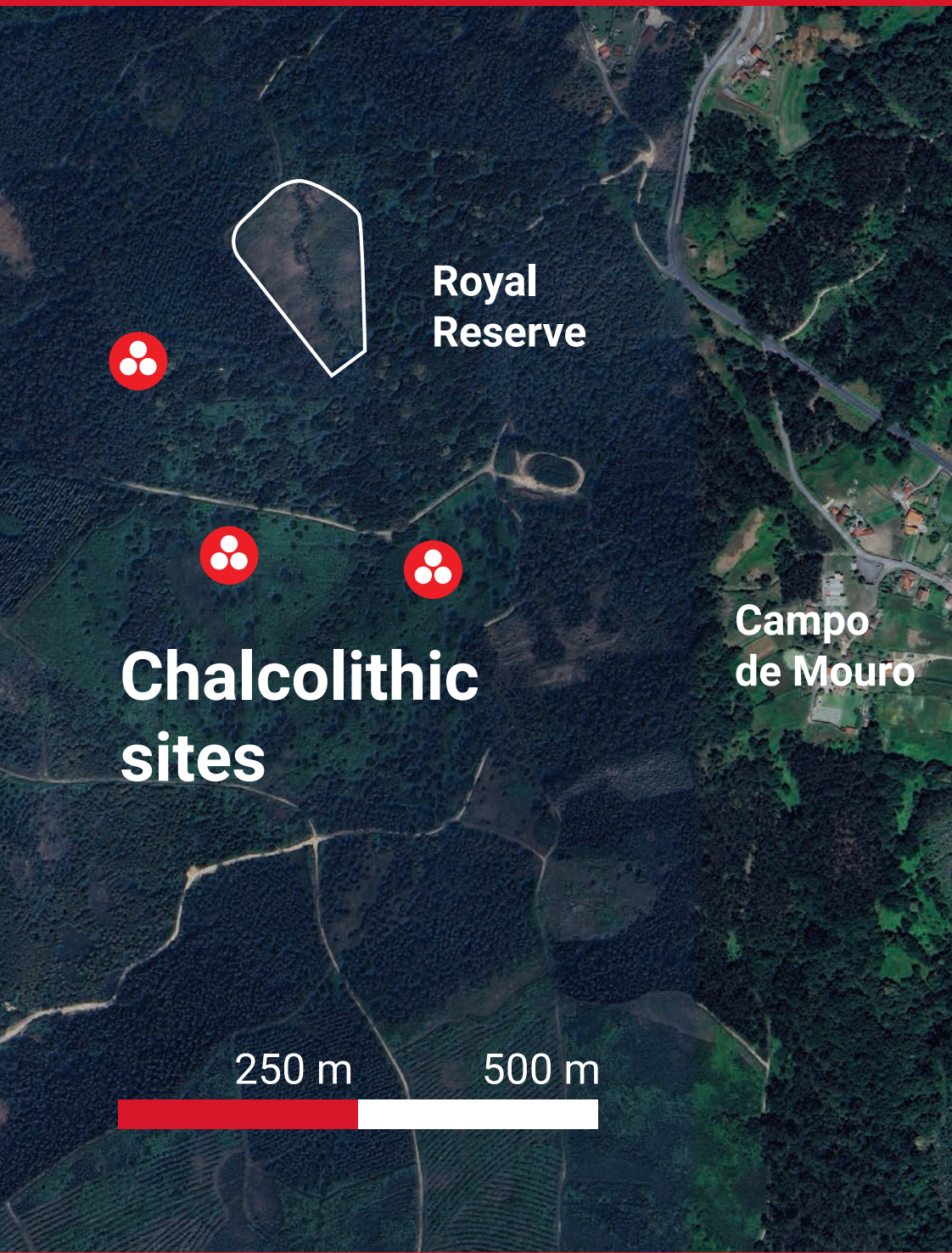
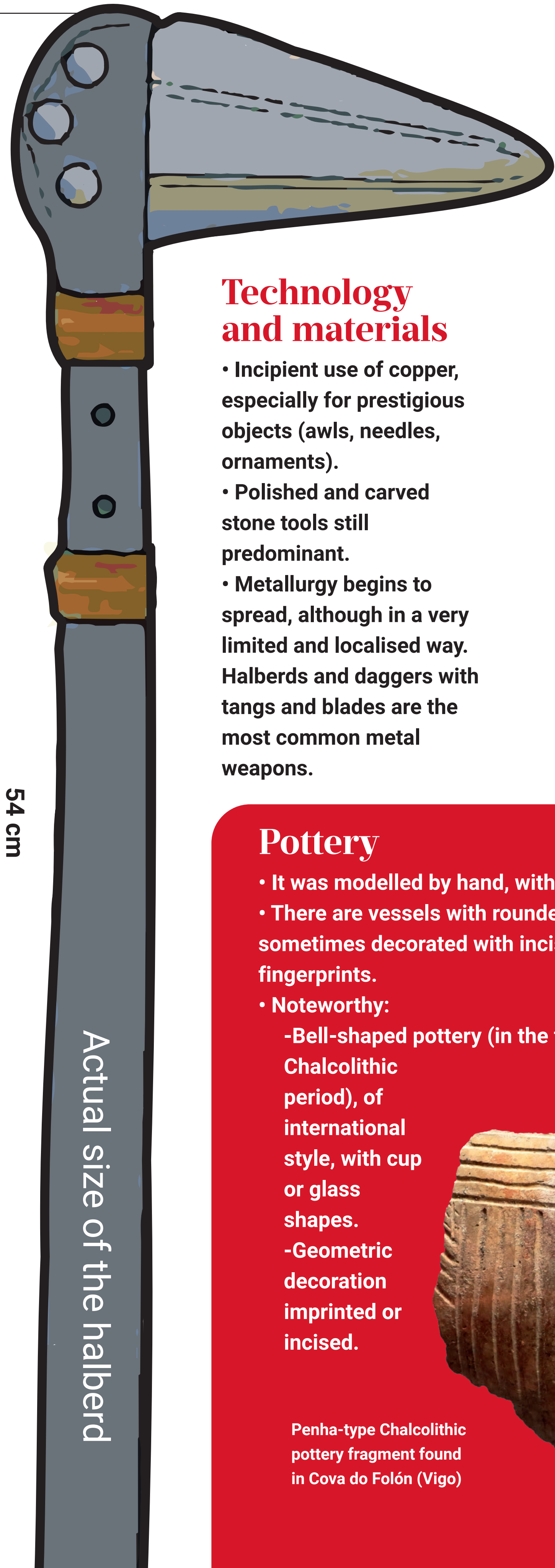


