with some morphological aspects of Roman influence (particularly with the jars).

At chronological level, there do not appear to be any formal differences in these stages, although it should be noted that there is a predominance of vessels with grey clay in stage I 4th, although the vessels using black and red clays are detected in both stage I and II of the site. Thanks to the stratigraphic analysis, we were able to verify that in the deposits associated with stages III, IV and V, vessels were found that had identical features to those previously described for the oldest levels of use of the site. This is coherent with the functional changes it underwent, as we have found material associated with the period of destruction scattered around the site, an indication that the ancient material was subsequently removed and mixed with deposits from later periods.

In particular, we have four vessels we were not able to reconstruct, as they are only comprised of belly fragments (a total of one hundred and thirty four pieces), which have the technical features described for the oldest stages of the site, and which have been registered in the different deposits connected with all of the stages of the site. This widespread distribution confirms that the different activities carried out on the site have altered and removed the oldest materials in later moments.

Vessels during the lower Mediaeval and modern stages until the present day

As mentioned beforehand, from stage III until stage V, vessels were documented with identical formal features to those from the oldest stages, although this does not mean that a pottery tradition was maintained during this period, but instead that it appears that these fragment were removed from their original deposits together with other materials from the site when its was destroyed.

The pottery documented in the deposits from the most modern stages have much more heterogeneous formal characteristics than those from previous stages, as well as being more fragmented, meaning it has practically been impossible to reconstruct any vessels. Here we find pieces manufactured using the potter's wheel 5th, for the first time on the site, together with harder clays. The different groups classified according to their deposits of origin are as follows:

Firstly, a small number of vessels with simple, compound morphologies, which maintain the previously existing pottery tradition, with similar clays, as they are grey – although better decanted – and are fine and compact, better suited for working on a wheel. These pieces are associated with another different type, enamelled with a figurative decoration in relief (Fig. 29), and a relatively abundant group of glossy ceramics with compact, grainy clays with a fracture in reddish-pink tones, with a variety of surface colours, such as yellow, green 6th and white. This heterogeneous group is mainly documented in deposits from stage VI, and exceptionally in stage VII.

Secondly, we have documented a rare group of glossy pottery in different clays to those described above, with compact, almost metallic textures, and very fine fractures with a green-black gloss; these generally have late features, and are probably from the modern period. Unlike the previous group, these are mainly documented in deposits from stage VII, and exceptionally in those from stage VI.

In this extensive period of time, only small fragments are documented associated with simple and mainly open morphologies, basically plates and occasionally jars; also, material such as plastic, crockery or glass from recent times is found. We would add that most of the materials described above were gathered in deposits associated with the cultivation plots in the excavated area.

6. EVALUATING THE EVIDENCE: THE CREATION OF AN AGRARIAN LANDSCAPE

Our aim with this study was to deal with the results of excavation work carried out in A Pousada and to relate these results with the surrounding agrarian landscape.

We believe that in A Pousada are conserved the remains of an unpopulated settlement, for possibly secondary residential use, that was directly related to the agricultural activity in the surrounding area. This use would date back to the Middle Ages, as confirmed by the datings obtained and material culture recovered, which would have to be related to a process of making the landscape artificial, aimed at a process of agricultural exploitation as part of an economy of self-sufficiency.

Its proximity to communication routes that have been present since at least the Middle Ages, such as one of the routes forming the Way of St. James (running between the current villages of Bornais and Piñeiro, then running towards the hill fort of Santa Lucía), hydrographic sources or the surrounding agricultural areas, are all indicative of a permanent settlement, which we do not believe lasted long beyond the high Middle Ages or early Modern Period. In this case, it is significant that the latest materials documented are connected with the strata identified as part of the destruction of the settlement or

74 Clays of this type have been found in the site of Gómez de Arribas (Madrid) for the 9th period, in the second half of the sixth century (VIGIL-ESCALERA 2000: 239).

75 The application of the potter's wheel from the ninth century onwards is more noticeable than in the previous period (SUÁREZ, GIMENO, FARIÑA 1989: 288).
subsequent sloping of this area, which on the one hand sealed in the stone structures, and on the other was later used as land for growing crops.

