

## Manifiesto in defense of 'Marroquíes Bajos', the ancient Jaén

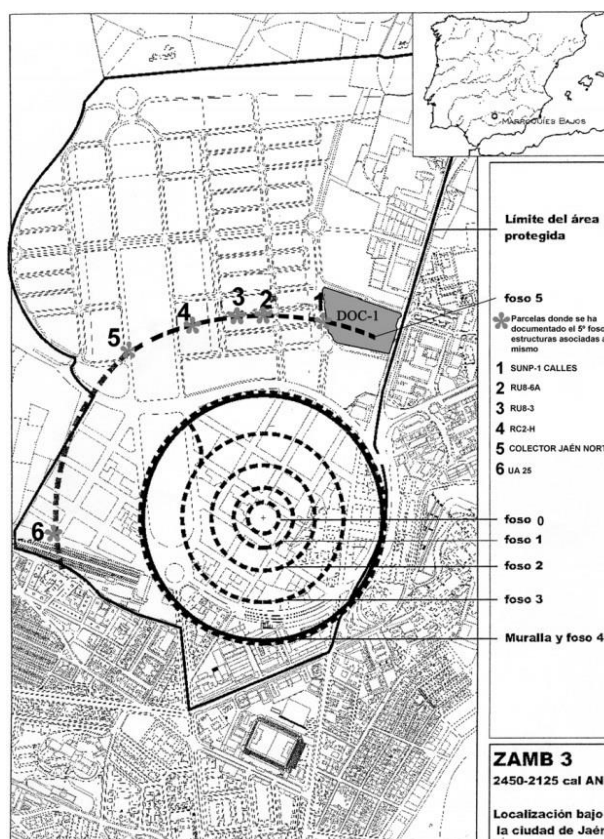
From the '**Instituto Almenara** for the progress and development of Andalusia' and from the digital magazine '**Argarica.es**, Archeology and History', we make an appeal to the entire researcher and professional community related to history and heritage to subscribe and spread the following manifesto whose objective is to give visibility and maximum protection to the so-called "**Archaeological Zone of Marroquíes Bajos**" (**ZAMB**), in **Jaén city** that is currently at serious risk of being definitely buried under public and private buildings. So we, the undersigned subscribe the following:

That the ZAMB houses **unique archaeological remains worldwide** of different periods ranging from the Neolithic to the medieval period and its protection must be the number one priority over any urban or economic interest. Unfortunately so far it has been precisely otherwise the opposite of 80% of the terrain being urbanized, despite being declared as **BIC (Cultural Interest Asset)** with integral protection since 2003.

That the ZAMB has the sufficient requirements to be declared a **World Heritage Site** by **UNESCO**, especially to house **the largest calcolytic city** (30 Ha Safe, 120 probable) from all over Europe with high hydraulic and defensive engineering (flooded pit system and unique concentric walls in the world).

That the works that have just started in the fifth pit for the construction of the **music conservatory must be immediately paralyzed** and **restored the damaged terrain** being the only possible legal intervention, the excavation, conservation and museum of the site as every BIC. Maxime when there have been **a large number of human remains** in this field, presumably of the calcolithic period over which an in-depth investigation (**paleogenetics**) has not been carried out and that could correspond to the remains of a battle, perhaps the first documented in Europe.

That also it must be paralyzed the planned works on the solar of the "**City of Justice**" and the contiguous police station, an authentic shame for becoming the name of the legality that is so clearly being vulnerated. Let them stop shielding in the preservation of them in the basements of the buildings, because only a small percentage would be kept and the rest of the plot would be damaged without remedy, making impossible to put it in value for all the citizenship.



To **invest in research and to contract the teams of experts** necessary for new excavation and restoration campaigns. That the complete reports and archaeological discoveries made in the previous campaigns go to light (the vast majority are stored without cataloging or investigating) and are adequately musealized and made available to citizens and Spanish and international researchers.

That in a impoverished region and with high unemployment rate, such as Jaén, it must be done an enhancement of the site that implies in citizenship and promotes **cultural and archaeological tourism**, especially putting on the point of sight the **big city** of the **Copper Age** already known internationally instead of continuing with the culture of brick that the authorities are promoting at present.

That the **people of Jaén** have the right to know their past, their ancestors and their **historical memory** and above all for being more valuable and exceptional, the **prehistoric** one, above political and particular interests that are those that have previously prevailed.

LET'S GIVE LIVE TO THE PREHISTORIC JAEN!  
'MARROQUIES BAJOS IS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE!