

THE FUTURE OF DESIGNED LANDSCAPES IN THE NATIONAL PARK

Kristýna Kříčková, Alena Salašová

*Department of Landscape Planning, Faculty of Horticulture, Mendel University in Brno, Valtická 337,
691 44 Lednice, Czech Republic*

<https://doi.org/10.11118/978-80-7509-963-1-0327>

Abstract

The Czech Republic is unique for its high number of preserved landscape compositions linked to noble settlements and pilgrimage sites. The historical designed landscape has an exceptional potential for the development of recreation. If it's located in a specially protected area, the question arises of how to reconcile the conflicting interests of conservation, tourism development and nature protection. The current system of conservation and spatial planning hasn't optimally set processes for dealing with this issue. The subject of the research is the area Vranovsko-Bítovsko. It's an area that is highly used for recreation, with the concentration of recreationists concentrated in 3 specific places - Vranov Castle, Bítov Castle and Vranov Dam. However, the potential of the whole area is much higher and unused. Promoting recreation is the way to increase the economy and awareness of the cultural and natural values. It's a relatively neglected area hasn't been the subject of systematic research. There isn't comprehensive identification and interpretation; there isn't plan for the protection and regeneration. The NP Podyjí now encroaches upon a significant part of the composition and it's in these places that the two protection regimes are clashing, leading to the slow demise of the main body of the composition. The aim of the research is to identify all the elements, define the most endangered places and propose a suitable solution.

Keywords: Vranovsko-Bítovsko, Podyjí, heritage conservation, nature protection, recreation

Introduction

Designed landscapes are one of the categories of historic cultural landscape that were defined at the 16th session of the World Heritage Committee in Santa Fe (USA) in 1992 (UNESCO, 2015). It is a specific type of cultural landscape that has been shaped by humans on the basis of a "higher" artistic, aesthetic and symbolic order (Kuča, 2015). It is landscaping on the owner's land tenure, which is connected to the residential estate, characterized by the installation and highlighting of significant points and relationships, emphasizing administrative, cultural and spiritual centers and idealization of landscape scenes (Salašová, 2020). The identification and interpretation of the designed landscape was the subject of research by Ehrlich, Kuča et al. 2020. "Typology of the historical cultural landscape of the Czech Republic", Flekalová, 2011. Composite Landscapes, Houward. 2003. "Heritage: Management, Interpretation, Identity", Keller and Keller, "How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes" and many others. Department of Landscape Planning has been working on the topic of designed landscapes for many years as part of NAKI projects. So far, several detailed studies and documents have been created for selected designed landscapes such as Lednice-Valtice area (Salašová et al., 2013), Chroustovice (Salašová et al., 2019) or Hlubocko (Salašová et al., 2019). Previous research has shown that it is desirable to create further detailed background information for the landscape of the Vranov-Bítov region. This area is partly covered by the landscape heritage area. There is a strong presumption that these are two separate compositions with a common history. The aim is to build on this research and to comprehensively identify and interpret these composite landscapes. The present article deals with the composite landscape of the Vranov region, which is partly covered by the Podyjí National Park.

Materials and methods

The beginning of the Vranov composition (Fig. 1) can be considered the beginning of the 17th century, when the Vranov estate passed into the possession of the noble Althann family. The Althanns were the most important family and during their tenure the castle and the surrounding landscape were significantly transformed. The Baroque style influenced the perception of the surrounding landscape. In the second half of the 18th century, the Althanns began to establish preserves, expand and improve the forests. The so-called lusthaus were built in the preserves in Braitava and near Čížov, which are still preserved today. Small religious buildings were built throughout the surrounding area. Michal Josef Althann began landscaping on Rose Hill to the west of Vranov Castle, where, for example, the House of the Philosophers and the Temple of Diana were built. In 1793, the estate was bought by Josef Hilgartner of Lilienborn, who continued the work of the Althanns, especially in building and

