

CALDAS DO VIADUTO

Ageing land and people of Beira Interior (PT)

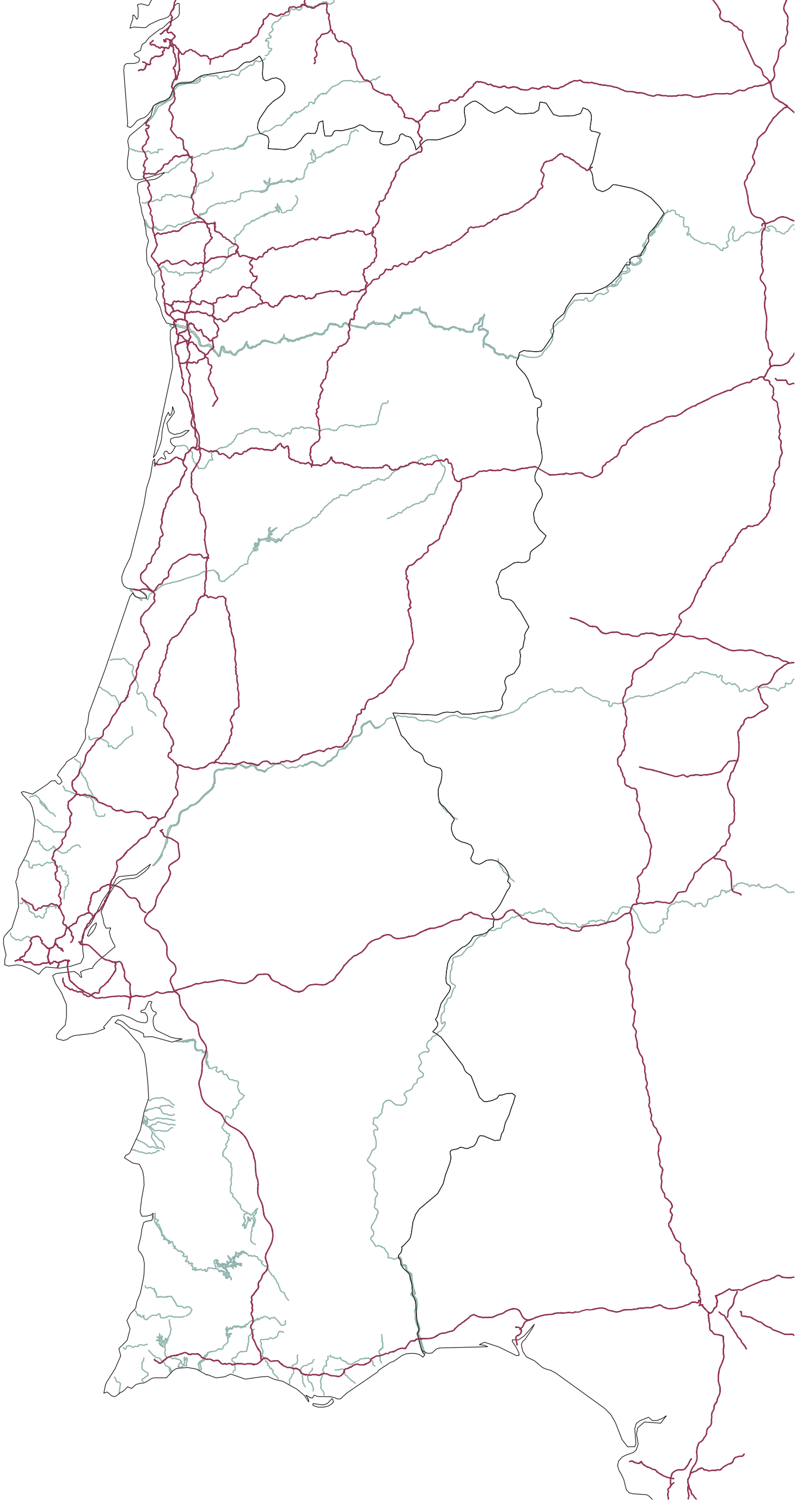
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Portugal and the Beira Interior region have one of the world's oldest populations. The country has a long history of littoralisation - the concentration of populations, activities and infrastructure networks along the coast - that has left the interior of the country underprivileged. The project claims that there is an opportunity to improve the quality of life and create a new identity for the Beira Interior, away from nostalgic rural representations.

The region has hydrogeological conditions that makes it a destination for thermalism, the use of thermal mineral water for therapy and leisure. This aquatic activity emphasizes wellbeing, reframing the discourse on ageing as liveability (quality, caring) instead of sustainability (quantity, curing). As such, a holistic vision of health is tied to the ecology of its landscape. This project thus proposes to do thermal baths, evolving from an existing local bathing culture and further developing an existing network of baths.

