Quinta Arco-Íris

A different rhythm of life

Morning coffee in the front garden, warmed by winter sunshine reflecting off the white walls. Lunch on the terrace overlooking the Mondego Valley. Evenings watching the sun slip behind the pine grove.

In the foothills of the Serra da Estrela, within the Natural Park, Quinta Arco-Íris offers space to live, work and grow.

Arco-Íris means “rainbow” in Portuguese—a fitting name for this quinta. Almost every rain shower brings spectacular rainbows over the valley and the mountains beyond, enjoyed from the living room and balcony.

A home with character and room to work

Built in 2004 for a Dutch couple retiring to Portugal, the home combines decorative plasterwork, crown mouldings and granite details with an open-plan living and dining room opening towards the garden.

The separate primary suite includes an adjoining room for an office, hobbies or a dressing room. One of the upstairs bedrooms has views towards the Serra’s peaks, occasionally capped with snow. Four storage rooms beneath the eaves provide space for seasonal belongings and equipment.

Independent space for visitors

The guest apartment has its own kitchen, living space and bathroom, allowing family, friends or house sitters to stay comfortably while everyone keeps their independence. Share meals and time together, with a separate place to return to at the end of the day. The bathroom’s whimsical tile murals add a distinctive touch.

Space to grow food and shape the land

More than 300 hardwood and fruit trees have been planted over five years, each with irrigation. Cherries, berries, apples, pears, loquats, pistachios, figs and much more bring a changing harvest. Terraced land, a stable and chicken enclosures offer scope for gardening and smallholding activities.

“When we came here, part of our dream was to put the permaculture principles we had learned into practice and create a legacy for future generations.” — Maeve and Bruce

The deck offers valley views and birdwatching, from visiting hoopoes and nesting robins to bee-eaters and circling birds of prey. The owners have also seen deer leaping over stone walls, foxes crossing nearby pastures, mongooses and rabbits. At dusk, bats emerge and the nightjar calls. In the front garden, hummingbird hawk-moths, butterflies and bees visit the lavender and flowering shrubs.

A practical base for country life

Insulation, double glazing, central heating and air conditioning support year-round living. Solar panels with battery storage, a private borehole and fibre broadband provide a practical base for country life and working from home.

The adjoining garage and laundry, outdoor WC and storage areas provide space for projects, equipment and everyday tasks.

A traditional levada (community irrigation channel) runs alongside the property, part of the long-established gravity-fed irrigation systems found throughout rural Portugal. The quinta is not currently connected, but the local system manager has advised the owners that an owner may apply to join the system and, once approved, arrange and pay for the connection to the property. The ongoing fee is understood to be minimal, potentially providing an economical source of water for gardens, orchards and other irrigation. Prospective buyers should carry out their own due diligence with the local system manager to confirm eligibility, costs and conditions of access.

Village connections and places to explore

Set on a quiet country road serving just eight homes, the quinta enjoys little passing traffic and a peaceful rural setting, with easy access to the N17 via either end of the road.

Melo is about five minutes away, with the owners’ favourite local pizza restaurant, community events and its dedicated Bombeiros fire and ambulance service. Gouveia’s everyday services are around fifteen minutes away, Viseu forty-five minutes and Porto Airport just two hours away.

Welcoming neighbours, nearby walks, river beaches and mountain routes have been an important part of life here.

Explore the house and land, and consider the possibilities for your own life at the quinta. Contact Maeve for more information or to arrange a viewing.

Photo walkthrough

Garden-facing exterior

Pedestrian entrance

Nossa Senhora da Conceição

The grotto beside the front gate is home to Nossa Senhora da Conceição: Patroness of Portugal and protector of our quinta and all who enter.