rebuilding preserves. He established a new boar preserve near Čížov, a preserve in the Vracovice and Štítar district and the New Pheasantry preserve between Šumná and Lesná. Josef Hilgathner sold the estate in 1799 to Stanislav Mniszko-Buzenin, whose descendants owned the estate until 1947. The Mniszek family and the Stadič family continued the Romantic-style landscaping by building viewpoints (the Dancer's Lookout, Helen's Lookout "Zikkurat", Martin's Lookout) and other voluptuary structures (Felicita's Well, Clary's Cross or Mniszek's Cross). They also established farmyards with associated landscaping (Kuča, 2015). The Podyjí National Park was proclaimed by Government Decree of 20 March 1991 (No. 164/1991 Coll.) with effect from 10 May 1991. On 1 July 1991, the Podyjí NP Administration was established to ensure nature protection in the territory of the Podyjí NP and its protective zone. Since January 2020, the new zonation of the Podyjí National Park has been in force (Škorpík, [online]). The identification of the landscape composition was based on the analysis and correlation of historical mapping data (Indication sketches, stable cadastre maps and the Second Military Mapping) with current maps and orthophotos in ArcGIS Pro. The basic compositional elements were determined and subsequently redrawn into a separate map layer including compositional connection (Trpáková, 2014).

Results

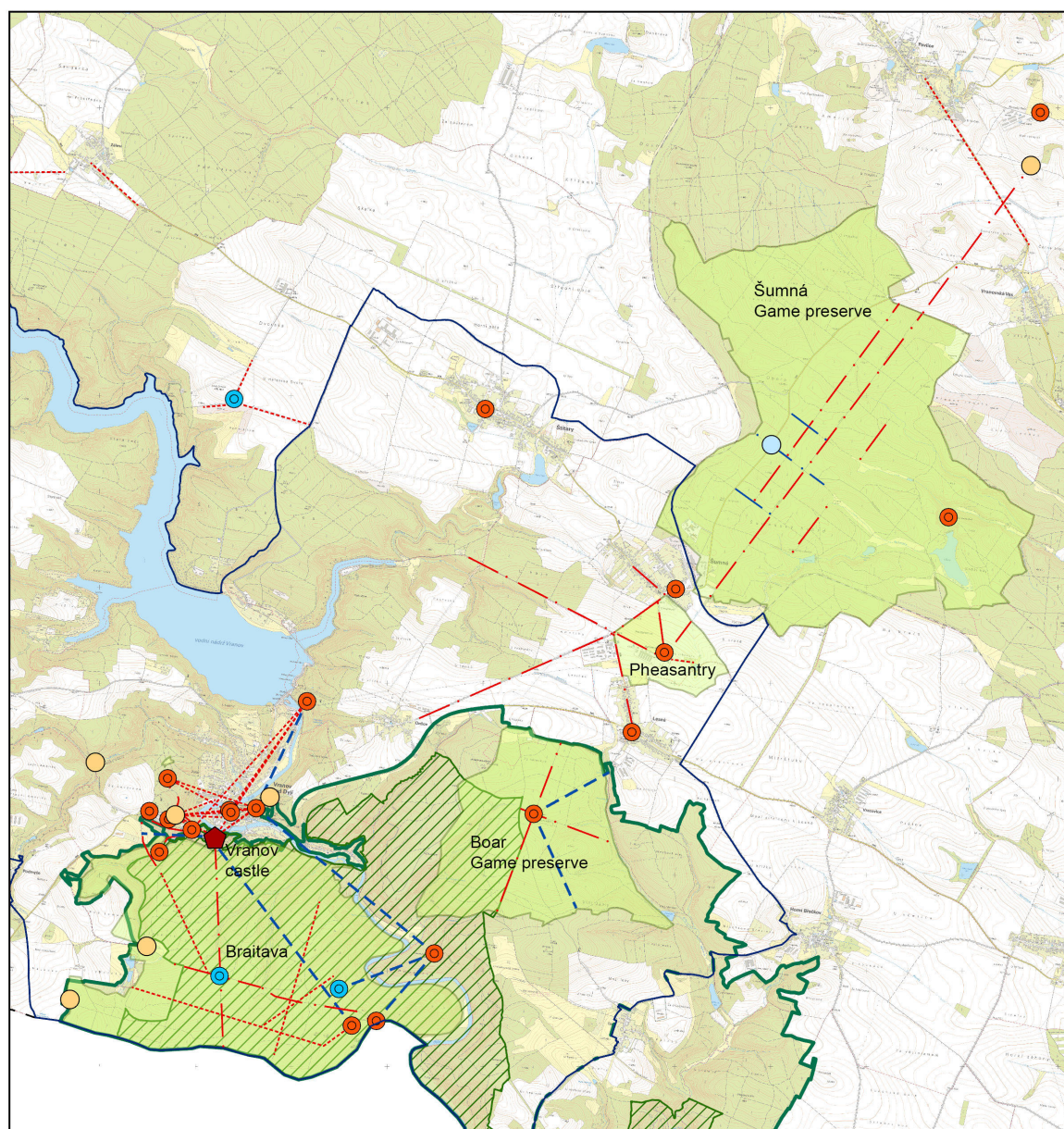
