

**CENTRO DE INTERPRETAÇÃO DE ARTE RUPESTRE DE VIDE (PORTUGAL) –
DO PROJECTO À REALIDADE E SEUS DESAFIOS**

**THE ROCK ART INTERPRETATION CENTRE IN VIDE (PORTUGAL) -
FROM PROJECT TO REALITY AND ITS CHALLENGES**

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Resumo

O Centro de Interpretação de Arte Rupestre de Vide (Seia-Portugal), situa-se no centro de Portugal. Fundado em Maio de 2008, surge na sequência de um projecto de investigação científica desenvolvido por esta Instituição com a designação de "Estudo das Manifestações de Arte Rupestre ao ar livre da Bacia Hidrográfica dos Rios Ceira e Alva e áreas fronteiras com a Bacia do Rio Unhais", desde 1998. Estando inventariadas mais de 700 lajes gravadas com arte rupestre, remontando a sua antiguidade ao Paleolítico Superior (Magdalenense Superior), passando pela Idade dos Metais até aos nossos dias. Pretende-se dar conhecimento e partilhar com a comunidade científica as várias fases deste projecto: como a sua implementação, acções visando a classificação e protecção do património existente, e sua interactividade com a comunidade local.



The Rock Art Interpretation Centre in Vide (C.I.A.R.V.) is located in the Seia district, Serra da Estrela, Portugal. Inaugurated on the 10th of May 2008, it deservedly inherited its name due to its rich sample of rock art. It includes the inventory and archaeological record of more than 700 slabs of rock art, distributed across 10 districts.

In 2006, the APIA (Portuguese Association for Archaeological Investigation) began defining the idea of an Interpretation Centre for Rock Art. This was planned to publicise the studies and archaeological collections derived from a research project started in 1998 by archaeologist Nuno Ribeiro.

In 2007 the APIA applied to the European Community program LEADER + for co-funding to create the Centre.

A space was provided by the municipality of Vide (Seia) occupying two vacant rooms in an old primary school (Fig. 1), built in the 1940's, which subsequently underwent refurbishment and conservation. The main exhibition room (Fig. 2) is dedicated to the presentation and analysis of the various nuclei of rock art from the hydrological basins of the Ceira and Alva rivers. A showcase presents some archaeological material such as ceramics, stone tools, namely moulds, points and burins collected during prospecting surveys.

The second room hosts a laboratory (Fig. 3) staffed by a multidisciplinary team of 10 researchers including archaeologists, geologists, anthropologists and archaeo-astronomers, who attempt to find a symbiosis between different sciences to create an innovative and unique project in Portugal.

With a space and the guarantee of funding in hand, we then posed the question

fundamental to the creation and success of the CIARV:

- How to transform a 48m² space into an interesting exhibition for a public exposed to rock art for the first time? The answer to this question is a continuing process, but we have already managed to realize the following objectives:
- An exhibition that attracts two distinct groups of people: one merely interested in a superficial knowledge of rock art; and the other composed of archaeologists, researchers and students looking for a more profound understanding of the subject;
- An exhibition, concise as well as varied, that aims to interpret in a didactic and scientific manner the various panels on display in the centre (Fig. 4);
- Special attention to international visitors, via a video in English and a professional guide specialized in rock art who offers visits to the various nuclei in English, French and Spanish;
- The Centre defines specific age groups, adapting the visits to the different groups. For example the young are offered practical activities both inside and outside the Centre, while adults can opt for archaeological tours of various levels of difficulty;
- The organising of customised archaeological rock art circuits, according to time availability and academic training.

The CIARV was also essential to the development of study projects, and to the revitalization and promotion of the archaeological heritage of the region. Of these we highlight:

- Actions of recuperation and promotion of the archaeological nuclei and their surrounding environment, through signposting, appropriate fencing, protection, surveillance and cleaning (Fig. 5 and 6);

- Systematic archaeological prospecting surveys in the districts of Seia, Góis, Arganil and Pampilhosa da Serra, resulting from investigation, environmental impact studies or emergency archaeological works;
- An inventory of more than 1000 archaeological finds from the hydrological basins of the Ceira and Alva rivers, when habitats, *conbeiras* (mining areas), ancient roads, circular megalithic structures, funerary structures, etc were discovered;
- Scientific collaboration with researchers from various Universities such as Coimbra (Portugal), Salamanca (Spain), Adelaide (Australia) and Iowa (USA);
- Articles and scientific publications, such as the journal *Filiforme*, about rock art, and the more general-interest journal *Contexto*, published by the APIA. The organisation of workshops, summer classes and annual archaeological meetings;
- Development of the Cultural Anthropology project: "The Oral Memory of the Rock Art of the Ceira and Alva rivers", with the precious testimony of the local inhabitants;
- Production of publicity material, such as leaflets, publications, postcards. These are for sending to schools, businesses, universities, institutes and museums;
- Development of the APIA site: www.apia.pt, allowing the consultation of information referring to existing works;
- The diffusion of the project via the spoken and written media, and the tourist industry, thanks to a continuous effort in promoting the activities undertaken by the Centre.
- The alteration of the delineation of roads, access to rural properties, placement of turbines in Aeolian parks to avoid the destruction or damage of archaeological sites in our area of intervention.
- The provision of grants for placements, short term research, specialization, Masters and PhD, as well as professional training in areas like geology, landscape architecture or anthropology, co-financed by the Employment and Professional Training Office – IEFPP.

