

KULTURNA DEDIŠČINA ZA TRAJNOSTNI RAZVOJ TURIZMA

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DEDIŠČINA ZAVRČA

ZBRANO GRADIVO DELAVNIC

ZAVRČ, maj 2021



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA GOSPODARSKI
RAZVOJ IN TEHNOLOGIJO



EVROPSKA UNIJA
EVROPSKI SKLAD ZA
REGIONALNI RAZVOJ

Operacijo sofinancirata Evropska Unija in Republika Slovenija
Več informacij o evropskih strukturnih in investicijskih skladih najdete na povezavi: www.eu-skladi.si
Operacija se izvaja v okviru programa CLLD pri LAS Haloze



OBČINA ZAVRČ

KULTURNA DEDIŠČINA ZA TRAJNOSTNI RAZVOJ TURIZMA DEDIŠČINA ZAVRČA

Uredil	Rado Škrjanec
Uredniški odbor	Evelin Makoter Jabločnik, Danica Bratuša, Slavko Pravdič, Rado Škrjanec
Založil in izdal zanjo	Občina Zavrč Slavko Pravdič, župan
Jezikovni pregled	Mojca Pipan
Prevodi	Grens-Tim
Oblikovanje in tisk	Vejica, Rado Škrjanec, s. p.
Naklada	550 izvodov, publikacija je brezplačna

CIP - Kataložni zapis o publikaciji

Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica, Ljubljana

94(497.4Zavrč)

DEDIŠČINA Zavrča : kulturna dediščina za trajnostni razvoj turizma : zbrano gradivo
delavnic / [uredil Rado Škrjanec ; prevod Grens-Tim]. - Zavrč : Občina, 2021

ISBN 978-961-95379-0-9

COBISS.SI-ID 63133443

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The older history of Zavrč

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4 Človek je bitje, ki ustvarja zgodovino in svoje preteklosti ne more ponoviti niti je ne more spremeniti, ne sme je pozabiti in ne more skriti. Človek je del zgodovine in zgodovina piše o človeku.

Ko pišemo zgodovino, se kaj radi izognemo resničnim dejstvom, ki nam niso po godu.

Zgodovino pišejo zmagovalci in jo radi preuredijo in prilagodijo. Danes tukaj pišemo nov list zgodovine. Pišemo o dejstvih, ki so bila zapisana, prebrana, odkrita in najdena. In takšna, nespremenjena, resnična in preverjena, so tukaj ponovno zapisana na enem mestu. Kljub temu moramo vedeti, da se zgodovina lahko spreminja z vsakim novim najdenjem in novim dokazom.

Zgodovino smo dolžni ohranjati in jo takšno, kot je bila, prenašati v vednost in znanje mlajšim rodovom. Iz preteklosti se učimo za sedanjost in prihodnost. Zgodovina dela ljudi modre. Na napakah se tudi učimo, in napak iz preteklosti ne smemo ponavljati.

Projekt odkrivanja zgodovine občine Zavrč je nastal z namenom, da se lahko ponosno predstavimo kot prebivalci občine z bogato zgodovino, eno najbogatejših

v naši bližnji in daljni okolici, in to zgodovino uveljavljamo in s pridom uporabljamo za trajnostni razvoj kulture in turizma v naši občini.

Ko govorimo o zgodovini občine Zavrč, bodimo ponosni na vse, kar je kdor koli in kadar koli pri nas in v svetu storil za nas, za naš kraj, za našo občino. Nadaljujmo začeta dobra dela za razvoj naše skupnosti. Bili smo, smo in bomo del zgodovine našega kraja. Potrudimo pa se, vsak po svojih najboljših močeh, da bo zgodovina pisala o nas kot o ljudeh, ki se niso prepustili toku reke, ampak so plavali s tokom, proti toku in vedno in samo v pravi smeri, smeri, kjer se vidi cilj. In cilj nam naj bosta lepša prihodnost in izobilje naših občanov.

Ponosen sem, da sem tudi sam lahko del te zgodbe, ki jo skupaj z vsemi vami, dragi bralci, pišem in postavljam na list, list poglavja zgodovine. Naj ta zbirka krasi knjižne police v naših domovih. Mnoge druge zbirke, ki pa bodo izpisane pozneje, pa naj skupaj s to krasijo in bogatijo knjižne police našim mlajšim in prihodnjim rodovom. Naj bo zgodovina Zavrča zgodba o uspehu.

Hvala vsem, ki ste z raziskovanjem zgodovinskih dejstev in dogodkov ter s svojim delom dodali kamenček v mozaik razkritja zgodovine naše občine.

Slavko Pravdič,
župan občine Zavrč



Man is a being who creates history and cannot repeat his past nor can change it, but he must not forget it, and he cannot hide it. Man is a part of history and history writes about a man.

When we write history, we like to avoid real facts that we don't like.

History is written by victors and they like to rearrange and adapt it. Today and here we are writing a new page in the history. We write about facts that have been written down, read, discovered and found. And such unaltered, true and verified history is rewritten here in one place. Nevertheless, we need to know that history can change with each discovery and new evidence.

We are obliged to preserve history and pass it on as it was to the knowledge of the younger generations. We learn from the past for the present and the future. History creates wise people. We also learn from our mistakes, and we must not repeat the mistakes of the past.

The project of discovering the history of the municipality of Zavrč resulted from the aim to proudly present ourselves as residents of a municipality with a rich history, one of the richest in our near and far surroundings. And we relive this history and use it to our advantage for the sustainable development of culture and tourism in our municipality.

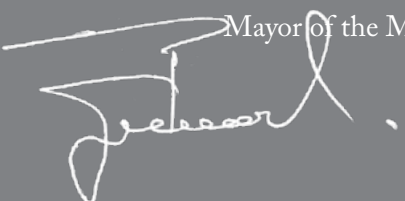
When we talk about the history of the municipality of Zavrč, we must be proud of everything that anyone and at any time in our country and the world has done for us, for our place, for our municipality. Let's continue the good work that has been started for the development of our community. We have been, we are and will be part of the history of our place. But let us do our best, each to the best of our ability that history will write about us as people who did not go with the flow, but went against the tide and always in the right direction, in the direction where the goal is seen. And our goal should be a better future and an abundance for our citizens.

I am proud to be a part of this story myself, which, together with all of you, dear readers, is writing a new chapter in history. Let this collection adorn the bookshelves in our homes. This collection will be joined by many other collections, which will be published later, and will enrich the knowledge of younger and future generations. Let the history of Zavrč be a success story.

I would like to thank all of you who have added another stone to the mosaic of revealing the history of our municipality through your work and research of historical facts and events.

Slavko Pravdič

Mayor of the Municipality of Zavrč





Starejša zgodovina Zavrča

The older history of Zavrč

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Geotektonske značilnosti Haloz

Geotectonic features of Haloze

8 Celotne Haloze predstavljajo dvignjeno območje, ki je naravno nadaljevanje Vitanjskih Karavank proti vzhodu. Posamezna slemena, ki predstavljajo vrhove, so različno visoka, kar je v veliki meri posledica prevladujoče zgradbe iz odpornejših kamnin. Izrazit takšen primer predstavlja Donačka gora. Krajši vodotoki v smeri proti severu in njihovi skromni pritoki so relief še dodatno razčlenili s tem, ko so si vrezali svoje struge. V strmih pobočjih, posebno tam, kjer se po njih vzpenjajo lokalne ceste, je tudi kamninska podlaga največkrat razkrita.

Zahodni del še dosega višine hribovja, medtem ko je vzhodni del znižan v gričevje ter je pogosto poimenovan kar Vinorodne Haloze, saj se vinogradi lahko razprostirajo vse do ovršnih prisojnih leg. Danes so ponekod v opuščanju ter jih postopoma zarašča gozd. Meja je nekoliko zahodno od avtocestne povezave proti mejnemu prehodu Gruškovje.

Na celotnem ozemlju Haloz prevladujejo različne sedimentne kamnine in le redko se na površju pojavijo starejše od miocena. Med njimi so zastopani laporji, peščenjaki, konglomerat, litotamnijski apnenec, zelo redko pa se vmes lahko pojavijo tudi nevezani sedimenti. Zaradi organskih primesi so pogosto temno obarvane, ponekod pa rjavo zaradi sekundarnih kovinskih, predvsem železovih oksidov. Pojav je pogosto lepo viden, če razlomimo večji kos kamnine.

Do nedavna je bilo o mineralnem in fosilnem bogastvu iz Haloz malo podatkov. Slučajno odkritih več lokacij kremenovih kristalov v okolici Žetal, nekaj kasneje pa bogate najdbe fosilov in mineralov na trasi avtoceste mimo Podlehnik so območje Haloz postavili na zemljevid mineralnega in fosilnega bogastva v Sloveniji. Navedenim lokacijam se pridružujejo še najdbe iz okolice Borla ter posamezne z nekaterih drugih lokacij. Zaključimo lahko, da po sedaj poznanih primerkih Haloze ne zaostajajo za drugimi območji, ki so zgrajena pretežno iz sedimentnih kamnin miocena, le da so bila do pred nekaj leti neznana. Primerki z nekaterih lokacij še niso bili v celoti strokovno obdelani.

The whole area of Haloze is an elevated area, which is a natural continuation from the Vitanje Karavanke to the east. The individual ridges representing the peaks are of varying heights, largely due to the predominant structure of more resistant rocks. A clear example of this is Donačka Gora. The shorter north-flowing watercourses and their modest tributaries further dissected the relief by carving their own riverbeds. On steep slopes, especially where local roads climb along them, the underlying rock is most often exposed.

The western part still reaches the heights of the mountains, while the eastern part is lowered into the hills and is often called “viniferous” Haloze, as the vineyards can stretch to the top of the sunny positions. Today, the vineyards are abandoned in some places and are gradually overgrown with forest. The border is slightly west of the motorway connection towards the Gruškovje border crossing point.

Various sedimentary rocks predominate throughout the Haloze area, and on the surface, the rocks are seldom older than the Miocene age. Among them are marls, sandstone, conglomerate, lithothamnion limestone, and in between very rarely unconnected sediments may occur. Due to organic matter, they are often dark in colour, and in some places brown due to secondary metal oxides, especially iron oxides. The phenomenon is often nicely visible if we break a larger piece of rock.

Until recently, there was little information about the mineral and fossil resources from Haloze. Accidentally discovered several locations of quartz crystals in the vicinity of Žetale, and some time later rich finds of fossils and minerals on the route of the motorway past Podlehnik put the Haloz area on the map of mineral and fossil resources in Slovenia. These locations are joined by finds from the Borl area and individual finds from some other locations. We can conclude that according to currently known specimens, Haloze does not lag behind other areas, which are made mainly of Miocene sedimentary rocks but they were unknown until a few years ago. Specimens from some locations have not yet been fully professionally processed.



