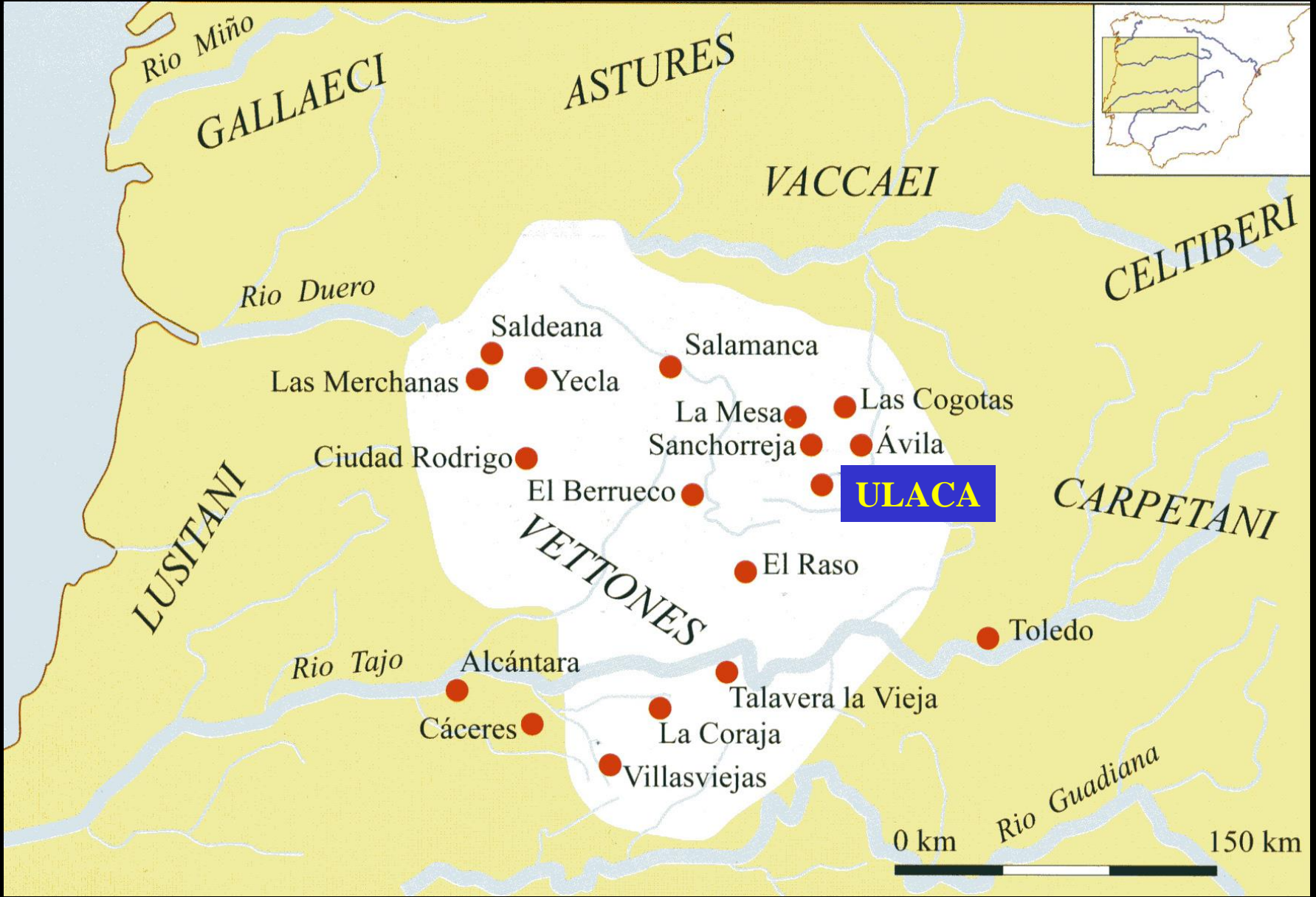


# REFIT Spain: Ancient sites, cultural landscapes and modern people



Jesús Álvarez Sanchís &  
Jesús Rodríguez Hernández  
Univ. Complutense de Madrid





Map of Western Iberia, showing the location of Iron Age sites and the focus of Vettonian Culture with the names of the Celtic tribes according to written sources