In August 2009, the CIARV inventory already included more than 700 slabs engraved by hammering, incision, scraping and abrasion. Some examples come from the Vide region and the River Alvôco: the sites of "Rasa do Mouros" (Fig. 7), "Ferraduras" (Fig. 8), "Entre-Águas" (Fig. 9), "Vinha Morta" (Fig. 10); examples from the "Chiqueiro" - Pampilhosa da Serra region: slab nº 13 (Fig. 11); examples from the Serra da Abuceira and Portela da Casa Branca in Covilhã: slab nº 81 (Fig. 12), slab nº 154 (Fig. 13); examples from the Pereiro – Sobral de São Miguel - Covilhã area, slab nº 9 (Fig. 14), slab nº 11 (Fig. 15), slab nº 47 A (Fig. 16); examples from the area of Sobral de São Miguel - Covilhã, slab nº 19 (Fig. 17), slab nº 22 (Fig. 18), slab nº 29 (Fig. 19); examples from the Pedras Lavradas and Alvoaça – Seia/Covilhã area: slab nº 29 (Fig. 20), slab nº 35 (Fig. 21), slab nº 42 (Fig. 22), slab nº 53 (Fig. 23), slab nº 173 (Fig. 24); examples from the area of Serra da Cebola - Covilhã/Arganil and Pampilhosa da Serra: slab nº 49 (Fig. 25), slab nº 60 (Fig. 26), slab nº 34 (Fig. 27), slab nº 323 (Fig. 28); examples from the area of Serra do Açor: slab nº 167 (Fig. 29), slab nº 219 (Fig. 30), slab nº 261 (Fig. 31), slab nº 374 (Fig. 32); example from the areas Vale Figueiras, Gondufo and Valera - Covilhã/Seia: slab nº 40 (Fig. 33), slab nº 26 (Fig. 34); examples from the areas of the sources of the Ceira river – Serra de Arouca/Silva: slab nº 10 (Fig. 35), slab 26 (Fig. 36); examples in the Góis and Serra da Lousã areas: "Pedra Letreira" (Fig. 37), "Pedra Riscada II" (Fig. 38), "Aldeia Velha-Colmeal/Góis" (Fig. 39), "Comareira" (Fig. 40).

This context of around 35.000 rock engravings, distributed across 11 large areas, represents one of the major concentrations of rock art in the Iberian Peninsula.

It has been possible to explore new ways of dealing with rock art, using new methods and technologies, with the help of a resolute team, and, most important, without getting away from the principle fundamental to us, of not damaging any archaeological site.

The project intends to guarantee the urgent preservation of rock art along the Ceira and Alva Rivers, to develop initiatives aiming to bring to the visitor the great artistic richness of this archaeological collection and to alert public opinion to this cultural heritage.



Fig. 1 – The Rock Art Interpretation Centre in Vide - Serra da Estrela – Portugal

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Fig. 2 – View of the exhibition's main room



Fig. 3 – View of the laboratory of prehistory



Fig. 4 – View a poster of the permanent exhibition



Fig. 5 – View of archaeological work in the mountains of Cebola



Fig. 7 – Site of the “Rasa dos Mouros” – Teixeira – Seia (abaixo)