The Ponsul Fault is the source of thermal springs and the origin of the "Doors of Ródão". These mountainous ridges produce a sense of remoteness and form with the Tagus River and a train line the boundaries of the site. The project proposes a new access by boat and a train station. The thermal baths grow out of the ground and blend into the landscape, appearing to leave the site untouched. The construction dialogues with an existing stone viaduct serving the train line. The baths are both a wall and a platform, landscape and infrastructure.

Coastal fast-system



Legend

- Main highways
- Main rivers

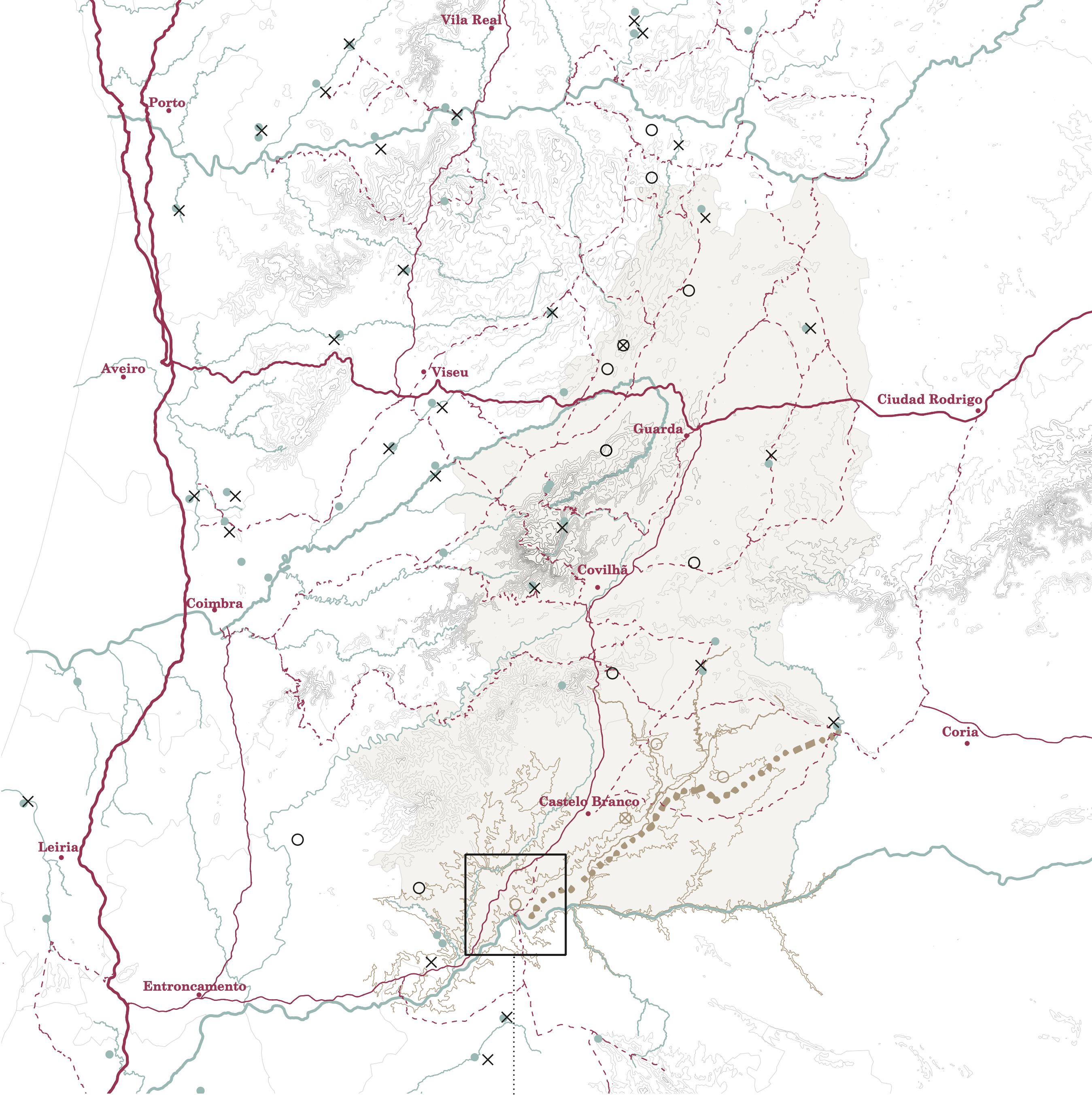
Hydrogeology



Legend

- Hesperic massif
- Occidental edge
- Tagus-sado basin
- Meridional edge
- Contracted thermal baths
- Mineral water springs
- Faults