Kos je v spodnjem delu peščenjak, ki prehaja v konglomerat, kar dokazuje hitro menjavanje okolja, v katerem se je material odlagal. Najden je bil v Ullmovem kamnolomu, kjer leži še vedno nekaj večjih blokov kamnine, ki je verjetno ostala po zaključku njegovega delovanja. (Foto: Rado Škrjanec)

The piece is sandstone in the lower part, which passes into the conglomerate, which proves the rapid change of the environment in which the material was deposited. It was found in Ulm's quarry, where a few larger blocks of rock still lie, which probably remained after the end of its operation. (Photo: RŠ.)

Kamnolom Ulm (1928, neznani avtor)

Stari ulmov kamnolom v Zavrču, približno 300 metrov pred ulmovo vinsko kletjo. Nad kletjo so pozneje uredili novi kamnolom.

V bližini kleti je bil nekoč brod čez Dravo, na levem bregu še stoji brodarjeva hiša. (Iz zbirke Franca Goloba)

Ulm's Quarry (1928, unknown author)

The old Ulm's quarry in Zavrč, about 300 meters before Ulm's wine cellar. A new quarry was later arranged above the cellar. There used to be a ferryboat across the Drava River near the cellar, and the ferryman's house still stands on the left bank. (From the collection of franc Golob)

Reliefne značilnosti občine Zavrč

Relief Characteristics of the Municipality of Zavrč

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Ozemlje občine Zavrč v glavnem obsega gričevnati svet najvzhodnejšega dela Haloze. Na vzhodu in jugu se občinska meja pokriva z državno ter se vije pretežno po slemenih. Na severu meja sledi toku Drave, ki tik pred mejo naredi velik rečni zavoj ter se tako na vsej poti najbolj približa kanalu HE Formin. Kljub oslavljeni moči, saj večina vode sedaj teče po kanalu, je na zunanjem, torej levem bregu ponekod vidno spodjedanje, medtem ko na završki strani nastopa akumulacija materiala. Čeprav je ozemlje pretežno porastlo z gozdom, pa je v smeri prečkanja k stari strugi mogoče zaslediti rob manjše terase, preko katerega se površje spusti v nižje ležečo naplavno ravnico. Prodnato-peščeni nanos reke Drave se začne že pri cesti, ki pelje na mejni prehod, ter tako predstavlja največje sklenjeno ravninsko območje v občini.

Geološko je najmlajši del ozemlja omenjeno ravninsko območje ob zavoju reke Drave. Prodnato-peščeni nanosi so pleistocenske in holocenske starosti, kar pomeni, da ob ugodnih pogojih, predvsem ob poplavih, še nastajajo. Prodniki izvirajo iz različnih vrst kamnin, ki jih je Dravi uspelo nabrati na svoji dolgi poti. Njihovo pestrost lahko občudujemo na več razkritih sipinah ob reki.

Gričevnati del ozemlja gradijo sedimentne kamnine, ki so se v mlajšem terciarju odlagale v tedanjem plitvem delu morja. Podobno kot v preostalih Halozah prevladuje sivi lapor, ki ga kovinski oksidi lahko rjavkasto obarvajo ter na površju v primerjavi z drugimi kamninami hitro razpade. Največkrat se razkrije ob cestnih vseh, robovih vinogradov in novogradnjah. Njegov drobni površinski vode odnašajo v nižje lege, kjer se ponekod skupaj z organskimi ostanki odlaga ter predstavlja vlažna območja.

The territory of the municipality of Zavrč mainly comprises the hilly world of the easternmost part of Haloze. In the east and south, the municipal border covers the state border and winds mainly along the ridges. In the north, the border follows the flow of the Drava River, which makes a large river bend just before the border, thus comes closest to the HPP Formin canal. Despite the weakened power, as most of the water now flows through the canal, erode is visible in some places on the outer, i.e. left bank, while the accumulation of material occurs at the Zavrč side. Although the territory is mostly overgrown with forest, in the direction of crossing the old riverbed, the edge of a small terrace can be traced, through which the surface descends into a lower-lying alluvial plain. The gravelly and sandy deposition of the Drava River begins at the road leading to the border crossing point, and thus represents the largest closed flat area in the municipality.

Geologically, the youngest part of the territory is the mentioned flat area at the bend of the Drava River. Gravel and sand deposits are of the Pleistocene and Holocene age, which means that they are still forming under favourable conditions, especially during floods. Pebbles originate from various types of rocks that the Drava River managed to collect on its long journey. Their diversity can be admired on several exposed sandbanks along the river.

The hilly part of the territory is built of sedimentary rocks, which were deposited in the younger Tertiary in the then shallow part of the sea. As in the rest of Haloze, grey marl predominates, which can be brownish coloured with metal oxides and break down quickly on the surface compared to other rocks. It is most often revealed along road cuts, vineyard edges and new constructions. Crushed

Precej odpornejši je litotamnijski apnenec, predvsem na račun belih kalcitnih ogradij nekdanjih alg, ki predstavljajo pomembno vezivo. Omenjene alge so vidne kot kratke bele palčke v kamnini. Ponekod prehaja v konglomerat, saj so prodniki v njem zaobljeni. Gradi najvišja območja okrog Vrbanjška in Švabovega ter večino ozemlja pri Hrastovcu. V gozdu blizu lovskega doma so v njem že nakazani zametki kraških pojavov, tu in tam pa se najdejo tudi kosi sige. Nastala je s ponovnim izločanjem, ko je voda v razpokah zastajala ter delno izhlapela. Navadno predstavlja najbolj gladke površine med kosi kamnine. Omenjeno kamnino so domačini marsikje uporabljali kot gradbeni material. Še danes je marsikje mogoče zaslediti opuščene kamnolome, predvsem so poznani nekdanji Ulmovi, ki so nekaj sto metrov vzhodno od Ulmove kleti, malo nad cesto, ki pelje na državno mejo. Območje je sedaj porastlo z gozdom, so pa ohranjeni posnetki iz obdobja, ko je v njem potekalo pridobivanje kamnine.



marl is carried away by surface water to lower positions, where in some places it is deposited together with organic residues and represents wetlands.

Lithothamnion limestone is much more resistant, mainly due to the white calcite skeleton of the former algae, which is an important binder. These algae are visible as short white sticks in the rock. In some places lithothamnion limestone passes into a conglomerate, as the pebbles in it are rounded. It builds the highest areas around Vrbanjšek and Švabovo and most of the territory near Hrastovec. In the forest near the hunting lodge, the beginnings of karst features are already indicated in it, and here and there pieces of calcareous sinter can also be found. It was formed by re-excretion when the water stagnated in the cracks and partially evaporated. It usually represents the smoothest surfaces between pieces of rock. The mentioned rock was used by the locals in many places as a building material. Even today, abandoned quarries can be found in many places, especially famous are the former Ulm's quarries, which are a few hundred meters east of Ulm's cellar, just above the road leading to the state border. Today, the area is overgrown with forest, but photographs from the period when quarrying took place have been preserved.

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Primerek kamnine, bogate z različnimi fosili nekdanjega morja iz miocena. Vidni so deli ohišij različnih školjk, alge, majhne svetle diskaste tvorbe, velike le nekaj milimetrov, so enoceličarji, ki so bili v Belskem Vrhu najdeni prvič v celotnih Halozah. Nekoliko večje gobaste tvorbe so fosilne spužve. Na povečavi je mogoče razbrati njihovo mrežasto sestavo. (Foto: Rado Škrjanec)

A specimen of rock rich in various fossils of the former Miocene sea. Visible are parts of the shells' protective outer case of various shells; algae, small bright disc formations only a few millimetres in size are unicellular organisms that were found in Belski Vrh for the first time in Haloze. Slightly larger spongy formations are fossil sponges. At a magnification, their mesh composition can be seen. (Photo: RŠ)

Minerali in fosili

Minerals and Fossils

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Med minerali je iz zgodovine najbolj poznano izpiranje zlata iz nanosov ob Dravi. V bistvu so ga izpirali na mnogih lokacijah ob reki, vse od Maribora pa še na hrvaško stran. Čeprav je dejavnost zamrla po drugi svetovni vojni, se je občasno na več lokacijah izvedlo poskusno izpiranje. Pri tem je bilo najdenih nekaj luskih, kar še vedno dokazuje prisotnost v prodnato-peščenih odkladninah ob Dravi. Sicer pa je v pesku precej okruškov granatov, ki mu pri izpiranju dajo značilno rjavovijoličasto barvo, in nekaterih drugih mineralov.

V plasteh litotamnijskega apnenca se ponekod najdejo majhne razpoke s svetlo rumenimi kristali kalcita, ponekod pa kar plasti sige. Ta je večkrat rjavkasto obarvana in lahko že tudi ponovno korodirana, kar potrjuje menjavo procesov korozije in izločanja sige.

Med plastmi laporja se ponekod najdejo manjše konkrecije, ki so le redko kot pest velike. Največje nahajališče septarij v Halozah pa je na strmem pobočju griča za hišo usnja Herman v Dolanah. V njih so najdeni lepo razviti kristali kalcita, ponekod pa tudi svetlejši kristalčki kremenca. Matična kamnina, v kateri se zaradi krušenja pobočja občasno prikažejo omenjene septarije, je svetlo sivi lapor. Septarije prepoznamo po razpokanosti v različne smeri, opisani kristalčki pa so pogosto na površini razpok.

Do začetka gradnje avtoceste proti mejnemu prehodu Gruškovje je veljalo celotno območje Haloze za revno s fosili. Redke najdbe predvsem morskih ježkov in delov ohišij školjk so pogosto tudi slabo ohranjene. V litotamnijskih apnencih se zraven alg, ki sicer tudi predstavljajo fosile, le tu in tam najdejo odtisi školjk, še bolj poredko pa tudi njihovi ostanki. Nekaj slabo ohranjenih primerkov je bilo pobranih pred nekaj leti, ko se je pod gradom Borl sprožil podor. Ohišja školjk so bila zelo poškodovana, še preden jih je v nekdanjem plitvem morju prekril sediment ter se je začel proces fosilizacije. Nekaj fosilov je bilo najdenih tudi v kamninah v gozdu pri Hrastovcu. To je na območju, kjer so slabo nakazane

Among minerals, the most well-known in history is the washing of gold from deposits along the Drava River. In fact, it was panning in many locations along the river, all the way from Maribor to the Croatian side. Although the activity died out after World War II, experimental panning was occasionally carried out at several locations. A few gold flakes were found, which still proves its presence in the gravel and sand deposits along the Drava River. Otherwise, there are a lot of garnet chips in the sand, which give it a characteristic brown-purple colour when washed, and some other minerals.

In the layers of lithothamnion limestone, small cracks with bright yellow crystals of calcite can be found in some places, and in some places even layers of calcareous sinter. The layers of calcareous sinter are often brownish in colour and can also be corroded again, which confirms the change in the processes of corrosion and separation of calcareous sinter.

