

## 1. PRESENTATION

After 2006, the Núcleo de Investigação Arqueológica – NIA (Archaeological Research Group) of ERA Arqueologia S.A., started to develop a new dynamic process for research at the Chalcolithic Perdigões Archaeological Complex.

(More information about the site at: <http://www.nia-era.org/content/view/281/33/> )



Aerial photo of the Perdigões enclosure (Reguengos de Monsaraz, Évora, Portugal)

The research already done and the scientific and cultural relevance of the site made it well known in the national and international scientific community, being frequently quoted in the context of Iberian Recent Prehistory.

The regular attention of the press and the organized tours to the site and to its exhibition in the medieval tower of Herdade do Esporão, have also contributed to a strong diffusion among the general public.

This dynamic led to a new architecture of the research process, more consistent with the initial idea of creating an “Archaeology in Construction” project.

We aim to promote an open research process, generating a scientific production that will feed, with credibility, a creative diffusion program to the general public.

To achieve this goal a Global Archaeological Research Program (INARP) was created.

The program aims to establish the guide lines for a research integrated policy at Perdigões. It is set up in the idea that the development of research (financially and scientifically) will be potentiated by attracting other researchers and institutions, national and international, to participate in the process.

Opening a site with the dimension and complexity of Perdigões to several research projects is only possible if there is a guaranty of a coordination responsible for an integrated management of the different research lines, allowing replication and communication between different projects, capable of establish criteria and priorities, making information available for everyone and promoting the necessary transversal relations (task for the Global Coordination, a NIA's responsibility).

There are several projects organized according to this new model. Lines of research are being created, in which several projects are being developed by different researcher and teams (see 2).

It is in this context, aiming the development of transversal relationships and an open research, that Perdigões Newsletter appears (with versions in Portuguese and English).

The goal is to regularly make available to all researchers who work at (or with) Perdigões contexts, to all scientific community and to the media, information related to the developments of research and knowledge acquisition in this important archaeological site.

So, if you want to join, present us your project.



## 2. RESEARCH PROJECTS

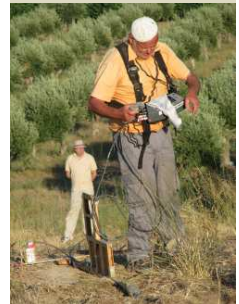
Several researchers, projects and institutions are involved in the Global Archaeological Research Program of Perdigões.

### CONTENTS

1. Presentation
2. Research projects
3. Geophysics 2009
4. Absolute dating
5. Bibliography
6. Excavations 2009
7. Perdigões in the Media



Tomb 2



Geophysics 2009



Ditch 4 . Excavation 2008

### Funerary Contexts

- Funerary Contexts at Perdigões: Tombs 1 and 2.  
Doutor António Carlos Valera  
Mestre Lucy Evangelista  
Dr. Miguel Lago  
Dra. M<sup>a</sup> João Jacinto  
(Era Arqueologia S.A.)

- Funerary Practices and knapped stone materials  
Doutor António Faustino Carvalho  
Dra. Margarida Mendonça  
(Universidade do Algarve)

### Metallurgical activities at Perdigões

- Copper metallurgy at Perdigões  
Doutor António Carlos Valera  
(Era Arqueologia S.A.)
- Gold archaeo-metallurgy at Perdigões  
Eng<sup>o</sup> António Monge Soares  
Mestre Pedro Valério  
Doutora Maria de Fátima Araújo  
(Instituto Tecnológico e Nuclear)  
Doutor Rui J. C. Silva  
(Universidade Nova – CENIMAT)

### Structured depositions

- Geophysics and excavation of SE door.  
Doutor José Márquez Romero  
Doutor Víctor Jimenez  
Dra. Elena Mata  
(Universidade de Málaga)

### Men / Animal relationship and human ontology in the Neolithic and Chalcolithic

- The meaning of animal carved sculptures  
Doutor António Carlos Valera  
(Era Arqueologia S.A.)

## 3. GEOFÍSICA 2009

In the context of the University of Málaga's project to be developed in the SE door of the enclosure, a geophysics survey was initiated last June

The survey was conducted by Helmut Becker (help by members of Malaga's and ERA's teams), using magnometry . 5 ha were surveyed, corresponding to 1/3 of the enclosure's total area.

The results were extraordinary and extremely relevant. Several ditches, hundreds of pits, palisades, huts and possible banks were identified.

They also provide a new perception of the architecture of several ditches, that could not be seen in the aerial photo.

In face of the dimension of the site, this sort of results couldn't be achieved by archaeological excavation in such a short time and they permit to orientate problems and future field interventions.

- Faunal depositions in funerary contexts at Perdigões.

