

HISTORICAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF CHLUMEC AT PRESENT

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Abstract

The Czech landscape is unique in the world in the high number of preserved landscape compositions linked both to aristocratic residences and to pilgrimage complexes. The designed historical cultural landscape has a high residential value and an exceptionally high potential for the development of recreation and tourism. The subject of the research is the little-known landscape of Chlumeč nad Cidlinou the centre of which is the Karlova Koruna castle by the Baroque architect Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel. The castle is the main tourist destination, but the potential of the whole area for recreation development is much higher and untapped. Promoting recreation is one of the ways not only to increase the economy of the area, but also to raise awareness of the designed landscape and the cultural and natural values of the area. The landscape of the Chlumeč region is a designed landscape that hasn't been studied in detail. The intention is to identify this composition, to describe and interpret its features and to assess its condition. The aim is to create appropriate expert documents that will support the identity of the landscape and, with respect for history, preserve its cultural and historical values to the maximum extent possible and as such can be implemented in spatial planning documents and further used for the declaration of a new conservation zone and the preparation of a regeneration concept.

Key words: Chlumeč nad Cidlinou, Santini, heritage protection, recreation, nature protection

Introduction

Historic cultural landscapes and their categories were defined by the World Heritage Committee at its 16th session in Santa Fe in 1992 (UNESCO, 2015). Designed landscape is a specific type of landscape in which artistic, philosophical, aesthetic and in many cases symbolic order has been embedded (Kuča, 2015). In its manifestation, it's often related to the visual quality of the space, genius loci, landscape character and the overall attractiveness and identity of the place (Trpáková et al., 2014). Often, landscaping is related to the owner's residence, administrative, cultural or spiritual centres (Salašová, 2020). Research on historical cultural landscapes, their identification and interpretation has been the focus of Trpáková, 2014 "Methodology for the identification of composed landscapes", Ehrlich, et al. 2024 "Typology of historical cultural landscapes of the Czech Republic and others. Research on historical cultural landscapes has been conducted for many years by the Department of Landscape Planning at the Faculty of Horticulture of MENDELU, both within the framework of internal projects and national NAKI projects of the Ministry of Culture. A number of publications and detailed studies have been produced so far, such as Historical Cultural Landscapes of the Czech Republic (Kuča, et al. 2020), Lednice-Valtice Area (Salašová et al., 2013), Chroustovice (Salašová et al., 2019), etc. The research on the historical cultural landscape of Chlumeč nad Cidlinou (hereafter referred to as the Chlumeč landscape) is part of the dissertation research of Ing. Kříčková. It is a geometrically designed landscape with minimal influence of 19th century romantic modifications.

Materials and methods

The landscape of the Chlumeč region began to be transformed more significantly in the second half of the 16th century, when the Pernštejn family built one of the most profitable estates in Bohemia on the local territory (Kuča, 2020). In 1562, the large Chlumeč Game Preserve was established, which, together with the Hvězda Game Preserve on Bílá Hora, is one of the oldest game preserves in our country. (Kupka, 2010). After 1620, the Chlumeč estate became the property of the Kinský family, but it wasn't until 1709 that Václav Norbert Octavian Kinský ensured the indivisibility and inheritance of the property and also had the Chlumeč Game Reserve restored. The year 1723 was important for the development of the Chlumeč landscape and composition, when the hunting lodge Karlova koruna (Charles Crown), designed by the Baroque architect Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel, was completed. The Karlova Koruna Castle, one of Santini's last works, is characterised by its remarkable layout, with three cubic wings woven radially into the cylindrical core. The wings of the castle evoke the perspective illusion of a larger spatial expanse (Sedlák, 1987). The connection with the surrounding landscape is also remarkable, as the main compositional axes are based on the castle ground plan.

The building was constructed in just three years and was initiated by Franz Ferdinand I. Kinský, who took over the estate in 1719. Sources say that the castle was built on the occasion of the coronation of Charles VI as King of Bohemia in September 1723, when he visited Chlumec after his coronation. On this occasion and in his honour, the castle was named “Charles’ Crown” (Bělina, 2001). Another reason for the construction was the need for a representative hunting castle in the heart of the hunting landscape. The Kinskis developed modern forest and preserve management and were also fond of parours hunting and riding, which were very popular at that time. As a result, Chlumec became a popular destination for visits by important aristocrats of the time (Kuča, 2020). In 1745, the use of the hunting lodge changed dramatically as the original Renaissance mansion in the town (Fig. 1) was destroyed by fire and the hunting lodge became a residential house. As the castle wasn’t adapted to this new function, a new farm complex with an orangery, stables and other buildings began to be built nearby, surrounded by the castle park, which underwent a romantic makeover in the 1860s (Kuča, 2020).