Between the layers of marl, smaller concretions are found in some places, which are seldom as big as a fist. The largest depository of septariums in Haloze is on the steep slope of the hill behind the Herman leather house in Dolane. Beautifully developed calcite crystals have been found in them, as well as clearer quartz crystals in some places. The parent rock, in which the mentioned septarian nodules occasionally appear due to the crumbling of the slope, is light grey marl. Septarian nodules are identified by angular cavities or cracks, and the described crystals are often on the surface of cracks.

Until the beginning of the construction of the motorway towards the Gruškovje border crossing point, the entire Haloze area was considered poor in fossils. Rare finds, especially of sea urchins and parts of shells' outer layer, are often poorly preserved. In lithothamnion limestones, in addition to algae, which also represent fossils, only here and there are shells formed on the rock, and even more rarely their remains. A few poorly preserved specimens were collected a few years ago



nekatero površinske oblike kraškega reliefa. Še najlepše se vidi ob cesti, ki pelje skozi gozd mimo lovskega doma, do tiste, kjer se odcepi na Švabovo oziroma vodi proti Vrbanjšku. Posamezne fosile školjk je mogoče prepoznati tudi v kosih kamnin, ki so vgrajene kot podporni zidovi, kot je na primer na južni strani Švabovega. Pomeni, da nam že pozorno opazovanje kamnin na sprehodu po gozdu ali ogled vzdanih kosov kamnine precej pove o vrstah fosilov.

Pred nekaj leti je bilo na razkopanem območju pri enem izmed vikendov v Belskem Vrhu najdenih veliko vrst kar dobro ohranjenih fosilov. Zraven že poznanih pektinidnih školjk, ki jih zaradi značilnih rebrastih ohišij najlažje razpoznamo, so bili odkriti fosili spužev, alg in celo enoceličarjev. Slednje prepoznamo po značilnih svetlih diskastih oblikah velikosti nekaj milimetrov. Verjetno je v kamninah, ki gradijo omenjeni Belski Vrh, še veliko fosilov, težava pa je v tem, da niso razkrite, če pa se pojavi kakšen manjši izkop, pa ni zraven nekoga, ki bi zbral in ohranil primerke.

Literatura:

Poročila geološke skupine raziskovalnih taborov v Zavrču.

V kosu konglomerata, ki je bil pobran iz podora, ki se je pred nekaj leti zgodil ob gradu Borl ter za nekaj časa onemogočal promet, je viden del ohišja ostrige. Zanje je značilno, da imajo debela ohišja ter se zato pogosteje kot drugi fosili ohranijo v kamnini. (Foto: Rado Škrjanec)

A piece of the conglomerate, picked up from a landslide, which occurred near Borl Castle a few years ago and blocked traffic for a while, shows part of the oyster housing. They are characterized by thick protective outer case and are therefore more often than other fossils preserved in rock. (Photo: RŠ)

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when the landslide was triggered under Borl Castle. Shells' outer layers were badly damaged even before they were covered by sediment in the former shallow sea and the fossilization process began. Some fossils were also found in the rocks in the forest near Hrastovec. This is an area where some surface forms of karst relief are poorly indicated. It is best seen along the road that leads through the forest past the hunting lodge, to the road, where it branches off to Švabovo or leads to Vrbanjšek. Individual shell fossils can also be identified in pieces of rock embedded as retaining walls, such as on the south side of the Švabovo. It means that even careful observation of rocks on a walk in the woods or viewing built-in pieces of rock tells us a lot about the types of fossils.

A few years ago, many species of well-preserved fossils were found in the excavated area around one of the weekends in Belski Vrh. Sponge fossils, fossils algae and even fossilized, single-cell organisms have been discovered next to the already known shells, which are the easiest to recognize due to their characteristic ribbed outer layer. The latter are recognizable by their characteristic bright disc shapes a few millimeters in size. There are probably many more fossils in the rocks that make up the aforementioned Belski Vrh, but the problem is that they covered, but when a small excavation occurs, there is no one around to collect and preserve the specimens.

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V kosu litotamnijskega apnenca je lepo vidna notranja stran ohišja školjke. Najdena je bila v Belskem Vrh.

Foto: Rado Škrjanec

In a piece of lithothamnion limestone, the inside of the shell's outermost layer is nicely visible. It was found in Belski Vrh.

Photo: Rado Škrjanec



V kosu litotamnijskega apnenca iz Belskega Vrh je zaradi kontrastnosti barve lepo viden presek ohišja rebraste školjke. Bele tvorbe so litotamnijske alge, po katerih se kamnina imenuje.

Foto: Rado Škrjanec

The cross-section of the shell with ribbed outer layer is clearly visible in a piece of lithothamnion limestone from Belski Vrh due to the contrast of the colour.

White formations are lithothamnion algae, after which the rock is named.

Photo: Rado Škrjanec

Najstarejša preteklost Zavrča in njegove okolice

The oldest history of Zavrč and its surroundings

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Povzetek / Summary

V zadnjih dveh desetletjih so skromne arheološke raziskave na območju sanacije in širitve cestišča in mejnega prehoda v Zavrču odkrile vsaj tri senzacionalna odkritja, katerih pomen presega regionalni in nacionalni okvir. Odkrito je bilo bronastodobno grobišče iz časa od 14. do 8. stoletja pred našim štetjem, katerega znanstvena obdelava bo ključnega pomena za poznavanje kulturne zgodovine osrednje Evrope v tem času; odkriti so bili rimski vojaški tabor, cesta ter obcestna naselbina iz prvih stoletij našega štetja, katerih znanstvena obdelava bo ključnega pomena za poznavanje ureditve rimske države na območju zahodne Panonije, in odkrita je bila srednjeveška vas s cesto iz časa med 12. in 15. stoletjem, katere znanstvena obdelava bo ključnega pomena za poznavanje načina življenja na podeželju v srednjem veku. Čeprav so nekatere arheološke najdbe poznane že več kot stoletje, pa so arheološke raziskave v začetku 21. stoletja pokazale, da kljub temu da najdišče še zdaleč ni v celoti raziskano, danes stojimo na začetku proučevanja najstarejše zgodovine območja Zavrča.

In the last two decades, small-scale archaeological research in the area of reconstruction and widening of the road and border crossing point in Zavrč have revealed at least three sensational discoveries whose significance goes beyond the regional and national framework. A bronze age cemetery from the 14th to the 8th century BC was discovered, the research of which will be crucial to the knowledge of the cultural history of Central Europe at that time; a Roman military camp, a road and a roadside settlement from the first centuries AD were also discovered, the research of which will be of key importance for knowing the organization of the Roman Empire in the area of western Pannonia, and a medieval village with a road from the 12th to the 15th century was discovered, the research will be of key importance for knowing the way of life in the countryside in the Middle Ages. Although some archaeological findings have been known for more than a century, archaeological research in the early 21st century has shown that despite the fact that the site is far from being fully explored, today we are at the beginning of studying the oldest history of Zavrč.

Uvod

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Malo je krajev na sončni strani Alp, kjer je na tako majhnem prostoru strnjeno tako veliko ostankov iz različnih obdobjih preteklosti, ki pričajo o zgodovinskih dogodkih, ki so zaznamovali kulturni razvoj naše dežele, kot na položnih vzhodnih pobočjih Zavrča, po katerih se vije regionalna cesta na kraju, ki mu danes pravimo Prodnica.

Zavedamo se, da je bilo v preteklosti območje Zavrča vedno izjemnega pomena zaradi svoje geografske lege – tako zaradi položaja v širši regiji kot tudi zaradi samih geomorfoloških danosti ožjega kraja. Gre za prostor, kjer se ob Dravi dve veliki gričevji predalpskega sveta, Slovenske gorice in Haloze, najbolj približata in med njima Dravska dolina tvori ozek prehod. Pravzaprav lahko tukaj zadnjič sploh govorimo o dolini, saj gre za prostor, kjer zaradi utesnjenosti toka reka v preteklosti ni tvorila številnejših rokavov, se ni premikala in ob njej ni bilo večjih močvirij. Posledično je bil to prostor poglobitve izbire za prehod reke – od broda, ki je deloval vse do sredine prejšnjega stoletja, njegov začetek pa lahko spremljamo vse od srednjega veka, pa morda celo mosta v rimskih časih in zagotovo prehoda v vseh prazgodovinskih obdobjih. Prav tako pa je to območje tisočletja predstavljalo prehod iz Varaždinskega v Ptujsko polje oziroma v širšem geostrateškem smislu prehod iz panonskih ravnin v Dravsko dolino. Slednja je bila v preteklosti vedno pomembna komunikacijska pot, saj predstavlja poleg doline Donave edini neposredni vstop v predalpski prostor ter dalje v Alpe oziroma v osrednjo Evropo. In ena izmed vrat v ta svet so se odpirala prav med Zavrčem in Veliko Nedeljo.

Govoreč o geografiji tega območja je Svetozar Ilešič že davno na podlagi geomorfologije predlagal delitev Haloze na dva dela – na Zgornje in Spodnje Haloze, pri čemer segajo slednje vse do Zavrča. Gre za nižji del Haloze s prevlado slemen v višini do 320 metrov. Opozoril je, da je imel ta del v zgodovini ugodnejše ekološke možnosti za poljedelstvo in vinogradništvo in je bil hkrati manj oddaljen od glavnih prometnih poti, ki so vodile od Ptuja ob Dravi navzdol (Ilešič 1967, 16). Opozoril je na ključne geomorfološke značilnosti prostora med

Introduction

There are few places on the sunny side of the Alps where so many remains from different periods of the past are gathered in such a small area, testifying to historical events that marked the cultural development of our country, as on the gentle eastern slopes of Zavrč, through which the regional road winds on a place we call today Prodnica.

We are aware that in the past the area of Zavrč has always been extremely important due to its geographical location – due to its position in the wider region and due to the geomorphological conditions of the narrower place. It is a place where the two large hills of the pre-Alpine area, Slovenske gorice and Haloze, are closest to the Drava, and the Drava valley forms a narrow passage between them. In fact, it is difficult to talk about the valley here, as it is a place where, due to the narrowness of the river bed, the river did not form many branches in the past, the water did not stagnate and there were no major swamps along it. Consequently, this was the main area for crossing the river – from the ferryboat, which operated from the Middle Ages to the middle of the last century, and perhaps even to the bridge in Roman times but it was certainly the river crossing in all prehistoric periods. For several millennia, this area also represented the transition from Varaždin to Ptuj plain or, in a broader geostrategic sense, the transition from the Pannonian plains to the Drava valley. In addition to the Danube valley, the latter has always been an important communication route in the past, as it is the only direct entry into the pre-Alpine region and further into the Alps and Central Europe. And one of the doors to this world opened right between Zavrč and Velika Nedelja.