In Chan de Santomé and its surroundings, several deposits of ceramic material dating back to the Chalcolithic period were documented. This was a period of transition between the Neolithic and the Bronze Age, characterised by the introduction of metal (especially copper), but still dominated by cultural elements typical of megalithism. At this stage in antiquity, human societies tended to become hierarchical due to the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few.



# THE CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD



## Technology and materials

- Incipient use of copper, especially for prestigious objects (awls, needles, ornaments).
- Polished and carved stone tools still predominant.
- Metallurgy begins to spread, although in a very limited and localised way. Halberds and daggers with tangs and blades are the most common metal weapons.

## Pottery

- It was modelled by hand, without a potter's wheel.
- There are vessels with rounded or flat bottoms, sometimes decorated with incisions, cords or fingerprints.
- Noteworthy:
  - Bell-shaped pottery (in the final phase of the Chalcolithic period), of international style, with cup or glass shapes.
  - Geometric decoration imprinted or incised.



Penha-type Chalcolithic pottery fragment found in Cova do Folón (Vigo)

## Way of life

- Agro-pastoral societies: cereal cultivation, livestock breeding (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs).
- Continuation of megalithic practices: many dolmens and burial mounds were reused or even built during this period.
- The stable human settlements that had emerged in the Neolithic period became consolidated, although they were small and scattered, often in the vicinity of burial grounds.
- Mixed economy, with gathering, hunting, agriculture and livestock farming.