Driveway entrance

Approach to the house

Entrance hallway

Photo walkthrough

Living room

Living room

Living room towards terrace

Dining room

Dining room towards kitchen

Kitchen

Photo walkthrough

Kitchen storage

Pantry

Kitchen toward dining

Primary bedroom

Primary bathroom

Office / study

Photo walkthrough

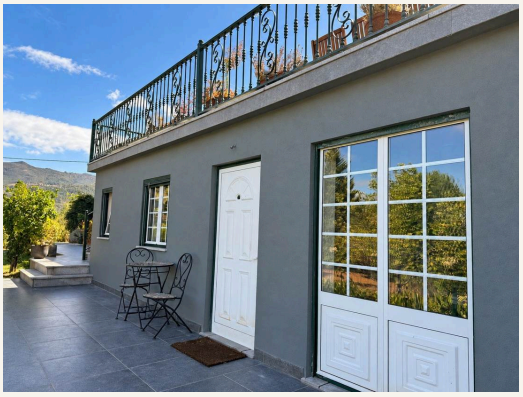
Office

Upstairs bedroom

Upstairs bedroom reverse view

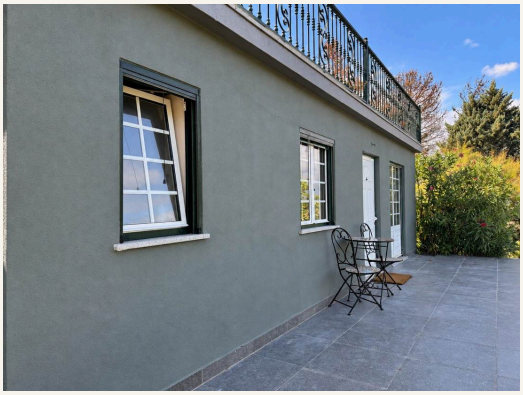
Upstairs bathroom

One of four upstairs storage rooms



Guest apartment entrance

Photo walkthrough

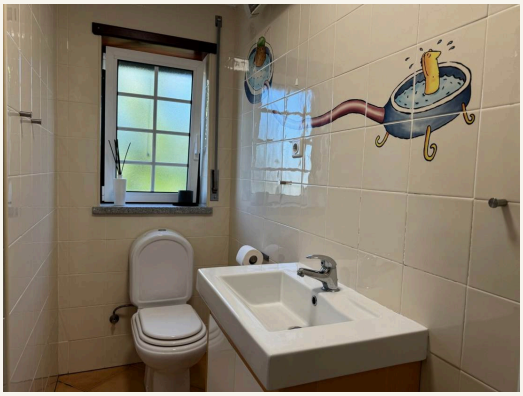


Guest apartment: terrace side

Guest apartment kitchen and living space

Guest apartment bedroom

Guest apartment bathroom



Guest apartment bathroom: second view

Laundry

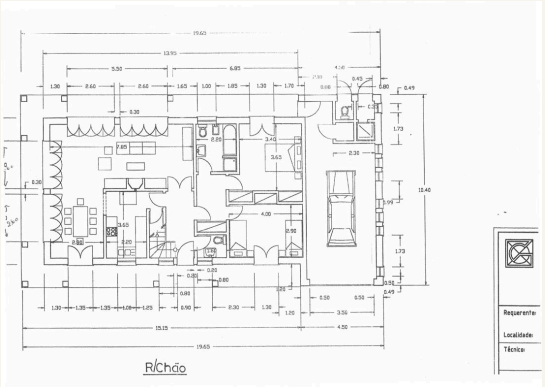
Photo walkthrough

Outdoor WC

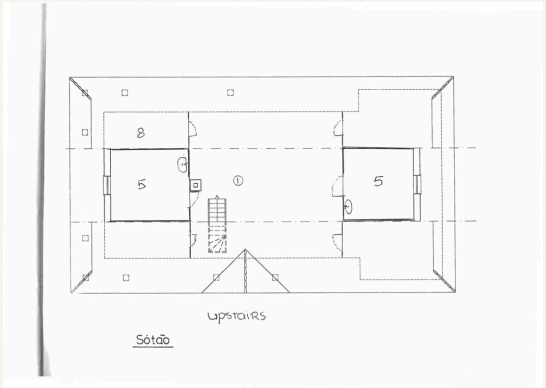
House and solar-panelled garage

Garage and rooftop solar panels

Solar panels and battery system



Floor plan 1



Floor plan 2

Photo walkthrough

Stable and covered area

Stable and covered wood storage

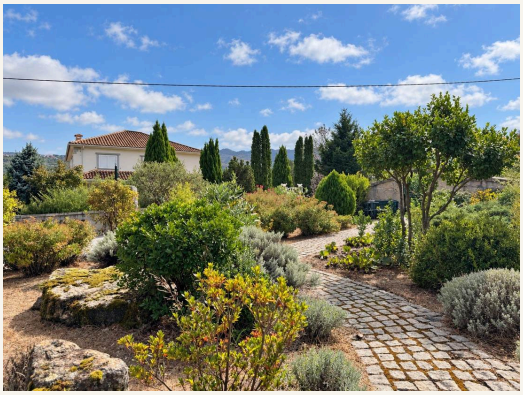
Chicken coop and enclosures

Terrace outlook

Terrace at dusk

Outdoor cooking area

Photo walkthrough



Front garden path

Shaded garden seating

Trees in late-summer light

Surrounding hills

Rainbow over the valley

Trees across the quinta

Photo walkthrough

Fruit

Flowers

Mushrooms

Chickens

Olives

Agapanthus and outlook

Photo walkthrough

Persimmons in season

Grapes on the quinta

Figs in season

Irises in the garden

Spring blossom

Roses in the garden

Photo walkthrough

Sheep grazing on neighbouring land

Property information

Home and accommodation

Built in 2004. The owners describe four bedrooms and three-and-a-half bathrooms in the main house, plus a one-bedroom guest apartment with its own kitchen and bathroom.