Speaking about the geography of this area, Svetozar Ilešič long ago, on the basis of geomorphology, proposed the division of Haloze into two parts – Upper and Lower Haloze, the latter reaching all the way to Zavrč. It is the lower part of Haloze with a predominance of ridges up to 320 meters high. He pointed out that this part of history had more favourable ecological opportunities for agriculture



Položaj Zavrča ob Dravi med Ptujem in Ormožem, med Halozami in Slovenskimi goricami

Borlom ter Zavrčem – na severni strani zaradi tektonskega preloma ostro odrezan svet, pod katerim je tekla Drava, je tvoril idealen pregled nad Ptujskim poljem ter nadzoroval promet po reki in ob njej. Na drugi strani pa je bil to svet, kjer so se z ilovnatimi prstmi pokrita pobočja iz peščenjaka ter prodne terase blago spuščala proti vzhodu in jugovzhodu. Prav kombinacija geostrateške lege ter ekoloških dejavnikov pokrajine je v veliki meri zaznamovala tako gostoto poselitve kot tudi rabo prostora v preteklosti.

The position of Zavrč by Drava River between Ptuj and Ormož, between Haloze and Slovene Hills.

and viticulture, and at the same time was less distant from the main traffic routes leading from Ptuj down by the Drava River (Ilešič 1967, 16). He noted the key geomorphological features of the area between Borl and Zavrč – on the north side, due to a tectonic fault, the sharply cut world, under which the Drava river flowed, formed an ideal overview of Ptuj plain to control traffic on and along the river. On the other hand, it was a world where sandstone slopes covered with clay soils and gravel terraces gently descended to the east and south-east. It is the combination of geostrategic location and ecological factors of the landscape that has largely marked both the density of settlement and the use of space in the past.

Prazgodovina

18 Kljub intenzivnim raziskavam na severni strani Haloze še nismo odkrili arheoloških najdb, ki bi lahko nakazovale sledi poselitve oziroma človekovih dejavnosti, starejših od mlajše kamene dobe. Zgolj nekaj deset kilometrov južno na hrvaški strani imamo dve izmed najpomembnejših arheoloških najdišč iz stare kamene dobe – Punikve ter jamo Vindija. Plano paleolitsko najdišče Punikve, vzhodno od kraja Ivanec, ni izjemno zgolj, ker gre tod za edine, domnevno okoli pol milijona let stare sledi človekovega delovanja, ampak ker je edino najdišče z odkritimi pestnjaki iz kakovostnega kremenca v tem delu Evrope. Na drugi strani pa sodijo najdbe kamnitih orodij kot tudi skeletnih ostankov neandertalcev iz Vindije med najpomembnejše evropske vire, ki nam nudijo podatke o turbulentnem obdobju pred 40.000 leti, v katerem so naši neposredni predniki, anatomsko in vedenjsko moderni ljudje, vdrli v Evropo in počasi izrinili staroselske neandertalce. V vseh modelih prihoda *homo sapiens* v Evropo je podonavsko-dravski koridor igral pomembno vlogo pri pojasnitvah smeri prihoda.

Zaradi geološke razlike oziroma dejstva, da v peščenjakih nimamo jam, smo lahko prepričani, da bo nekega dne nek sprehajalec pobral na nekem sončnem pobočju kamnito orodje, ki bo spremenilo poznavanja preteklosti teh krajev. Morda se je to že zgodilo in bi lahko veliki kamniti odbitek, pobran pred nekaj desetletji na nizki vzpetini v dolini zahodno od ceste od Borla proti Dolanam, predstavljal najstarejšo sled poselitve vzhodnih Haloze (*Lubšina Tušek 1996, 18–19*).

Že konec 19. stoletja so bile z območja severozahodnega skrajnega konca Haloze, iz okolice Zavrča, poznane posamezne arheološke najdbe – muzeji so hranili kamnite sekire ter rimske novce. Prvi natančnejši popis z nekaterimi domnevnimi lokacijami odkritij je bil naveden v arheološki karti Blatt Ptuj, kjer sta avtorja omenila, da je bila kamnita sekira odkrita na hribu Vrhovec v Hrastovcu pri Zavrču, druga pa naj bi izvirala iz samega Zavrča (Klemenc, Saria 1936, 21, 80). Zanimivo je, da so bile prav slednje najpogostejše najdbe s tega področja – in ko je opisal poznavanje arheoloških odkritij tega kraja leta 1975 v *Arheoloških najdiščih Slovenije* Stanko Pahič, se je pomnožila zgolj količina odkritih kamnitih sekir (Pahič 1975, 328). Podatki so postali še toliko bolj jasni, ko je leta 1993 Marija Lubšina Tušek zbrala in uredila kamnita orodja iz severovzhodne Slovenije

Prehistory

Despite intensive research, on the northern side of Haloze, we have not yet discovered archaeological findings that could indicate traces of settlement or human activities older than the Neolithic. Only a few tens of kilometers south on the Croatian side are two of the most important archaeological sites from the Old Stone Age – Punikve and the cave Vindija. The plain Paleolithic site of Punikve east of Ivanec is exceptional not only because it is the only trace of human activity, supposedly about half a million years old, but also because it is the only site with discovered hand axes in this part of Europe. On the other hand, the finds of stone tools as well as skeletal remains of Neanderthals from Vindija are among the most important European sources, providing data on the turbulent period 40,000 years ago in which our immediate ancestors, anatomically and behaviourally modern humans, invaded Europe and slowly pushed out indigenous Neanderthals. In all models of the arrival of *Homo sapiens* in Europe, the Danube-Drava corridor played an important role in explaining the direction of arrival.

Due to the geological difference, or the fact that we do not have caves in the sandstones, we can be sure that one day a walker will pick up a stone tool on a sunny slope, which will change the knowledge of the past of these places. Perhaps this has already happened, and the large stone cut collected a few decades ago on a low hill in the valley west of the road from Borl to Dolane, could represent the oldest trace of settlement of the eastern Haloze area (*Lubšina Tušek 1996, 18–19*).

As early as the end of the 19th century, individual archaeological finds were known from the area of the extreme north-western end of Haloze in the vicinity of Zavrč – museums kept stone axes and Roman coins. The first detailed inventory with some alleged locations of discoveries was given in the archaeological map Blatt Ptuj, where the authors mentioned that the stone axe was discovered on the hill Vrhovec in Hrastovec near Zavrč, and the second is said to be from Zavrč itself (Klemenc, Saria 1936, 21, 80). It is interesting that the latter were the most common finds in this area – and when Stanko Pahič described the knowledge of the archaeological discoveries of this place in 1975 in the *Archaeological Sites of Slovenia*, only the number of discovered stone axes increased (Pahič 1975, 328). The data became even clearer when in 1993 Marija Lubšina Tušek collected and

(Lubšina-Tušek 1993). Pokazala je, da je na območju Zavrča in njegovega zaledja bilo v preteklosti odkritih večje število orodij – iz Zavrča, Hrastovca, Belskega Vrha.

Danes lahko trdimo, da je bil prostor najverjetneje prvič poseljen že v petem tisočletju pred našim štetjem, ko so terase ob Dravi poselile prve, iz Panonije izvirajoče skupnosti poljedelcev. Okoli leta 4400 pred našim štetjem se je podnebje spremenilo – ohladilo se je in globalne spremembe so pospešile kulturni in tehnološki razvoj poljedelskih skupnosti tega prostora. Zdi se, da so takrat velike obrečne naselbine izgubile svoj pomen in manjše poljedelske skupnosti, verjetno družine, bivajoče v posameznih gospodarstvih, so poselile stranske doline Slovenskih goric in Halož. Spremenila se je tudi tehnologija izdelave kamenih orodij – izginile so sekire v obliki kopita in pojavile so se prve sekire iz metamorfnih kamnin, skozi katere so rokodelci izvrtali luknje za nasaditev ročaja. Spremenili so se načini oblikovanja in okraševanja keramičnih posod in v panonskem prostoru so se pojavili prvi predmeti, izdelani iz bakra – začelo se je novo obdobje pozne mlajše kamene dobe. In prav odkritja masivnih sekir, izdelanih iz zelenkastega dravskega serpentinita, z izvrtanimi luknjami, kot jih poznamo iz Zavrča ter Hrastovca, nakazujejo, da bomo nekega dne na tem področju odkrili sledove teh (pra)zgodovinskih procesov. Leta 2007 je bila ob izkopavanjih na trasi ceste prav tako odkrita kamnita sekirica, ki ponovno potrjuje intenzivno poselitev tega območja (*Lubšina Tušek 2007*).

Naslednjih 2500 let je gričevnati svet vzhodnih Halož opustel. Pa ni nujno, verjetno so se spremenile potrebe poljedelcev in živinorejcev, trgovina je potekala po drugih poteh in poselitev na gričevjih so zamenjale naselbine v nižinah, v bližini nekdanj zamočvirjenih rečnih kanalov.

Arheološke raziskave leta 2007 pod današnjo regionalno cesto z razširjenim parkiriščem na slovenski strani mejnega prehoda s Hrvaško so potekale na prostoru, za katerega se je vedelo, da je bil v preteklosti poseljen, nihče pa ni pričakoval odkritja tako bogatih in izpovednih ostalin iz preteklosti. Skoraj vzporedno z današnjo cesto je potekala srednjeveška cesta, ob kateri je stala manjša

arranged stone tools from north-eastern Slovenia (Lubšina-Tušek 1993). She showed that in the area of Zavrč and its hinterland, a larger number of tools were discovered in the past – from Zavrč, Hrastovec, Belski vrh.

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Today we can say that the area was probably first inhabited as early as the fifth millennium BC when the terraces along the Drava river were inhabited by the first communities of farmers originating from Pannonia. Around 4.400 BC, the climate changed – it cooled down and global changes accelerated the cultural and technological development of the agricultural communities of this area. It seems that at that time large riparian settlements lost their significance and smaller agricultural communities, probably families living in individual farms, settled in the side valleys of Slovenske gorice and Haloze. The technology of making stone tools also changed – hoof-shaped axes disappeared and the first metamorphic rock axes appeared, through which craftsmen drilled holes for furnishing the handle. The ways of designing and decorating ceramic vessels changed and the first objects made of copper appeared in the Pannonian area – a new period of the late Neolithic began. And exactly the discoveries of massive axes made of greenish Drava serpentinite with drilled holes, as we know them from Zavrč and Hrastovec, indicate that one day we will discover traces of these (prehistoric) processes in this area. In 2007, during excavations on the route of the road, a stone axe was also discovered, which again confirms the intensive settlement of this area (*Lubšina Tušek 1996, 18–19*).

For the next 2.500 years, the hilly world of eastern Haloze was abandoned. The needs of farmers and stockbreeders have changed, trade has taken place along other routes and settlement on the hills has been replaced by settlements in the lowlands, near the once swamped river channels.

Archaeological excavations in 2007 under today's regional road with an extended parking lot on the Slovenian side of the border crossing point with Croatia took place in an area where it was known to have been inhabited in the past, but no one expected to discover such rich remains from the past. Almost parallel to today's road was a medieval road, next to which was a small settlement – a

naselbina – srednjeveška vas. Srednjeveška vas je delno prekrivala nekoliko nižje ležečo rimskodobno cesto z obcestno naselbino, ki je poškodovala še starejše rimskodobno vojaško taborišče. Pod in med naštetimi ostalinami so bili odkriti ostanki prazgodovinske naselbine ter najpomembnejše, ob njej ležečega žarnega grobišča iz pozne bronaste dobe ter ostanki starejšeželeznodobnega grobišča (*Lubšina Tušek 2007; – 2008 a, 309–312*).

