

THE LANHOSO CASTRO

The lofty granite slopes of the Lanhoso Hill were decisive for the settlement and expansion of the Lanhoso Castro, an important Iron Age settlement that developed throughout the 1st millennium BC..

This Castro community sought the protection of this stone giant and organized itself in platforms that served to support the typical circular structures where they held lively family gatherings. Inside these houses, the floor was made by beaten dirt ground and at the centre they usually placed a campfire that served as a pretext for the elders to transmit their experiences to the younger ones, all protected by thatched roofs.

Nevertheless, only the most skilled hands were able to transmit the cultural heritage of this community, and it is in this context that gold work, particularly filigree, took root as it intertwined throughout the village, forming a true lacy of teachings that developed and perfected over the millennia, lasting until today.

Besides being brave and skilful workers, they were distinctive Castro military chiefs who, wearing their torques around their necks, led fearless warriors and faced the neighbouring tribes, protecting their community and the respective fertile fields from which they drew their own sustenance.

Meanwhile, in 138 BC, a terrible enemy, armed with superior military capability and advanced warfare techniques, began the process of Romanization of the entire peninsular northwest, eventually submitting the Lanhoso settlement to Roman ideals. Imported artefacts and square houses, covered with tegulas and imbrex, visible throughout the settlement, began to appear.

In 2001, for educational purposes, the Municipality of Póvoa de Lanhoso built three model houses for a better understanding of the volumetry of the housing structures that existed at the Lanhoso Castro, which is classified as a Public Interest Site since 1948.