Chalcolithic hand mill

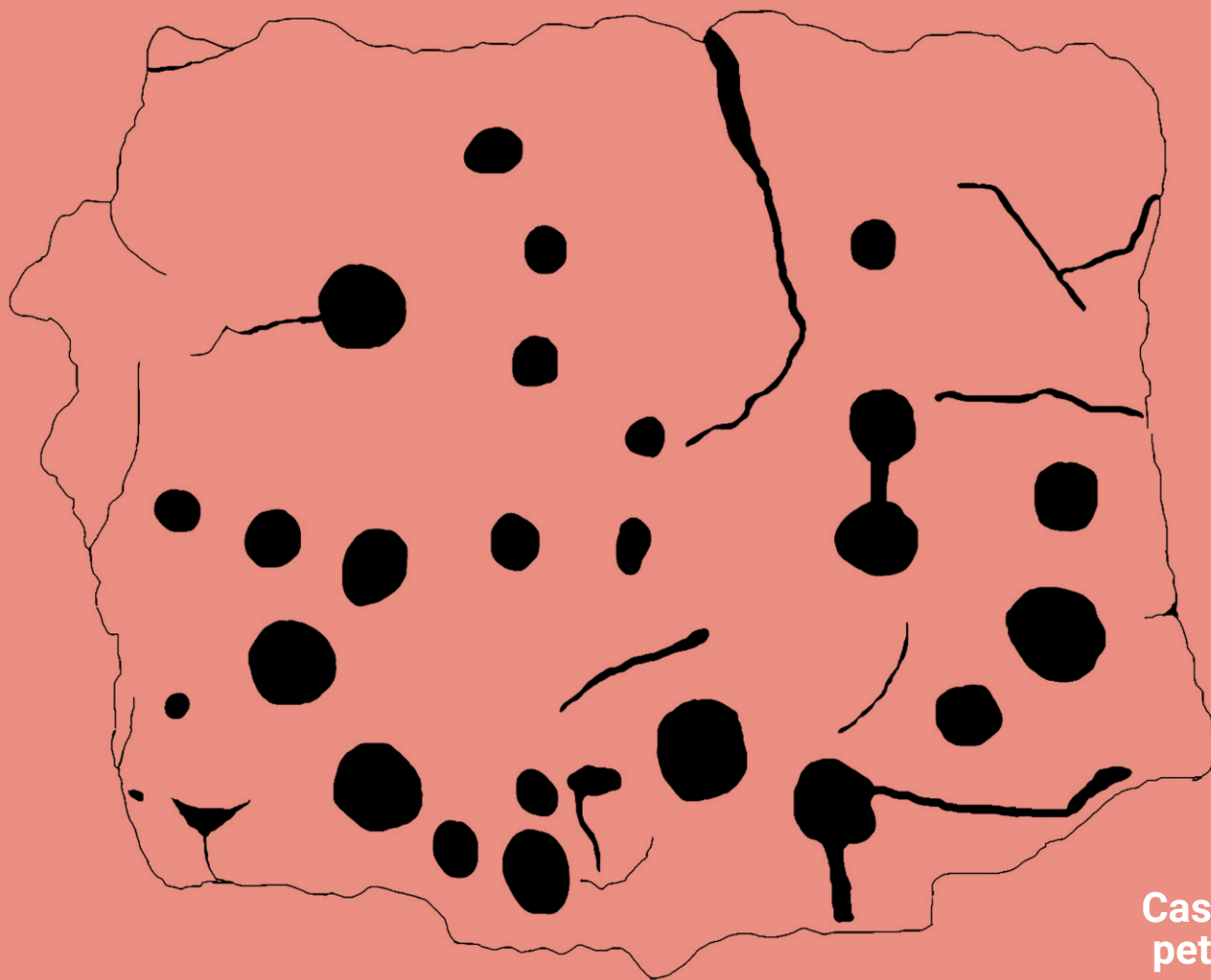


## Funeral context

Megalithism continued during the Chalcolithic period, although it began to change: Neolithic dolmens and burial mounds were reused and the presence of metal and ceramic items in them increased. In the final phase, the influence of Bell Beaker pottery appeared, which was reflected in individual funeral practices.

## Rock engravings

- In the area around Chan de Santomé, there are various cup-shaped petroglyphs dating from the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods.
- These are shallow hemispheres engraved into granite outcrops, which appear either isolated or in groups. Sometimes they are linked to circular motifs in the shape of a ring.
- They have been documented from the Neolithic period to the Bronze Age, i.e. between 4,500 BC and 1,000 BC.
- Their function is the subject of debate, with different interpretations ranging from ritual or symbolic to their use as territorial markers or even as mortars or containers for liquids.



Castiñeiras petroglyph (Guillade; Pontearas)

30 cm

## Summary

### Technology

First use of copper, although stone, wood and bone tools predominate.

### Way of life

Mixed economy, with gathering, hunting, agriculture and livestock farming practices.

### Funeral rites

Continuation of megalithism, with collective tombs and stone and ceramic grave goods.

INDITEX



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Montes  
de Mouriscados  
Mondariz (Pontevedra)

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