

CULTURAL HERITAGE MONUMENTS IN FORESTS, THEIR PROTECTION AND THEIR POSSIBLE USE IN TOURISM

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Abstract

In the Czech Republic, a number of archaeological and cultural heritage monuments are located in forest environment. The protection of cultural heritage monuments especially in economic forests is not clearly defined in practice. Their occurrence is often associated with increased attendance of the localities, which in turn affects forest management activities. The paper addresses a specific situation at three localities in the Dražanská vrchovina (Dražany Highlands) in context of possibilities of their protection and their use in accordance with the principles of sustainable tourism. Specifically, the localities are 1) Vildenberk castle ruins and its closest surroundings (a cultural monument with well-identifiable remains of buildings and significant anthropogenic morphology of the relief), 2) Polom, a deserted medieval village (with distinct anthropogenic morphological shapes), 3) Bohdalůvka, a deserted medieval village (practically without surface anthropogenic relicts). The current state of tourist use was assessed at all three localities, and their potential and risks associated with tourism were evaluated.

Key words: deserted medieval village, forest, sustainable management, sustainable tourism

Introduction

In the Czech Republic, a number of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage monuments are located in forest environment. For their preservation and protection, their unambiguous identification and the greatest possible knowledge of specific surface and subsurface conditions is important. A basic precondition for their maintenance and protection is the sharing of the database of cultural monuments of The Monument Care Department with the economic forest entity. Many cultural monuments located in the forest environment offer the potential for tourist attractions that, if properly managed, can meet the aspects of sustainable tourism

Materials and methods

The article evaluates 3 cultural heritage monuments located in the forest environment of the Dražanská Highlands (see Fig. 1). They are intentionally selected so that they represent 3 different localities in terms of accessibility of the area by tourist routes and awareness of the localities. Their accessibility in the context of sustainable tourism was determined, as well as the manifestations of the presence of visitors and the potential of individual localities was evaluated in terms of their interest, educational potential and sustainable tourist capacity. Furthermore, the question of how the owner (forest manager) perceives the given cultural heritage monument was addressed (Kubalíková et al. 2021).

Characteristics of archaeological objects of human economic activity in forests

Vildenberk castle area ruins

During the 13th century, the area of interest became one of the gateways to the colonization region of the Dražany Highlands. Today, the basic directions of communication can still be identified in the terrain thanks to the preserved sunken lanes. We can therefore conclude that the main routes were directed in a north-south direction to Jedovnice and from there on to other key areas of the region (Martínek and Léta, 2014). At the beginning of the 14th century at the latest, the medieval castle of Vildenberk was founded above the valley of the Kovalovice stream.

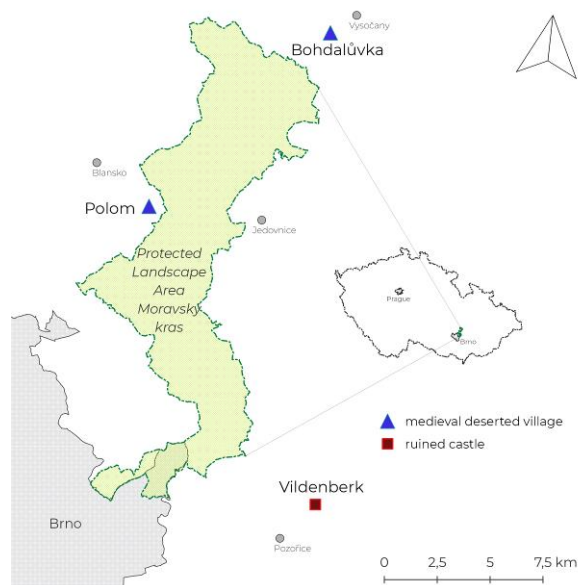


Fig. 1: Map of the localities

The quarries and mining fields for conglomerate and graywacke, which were concentrated in the vicinity of the castle core, can probably be linked to its construction (Kovář et al., 2013). The unfortified northeastern part of the castle's hinterland is characterised mainly by objects associated with brick production. There are smaller depressions around the perimeter of the site which are the remains of the extraction of local slope loess and clay. There are also three larger depressions which are interconnected by a shallow water channel. Brick production is directly evidenced by the remains of three kilns sunk into the hillside (Kos 2018). The three levees, which are remnants of the original medieval ponds, can be linked to the management in the wider castle hinterland. Under one of these levees, a relic of a construction that has already been presented in the literature as the remains of a mill has been identified, although no clear evidence for this interpretation has yet been offered (Bolina and Doležel, 1988; Kovář et al. 2013). In the whole area of South territory only two charcoal platforms could be identified.