The landscape connected to the dominant feature of the castle was subjected to a thorough survey. The analysis of the landscape composition was carried out by comparing historical map and image data such as: maps of the I. and II. military mapping, historical vedutas etc. and contemporary map data and orthophotos. The comparison and correlation of the individual layers was carried out in ArcGIS Pro and subsequently a database of landscape features and a map with professional content was created.

Results

The Chlumec composition (Fig. 2) in its present form was created in the first half of the 18th century. It is a geometrically composed landscape which shows the characteristics of an ideally prosperous estate. The main dominant feature of the composition is the castle of Charles Crown on an elevated site. The castle forms the centre of the geometric composition, from which the axes run out into the open landscape. The main axes are three of them, which were originally planted with fir trees: Chlumecká axis, which runs south-eastwards and connects the castle with the town; Převýšovská axis, which runs south-westwards and connects the castle with the Chlumecká preserve above Žehuňský pond; and Vlkovská axis, which runs northwards to the Žabí Lhotka farmstead. The secondary axes, manifested mainly in the form of passages in the preserves and existing roads, are also oriented towards the castle and at the same time they connect the farmsteads, hunting lodges in Chlumecké obora and in Vlkov nad Lesy. Another important landscape feature The Chlumec preserve has well-preserved forest passages that converge to a grassy roundabout in the middle. Originally, there was an octagonal building, a hunting house and 7 other small buildings (Kupka, 2010). The composition of the game preserve itself also includes a hunting lodge, the Chapel of St. Ferdinand and two Baroque gates with a sculpture. Other compositional elements include a total of eight farmsteads, which are connected for the most part by straight alleys, large areas of forest (originally a game-preserve and a pheasantry), which have been preserved in their entirety.



Fig. 1: Chlumec nad Cidlinou 1739, old castle in the town and castle Karlova koruna on the hill, F.B. Werner (Klenovský, 2024).

Discussion

The Chlumec landscape is an important example of the geometric landscape of the late 18th century. It is also of great significance that the castle and the Chlumecká Game Preserve belong to the original owners, the Kinský family. Thanks to the high level of preservation, the area has a great potential to

become a landscape conservation area, which could prevent negative influences and plans that would disrupt both the historical continuity of the area and the landscape character. As mentioned by Kuča (2020), the Charles Crown Castle still retains its dominant position in the landscape, although it is now surrounded by buildings. It is also important for the area to restore alleys where they have disappeared, which would support not only the compositional intent and identity of the site, but also the ecosystem services of the vegetation. It should be noted that the recreational potential of this designed landscape is largely unused. Currently, recreation is concentrated only at the Karlova koruna Castle and a significant part of the Chlumecká obora is closed to the public. The area also has no tourist paths despite the fact that there are many recreational destinations, such as: the Vlkov nad Lesy Castle, a large number of farmsteads (Žabí Lhotka, Hlínov, Vlkov, etc.) and natural monuments (PP Vínov, NPP Dlouhopolsko, NPP Žehuňský rybník). Overall, there is a great opportunity to get to know and experience the Baroque designed landscape, *which is filled with spiritually unspectacular, but also deeply experienced and uniquely aesthetic works of peasant, bourgeois and "high" culture* (Bělina, 2001).

Conclusion

As a result of the analyses and correlations of individual map data, the basic elements of the Chlumec composition were identified and a database with their detailed description was created. Furthermore, a map with professional content was created to serve the needs of cultural heritage protection and spatial planning.