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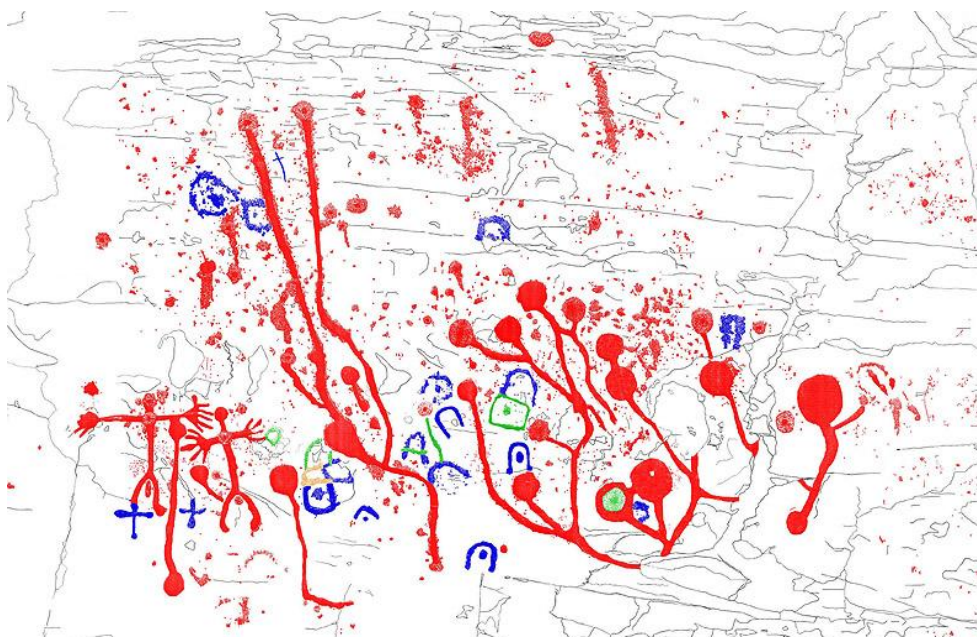


Fig. 8 – Site of the “Ferraduras” – Vide – Seia



Fig. 9 – Site of the “Entre-Águas” – Vide – Seia



Fig. 12 – Slab nº 81 - area of Serra da Abuceira and Portela da Casa Branca in Covilhã



Fig. 10 – Site of the “Vinha Morta” – Vide – Seia



Fig. 13 – Slab nº 154 - area of Serra da Abuceira and Portela da Casa Branca in Covilhã



Fig. 11 – Slab nº13 “Chiqueiro” - Pampilhosa da Serra region

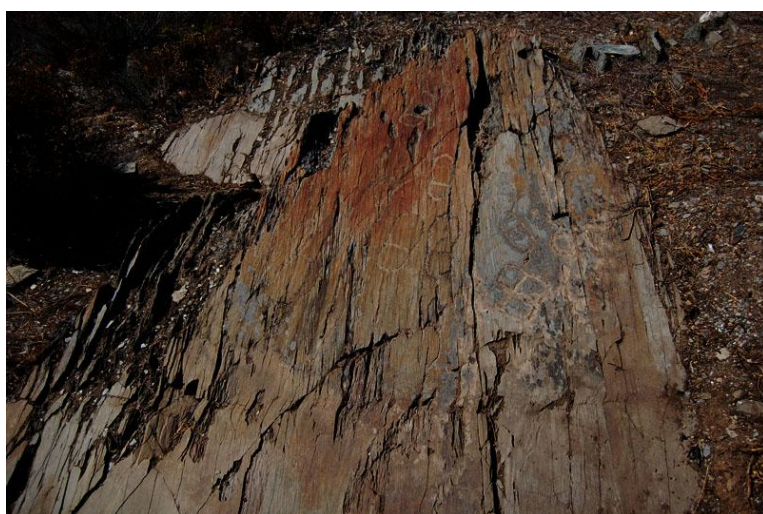


Fig. 14 – Slab nº 9 - area of Pereiro -Sobral de São Miguel - Covilhã



Fig. 15 – Slab nº 11 - area of Pereiro – Sobral de São Miguel – Covilhã



Fig. 19 – Slab nº 29 Malhadinha area of Sobral de São Miguel – Covilhã



Fig. 16 – Slab nº 47 A - area of Pereiro – Sobral de São Miguel – Covilhã



Fig. 20 – Slab nº 29 area of Pedras Lavradas and Alvoaça – Seia/Covilhã



Fig. 17 – Slab nº 19 Malhadinha area of Sobral de São Miguel – Covilhã



Fig. 21 – Slab nº 35 area of Pedras Lavradas and Alvoaça – Seia/Covilhã (acima)



Fig. 18 – Slab nº 22 Malhadinha area of Sobral de São Miguel – Covilhã

Fig. 22 – Slab nº 42 area of Pedras Lavradas and Alvoaça – Seia/Covilhã (ao lado)





Fig. 23 – Slab nº 53 area of Pedras Lavradas and Alvoaça – Seia/Covilhã



Fig. 26 – Slab nº 60 Serra da Cebola - Covilhã/Arganil and Pampilhosa da Serra



Fig. 24 – Slab nº 173 area of Pedras Lavradas and Alvoaça – Seia/Covilhã



Fig. 27 – Slab nº 34 Serra da Cebola - Cabeço do Malhadinho – Covilhã)

