

*Neolithic-Bronze Age Funerary Sites Between the Alcabrichel and Sizandro Rivers:
Survey and Testing*

Preliminary Report

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In order to better understand the cultural landscape of the Sizandro/Alcabrichel River valleys in later prehistory and, specifically, to identify burial sites for possible research in the future, we conducted a short survey on July 15 and 16, 2008. At this time, we visited (or attempted to locate) sites previously identified in Kunst and Trindade (1990) or by Nina Lutz in her surveys, and to explore areas through surface collection that had not been previously surveyed. No testing was conducted. All artifacts recovered in survey were photographed and deposited at the Museu Municipal Leonel Trindade, Torres Vedras.

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The five sites visited or discovered in survey are located in [Figure 1](#) and briefly discussed below.

1. Barro. The tholos of Barro was visited ([Figure 2](#)), but no materials were collected or found.
2. Cabeço do Picão. At this hilltop site (elev. 171m), covered in maquis and under vineyard cultivation ([Figure 3](#)), were found decorated (impressed) ceramics, and flint flakes and debitage ([Figure 4](#)). This site was not published in Kunst and Trindade (1990).

3. Serra da Vila. This hilltop site (located southwest of Cabeço do Picão, across road 1073) was covered in maquis and was difficult to survey. Ceramics (well-fired, Iron Age or later) were found ([Figure 5](#)).

4. Charrinho. The hilltop on which the tholos of Charrinho is located was covered in maquis (although, according to Leonel Trindade, it used to be farmed). Because of the dense vegetational coverage, it was not possible to see the tholos or any materials on the surface.

5. Parafuja. This hilltop site (app. 150m asl) is located app. 500m to the east of Zambujal ([Figure 6](#)) and was either covered in patchy shrubs or cleared of vegetation ([Figure 7](#)). Collection areas were denoted Parafuja 1 (uphill from road/path) and Parafuja 2A, 2B, and 2C (located downhill from road/path) ([Figure 8](#)). At Parafuja 1, some undecorated ceramics and flint flakes were found ([Figure 9](#)). In the collection areas downslope from Parafuja 1, at Parafuja 2A-C, a higher concentration of artifacts was found, including ceramics, flaked lithics, and groundstone tools ([Figures 10, 11, 12, 13](#)).

Plans for future work include assessing the relationship between Parafuja and Zambujal through more intensive survey and testing, and continuing to survey for Neolithic-Chalcolithic burial sites in the Sizandro and Alcabrichel valleys.

Reference Cited

Kunst, M. and L. Trindade. 1990. Zur Besiedlungsgeschichte des Sizandrotals: Ergebnisse aus der Küstenforschung. *Madrider Mitteilungen* 31:34-83.