Ostanki bronastodobne naselbine so bili v veliki meri poškodovani zaradi kasnejših sprememb zemljišča – tako vkopov kasnejše poselitve kot tudi erozijskih procesov, ki so ostanke materialne kulture odplaknili nižje po terasah. Ostanki pravokotnih stavb kažejo značilno bronastodobno konstrukcijo – do deset metrov dolge ter do šest metrov široke stavbe so bile postavljene iz brun, zabitih globoko v zemljo. Sledi prav tako debelih brun v sredini stavbe v nekaterih primerih kažejo, da so stavbe imele na sredini konstrukcijo, ki je verjetno nosila dvokapno streho. Sledi tanjših brun, postavljenih prečno znotraj hiš, pa kažejo, da so nekatere bile pregrajene v več prostorov. Znotraj raziskanega področja lahko zasledimo stavbe v osrednjem ter severnem delu, kar bi lahko nakazovalo, da je cesta bronastodobno naselbino prerezala na pol oziroma da je prostor med obema koncentracijama v resnici majhen trg, odprt proti sončnemu vzhodu, ki so ga imele na sredi sočasne naselbine (na primer Sodolek pri Sv. Juriju v Slovenskih goricah). Danes se zdi, da je bila večina stavb orientiranih od jugovzhoda proti severozahodu, kar pa je v nasprotju s kasnejšimi naselbinami. Žal se je ohranilo le malo ostankov materialne kulture – redki in manjši odlomki keramike so bili odkriti v shrambenih jamah v hišah ter odpadnih jamah med hišami, kar kaže, da so nekdanji prebivalci vzdrževali red in čistočo svojega bivališča.

Fotografija desno:

Pogled na prostor arheoloških izkopavanj leta 2007

medieval village. The medieval road partially covered the slightly lower-lying Roman-era road with a roadside settlement and damaged even older Roman-era military camp. Beneath and among the listed remains, the remains of a prehistoric settlement and, most importantly, the adjacent Late Bronze Age urnfield and the remains of an older Iron Age cemetery were discovered.

The remains of the Bronze Age settlement were largely damaged due to later land changes – excavations of later settlements and erosion processes, which washed away the remains of material culture lower on the terraces. The remains of rectangular buildings show a typical Bronze Age construction – buildings up to 10 meters long and up to 6 meters wide were made of logs driven deep into the ground. Traces of equally thick logs in the middle of the building in some cases indicate that the buildings had a structure in the middle that probably carried a gable roof. Traces of thinner logs placed transversely inside the houses indicate that some were partitioned into several rooms. Within the study area, buildings in the central and northern parts can be traced, which could indicate that the road cut the Bronze Age settlement in half, or that the space between the two concentrations is in fact a small square in the middle, which opened towards sunrise as is typical of settlements of that time (for example Sodolek near Sv. Jurij in Slovenske gorice). Today, most of the buildings appear to have been oriented from south-east to north-west, which is in contrast to later settlements. Unfortunately, only a few remnants of material culture have been preserved – rare and small fragments of pottery have been found in storage pits in houses and waste pits between houses, indicating that the former inhabitants maintained order and cleanliness in their dwellings.

Photo on the right:

View of the area of archaeological excavations in 2007.



Najzanimivejše odkritje na območju Zavrča, katerega kulturnozgodovinski pomen presega meje Slovenije, pa je grobišče iz pozne bronaste dobe, ki je bilo na vzhodni strani naselbine. Odkritih je bilo okoli 60 pokopov, ki predstavljajo eno izmed najdalgotrajnejših grobišč v regiji, na katerem se je vedno znova pokopavalo skoraj 600 let – v času od 14. do 8. stoletja pred našim štetjem. Odkrite najdbe, keramika, kovinski nakit in orožje omogočajo analizo spreminjajočih se kulturnih vplivov, modnih smernic ter vzponov in upadov trgovine, ki so nekdanje prebivalce Halož ter širše regije povezovali z najpomembnejšimi kulturnimi in proizvodnimi centri prazgodovinske Evrope.

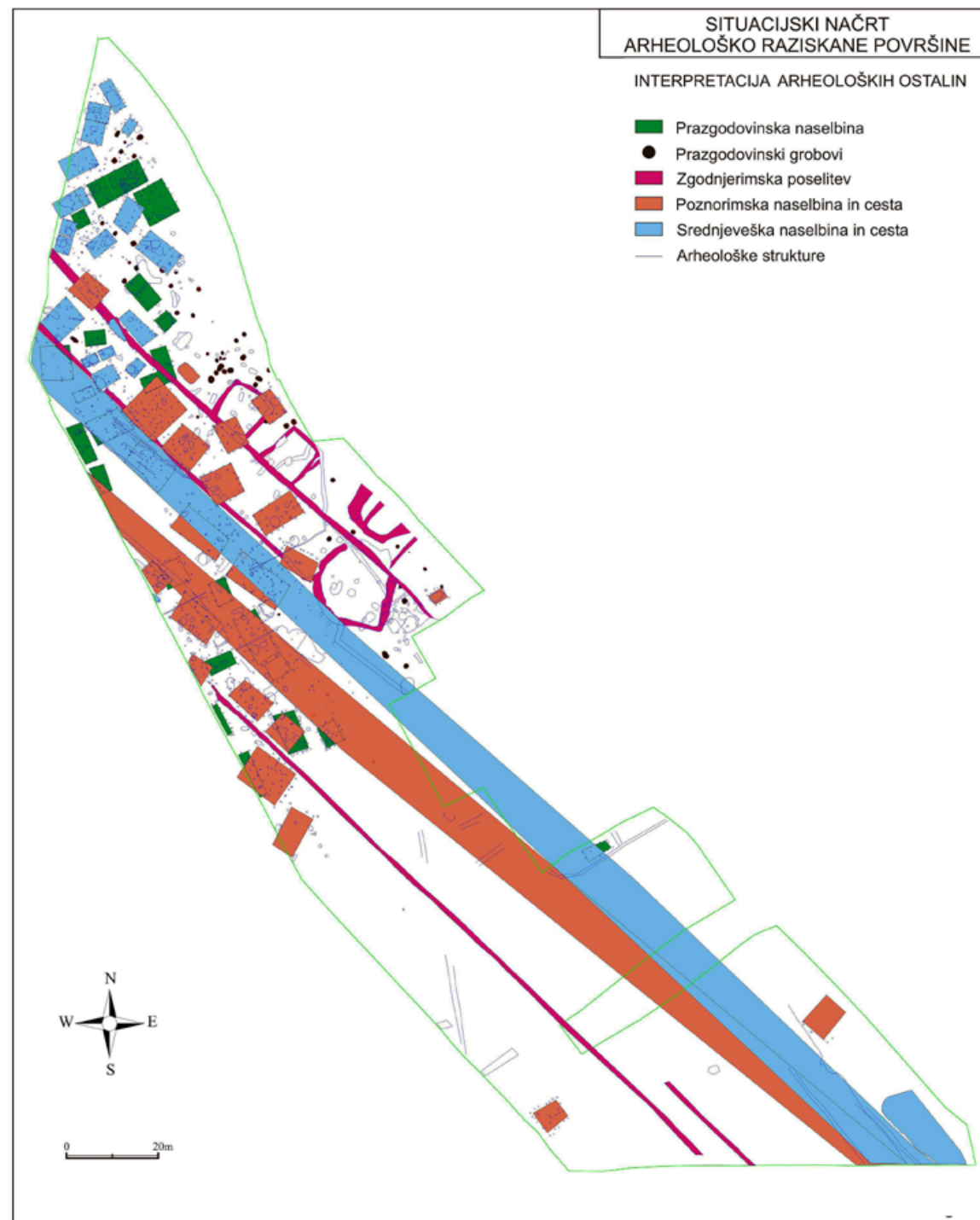
Najstarejši odkriti grobovi so iz 14. stoletja pred našim štetjem. Glede na oblike odkrite keramike ter značilno formulo obreda pokopa, kjer so pokojnike sežgali in njihove ostanke pokopali v keramičnem loncu, pokritem s skledo, lahko domnevamo, da so najstarejši prebivalci izvirali z območja Panonije oziroma da so bili kulturno in duhovno vezani na ta prostor (*Lubšina Tušek, Kavur, Blečić Kavur, 2014, 71–78; Blečić Kavur, Kavur, Lubšina Tušek, 2018, 187–197*). Gre za najstarejše žgane pokope, poznane z območja vzhodne Slovenije, oziroma za začetek pojava, ki ga v celotni Evropi poimenujemo kultura žarnih grobišč, v Panoniji pa ga po hrvaškem najdišču imenujemo virovitiška kultura.

Že dobro stoletje kasneje so se najprej oblike posod, nato pa tudi obredi spremenili. Posode prvič kažejo oblike in okrase, ki jih lahko prepoznamo tudi v osrednji Sloveniji ter dalje v Alpah. Če se je na samem začetku pokopavanja zdelo, da je Zavrč zahodna točka panonskih kultur, se je sedaj preoblikoval v posredniško točko med panonskim in alpskim svetom. V tem lahko vidimo, da so skupnosti navezoval vedno več stikov in so trgovale v veliko širšem prostoru. Analize zakladnih najdb bronastih predmetov v neposredni okolici (Pušenci, Grabe ...) so pokazale, da so bili sedaj bronasti predmeti izdelani iz kovin, ki so jih pridelovali v Alpah, v predhodnem obdobju pa so uporabljali predvsem karpatske vrste bakrovih zlitin. Sedaj so ob pokopu keramične posode razbili ter sežgane ostanke pokojnika stresli mednje. V grobu iz tega obdobja pa je bila odkrita še ena novost – majhen železen nožek. Eden izmed najstarejših v Evropi predstavlja znanilca novih tehnologij ter prikazuje kulturne stike, ki so področje današnje vzhodne

The most interesting discovery in the area of Zavrč, whose cultural and historical significance extends beyond the borders of Slovenia, is a cemetery from the Late Bronze Age, which was located on the eastern side of the settlement. About 60 burial sites have been discovered, representing one of the longest-running cemeteries in the region, where burials have taken place over and over again for almost 600 years – between the 14th and 8th centuries BC. The discovered finds, ceramics, metal jewellery and weapons, enable the analysis of changing cultural influences, fashion trends and the ups and downs of trade, which connected the former inhabitants of Haloze and the wider region with the most important cultural and production centres of prehistoric Europe.