Beira Interior and geographical body of Ponsul Fault

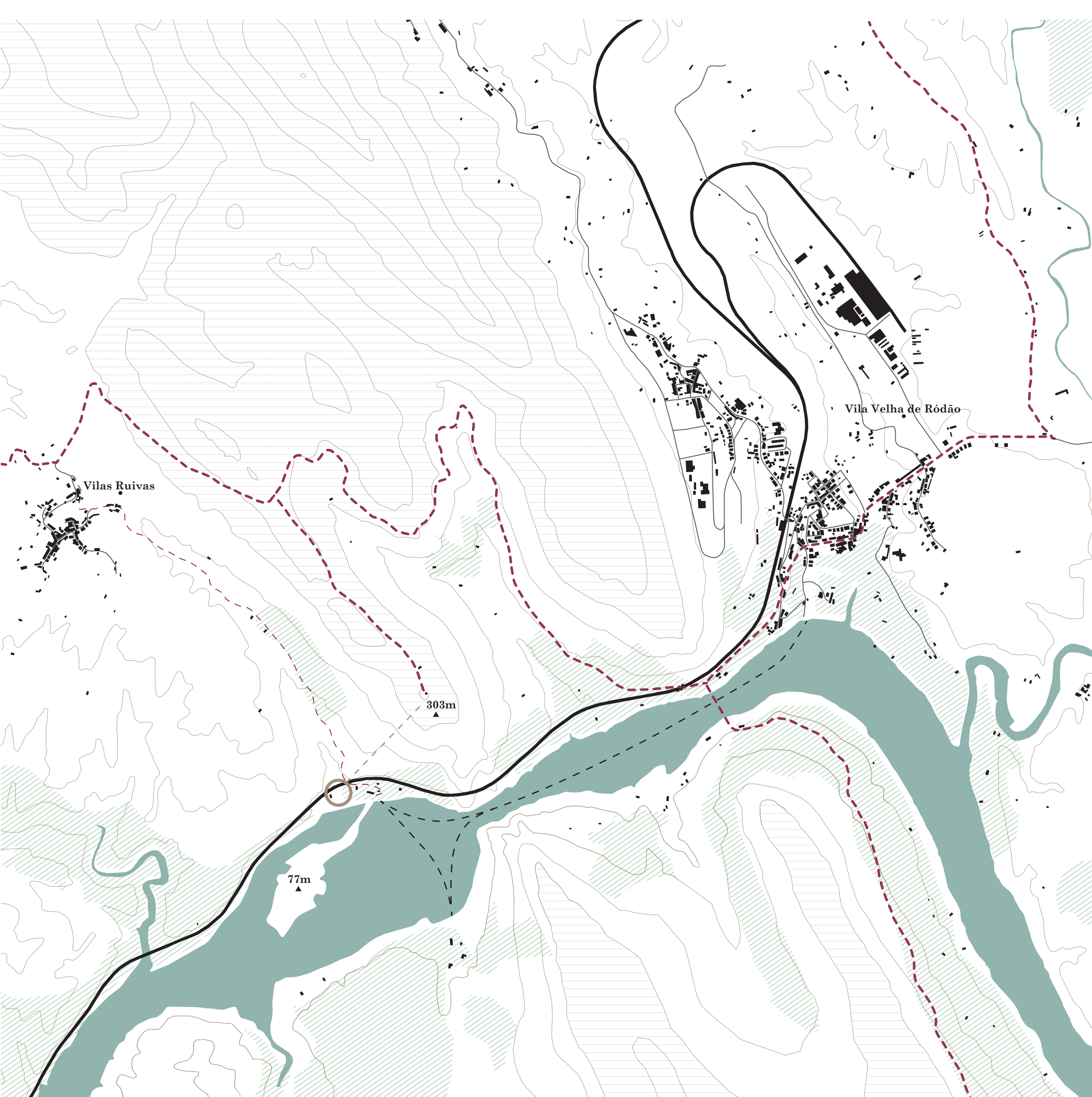


Legend

- Contracted thermal baths
- Deactivated thermal baths
- "Popular use" thermal baths
- Beira Interior area

Thermal spring "Fonte das Virtudes":
25°, Oligossaline, lightly chlorinated, sulfated
and sodium carbonated

Doors of Ródão



Legend

- Water well pumps
- Beira Baixa train line
- Boat line
- Rural road
- Door of Ródão ridges
- Thermal baths (project)
- Terraced olive groves