# The *oppidum* of Ulaca and the Amblés Valley



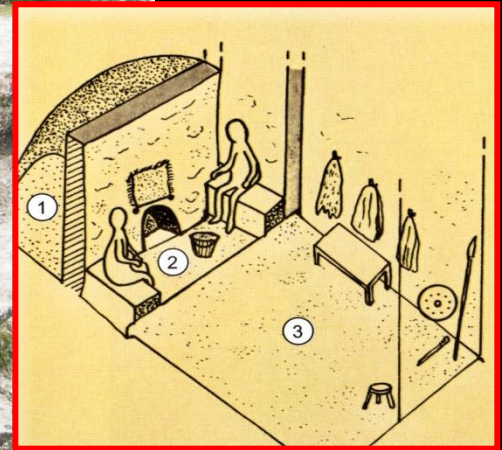
**Ulaca**  
**Northwest gate**





**Sacrificial altar**

# Sauna



*“Some of the people living in the vicinity of the Duero are said to live a spartan way, covering twice with grease and sweat bathing obtained with hot stones, bathing in cold water and taking food once a day pure and simple” (Strabo 3,3,6)*



**Two houses excavated in the  
70's**



**Granite quarries**

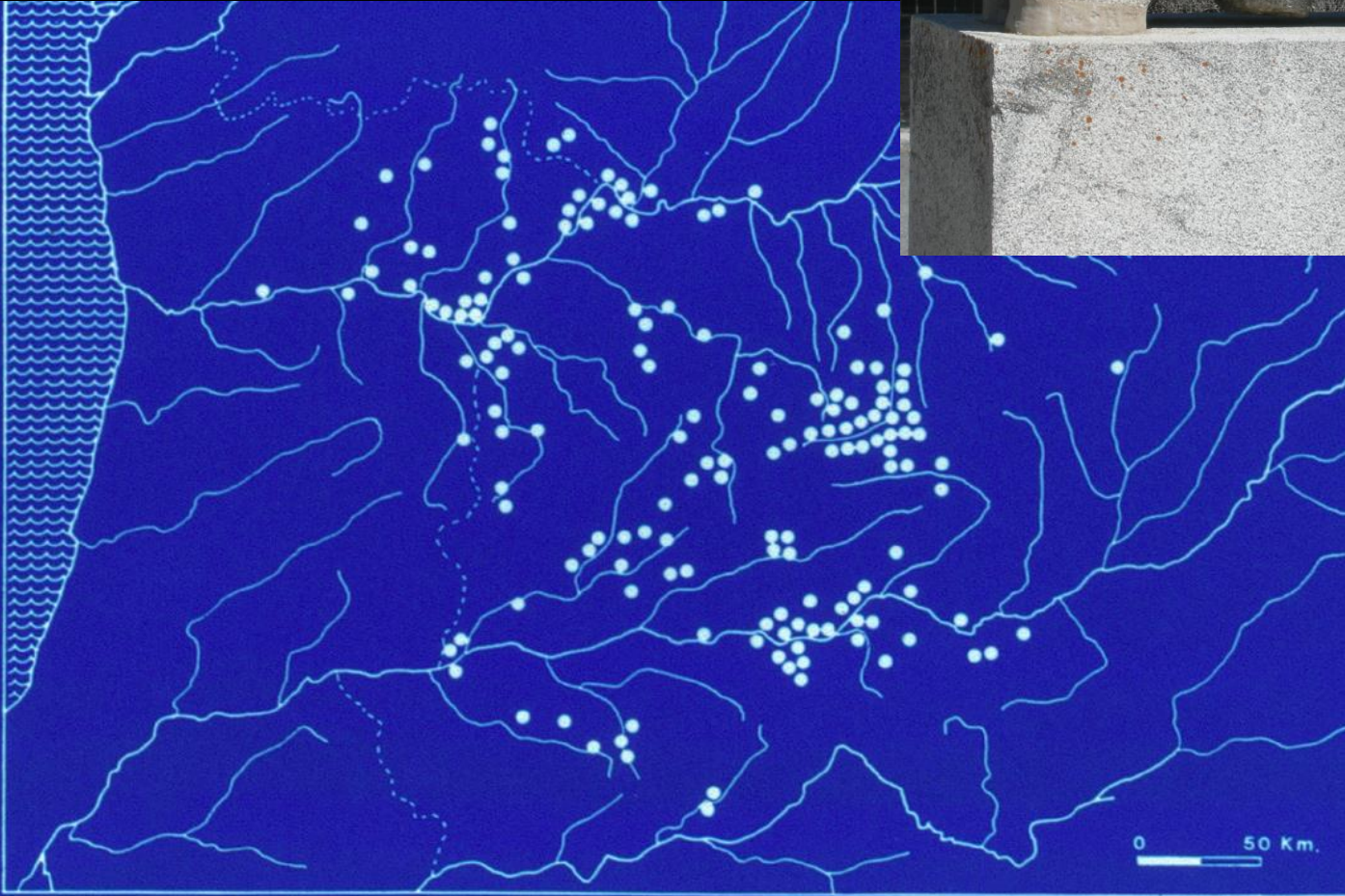




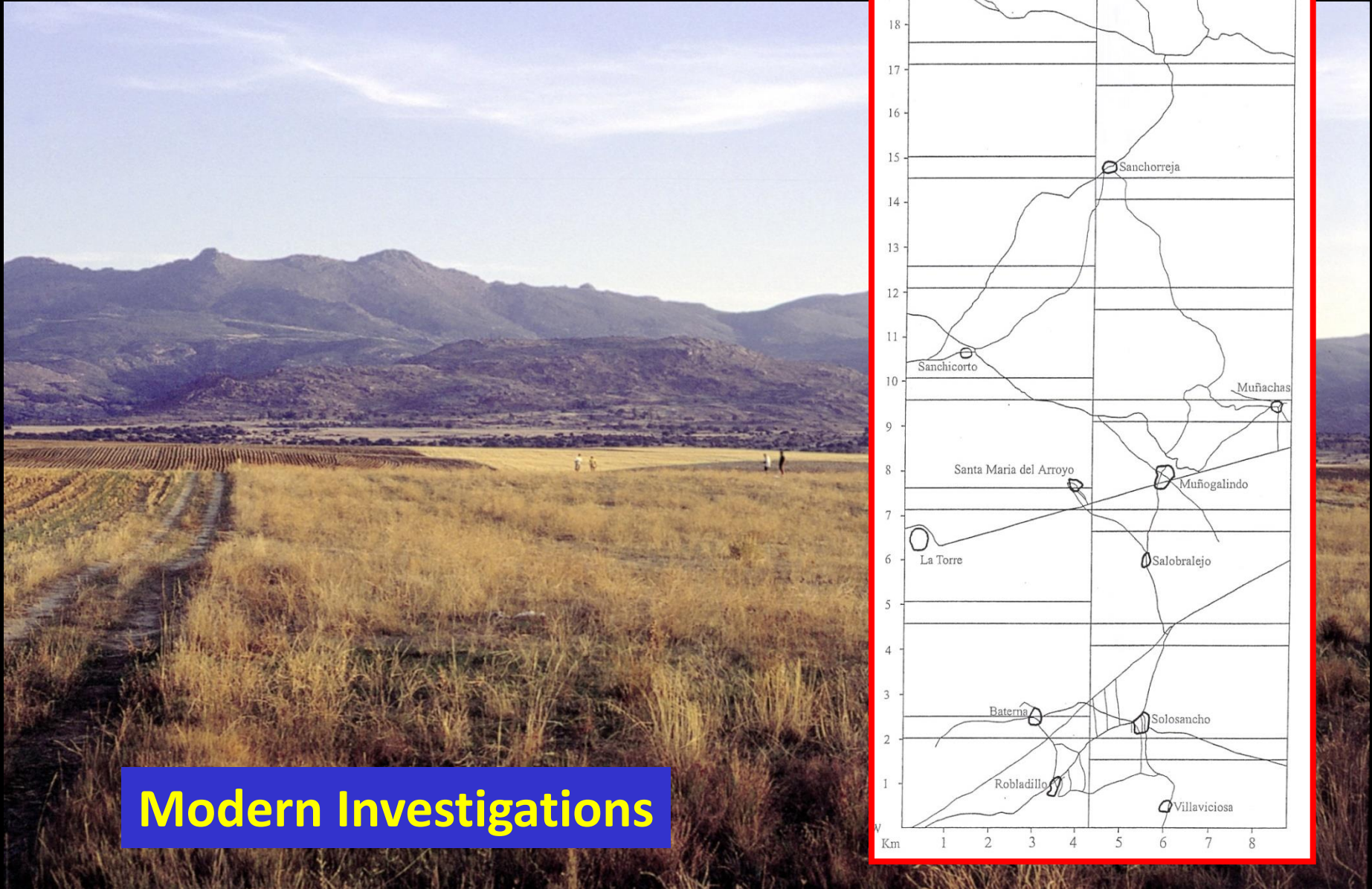
# The "Tower"