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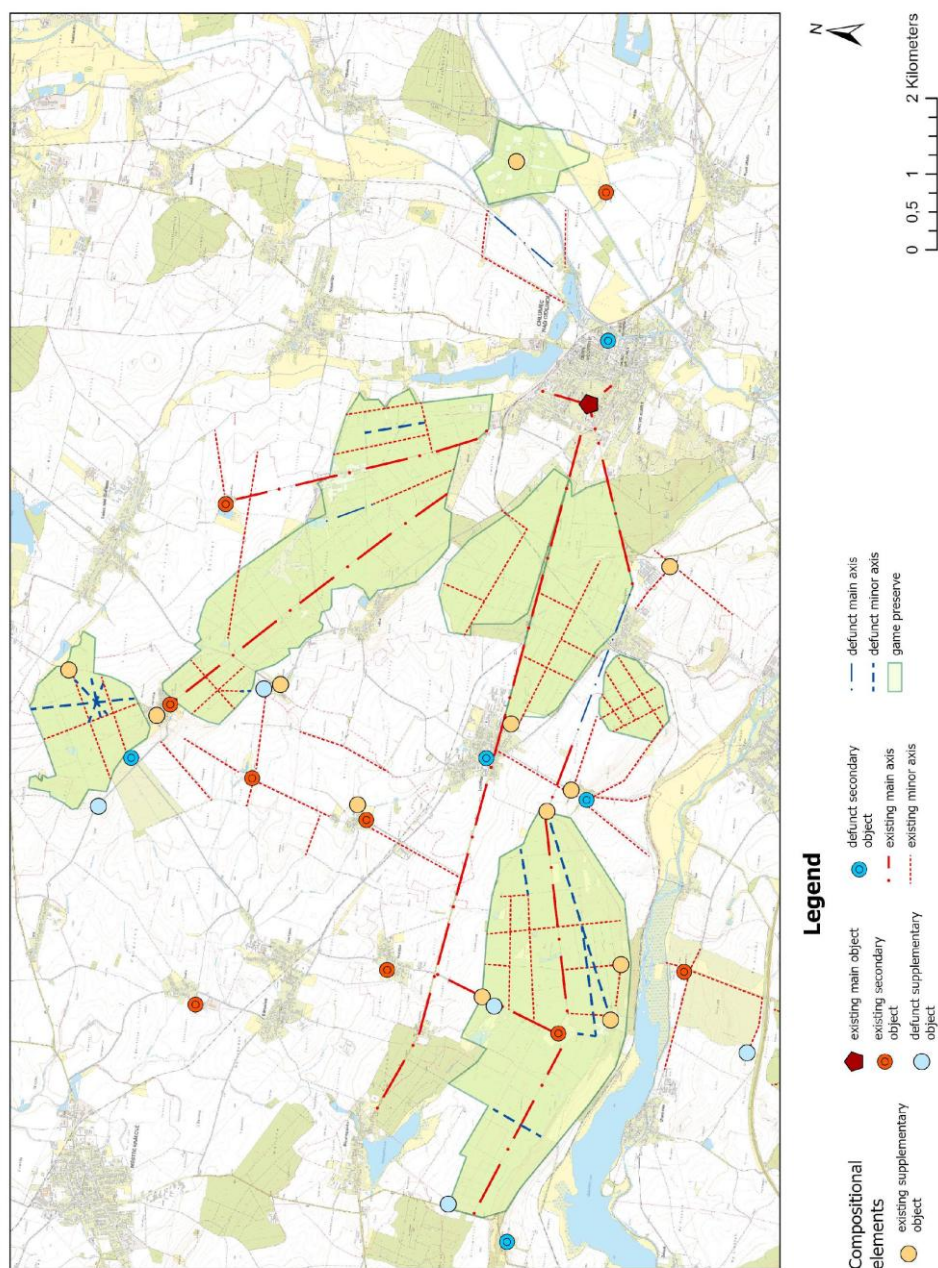


Fig. 2: The composition of the Chlumec landscape

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Souhrn

Krajina Chlumce nad Cidlinou je významnou ukázkou zachovalé barokní komponované krajiny. Jedná se o území, které od první poloviny 18. století vlastnil a formoval šlechtický rod Kinských. Hlavní dominantou celého území je zámek Karlova koruna, který navrhl významný barokní architekt Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel. Jde o velmi pozoruhodnou stavbu, kdy do válcového jádra jsou vetknuta radiálně tři krychlová křídla. Z půdorysu zámku také vybíhají hlavní kompoziční osy do volné krajiny, na které jsou navázány další kompoziční prvky. Jedním z hlavních prvků kompozice je Chlumecká obora, která byla založena již v 16. století a patří k nejstarším na našem území. Další kompoziční

prvky tvoří celkem osm poplužních dvorů, které jsou propojené z větší části přímými alejemi, velké plochy lesa, původně obory a bažantnice, které se dochovaly v podstatě v plném rozsahu. Díky vysoké míře zachovalosti má území velký potenciál stát se krajinnou památkovou zónou, což by mohlo zabránit negativním vlivům a záměrům v území, které by narušily jak historickou kontinuitu území, tak krajinný ráz. Rekreační potenciál této komponované krajiny je značně nevyužitý. Momentálně je rekreace soustředěna jen k zámku Karlova koruna. Území také postrádá turistické cesty, přesto, že se zde nachází mnoho rekreačních cílů.

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