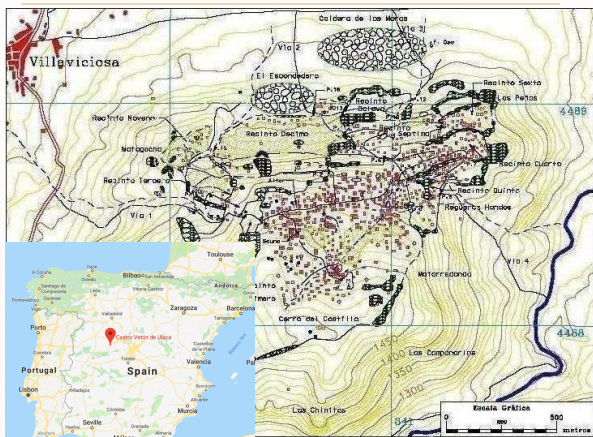


LOCATION



Google Maps, 2019

Map of Castro Vettón de Ulaca according to Mariano Serna. Martínez 2011

SANCTUARY OF PANÓAIS



Staircase on the Sanctuary of Panóais. Cultura Norte. (McCullough, 2018)

One of the most comparable monuments to the Rock Altar:

- Contains cavities for sacrifice and libations
- A pool of water is near the start of the path to the sanctuary for use within rituals

However it also differed significantly:

- contains 5 Latin inscriptions of dedications
- Not attributed to a fixed settlement but would have been used by clans
- Dated to a significantly later time (2nd /3rd century A. D.)
- It is not a Celtic site but a site for "Rural Religion"

(McCullough, 2018)



Sanctuary of Panóais from above. Cultura Norte.

AMBLÉS VALLEY

One of the most comparable differences between the Oppida and the smaller settlements in the Amblés Valley is agricultural practice, with the Oppida having a stronger focus of cattle. This was due to availability of arable soil, which was much richer in the Valley. Secondly the development of workshops and industrial trade within Oppida meant they were more involved with trade and thus had access to imports. However this necessitated fortifications and weapons, which is more evident in the Oppida. Finally the smaller settlements rarely had a fixed religious monument. (Álvarez-Sanchís 1999)

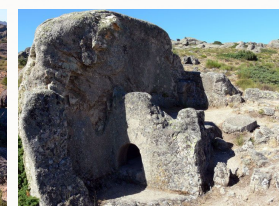
CASTRO DE ULACA

Castro De Ulaca, located in Ávila, Spain, is considered the largest Late Iron Age Oppida in the Iberian Peninsular, occupied from the 3rd to the 1st Century BC with up to potential 1500 inhabitants at one time (Gerion, 2017). Covering over 60 hectares, Ulaca is not just the most prominent for its size but it is also one of the primary examples of pre-Roman urbanisation within Celtic Iberia. Thought to be the political and religious centre of Vettón territory (Fabián García, 2006) the primary industry of the site was animal stock. The importance of cattle not only influence an individuals wealth but it also dictated the delegation of land as well as an individuals social status. Perhaps one of the most easy ways of identifying Ulaca as a Celtic culture is it's religious and cultural motifs, such the involvement of water in rituals, a reverence for animals such as boars and bulls and the sacrifice of said animals. In this sense Ulaca can be identified as one of the main sites of the Vettones.

ROCK ALTAR & SAUNA: The stone structure measures 16x8 metres and is thought to be a sacrificial altar. It is orientated to the highest peak of Sierra de Paramerra, with the slop of the stairs aligned with where the sun rises on the summer solstice (Hispanic Celtica, 2019). The altar contains 2 flights of steps carved into the stone as well as 3 interconnected hollows that allowed liquid to flow between them (Álvarez-Sanchís, 1999). The Sauna is constructed of 3 chambers, an antechamber, a wide chamber with 2 benches and a furnace. This too is cut into the rock. This could have been used for warrior initiation baths (Almagro-Gorbea and Álvarez-Sanchís 1993).



'Altar de los sacrificios. Castro de Ulaca'. Menéndez, 2010.



'Sauna. Castro de Ulaca'. Menéndez, 2010.

VERRACOS: These boars and bulls were carved from stone, some reaching 2.5m (Simón, 2005). They Were the surrounding plateau of Castro de Ulaca and are associated with the Vettones culture. Potentially serving a talismanic purpose, it is argued that they were established to protect nearby cattle and promote procreation (Sánchez Moreno 2000). Alternatively they were landmarks placed near settlements and bodies of water as well as in prospective grazing pastures (Álvarez-Sanchís, 1999); later engraved by Romans to distinguish the boundaries between properties. These markers made it easier to orientate the land, especially during the snow (Álvarez-Sanchís, 1999).

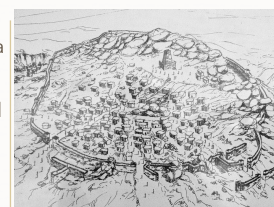


Stone sculpture of a typical Verraco from Ulaca, at Solosancho village (Ávila) G. Ruiz Zapatero

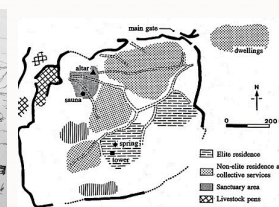


'Verraco with profile of bull coming from the near castro de Ulaca, installed next to the church. View of the left side. fotoAleph

INDUSTRY AND URBANISATION: Ulaca was the biggest settlement with extensive fortifications, which served as both a defensive precaution and sign of prestige. The Oppida displayed early signs of urbanisation with specific areas designated for living in and others for workshops. There were 250 rectangular houses within the wall and numerous scattered outside, varying in size from 50 - 150m², consisting of 3 rooms, one for storage, one for sleep and a third for hospitality. The larger houses featured extensions walls to accommodate for porches, hallways and corrals. The primary industry was cattle raising, with 60% of land dedicate to pasture, however there were also 2 granite quarries as well as enough crop production to be autarchic (Hispanic Celtica, 2019).



Reconstruction of Ulaca according to one of the panels of the deposit. Hispanic Celtica, 2019.



Plan of the 'zoning' of activities based on an interpretation of structures found. After Álvarez-Sanchís, 2002.

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