

SES TALAIES

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The entrance (facing west) of the Talaiot at Ses Talaies

On my route to the centre of the island I stopped by at a site I know since it crossed my way by chance several years ago. It's one of the around five hundred [Talaiotic](#) sites known on Mallorca.

[Ses Talaies in Google Maps](#)

Ses Talaies is a wonderful place. The old cyclopean walls surrounding a circular Talaiot that has obviously been excavated professionally (trenches still discernable) are sticking out here and there in between the 'modern' rubble walls limiting the parcels of land.



The fields close to the Talaiot are full of objects on the surface esp. pottery. One of the old walls is attached to the Talaiot providing ground for dense vegetation of wild olives and almond trees.

I spend about an hour in the shade at the foot of the Talaiot making up my mind on an abstract I submitted just before starting the holidays.

Why that?

I'm invited for a conference in Cairo in October to deliver a keynote on building archaeology and its methods that are supposed to be strongly influenced by modern technology. For many good reasons the organisers of conferences want to have a summary of what will be presented months before the actual event – this summary is also known as an abstract and it has strong implications for the authors. Mostly you have to summarise first and write the talk later. Not always easy especially when you're asked to contribute something basic and well thought on the methods of an archaeological discipline.

I usually start with a mindmap. It's a handmade drawing with keywords. The main topics show up early. This basic concept is then complemented with arguments also interconnected with arrows etc. In the end it doesn't look good, but it's sufficient to derive a summary.

I have this mindmap with me, so in very relaxed moments I take it out and look at it and bits and pieces of how to communicate the different arguments come into my mind being written down instantly.

People who know me might find it surprising, but it's still all by hand. I tried to use mindmapping software tools, but it's not really working out.

So at least I did something quite typical for an archaeologist today...

Please note: When I visit sites that are not prepared for visitors I

do not climb on walls

do not pick up anything (not even pottery from the surface)

and, of course, don't take anything with me

To keep the archaeological record intact is extremely important. Ses Talaies might be subject of full archaeological investigations in several decades only. We have no idea about techniques applied in the future. The past twenty years most certainly only offer a glimpse on the changes to come.