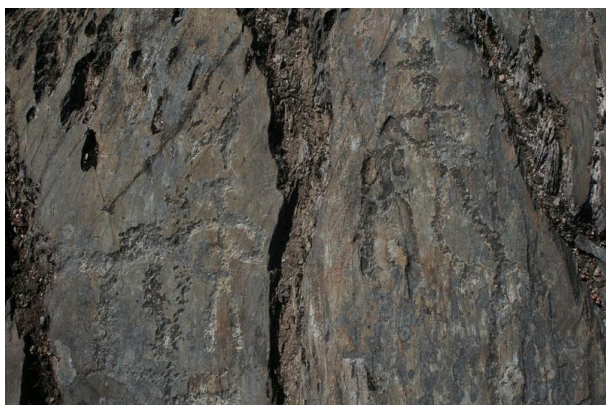


Fig. 25 – Slab nº 49 Serra da Cebola - Covilhã/Arganil and Pampilhosa da Serra



Fig. 28 – Slab nº 323 Serra da Cebola - Covilhã/Arganil (ao lado)



Fig. 29 – Slab n° 167 Serra do Açor –Arganil



Fig.32 - Açor outeiro penedinho 374



Fig. 30 –
Slab n° 219
Serra do Açor –
Arganil

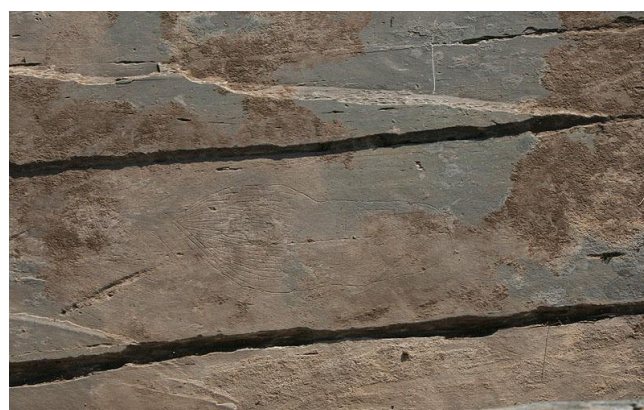


Fig.33 - Valera 40



Fig. 31 – Slab n° 261 Serra do Açor – Arganil



Fig.34 - Gondufo V 26



Fig.35 - Arouca silva lajeira 10



Fig. 38 – Site of the “Pedra Riscada II - region of Góis and Serra da Lousã



Fig. 36 – Slab nº 26 sources of the Ceira River – Serra de Arouca/Silva region

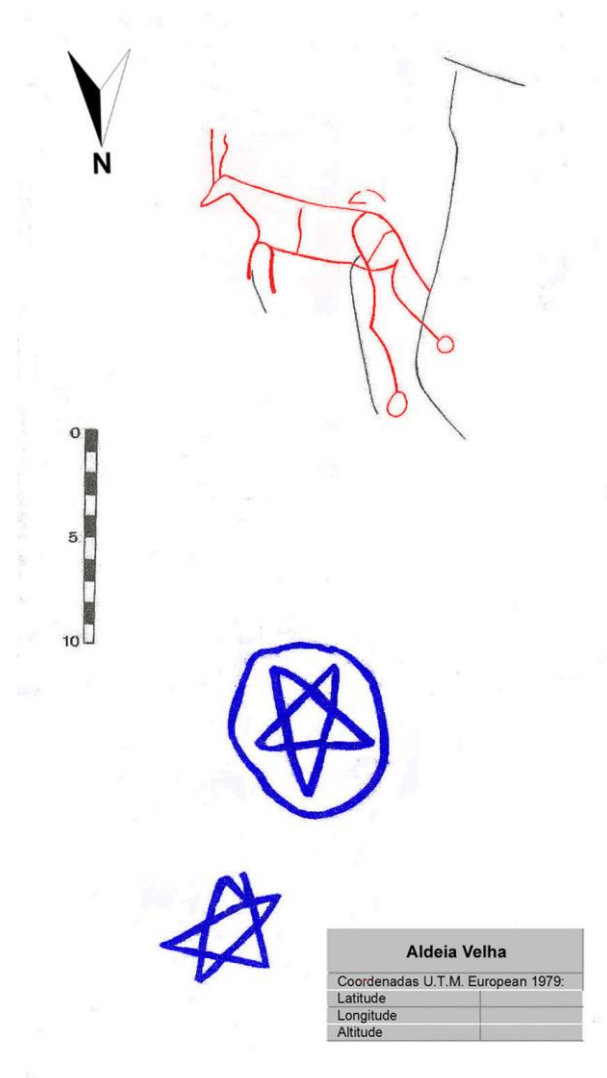


Fig. 39 – Site of the “Aldeia Velha-Colmeal/Góis - region of Góis and Serra da Lousã



Fig. 40 – Site of the “Comareira” region of Góis and Serra da Lousã

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