The oldest graves discovered date from the 14th century BC. Given the forms of pottery discovered and the typical formula of the burial rite, where the dead were cremated and their remains buried in a ceramic pot covered with a bowl, we can assume that the oldest inhabitants originated from Pannonia, or that they were culturally and spiritually attached to this area (*Lubšina Tušek, Kavur, Blečić Kavur, 2014, 71–78; Blečić Kavur, Kavur, Lubšina Tušek, 2018, 187–197*). These are the oldest cremated burials known from the area of eastern Slovenia or the beginning of a phenomenon that is called the Urnfield culture throughout Europe, and in Pannonia it is called the Virovitica culture after the Croatian site.

A good century later, the shapes of the vessels and then the rituals changed. For the first time, the vessels show shapes and decorations that can also be recognized in central Slovenia and further in the Alps. If at the very beginning of the burial Zavrč seemed to be the western point of the Pannonian cultures, now it has transformed into an intermediary point between the Pannonian and Alpine worlds. In this, we can see that communities made more and more contacts and traded in a much wider space. Analyses of hoards of bronze objects in the immediate vicinity (Pušenci, Grabe...) showed that now bronze objects were made of metals produced in the Alps. In the previous period, they used mainly Carpathian types of copper alloys. Now, at the burial, the ceramic vessel was smashed and the cremated remains of the deceased were shaken between them. In the tomb from this period, however, another interesting thing was discovered



Tloris arheoloških ostankov, odkritih v Zavrču
Ground plan of archaeological remains discovered in Zavrč.



Grob 49 sodi med najstarejše grobove na grobišču. Na fotografiji z izkopavanj je žara, pokrita s skledo.

Grave 49 is one of the oldest graves in the cemetery. In the photo from the excavations, the urn is covered with a bowl.

Slovenije povezovali s središči na področju severnega Jadrana in preko teh s civilizacijami vzhodnega Sredozemlja. Tovrstne železne nožke so najprej začeli izdelovati na Cipru, skoraj istočasno pa so jih poznali že v Istri ter Posočju in – v Zavrču. Zdi se, da še nikoli ni bil stari svet tako povezan in bronasta doba je bila resnično prva zlata doba Evrope, ko so tehnološke in kulturne inovacije potovale z bliskovito hitrostjo čez celino.

Kulturni in ekonomski vrhunec, ki so ga prebivalci z območja Zavrča doživeli ob koncu 12. ter v 11. stoletju pred našim štetjem, se je odražal tudi v njihovih

– a small iron knife. One of the oldest finds in Europe is a harbinger of new technologies and shows the cultural contacts that connected the area of today's eastern Slovenia with the centres in the northern Adriatic and through these with the civilizations of the eastern Mediterranean. Such iron knives were first made in Cyprus, and almost at the same time they were already known in Istria and the Posočje and in Zavrč. It seems that the old world has never been so connected and the Bronze Age was truly the first golden age of Europe when technological and cultural innovation spread at lightning speed across the continent.

pokopih. V to obdobje sodi nekaj najbogatejših grobov, odkritih v regiji, ki kažejo, da se je morala družba v tem času radikalno spremeniti – izoblikoval se je vladajoči razred. To je bilo obdobje, ko so svoj ekonomski vzpon doživela središča v Alpah, ki so izdelovala ter izvažala bron in bronaste izdelke.

V tem času se je v grobovih v Zavrču pojavljalo vedno manj keramike, številni pokojniki pa so k večnemu počitku dobili svoj bronasti nakit. V sredino jame so natresli kup sežganega nakita ter sežgane kosti pokojnika, žganino z grmade pa so velikokrat nasuli v krogu okoli ostankov pokojnika. Pravo arheološko senzacijo predstavlja odkriti grob 16. V njem je bila pokopana umrla mlada dama, morda celo deklica, ki je bila sežgana z bronastimi ovratnicami, zapestnicami in nanožnicami, izjemnim bogato okrašenim pasom iz bronaste pločevine, zaponko za obleko in obeski iz bronaste žice. Gre za enega izmed najbogatejših ženskih grobov iz tega obdobja, ki so bili odkriti v osrednji Evropi, in edinega, v katerem je bil odkrit pas. Tovrstni deli noše so bili do sedaj poznani zgolj iz redkih zakladnih najdb, še najbolj presenetljive rezultate pa je dala antropološka analiza kosti pokojnice, ki je pokazala, da je bila ob smrti stara zgolj med osem in 12 let.

Bronast pas kaže tradicijo kulturnih vplivov iz panonskega prostora. Drugačne vplive pa kažejo pridatki iz bogatega ženskega groba 14, kjer je imela pokojnica poleg značilnega kompleta noše še na ovratnici nanizane manjše bronaste obročke. Nekateri strokovnjaki jih razlagajo kot najstarejšo obliko denarja. Tak nakit kaže predvsem kulturne povezave z alpskim prostorom, s prostorom od vzhodne Francije ter Bavarske in Švice, sedaj pa se to območje razteza na vzhod vse do Zavrča. Tudi tokrat je antropološka analiza osupnila raziskovalce, kajti ponovno je bila starost pokojnice ocenjena na šest do 12 let. V obeh primerih najbogatejših ženskih grobov je šlo za pokopa deklic, za kateri nikakor ne moremo pričakovati, da sta za časa življenja bili polnopravno vključeni v svet odraslih. Pokopi iz Zavrča so temeljito spremenili marsikaj, kar smo domnevali o delovanju bronastodobnih družb v tem prostoru. Menili smo, da so bogati pokopi pripadali le starejšim uglednim članom skupnosti, sedaj pa vidimo, da je ugled morda bil deden in so svoje otroke, za katerimi so žalovali, bogato obdarili za pot v onostranstvo. Ali pa so ti otroci bili tako mladi, da zanje še ni veljala prepoved odlaganja prevelikega bogastva v grob?

The cultural and economic peak that the inhabitants of the Zavrč area experienced at the end of the 12th and in the 11th century BC was also reflected in their burials. This period includes some of the richest graves discovered in the region, which show that society had to change radically during this time – the ruling class was formed. This was the period when the centres in the Alps, which manufactured and exported bronze and bronze products, experienced their economic rise.

During this time, fewer and fewer pottery appeared in the graves in Zavrč, and many of the deceased received their bronze jewellery for eternal rest. A pile of burnt jewellery and burnt bones of the deceased were strewn in the middle of the pit, and the burnt remains of the funeral fire were often put in a circle around the remains of the deceased. A real archaeological sensation is the discovered grave 16. A young lady was buried in the grave, perhaps even a girl, who was cremated with bronze collars, bracelets, and ankle rings, an exquisitely richly decorated bronze belt, a dress fibula, and bronze pendants. It is one of the richest female graves from this period that has been discovered in Central Europe and the only one in which a belt has been discovered. Such parts of the costume have so far been known only from rare treasure finds, and the most surprising results were given by an anthropological bone analysis of the deceased girl, which showed that she was only 8 to 12 years old at the time of her death.

The bronze belt shows the tradition of cultural influences from the Pannonian area. Other influences are shown by the additions from the rich woman's grave 14, where the deceased had, in addition to a typical set of costumes, smaller bronze rings strung on the collar. Some experts interpret them as the oldest form of money. Such jewellery shows primarily cultural connections with the Alpine space, with the area from eastern France and Bavaria and Switzerland, and now this area extends to the east all the way to Zavrč. Once again, the anthropological analysis stunned the researchers, as the age of the deceased was again estimated at 6 to 12 years. Both examples of the richest women's graves are the burials of girls for whom we can in no way expect to have been fully involved in the world of adults during their lifetime. The burials from Zavrč fundamentally changed many things that we assumed about the functioning of Bronze Age societies in this area.



Grob 16 je najbogatejši na grobišču. V grobu mlade deklice sta bila odkrita bogat nakit ter širok pločevinast bronast pas. Fotografija bloka groba med restavriranjem.

Grave 16 is the richest in the cemetery. Rich jewellery and a wide tin bronze belt were found in the young girl's grave. Photograph of a block of graves during restoration.

Ko primerjamo nakit in opremo obeh bronastodobnih deklic, lahko vidimo, da so se v tem času prav na našem področju stikali in spajali kulturno različni svetovi. V grobovih lahko prepoznamo, da je prazgodovinska skupnost v Zavrču igrala vlogo posrednikov med različnimi kulturami iz alpskega in panonskega prostora. Vzdrževali so stike ter poznali mode iz severne Italije, Bavarske, dunajskega bazena ter osrednje Panonije – kot da vse kulturne stike tega časa lahko prepoznamo predvsem na grobišču v Zavrču. Tako posredniška vloga kot tudi iz nje izvirajoča ekonomska korist sta vodili do oblikovanja bogatega sloja oziroma pojava najstarejše bojevnške aristokracije. Prikaz slednje predstavlja grob 7, v katerem je bil pokopan moški, ki so mu v onostranstvo priložili še popolno bojevnško opravo tedanjega časa – bronasto sulico, sekuro, nož in britev, ki so jih ob pokopu obredno uničili. Ponovno gre za edini poznani tovrstni grob s področja današnje Slovenije in ponovno nas je antropološka analiza nekoliko osupnila. Pokojnik je bil star od 14 do 18 let, komaj polnoleten mladenič, pokopan kot odličen bojevnik. Grobni pridatki iz teh treh grobov kažejo, da sodi skupnost, ki je svoje umrle pokopavala v Zavrču, med najbogatejše v tistem času oziroma da gre najverjetneje za najpomembnejšo skupnost v širši regiji. Tovrstnih grobov ne poznamo z velikih grobišč Maribora, Ptuja in Ormoža, kjer so na vsakem odkrili zgolj enega do dva bogatejša ženska pokopa, pokop oboroženega bojevnika pa morda poznamo zgolj z uničenega grobišča na Mladinski ulici v Mariboru.

V naslednjem stoletju je področje Zavrča počasi doživljalo svoj zaton oziroma sta pomen in ugled grobišča začela upadati. Skromnejši grobovi so vsebovali keramične posode, značilne za Podravje, in redki okrasni bronasti predmeti, večinoma le igle, so po svojem okrasu in izdelavi izvirali s področja Alp ter predalpskega prostora. Ko je bila na nasprotnem bregu Drave postavljena monumentalna z obzidjem in jarkom obdana naselbina v Ormožu, je pokopavanje v Zavrču počasi zamiralo. V nasprotju z grobovi, poznanimi iz Ormoža ter Hajdine in Rabelčje vasi, ki so vsebovali številne keramične posode ter velike žare, so grobovi v Zavrču vsebovali le še redke keramične posode, večinoma skodelice. Nekdanji sveti prostor mrtvih, kjer so v preteklosti pokopavali najpomembnejše člane skupnosti, je izgubil svoj pomen, iz nekega sentimentalnega, verskega ali drugega razloga pa ga preprosto niso v celoti opustili. Po skromnih grobovih je

We thought that the rich burials belonged only to the eminent older members of the community, but now we see that the reputation may have been inherited, and relatives richly gifted their children, whom they mourned, for the journey to the afterlife. Or perhaps these children were so young that they were not yet prohibited from placing too much wealth in the grave?

