

# Lagoonar Deposits Eastward of Quarteira (Algarve) - Preliminary Results

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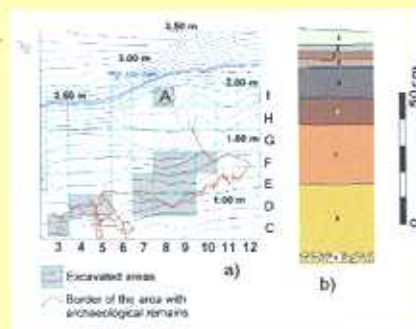
In the southern coast of Algarve, eastward of Quarteira, some coastal segments have been subject to a fast evolution, characterised by an accelerated shoreline retreat.

Coastal erosion allows nowadays that, when the beach presents storm profiles, outcrops of old lagoonal sediments can be seen sometimes during low waters, westward and eastward of the Forte Novo cliff (sites A and B, respectively).



In 1999, an archaeological excavation was carried out at the Forte Novo Beach (site A) in a neolithic settlement that, at that time, became visible at low-water.

Different types of samples (charcoal, tree trunks, peat and mud) were collected for radiocarbon dating at sites A and B.



a) Topographic drawing of the beach segment with archaeological remains  
b) Stratigraphic profile at square A



RADIOCARBON DATES		
Site A (archaeological remains)		
Sac-1506	charcoal	4150±50 BP
Sac-1700	charcoal	4430±120 BP
Sac-1637	charcoal	4570±90 BP
Site A (geologic)		
Sac-1586	wood	5090±50 BP
Sac-1639	wood	6270±100 BP
Site B		
ICEN-325	mud	760±60 BP
ICEN-324	mud	1330±50 BP
Sac-1833	wood	740±70 BP



Shump, identified as wood of *Pinus pinea* incorporated in clayey-silty mud flat sediment, was dated from 6270±100 BP (Sac-1639).

## Conclusions

Two lagoonal deposits of different ages were identified eastward of Quarteira. One of them, at Forte Novo beach, contains an archaeological level dated from the Late Neolithic. Older remains (tree trunks) with dates of c. 6000 BP were picked up from a clayey-silty mud flat sediment found near the archaeological remains. Eastward of the Forte Novo cliff another lagoonal deposit was identified with much more recent organic sediments (c. 1000 BP).

The preliminary results point out that we are facing sites with very complex and diversified ecological histories that need further research.