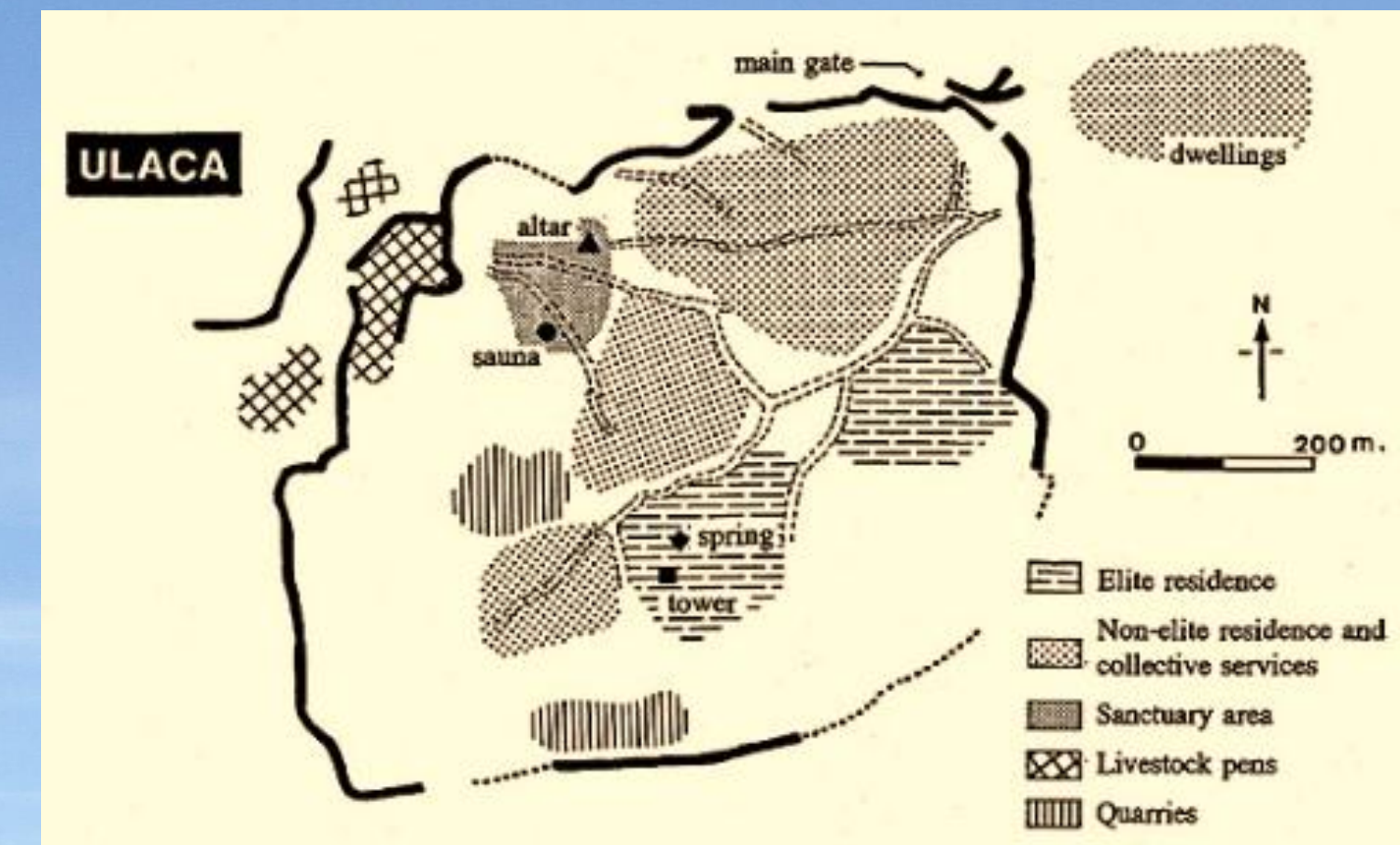


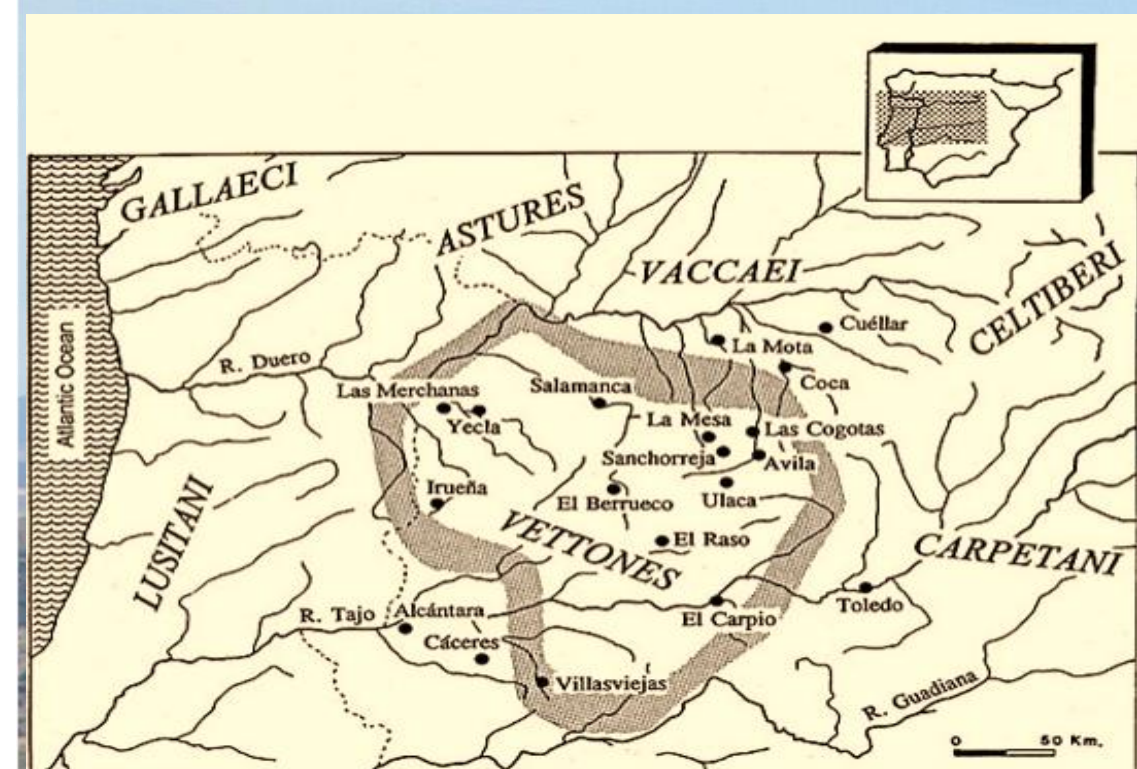
ULACA

Within the space of the discovered site of Ulaca are two great creations that stand out in the central-western area of the settlement. The first is a large space cut out of a rock, the space is of rectangular shape, in which a double staircase leads to a platform with two hollows that are connected to each other. The common theory with what this structure concludes to be has been interpreted as having a religious function because of its comparisons with the Portuguese sanctuary of Panoias. Latin inscriptions state that animal sacrifices took place there (www4.uwm.edu/celt). The proposed sacrificial platform, The other stone structures within the boundary of the oppida was a construction thought to be a sauna also made of stone, there is evidence of an oven and two other chambers (see below) It was thought that warriors would come here to bathe(www4.uwm.edu/celtic), or perhaps a place where hard working people could relax.



Social Complexity at Ulaca

There seems to be a social structure to the houses, better made ones being the more elite and other dwellings for a person with less status (Gonzalo Ruiz Zapatero and Jesus R Alvarez Sanchis 1995). All this evidence suggests that the ancient city of Ulaca was a very complex city. (see map above).



Special features of Ulaca

✓ Farming

✓ Industries

✓ Leisure

✓ Trading

✓ Places of worship

Castro de Ulaca is in a country in the Vettones region on the Iberian Peninsula(www4.uwm.edu). The Iron Age oppidum of Ulaca has been dated from c.300 to 50 BC (www4.uwm.edu). The size of this ancient settlement was over 60 hectares, (Zapatero and Sanchis 1995). There are smaller other settlements in the area, but this oppidum appears to be a capital city with some central social activities because of its size and complexity. Archaeological evidence shows that there are similarities to other sites that were constructed on a grand scale, like Numantia, and