Land and recorded areas

Urban record: 152 m² footprint and 304 m² gross construction area. Rustic record: 9,986 m², with an 18 m² agricultural structure. The combined land figures total 10,138 m² (about 1.01 ha); this is a sum of tax entries, not a new survey or measured usable floor area.

Energy and practical living

29 × 400 W solar panels (11.6 kW nominal capacity) and approximately 20 kWh battery storage, installed September 2025. Private borehole, established irrigation and fibre internet. The supplied B− certificate expired on 24 January 2024; a current assessment is being arranged.

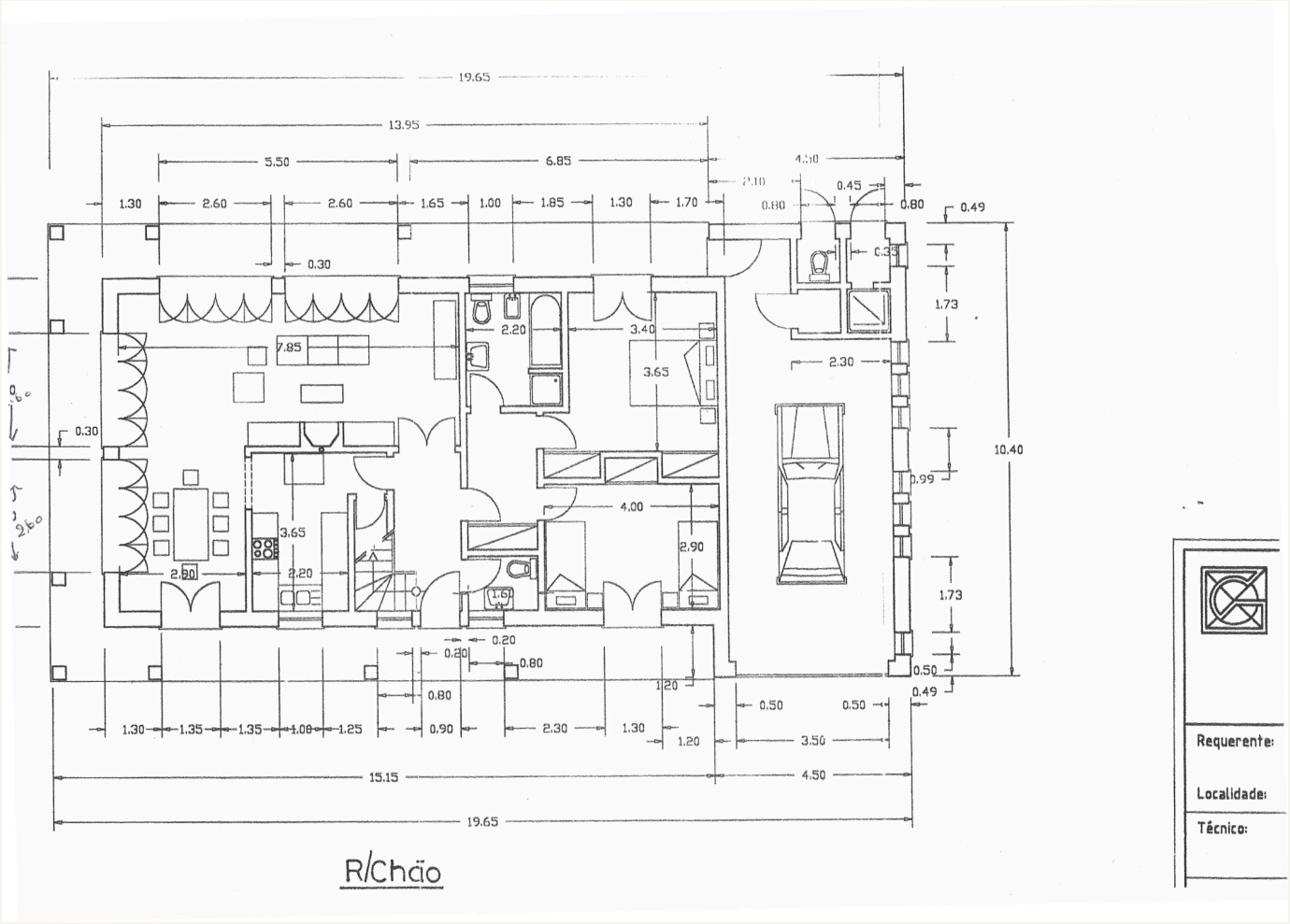
Levada

A traditional community irrigation channel runs alongside the property. The quinta is not connected. The local system manager has advised the owners that an owner may apply to join and, once approved, pay for the connection; the ongoing fee is understood to be minimal.