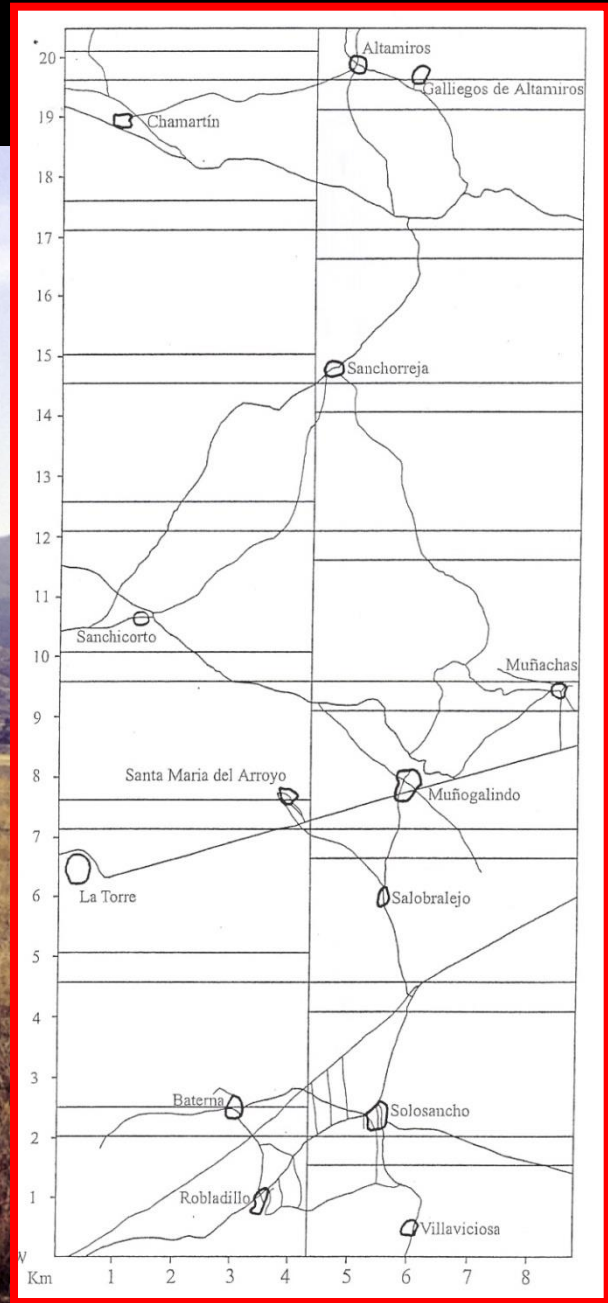
**Bull found around Ulaca and distribution of zoomorphic Iron Age sculptures (*verracos*)**