especially north of the Pyrenees: even larger than Ulaca is a much later site, probably built sometime in the sixth century (Moscatti, Sabatino & Vitali, Daniele & Arslan, Ermanno A & Palazzo Grassi 1999), at Heuneburg on the Upper Danube, stretching over 100 hectares. Similarities also include the fortification around the site and the evidence of houses of a rectangular form (Gonzalo Ruiz Zapatero and Sanchis 1995). There is a difference in Ulaca's entrance gates which are more complex than in other oppida, creating more security for the local community and symbolising the status of Ulaca. These similarities confirm exchange of ideas in construction and architectural design across vast distances, probably by long-distance trade relations and movement of people, including trade along the Atlantic coast. (see maps above)

The surrounding countryside of Ulaca is said to have been pasture land for grazing herds of cows this idea coincides with the archaeological remains of livestock pens that have been found giving evidence of animal farming (Ruiz Zapatero and Alvarez Sanchis 1995). Along with farming there is indication of other industry in Ulaca such as textile and wheel made pottery. Also, production of iron metallurgy in the form of tools such as the sickle and the plough (Ruiz Zapatero and Alvarez Sanchis 1995). These tools would have boosted the economy. By increasing the ability to farm the hard ground. These farms and hamlets were positioned by the water, but little is known about them (Ruiz Zapatero and Alvarez Sanchis 1995). Quarries on the site have been found with large quantities of granite which was evidently used for some of the construction of the houses and fortifications (Ruiz Zapatero and Alvarez Sanchis 1995).

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Image of Aerial view of Ulaca: Jesus R. Alvarez Sanchis, 2005. *E Keltoi*, Volume 6. [ONLINE] Available at: https://www4.uwm.edu/celtic/ekeltoi/volumes/vol6/6_5/alvarez_sanchis_6_5.html. [Accessed 30 January 2019].