The overall composition of the Vranov region was identified (Fig. 1), among whose basic and endangered compositional elements is the Braitava Game Preserve (Fig. 2). There are preserved buildings that form the basis of the internal composition: the Vranov Castle, Felicita's Well, the Braitava Lusthaus, the Zikkurat at Helen's Lookout and the Obelisk above the Ice Sloughs. The main compositional lines are also preserved here in the form of paths, one leading to the Vranov castle and the other connecting the grove with the Braitava Lusthaus. Four secondary compositional lines in the form of existing forest paths have also been preserved. In addition, the now defunct visual links between the no longer existing Martinská Lookout, Braitava Lusthaus and Obelisk above the Ice Sloughs and between Zikkurat and Vranov Castle have been identified. Also, a defunct summerhouse at the crossing of the main axes in the western part of the preserve was identified and documented on the 1st military mapping. The analysis shows that basically the entire Braitava Game Preserve is located in the quiet area of the Podyjí National Park, where access outside the marked hiking trails is prohibited. The only hiking trail - Felicita's Circle - is located in the northern part of the Game preserve (Fig. 2), which means that the entire Game preserve is inaccessible to humans. Thus, the visitor does not have the opportunity to see a significant part of the composition in situ. And this part of the composition and its preserved elements have a great recreational potential, where one can experience the composed landscape and understand the different phases of its historical development.