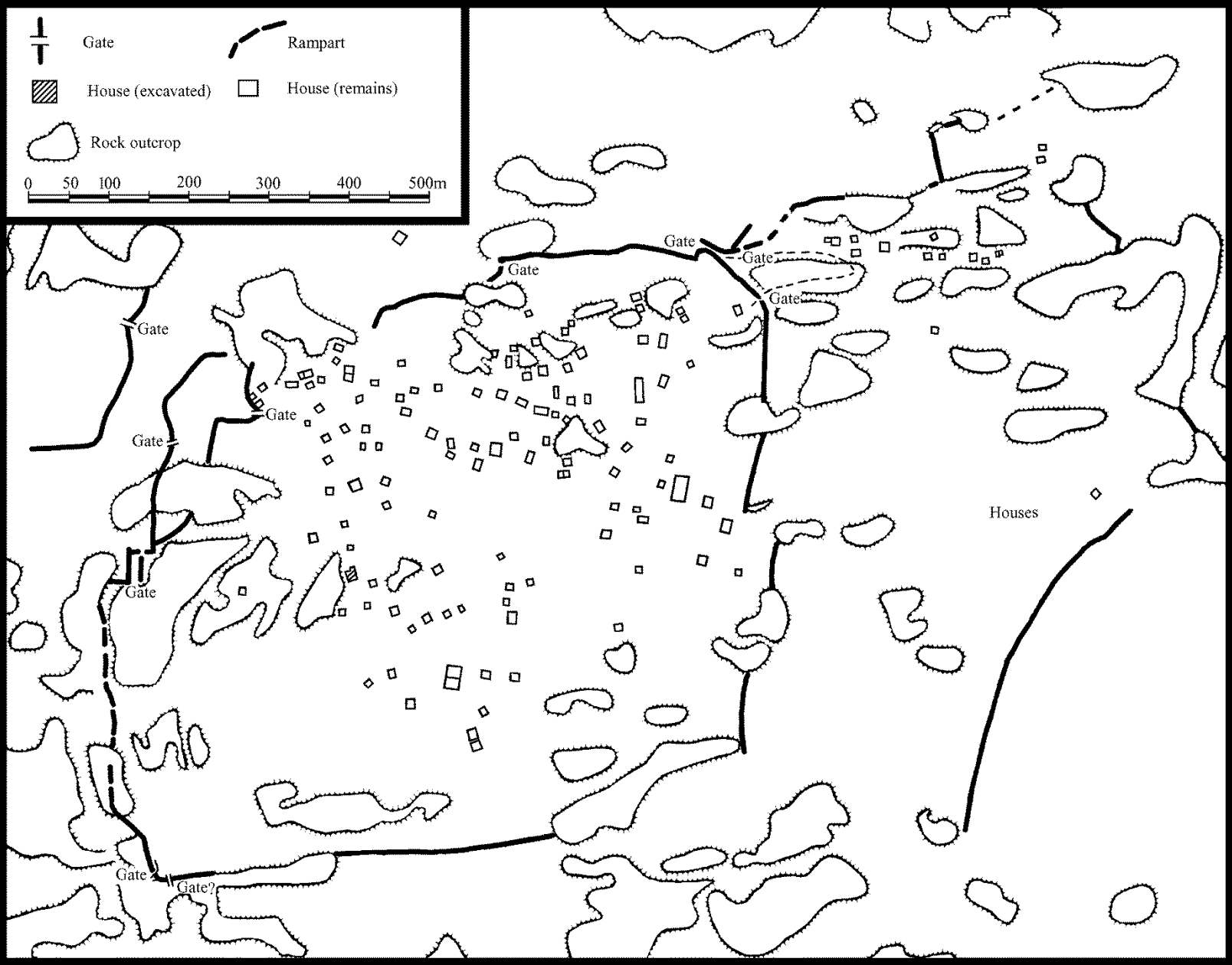


# Archaeological surveys in the Amblés Valley (1995-2000)



**Modern Investigations**





Plan of Ulaca (Collis 2004).

**Excavations at the foothills of the  
*oppidum* (2003-2004)**





**Ulaca cemetery, II-I BC**

# Landscape management

- Archaeological zone (1994) → all development subject to archaeological control
- Cattle raising allowed
- Hunting is forbidden inside the *oppidum*



# Municipality of Solosancho

- Formed by four villages: Solosancho, Robledillo, Baterna & Villaviciosa
- About 900 inhabitants (2200 in the 50's & 60's)



**Solosancho**





## Luna Celta festival

- Celebrated since 2005 (13 editions)
- 3,000 people inside Ulaca
- Economic return of 150,000 €





Legalmente  
Protegidos



VETTONIA  
*hockey*



# Perception study: methodology

- See paper in *Landscape Research*, 2017 by Moore & Tully
- 1) Semi-structured interviews and focus group (n = 26)
- 2) Perception mapping (n = 20)
- 3) Questionnaires (n = 90):
  - 62% local stakeholders
  - 38% occasional visitors



Pasado  
Vivo

un

color

Relajación

Poco Excavado .



PREGUNTAS  
RESPUESTAS

Poco apreciado

Importantísimo

Pasión

Interesante  
Gran desconocido

# Defining “cultural landscapes”

- Most of participants were unaware of the term:
  - 57% online survey
  - 65% targeted stakeholders

# Defining “*oppidum*”

- Most of participants in our online survey are aware of the term: 58%
- Although very few of the targeted stakeholders: 27%