Dr. Nelson Cabaço  
(Era Arqueologia S.A.)  
Doutora Marta Moreno  
(Igespar)

- Faunal remains at Perdigões: Sector I contexts.  
Mestre Cláudia Costa  
(Universidade do Algarve)

### Pottery production at Perdigões

- Archaeometry of funerary pottery.  
Doutora M<sup>a</sup> Isabel Marques Dias  
Doutora M<sup>a</sup> Isabel Prudêncio  
Dr. Christopher Burbidge  
(Instituto Tecnológico e Nuclear)

### Population anthropology at Perdigões

- Populations present in tomb 1 and 2.  
Mestre Ricardo Godinho  
(Era Arqueologia S.A.)  
Doutora Ana Maria Silva  
(Universidade de Coimbra)

### Lithic productions at Perdigões

- Knapping stone technology and typology in tomb 1 and 2  
Doutor António Faustino Carvalho  
(Universidade do Algarve)



**PERDIGÕES**  
COMPLEXO ARQUEOLÓGICO  
Núcleo Expositivo da Torre do Esporão  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX  
The exhibition at Torre do Esporão



Gold metallurgy



Animal sculptures



The quality of the results and the progress of knowledge they provide justify the survey of all of the site's area. We expect to finished that work in next October .



Geophysics 2009



#### 4. ABSOLUTE DATING

In the context of the copper metallurgy project, sediments from ditch 3 and ditch 4 were dated, along with sediments from two pits and tomb 2.

The dating process was B-OSL (Optical Stimulated Luminescence), at the laboratory of luminescence of Instituto Tecnológico e Nuclear (Sacavém, Lisboa, Portugal)

13 samples were dated. Two present results not according to the general archaeological context.

Ditch 3 has four dates, that indicate the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium and 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium. Ditch 4 has three dates from the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium and first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The pits present a chronology from the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium (pit 3) and second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> (pit 2). Tomb 2 has dates with a large standard deviation that covered the same periods.

The dates present standard deviations relatively high, namely in tomb 2. Nevertheless, the correlation between the dates and its stratigraphic position suggest that the two ditches were opened and started to be filled during the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC, a process that was occurring still in the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC.



Perdigões exhibition in medieval tower at Herdade do Esporão (Reguengos de Monsaraz)

#### Perdigões Research Program.

Coordenation: Núcleo de Investigação Arqueológica (NIA) da ERA Arqueologia.

Contacts: António Carlos Valera  
([antoniovalera@era-arqueologia.pt](mailto:antoniovalera@era-arqueologia.pt))

#### 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

A list of bibliography on Perdigões is available at:

<http://www.nia-era.org/content/view/280/33/>

Last title published:

Moreno-Garcia, M. e Cabaço, N. (2009), "Restos faunísticos em contexto funerário: fossas 7 e 11 dos Perdigões (Reguengos de Monsaraz)", *Apontamentos de Arqueologia e Património*, 4, Lisboa, p.11-14 (download in [www.nia-era.org](http://www.nia-era.org))



#### 6. EXCAVATIONS IN 2009

During the Summer of 2009, in the last half of July and the first half of August, teams from ERA and University of Málaga will be excavating at Perdigões. You can follow the work at NIA's blog (<http://www.nia-era.org>)

ERA's intervention will be located in the central area of the enclosure, trying to understand the nature of the central spot visible in the aerial photo, confirm the existence of palisades indicated by geophysics and characterize the nature of that central area.

The team will have members from ERA and volunteers, specially students from Portuguese, Spanish and French universities.

The intervention of Málaga's university will be located in the SE door of the enclosure, concluding a earlier survey in ditch 1.



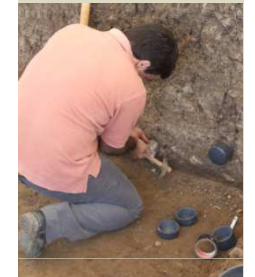
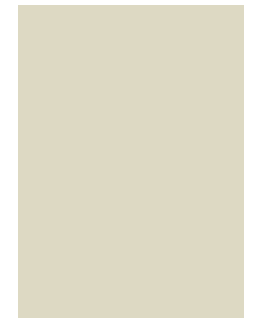
#### 7. PERDIGÕES NOS MÉDIA

In the sequence of a press conference that took place in the end of 2008 excavations, several paper articles and tv news brought information to the general public.

The most recent report is in the magazine for tourists *Visão (Vida & Viagens)*, nº 14 de Julho de 2009.



**PERDIGÕES**  
COMPLEXO ARQUEOLÓGICO  
Núcleo Expositivo da Torre do Esporão  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX  
The exhibition at Torre do Esporão



Sampling for dating



2009 excavation areas