Discussion

In the places where the Braitava Game Preserve and the Boar Game preserve near Čížov are located in the quiet area of the Podyjí National Park, there is a conflict between two protection regimes. This is the protection regime of the national park according to Act No. 114/1992 Coll., the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection, and the protection regime of the landscape heritage zone according to Act No. 20/1987 Coll., the Act on State Heritage Care. There is a situation where the protection of one value makes the protection of the other value impossible. As a result of this conflict, the main constituent elements of the designed landscape, such as visual connections, are gradually disappearing. At present, it is not possible to restore the transects in the forest cover as it is located in Zone A of the National Park (Fig. 2). With the disappearance of the adjacent part of the composition, individual buildings are suddenly taken out of the context of the compositional intent. There is also a great risk of dilapidation of the individual cultural monuments (Lusthaus Braitava and Zikkurat), to which no one has access without permission. Without mutual discussion, the establishment of exceptions and the setting of a care and protection plan for these sensitive landscapes, their imminent demise is imminent.

Conclusion

The essential elements of the Vranov composition were identified - building objects, compositional axes and important visual connections. Sensitive parts of the composition were identified, where the composite landscape is at risk of disappearing due to conflicts between the interests of two protection regimes: nature protection and cultural heritage protection.



0 0,5 1 2 Kilometers



Legend

Landscape heritage
area Vranovsko-
Bítovsko

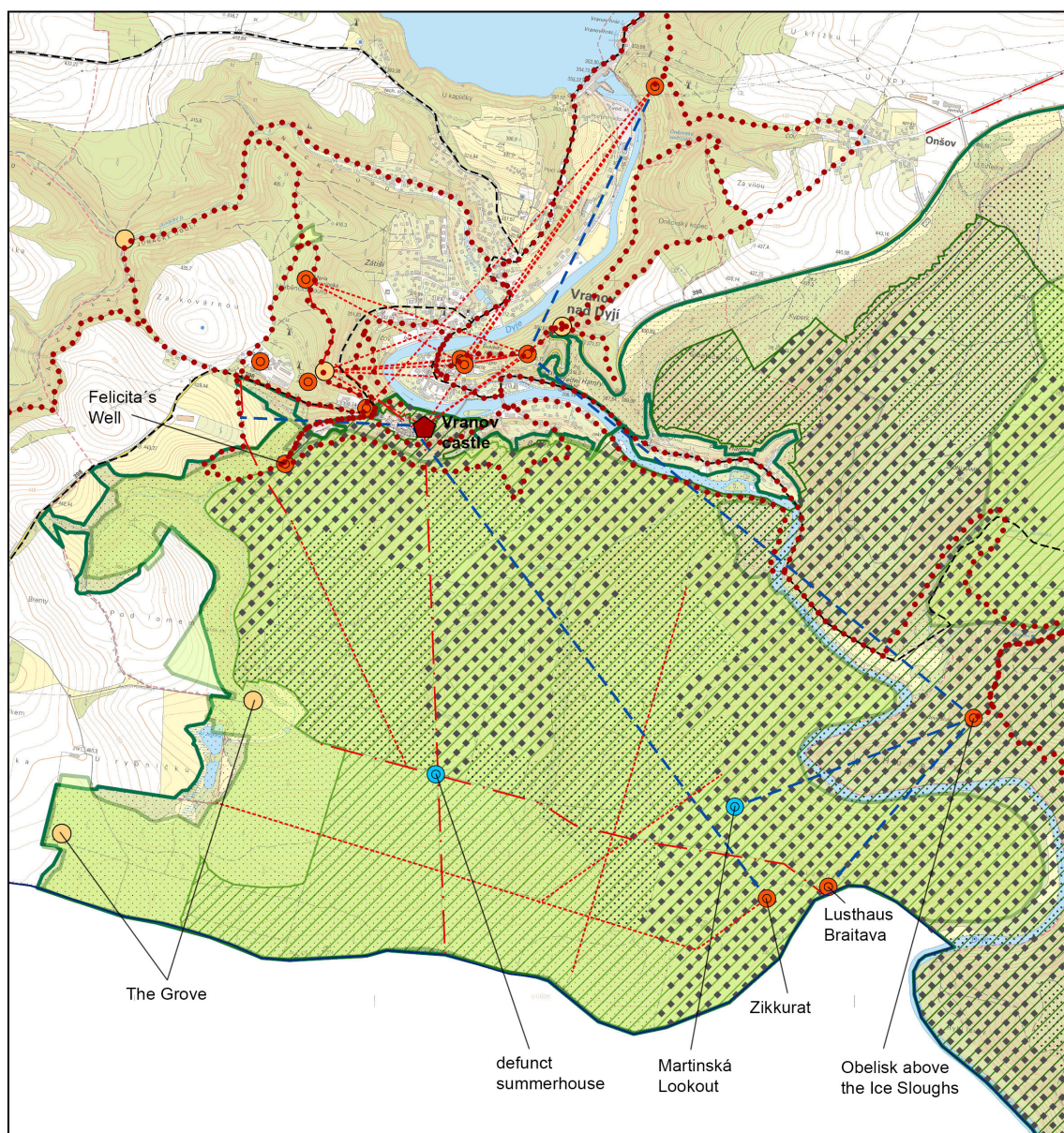
Compositional elements

- existing supplementary
object
- existing main object

- existing secondary
object
- defunct supplementary
object
- defunct secondary
object
- existing main axis
- existing minor axis
- defunct main axis

- defunct minor axis
- Game preserve
- The border of the Podyjí
National Park
- quiet area of the
National Park
- The border of the South
Moravian region

