

## **El Picón de La Coroza**

(Tapia de Casariego)

The first news related to the existence of a settlement in the area of La Coroza was given by José Manuel González, who studied the mound of Picón in July 1968. The card of his personal register, looked up by courtesy of its trustee Diógenes García, gathers the remarks of that visit in which together with a rough description, a few sketches drawn over the perpendicular axis of the site were made. They show the internal structure in several balconies, in different levels, oriented eastwards and starting from a superior platform or acropolis and the arrangement of the perimeter moats with a more important development on the southern and western sides, where we can find up to three with their corresponding outer moat.

Picón is a small promontory over the coastal level and about 1,100 m away from the coastline. In spite of its modest height, 80 m above sea level, it enjoys a visual dominion favoured by the regularity and evenness of its environment which gives it a leading role in the landscape.

In 2001 the settlement underwent a small intervention in order to avoid damages caused by the works foreseen in the area. The result was the identification of a stratigraphic sequence: some ceramic works of indigenous production which can be assigned to an indefinite moment of the Second Iron Age appeared under the soil layer. Under these deposits there is a wall whose disposition adapts to the perimeter of the hill fort's crown, ending at the slope which delimits this higher platform. Associated to the age of foundation and use of the wall it was found a bronze axe which, because of its possible ternary nature with a high presence of lead, takes the probable foundation of the enclosure to the end of the Final Bronze Age. Other hillforts in the region such as Chao Samartín or Taramundi have been dated in the same age, which can be around the 8th century B.C.