Deserted medieval village Polom

The cores of two medieval villages – Klepačov and Polom – were located in the area of interest. Both villages were founded during the 13th century and at the beginning of the 16th century they are mentioned in written sources as deserted. Klepačov was later re-inhabited, while Polom completely disappeared. Remains of the fields system of both original villages are preserved in similar ploughlands. Directly in the field they are very difficult to identify, thus LIDAR images proved to be crucial for reconstructing their actual state of preservation (Malina 2015), (see Fig. 2). An artificial long linear depression, probably a water ditch (canal) with a total cubic capacity of 2650 m³, which fed a small pond in the village, leads in a north-south direction to the build up area of the extinct medieval village of Polom. Southwest of the Polom there are many evidences of iron ore mining. These mining activities can be tentatively dated to the 18th-19th centuries (Součopová et al., 2002).

Deserted medieval village Bohdalůvka

The remains of human economic activities have been imprinted on the landscape through the extinct medieval village of Bohdalůvka and its agricultural background, which can be reconstructed on the basis of the preserved fields system. In the Middle Ages, these belonged not only to the above-mentioned village, but also partly to the more southerly town of Holštejn. Here, too, individual relics were already very difficult to recognize in the terrain and could be located mainly on LIDAR images. Particularly outstanding are the remains of collapsed stone rubble to the east of the presumed eastern row of houses, which here acted as a boundary between the allotments. Also perhaps related to agricultural activities in the hinterland of the village may be the odd stone-clay mounds documented both at the northern edge of the original development and approximately 5 km to the south-west at the foot of a prominent mound. One of the last objects of interest in the area to the north is a pond that lay in the southern part of the Bohdalůvka village intravillage. At present, a calcareous pond is located on part of the original area (Černý 1992; Kolomazníček 2022).

Results

The second location - the deserted medieval village of Polom - is on the tourist and bike trail, there is 1 information board in not very good condition, directly in the field is visible only a few hundred meters long and 1.5 m deep and 5 m wide "channel" (depression), the inner part of the village is practically not visible and unidentifiable for the visitor today. Although the movement of tourists and visitors on marked paths is relatively high, the presence of visitors to the locality is not particularly noticeable. slight evidence of minor pollution is still at the signposts or a nearby resting place. Attendance is greatly influenced by the presence of the recreational town of Blansko, attendance is not primarily associated with a visit to the deserted medieval village. The locality is located directly on the borders of the Moravian Karst Protected Landscape Area. Entry by car is possible only with permission. The nearest car park is more than 2 km away. It occurs rarely in tourist guides it is necessary to look for a locality in the forest.

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morphological remains. Experts are able to recognize 2-3 base plates and swamp pond on the former village square. There are no signs of visitors at the locality. At present, calamity spruce logging has a strong impact on the closest surroundings.

Discussion

We can look at the protection and use of cultural monuments in the forest from two perspectives. For the preservation and protection of cultural heritage monuments within the land intended for the fulfillment of forest functions cooperation between the authorities of monument care and the owner or management entity in a specific commercial forest is essential. At present, the owner or forest manager may not even know that there is a declared national cultural monument or cultural monument in the forest. The situation is even more complicated when it comes to sites of cultural significance, such as burial grounds, relics of technical constructions, etc., which are not declared. Obligations of the owner arising from the Act on Monument Care Act No. 20/1987 Coll. is to keep the cultural monument in good condition and take care of its preservation, which means that it must not even damage it. Thus, forest land management according to the approved forest management plan (FMP) does not release the owner from this obligation. The main problem can be the fact that the projection of the interests of state monument care into valid FMP is not clearly addressed in the legal system, and also that FMPs are not a binding legal instrument. The authors of the article see a possible solution in the legal regulation, which will stipulate the obligation to include the presence of cultural heritage monuments in the valid FMP, so that during economic interventions in these localities they are always consulted in advance with the relevant authorities of state monument care. The use of modern GIS methods seems to be an excellent support tool for the protection of cultural heritage monuments in the forest environment (Balková et al. 2020).

The cultural heritage monuments in the forest environment can also be included in the network of tourist destinations with access for hiking and biking in accordance with the principles of sustainable tourism. The initiative should come primarily from local actors (municipalities, LAGs, tourist associations, PLAs,...), who can expand the tourist potential of the region and at the same time disperse visitors to more localities and thus prevent congestion of top tourist destinations.

Conclusion

Cultural heritage monuments in the forest environment have significant tourist potential as a destination for sustainable tourism. Their involvement in the regional tourist offer should be ensured by local actors, always in cooperation with the Monument Care Department, but also with forest owners / managers. For the consistent protection of cultural heritage monuments in the forest environment, the cooperation of owners / managers and the Monument Care Department is necessary, preferably by incorporating the existing network of cultural heritage monuments into forest management plans.

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Souhrn

Kulturní památky v lesním prostředí mají významný turistický potenciál jako destinace udržitelného turismu. Jejich zapojení do regionální turistické nabídky by měli zajišťovat místní aktéři, a to vždy ve spolupráci se státní památkovou péčí, ale i vlastníky/hospodáři lesa. Pro důslednou ochranu kulturních památek v lesním prostředí je nezbytná součinnost vlastníků/hospodářů a státní památkové péče nejlépe formou promítnutí stávající sítě kulturních památek do lesních hospodářských plánů.

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