Fig. 1: The overall composition of the Vranov region



0 0,2 0,4 0,8 Kilometers

Legend

..... hiking trails
 --- cycle paths
 Landscape heritage area Vranovsko-Bítovsko

Compositional elements

existing supplementary object

existing main object
 existing secondary object
 defunct supplementary object
 defunct secondary object
 existing main axis
 existing minor axis

defunct main axis
 defunct minor axis
 Game preserve
 The border of the Podyjí National Park
 quiet area of the National Park
 The border of the South Moravian region

zone A - natural
 zone B - close to nature
 zone C - concentrated care for nature



Fig. 2: The composition of Braitava Game preserve and the zonation of Podyjí National Park, the individual zones have different nature care character

References

- Kuča, K. et al. (2015). Krajinné památkové zóny České republiky. Praha: Národní památkový ústav. 387-407. ISBN 978-80-7480-045-0.
- Salašová, A. (2020). Komponované krajiny České republiky a jejich formování. Životné prostredie. 54(3): 166-177. ISSN 0044-4863. http://147.213.211.222/sites/default/files/ZP_2020_03_166_177_salasova.pdf
- Salašová, A., Kulišťáková, L., Sedláček, J., Dohnalová, B., Flekalová, M., Vítkovská, D., Krusová, A. (2013). KPZ Lednicko-valtický areál. Krajinářsko - analytický výkres A: Kulturně historické hodnoty a kompoziční jevy. Specializovaná mapa.
- Salašová, A., Matějková, H., Sedláček, J., Šesták, O., Matějka, D., Flekalová, M., Fialová, Z., (2019). Identifikace kulturně historických hodnot jednotky historické kulturní krajiny: Historická kulturní krajina Chroustovice. <https://www.hikk-naki.cz/clanky/publikace-a-vystupy/>
- Salašová, A., Sedláček, J., Šesták, O., Klepárník, R., Matějka, D., Fialová, Z., (2019). Identifikace kulturně historických hodnot jednotky historické kulturní krajiny: Esteticky kultivovaná krajina Hlubocka. <https://www.hikk-naki.cz/clanky/publikace-a-vystupy/>
- Škorpík, M., Příroda a péče o území: Základní údaje o NP Podyjí. URL: <https://www.nppodyji.cz/pece-o-uzemi>, [cit. 9. 4. 2024]
- Trpáková, L., (2014). Metodika identifikace komponovaných krajin. V Brně: Mendelova univerzita v Brně. 8-22. ISBN 978-80-7375-997-1.
- UNESCO: Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. WHC 15/01. Vydané 8.7.2015.

Acknowledgement

Special thanks go mainly to doc. Dr. Ing. Alena Salašová for supervising the dissertation. This article was funded by the Internal Grant Agency, Faculty of Horticulture, Mendel University in Brno (IGA-ZF/202-SI2-001) and by the project CZ.02.1.01/0.0/0.0/16_017/0002334 Research Infrastructure for Young Scientists, co-financed from Operational Programme Research, Development and Education.

Souhrn

V rámci výzkumu byla identifikována celková kompozice Vranovska, mezi jejíž základní a ohrožené skladební prvky patří obora Braitava. Z provedené analýzy vyplývá, že v podstatě celá obora Braitava se nachází v klidovém území NP Podyjí, kde je zakázán přístup mimo značené turistické cesty. Jediná turistická trasa se nachází v severní části obory, ale přesto návštěvník nemá možnost poznat významnou část kompozice in situ. Obora Braitava se nachází na území střetu dvou ochranných režimů: ochrany přírody a ochrany kulturního dědictví. Dochází zde k situaci, kdy ochrana jedné hodnoty znemožňuje ochranu hodnoty druhé. Bez vzájemné diskuze, stanovení výjimek a nastavení plánu péče a ochrany o tyto citlivé krajiny hrozí jejich bezprostřední zánik.

Contact:

Ing. Kristýna Kříčková
E-mail: kristyna.krickska@mendelu.cz

Open Access. This article is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, CC-BY 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

