

# Research and conservation of an archaeological site and its museum

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Virgílio Hipólito Correia graduated in Archaeology from the Universities of Porto and Coimbra. He worked in the Southern Regional Service of Archaeology of the Portuguese Institute of Cultural Heritage and later in Conimbriga, whose Monographic Museum he directed between 1999 and 2017. As a

researcher, he is an integrated member of the Center for Classical and Humanistic Studies at the University of Coimbra. He has authored over a hundred publications on themes from the Bronze Age to the Roman Age and on Heritage Management.



CONIMBRIGA



## General talk

Archaeology “creates” archaeological sites using the material remains of past societies and working on them with modern methodologies. This can be a short episode, limited in time and space, and socially contained in the boundaries of academia (and it often is), or can develop into a socially relevant fact, if that creation devolves to society a place of memory, an ancient monument, a relevant piece of scientific knowledge, a pedagogical instrument, a cultural product or an economical resource.

The two primary and most relevant lines of action in this endeavor are research (in the sense of the continuing examination of evidence and all its contexts in the various areas mentioned above) and conservation of structures, materials (finds) and informa-

tion, which is, of course, a *sine qua non* condition of everything else. In fact, many of the current difficulties that Portuguese archaeology faces arise from the adopted principle of “conservation through record”, which is a very limited scope for conservation indeed. But the country also has instances of very good practices, and these will be discussed in the talk based on one of the most prominent, and the one where the speaker has more direct knowledge: the archaeological site and monographic museum of Conimbriga.

Past and current practices of excavation recording, finds processing and storage, research support and dissemination will be addressed and linked to the other, more public-oriented activities of the museum.