# New research at Ulaca









# Daily visits





# The doorway?





# Geophysics

# Ulaka summer camp



- 52 children
- 5-11 years old



# Open day







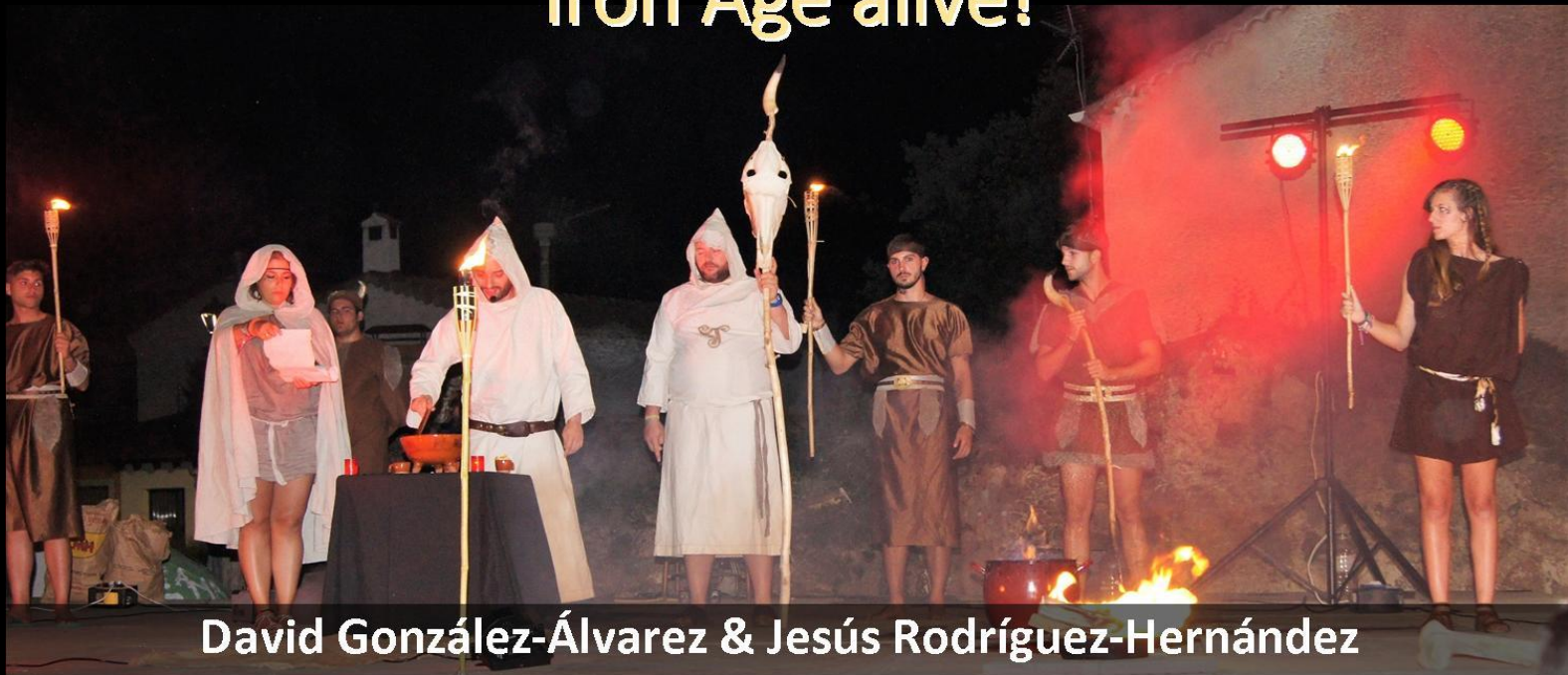
# “Urban and rural communities in the Iron Age”



# Luna Celta festival (2016-2017)

#EAA2017 | Transnational perspectives on the legacy of ancient pasts in contemporary Europe

## Luna Celta (Solosancho, Ávila, Spain): Iron Age alive!



David González-Álvarez & Jesús Rodríguez-Hernández



## Solosancho, "Luna Celta", 2016



Engaging local communities  
Contemporary identities  
Historical reenactments  
Archaeological research  
Tourism

# REFIT Workshop 2 (Ávila)



# 4th International Congress for Heritage, Education & Socialisation in Rural Areas



# I Meeting on Cultural Heritage and Tourism





@Proyecto\_Ulaca



@proyectoUlaca

DE URBANISMO, SANTUARIOS, VINO Y FESTINES

DESPERTA FERRO

# Arqueología

## & Historia

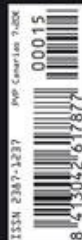
n.º 15 · 7 €

### Oppida

#### Ciudades de la Europa céltica



De la Célitica al Mediterráneo • Un mundo conectado  
Santuarios y centros urbanos • Bibracte: una capital gala  
Vivir en Britania • Ulaca • El final de la Edad del Hierro





# Looking to the future

- Excavation of the “Tower”
- Geophysics
- Ulaka Summer camp
- Digital guide
- Orthophotography for mobile phones
- Social networks





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**Thanks for your attention!**