

El Castro de Pencia

(Boal)

The story of the research in this small hillfort is directly related to the Castelón de Coaña, since they were excavated at the same time at the beginning of the 40s by Antonio García y Bellido and Juan Uría Riu. Nevertheless, the first news about the existence of an old settlement in a place near Pencia come from Bernardo Acevedo y Huelves who makes in 1898 a first description of the ruins with some superficial references to some of the buildings and to the fortifications which protected them. Up to 1941, when Antonio García y Bellido and Juan Uría excavate in the settlement, there are other interventions but slightly documented. The works spread all over the settlement although with unequal intensity.

In 1999, the excavations start again as a part of the Navia Basin Archaeological Plan so as to consolidate the ruin step by step and begin again the excavation of the structures.

The foundation of the settlement has been an open fight amongst researchers as the register of the early excavations included some extremely old materials which suggested a pre-Roman settling (today fully proved) integrated later into a fortified enclosure of a bigger size and fully Roman chronology (1st and 2nd century A.D.). Other testimonies, very scarce, have been pointed out as of possible later Roman or Early Middle Age settlements.

Present research has confirmed its foundation during the Iron Age followed by a short occupation during the beginning of the Roman Empire.

Among the buildings which have been found in the excavation we can highlight a big hut and two thermal buildings or proto-historic rustic saunas.