When we compare the jewellery and equipment of the two Bronze Age girls, we can see that culturally different worlds came together and merged in our area at that time. In the graves, we can recognize that the prehistoric community in Zavrč played the role of intermediate between different cultures from the Alpine and Pannonian area. The inhabitants maintained and knew fashions from northern Italy, Bavaria, the Vienna Basin and central Pannonia – as if all the cultural contacts of that time could be recognized in the cemetery in Zavrč. Both the intermediate role and the resulting economic benefit led to the formation of a rich class or the emergence of the oldest warrior aristocracy. The latter shows grave 7 in which a man was buried, who was given a complete warrior's attire of that time – a bronze spear, axe, knife and razor, which were ritually destroyed at the time of burial. Once again, this is the only known tomb of its kind in the area of today's Slovenia, and we were once more astonished by the anthropological analysis. The deceased was 14 to 18 years old, barely an adult young man, buried as an excellent warrior. Grave goods from these three graves show that the community that buried its dead in Zavrč was one of the richest at the time, or that it was probably the most important community in the wider region. We do not know such graves from the large cemeteries of Maribor, Ptuj and Ormož, where only one or two richer female burials were discovered at each, and the burial of an armed warrior may be known only from the destroyed cemetery on Mladinska Street in Maribor.

In the next century, the area of Zavrč slowly experienced its decline, or the importance and reputation of the cemetery began to decline. The more modest graves contained ceramic vessels typical of the Podravje region and rare ornamental bronze objects, mostly only pins, which, in terms of their decoration and construction, originated in the Alps and the pre-Alpine area. When a monumental settlement surrounded by walls and a moat in Ormož was erected

28 sklepati, da je morda v tem času na završkem dravskem obrežju živela manjša osiromašena skupnost, kar nakazujejo tudi ostanki naselbine iz mlajšega dela pozne bronaste dobe, odkriti ob manjših izkopavanjih leta 2008 in 2009 zahodno od severne točke grobišča (*Lubšina Tušek, 2008 b; –2010, 412–414*). Žal skromne najdbe, odkrite v raziskanem delu naselbine, ne omogočajo interpretacije, ali gre v resnici za dve manjši naselbini ali pa za ostanke ene same obsežne naselbine. Vsekakor je ob koncu pozne bronaste dobe prostor prehoda izgubil svoj nekdanji pomen.



on the opposite bank of Drava River, burial in Zavrč slowly died down. Unlike the graves known from Ormož and Hajdina and Rabelčja vas, which contained numerous ceramic vessels and large urns, the graves in Zavrč contained only a few ceramic vessels, mostly cups. The former sacred space of the dead, where the most important members of the community were buried in the past, has lost its significance; for some sentimental, religious or other reason, it has simply not been completely abandoned. From the modest graves, it can be concluded that a small impoverished community may have lived on Zavrč Drava river bank at that time, which is also indicated by the remains of a settlement from the younger part of the Late Bronze Age, discovered during small excavations in 2008 and 2009 west of the northern point of the cemetery (*Lubšina Tušek, 2008 b; –2010, 412–414*). Unfortunately, the modest finds discovered in the researched part of the settlement do not allow an interpretation of whether they are two smaller settlements or the remains of a single large settlement. In any case, at the end of the Late Bronze Age, the passage area lost its former significance.

V grobu 15 je bila poleg manjše skodelice odkrita tudi razlomljena bronasta sekira.

In addition to a small cup, a broken bronze axe was found in grave 15.

Nato pa je sledilo še zadnje monumentalno dejanje prazgodovinskega pokopavanja na tem prostoru, ki že sega v čas starejše železne dobe. Na jugovzhodnem delu nekdanjega grobišča je bilo postavljenih nekaj velikih zemljenih gomil. Način pokopavanja se je spremenil, kar je predvsem odraz spremembe razumevanja sveta umrlih. Njihovi sorodniki so jih sežgali kot prej, jim v grob položili nekaj keramičnih posod ter bojevnikom železnih sulic. Povrh vsega pa so jim nad grob nasuli zemljeno gomilo, za katero so gradbeni material nakopali kar z vkopom jarka okoli groba. Jarek ob gomilnem grobu pa je, glede na najdbe v njem, služil tudi za odlaganje obredno razbitih posod ob pokopih in kasneje. Sedaj grob ni bil več očem skrit, ampak monumentalen ter od daleč viden, ko je dominiral nad okoliško pokrajino. Žal so ostanki grobišča iz starejše železne dobe, moralo se je širiti vse do roba završke dravske terase, skromni, deloma zaradi kasnejše rimskodobne poselitve, deloma od polpreteklih gradbenih posegov in omejenega roba arheoloških raziskav. Najdbe nakazujejo krajši čas pokopavanja, ostanke sočasne naselbine pa je morda iskati višje na završkem hribu.

Preliminarno lahko ugotovimo, da je bila na Prodnici najprej postavljena naselbina, ob njej pa so prebivalci pokopavali svoje pokojnike. Ko so se selili po okolici, so za pokop umrlih še vedno uporabljali od nekdanj svet prostor pokojnih prednikov na terasi nad mogočno reko Dravo. Na začetku starejše železne dobe je grobišče zaznamovalo še nekaj velikih gomilnih grobov, potem pa se je pokopavanje tu prenehalo.

Središča moči so se tudi spremenila in dolgotrajne naselbine, ki so s svojimi monumentalnimi obzidji in gomilnimi grobišči dominirale v prostoru ter razkazovale bogastvo in ugled svojih prebivalcev, so počasi zamrle. Za njihov zaton je bilo krivo sovpadanje številnih dejavnikov, med katerimi so bili zagotovo najpomembnejši vpadi vzhodnih nomadov, bojevitih Skitov v 6. in 5. stoletju, in podnebne spremembe v 5. stoletju pred našim štetjem. Predvsem pa je danes zanimiva skrivnostna epidemija, ki se je razširila po vsem tedanjem poznanim svetu – od delte Nila v Egiptu do atiških Aten ter Akvileje na severu Jadrana – in je pomorila ogromno prebivalstva. Kot poročajo rimski pisci, predvsem Vergil v svojih Georgikah, je skrivnostna epidemija opustošila vzhodne Alpe. V naslednjem

This was followed by the last monumental act of prehistoric burials in this area, which dates back to the Early Iron Age. A few large mounds were erected in the south-eastern part of the former cemetery. The method of burial has changed, which is primarily a reflection of a changed understanding of the world of the dead. Their relatives burned them as before, laid some ceramic vessels in their graves, and iron spears to the warriors. Over their grave they put an earthen mound for which the building material was obtained by digging a ditch around the grave. According to the finds in the mound grave, the ditch next to the mound grave was also used for the disposal of ritually broken vessels at burials and later. Now the tomb was no longer hidden from view but was monumental and visible from afar as it dominated the surrounding landscape. Unfortunately, the remains of a cemetery from the Early Iron Age, which had to extend to the edge of the Drava terrace, are modest, partly due to later Roman settlement, partly from semi-past construction interventions and a limited edge of archaeological research. The finds indicate a shorter burial time, and the remains of a settlement from that era might be sought higher on the Zavrč hill.

Preliminarily, we can establish that a settlement was first built on Prodnica, and the inhabitants buried their dead next to it. When they moved around the area, they still used the sacred space of their deceased ancestors on the terrace above the mighty Drava River to bury the dead. At the beginning of the Early Iron Age, the cemetery was marked by several large burial mounds, but then the burial at that place ceased.

The centres of power also changed and the long-standing settlements, which with their monumental walls and mound cemeteries dominated the area and showed off the wealth and reputation of their inhabitants, also slowly died out. Their decline was due to the coincidence of many factors, among which the most important were certainly the invasions of Eastern nomads, militant Scythians in the 6th and 5th centuries, and climate change in the 5th century BC. Above all, today is interesting mysterious epidemic that spread throughout the then known world – from the Nile Delta in Egypt to the Attic Athens and Aquileia in the north of the Adriatic, and killed a large proportion of the population. As reported

stoletju so se v zahodni del Panonske kotline počasi priseljevali prišleki iz vzhoda – bojeviti poljedelci Kelti. Ponovno so majhne družinske kmetije poselile plodne ravnice, kasneje pa so z obzidji obdali nekdanje utrjene naselbine na vrhovih gričev. Če se že samo življenje v primerjavi s predhodnimi obdobji ni bistveno spremenilo, sta se spremenili predvsem tehnologija, ki so jo uporabljali, ter njihova ekonomija. Svoje pokojnike so prav tako pokopavali sežgane v planih grobiščih, vendar so jim v grobove dodajali njihovo osebno opremo in nakit – moškim meče, nože, sulice in ščite, ženskam pa njihove zapestnice, okrasne sponke in prstane. Eno izmed najbogatejših grobišč tega obdobja, ki kaže pravo bogastvo okrašenih predmetov, je bilo odkrito nedaleč onkraj Drave v Forminu pri Gorišnici. Prav tako se je spremenila ekonomija. Kelti so po zgledu antične Makedonije začeli kovati svoj srebrni denar, na katerem so še najizraziteje prikazali svoj pogled na svet, umetnost, junake in bogove, ki so jih častili. In prav tu blizu Zavrča, v Turškem Vrhu, je bil že pred več kot 100 leti odkrit keltski srebrnik, ki kaže, da moramo pričakovati keltsko naselbino tudi nekje na tem prostoru.

Rimsko obdobje

Morda je prav keltski novček iz 2. stoletja pred našim štetjem kot simbol vstopa v monetarno ekonomijo nakazoval, da se tisočletja trajajoči prazgodovinski svet bliža konec. Vendar se je šele v zadnjih desetletjih pred našim štetjem prazgodovinski svet vzhodne Slovenije ponovno začel temeljito spreminjati. Noriško kraljestvo, ki so ga ustanovili Kelti in katerega prestolnica bi po najnovejših teorijah lahko bila v Celju, v katerega je bilo vključeno tudi območje vzhodne Slovenije, je bilo najprej mirno priključeno rimski državi, nekaj desetletij kasneje pa so se ob Dravi pojavili rimski vojaki. Da bi zavarovali osvojeno področje, so najprej zavzeli strateške postojanke v prostoru, kot je bila stara naselbina na Ptujskem gradu, kmalu pa so se pomaknili proti vzhodu. Domnevno se je prav v tem času na območju Zavrča na Prodnici ustavil tudi večji oddelek rimske vojske ter zgradil na terasi nad Dravo kratkotrajno taborišče. Sledi dolgih dvojnih ravnih jarkov ter kvadratnih okopov so najverjetneje sledi obrambne arhitekture. V prvi polovici 1. stoletja našega štetja je nekaj stotin rimskih vojakov varovalo vstop v Dravsko dolino ter prehod čez Dravo.

by Roman writers, especially Virgil in his *Georgics*, a mysterious epidemic devastated the area of the eastern Alps. In the following century, newcomers from the east – militant Celtic farmers – slowly immigrated to the western part of the Pannonian Basin. Once again, small family farms inhabited the fertile plains, and later the inhabitants surrounded the once fortified settlements on the tops of the hills with walls. If life itself has not changed significantly compared to previous periods, however, the technology used and economy have changed. Inhabitants also buried their dead burnt in flat graves, but added their personal equipment and jewellery to the graves – swords, knives, spears and shields for men, and bracelets, decorative fibulae and rings for women. One of the richest cemeteries of this period, showing the true richness of decorated objects, was discovered not far beyond the Drava River in Formin near Gorišnica. The economy has also changed. Following the example of ancient Macedonia, the Celts began minting their own silver coins, on which they most vividly displayed their views of the world, art, heroes and gods they worshipped. And right here near Zavrč, on Turški vrh, a Celtic silver coin was discovered more than 100 years ago, which shows that we should expect a Celtic settlement somewhere in this area as well.

