



11.

BRIDGE OF ESPINDO



Lugar de Espindo
Meinedo
Lousada



41° 14' 36.53" N
8° 16' 24.75" W



+351 918 116 488



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Submitted
to classification



P. 25



Free



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The Bridge of Espindo, located in the hamlet of Espindo, parish of Meinedo, municipality of Lousada, ensures the passage over the river Sousa, thus establishing a road connection between the hamlets of Bustelo (Penafiel) and Boim (Lousada).

This small Bridge features a single round arch supported by solid pillars built directly on the river banks; downstream, the pillar on the left bank is protected by a wall.

The span's width lead to the elevation of the arch and to the construction of a trestle-shaped platform. This is a granite masonry structure whose walls feature irregular ashlar, which contrasts with the arch's regular ashlar, with well-cut voussoirs.

This Bridge, difficult to date, is similar to a medieval bridge in technical and building terms.



BRIDGES IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Although the Bridges of Espindo, of Vilela (Lousada) (p. 58), of Veiga (Lousada) (p. 45), of Panchorra (Resende) (p. 119), of Esmoriz (Baião) (p. 137), of Arco (Marco de Canaveses) (p. 193) and of Fundo de Rua (Amarante) (p. 199), correspond to an advanced chronology, their structures recall, in many ways, the medieval bridges that were a significant part of the building efforts of the Romanesque and Gothic periods.

Romanesque bridges had greater concern with their foundations than the Roman ones and sought for firm building sites. This is the reason why, according to Carlos Alberto Ferreira de Almeida, medieval bridges were more resistance to bad weather and floods. Usually, Romanesque bridges feature large arches and sometimes their height leads to the adoption of the trestle-shaped solution, i.e., a bridge with a double ramp. There was a widespread development of cutwaters, upstream, and buttresses, downstream.

