



With the dismantling of the Western Roman Empire, a process of urban retraction began, marked by population decrease and reduction of occupied areas, intensifying the phenomenon that historiography has designated as the ‘Christianization of space’. The spread and consolidation of Christianity implied the dispersion of urban communities, some of which agglomerated around early Christian cemetery basilicas which, in the case of Braga, were located along the ancient roads that connected the city to the rest of Hispania. In the peri-urban zone of Braga, along the initial stretch of *Via XX*, which departed from the western gate of the medieval city, the rural parish of Maximinos developed, centered on the church of Saint Peter. In the 15th century, sources refer to this territory as a *arrabalde* (a small neighborhood outside the city wall), where agricultural activity played an important role in local supply. Based on archaeological evidence and cross-referenced documentary, iconographic and cartographic sources, this study analyses the agricultural potential of this peri-urban zone and its historical evolution, as expressed in the bracarense toponymy.

The study aims to analyze the evolution of the territory that constituted the parish of Saint Peter Pedro de Maximinos and understand the importance assumed by this area, described in documentary sources from the second half of the 15th century as a *arrabalde*. We also seek to characterize its agricultural exploitation profile and, from these elements, delineate an illustrative plan of the western peri-urban zone of Braga.

The methodology combines different sorts of sources. It is based on a qualitative analysis of the *Liber Fidei*, the *IV Livro de Tombo* and the four *Livros de Prazos das Propriedades do Cabido da Sé de Braga*. The data is then cross-referenced with iconographic and cartographic representations from the 16th, 18th and 19th centuries, as well as recent historiography, particularly advances in archaeology. From this compilation, vector drawing is used to reconstruct an informative map of the western peri-urban area of Braga, where the parish of Saint Peter de Maximinos was organized.



Estimated reconstruction of the western sector of the peri-urban area of Braga in the second half of the 15th century, focusing on the areas near the Gate of Maximinos. Elaborated from the city plan based on Martins and Ribeiro (2013: 39).

Maximinus established itself as a place of significant importance in the organization of the western surroundings of Braga, from Roman times to the 15th century, standing out particularly in the medieval agricultural economy and leaving lasting marks on local toponymy. The exploration of new documental funds, mainly from the initial decades of the 16th century, may be decisive in deepening our knowledge about the morphology and parish organization already visible at the end of the 15th century, contributing to the understanding of the city's urban history.

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