As previously mentioned, we only conserve a few pits from the first stage and it is difficult to guess their use; they well may be silos for containing grain, although the difference in materials they contain, as well as their shape, may refer to two different types; one for storage, and another for processing agricultural products. Due to their size, we do not believe that either had any residential use, although we cannot dismiss the fact that there were structures of this kind in this period, due to the limited area of excavation.

However, in the second stage there is an application of architecture to space with local stone materials, using a mixed technique17, which would have gradually become more complex, with the internal division of dwellings, the use of stone, and even the construction of new structures in different directions during stages III and IV. The site was in use up to these stages.

There are several problems that prevent us from precisely defining the chronology of these moments of use, particularly for the last two periods. Firstly, due to the lack of radiocarbon datings, and secondly, the limits of the archaeological excavation, which had to coincide with the limits of the motorway being built and the state of conservation of the site, which had been severely damaged in later stages, and finally the lack of ceramic studies for these periods in Galicia.

It is clear that from this moment onwards the settlement was abandoned, with the immediate consequences of the burning and destruction of the structures, as well as the stone and ceramic materials being taken away for re-use, before filling in and preparing the area for growing crops.

In closing, we would like to draw attention to a final detail regarding the pottery documented on the site.

Within the collection of vessels associated with the oldest stages (sixth to eighth centuries)18, it represents a type of pottery expressing a continuation of pre-Roman indigenous traditions, and to a lesser extent, Roman traditions.

The materials documented in the following stages are isolated, more fragmented and mixed in deposits that are mainly associated with the final stages of agricultural usage of the land. They appear to be specific groups of objects that probably come from the site itself or areas close to it, as there is a mixture of recipients made on a wheel clearly for table use with other elements of material culture (plastics, glass, pottery etc.) that are chronologically heterogeneous, ranging from the early Mediaeval period until the present.

Although the study is focused on a single site, and has to be considered in this light, it was possible to observe vessels from different traditions simultaneously in use in a domestic setting, although with a predominance

17 Suárez, Gimeno and Faríña (1989: 289) affirm that these are Andaluzian importations from the end of the twelfth and early thirteenth centuries.

18 We cannot dismiss the fact that in this second stage clay tiles were already in use for roofing, as in one of the floor pavings ascribed to this period, fragments of this material were used, mixed with clay.

19 It should be remembered that some of these pieces were of indigenous pottery, followed by Roman materials. Also, vessels using grey clays were already documented from an early period, which in other studies and in the Galician case were considered as being from the early mediaeval period. This means that although the formal characterisation of the pottery may be a chronological orientation, it cannot be used as a fossil director that defines a truly reliable temporal sequence.

Finally, the site possibly allows us to enter into a debate concerning the possible influences on mediaeval pottery traditions in Galicia: pre-Roman, Roman and Germanic (Suárez, Gimeno, Faríña 1989: 285). On the one hand, the only site from the high Middle Ages excavated to date in Galicia in which the materials have been studied is in As Pereiras (Ameiro, Ourense). Its authors (Aboal, Cobas 1999) confirmed the hypothesis of Arias (1997) that the Germanic communities barely left any remnants of material culture, particularly pottery19. On the contrary, Doval (1992) considers that some of the pieces from the high middle ages found in the Penamoa site, due to their poor quality and the lack of attention paid to the decanting of the clays, are reminiscent of both pottery from the hill fort period20 as well as the Germanic period of the encampment of Cidadela (Sobrado, Lugo). What may perhaps be observed from this brief comment is that the influence of the pottery traditions from the Mediaeval period differ depending on the site and the context, and probably the domestic productions of pottery, such as that from A Pousada, are more related to the historical processes that were developed at local and regional level than on a more widespread level.

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found out of context in deposits from later stages, which have been removed from their original contexts by construction work and agricultural activity.

20 A settlement occupied in the early Roman period and another from the Low and Early Mediaeval periods. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to precisely date the later materials, as they appear mixed in deposits with Roman materials (Aboal, Cobas 1999: 24).

21 Doval (1992) found similarities in the clays used in High Mediaeval pottery from the site in Penamoa (Carnota, A Coruña) to that used in the early hill fort period or even in the Late Bronze Age. However, his study is not based on stratigraphy, as the material was documented on the surface.


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