Before purchase

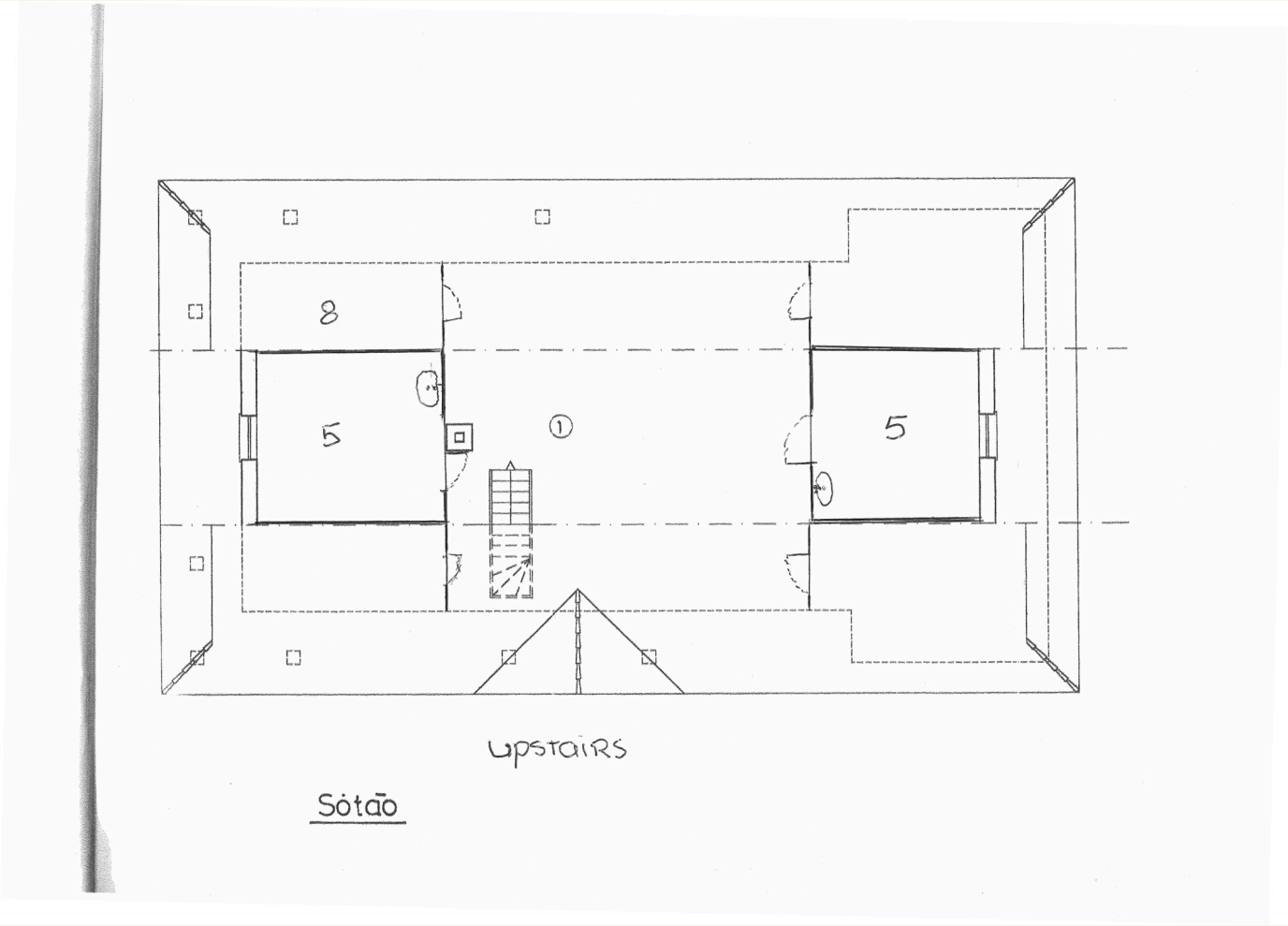
Confirm current documents, measured areas, the layout and a written inventory of sale inclusions. Buyers should confirm levada eligibility, costs and conditions directly with the local system manager. Any tourist letting or commercial use requires confirmation of permissions. Photographs span different seasons; furnishings and animals are not automatically included.

Floor plan 1



Owner-supplied plan for reference. Confirm the present layout and measurements during a visit.

Floor plan 2



Owner-supplied plan for reference. Confirm the present layout and measurements during a visit.