Roman period

Perhaps it was the Celtic coin from the 2nd century BC, as a symbol of entering the monetary economy that indicated that thousands of years of prehistory were slowly coming to an end. However, it was not until the last decades before our era that the prehistoric world of eastern Slovenia began to change radically again. The Noric kingdom, founded by the Celts and whose capital, according to the latest theories, could be located in Celje, which also included the area of eastern Slovenia, was peacefully annexed to the Roman state, and a few decades later Roman soldiers appeared along the Drava river. To secure the conquered area, Romans first occupied strategic posts in an area such as the old settlement at Ptuj Castle, but soon they moved east. It is alleged that at this time a larger division of the Roman army stopped in the area of Zavrč in Prodnica and built a short-term camp on the terrace above the Drava River. Traces of long double flat ditches and square trenches are most likely traces of defensive architecture. In the first half of

Stoletje kasneje, v času razcveta rimske oblasti v naših krajih, je območje ponovno postalo strateško pomembno. To je bilo obdobje intenzivne izgradnje cest, ki so povezovale proizvodna in trgovska središča, po katerih so tekli tako izdelki lokalnih delavnic kot dobrine iz vseh koncev imperija. Takrat je bila skozi Zavrč zgrajena rimska cesta, ki je potekala skoraj neposredno pod današnjo regionalno cesto ter je povezovala dve veliki središči imperija – Petoviono (Ptuj) ter Murso (Osijek). Debelo nasutje gramoza je jasen pokazatelj pomena kot tudi vložka, ki ga je imperij plačeval, da bi omogočil cestni vojaški in civilni promet ob sicer tudi plovni reki Dravi. Glede na pomen te ceste in pa dokaj ugodne prostorske in vodne razmere bi lahko morda celo domnevali, da je oba bregova Drave povezoval most. Kmalu je na izpostavljeni legi ob cesti zrasla tudi naselbina. Hiše, ki so stale ob obeh straneh ceste, se razen po velikosti niso kaj pretirano razlikovale od prazgodovinskih, nekatere pa so imele v notranjosti tlake iz prodnikov. Prav tako je bilo ostenje, ki je podpiralo streho, izdelano iz navpično v zemljo zabitih brun, sledi številnih brun v notranjosti pa so kazale, da so sedaj te hiše imele več različnih notranjih prostorov. Arheološke raziskave pred manjšimi gradbenimi posegi v letih 2008 in 2009 severozahodno od izkopavanja na mejnem prehodu Zavrč leta 2007 so pokazale, da gre za razpotegnjeno naselje z lesenimi stavbami ob rimski cesti, ob kateri so se, neposredno ob njej, vrstili tudi žgani pokopi umrlih prebivalcev. Po značilni dodani lončenini sodijo odkriti grobovi v čas 2. polovice 1. in 2. stoletja. Izkopana je bila tudi manjša lončarska peč, ki kaže na obrtno dejavnost oziroma dopolnjuje naše poznavanje rimske lokalne produkcije keramike. Zelo podobno zasnovo rimskega naselja poznamo v vzhodni Sloveniji le še ob Dornavski cesti na Ptujju oziroma v prvi naselbini ob rimski cesti iz Petovione proti devet ali deset milj oddaljeni postaji Remista (mutatio Ramista), imenovani pri antičnih kartografih na cesti za Murso in Sirmium (Šašel 1975, 74–99). Razni avtorji locirajo Remisto v današnji Formin ali njegovo okolico ali preko reke Drave, ni pa izključeno, da je bila prav na območju današnje Prodнице v Zavrču.

Če so bile v preteklosti s področja Zavrča poznane najdbe novcev rimskih cesarjev Tiberija, Klavdija in Karakala, so bili pri arheoloških raziskavah odkriti tudi novci cesarjev Avgusta, Trajana in Konstancija I. Tako poznamo danes tri novce iz obdobja vključitve tega prostora v rimski imperij (Avgust, Tiberij in Klavdij),

the 1st century AD, several hundred Roman soldiers guarded the entrance to the Drava valley and the passage of the Drava River.

A century later, during the prosperity of Roman domination in our places, the area became strategically important again. This was a period of intensive road construction connecting the production and trade centres, through which ran the products of local workshops and goods from all over the empire. At that time, a Roman road was built across Zavrč, which ran almost directly below today's regional road and connected two large centres of the empire – Petoviona (Ptuj) and Mursa (Osijek). The thick backfill of gravel is a clear indicator of the importance as well as of the contribution paid by the empire to enable military and civilian road traffic along the otherwise navigable Drava River. Given the importance of this road and the rather favourable spatial and water conditions, there are assumptions that both banks of the Drava River were connected by a bridge. The settlement soon grew in an exposed position along the road. The houses that stood on both sides of the road, except for their size did not differ much from the prehistoric ones, and some of them had pebble floors inside. Also, the wall that supported the roof was made of logs driven vertically into the ground, and traces of many logs inside showed that these houses had several different interior spaces. Archaeological excavations before minor construction work in 2008 and 2009, northwest of the excavations at the Zavrč border crossing point in 2007, showed that it was an elongated settlement with wooden buildings along the Roman road, along which there were also cremation of deceased residents. According to the characteristic of the pottery added to the grave, the discovered graves date back to the second half of the 1st and 2nd centuries. A small pottery kiln was also excavated, which indicates a craft activity or complements our knowledge of Roman local ceramics production. A very similar design of the Roman settlement is known in eastern Slovenia only along Dornavska road in Ptuj or in the first settlement along the Roman road from Petoviona towards the station Remista (mutatio Ramista) 9 or 10 miles away, named by ancient cartographers on the road to Mursa and Sirmium (Šašel 1975, 74–99). Various authors locate Remista in today's Formin or its surroundings or across the Drava River, but it is not excluded that it was in the area of today's Prodница in Zavrč.

enega iz časa ekonomskega razcveta imperija v 2. stoletju (Trajan), enega s konca 2. ali začetka 3. stoletja (Karakala) ter enega z začetka 4. stoletja (Konstancij I.). Zanimiv je predvsem slednji, saj je spominski folis iz kovnice iz Ticinuma (današnje Pavie), s katerim se je leta 305, ko je Konstancij I. postal avgust, zahvalil vojski za zvestobo. Zavedati se moramo, da je bil to začetek političnega procesa, ko se je dejansko začel propad tetrarhije in začel vzpon njegovega sina Konstantina Velikega, ki je preoblikoval politično in religiozno podobo starega sveta.

Vsekakor najdbe iz rimske naselbine in nekaj grobov ob cesti kažejo, da je prometnica ohranila svoj pomen vse do zatona imperija v 4. stoletju, ko je bila na višjem grebenu zahodno od tod verjetno postavljena manjša utrdba.

Srednji vek

Terenski pregledi, ki jih je med letoma 1971 in 1973 vodila Iva Mikl Curk, niso dali veliko rezultatov. Na območju Zavrča so pri združnem domu odkrili ob gradnji novih hiš plasti s srednjeveško in novoveško keramiko, ki so jih povezovali z obstojem naselbine, poznane v prvi polovici 16. stoletja. Vendar je avtorica že takrat opomnila, da bi lahko na podlagi rimskih ostankov, odkritih na hrvaški strani, domnevali, da je rimska cesta potekala tako rekoč po sodobni cestni trasi (*Mikl Curk 1975, 179*). Zagotovo lahko v njenih besedah prepoznamo razumevanje logike prostora, ne moremo pa tudi zanemariti dolgoletnih raziskovalnih izkušenj. Vsekakor so njene domneve potrdila arheološka izkopavanja tri desetletja kasneje, ko je bil natančneje raziskan tudi del srednjeveške naselbine (*Lubšina Tušek, 2008 a; –2010, 309–312*).

Prvotna vas, ki so jo sestavljale manjše lesene hiše, je bila že v 12. stoletju postavljena na prostoru ob nekdanji rimski cesti in na prostoru, kjer so kasneje nasuli srednjeveško cesto, ki je potekala z manjšimi odmiki v isti smeri. Odkrite so bile stavbe različnih velikosti, od manjših v velikosti 3 × 3 m pa do večjih objektov v velikosti do 6 × 10 m. Ponovno se njihova oblika ni kaj prida razlikovala od prazgodovinskih. Osnovo so tvorila v tla zabita bruna, sledi konstrukcij in večjih

In the past, coins of the Roman emperors Tiberius, Claudius and Caracalla were known from the area of Zavrč, but archaeological excavations also revealed coins of the emperors Augustus, Trajan and Constantius I. Thus we know today three coins from the period of the incorporation of this area into the Roman Empire (Augustus, Tiberius and Claudius), one from the time of the economic prosperity of the empire in the 2nd century (Trajan), one from the end of the 2nd or beginning of the 3rd century (Caracalla) and one from the beginning of the 4th century (Constantius I). The latter is particularly interesting, as it is a memorial follis from the mint of Ticinum (modern-day Pavia), with which Constantius thanked the army for loyalty in 305 when he became Augustus. We must be aware that this was the beginning of the political process when the collapse of the tetrarchy actually began and the rise of his son Constantine the Great began, reshaping the political and religious image of the old world.

Certainly finds from a Roman settlement and a few graves along the road show that the road retained its significance until the decline of the empire in the 4th century, when a smaller fort was probably erected on a higher ridge west of here.

Middle Ages

Field surveys conducted by Iva Mikl Curk between 1971 and 1973 did not yield many results. In the area of Zavrč, during the construction of new houses layers of medieval and modern period pottery were discovered near the Cooperative House, which was associated with the existence of a settlement known in the first half of the 16th century. However, the author pointed out at that time that based on Roman remains discovered on the Croatian side, it could be assumed that the Roman road ran along a modern road route (*Mikl Curk 1975, 179*). We can certainly recognize in her words an understanding of the logic of space and we also cannot ignore many years of research experience. In any case, her assumptions were confirmed by archaeological excavations three decades later, when a part of the medieval settlement was also investigated in more detail (*Lubšina Tušek, 2008 a; –2010, 309–312*).

vkopov v notranjosti pa kažejo, da so bile nekatere hiše pregrajene v dva prostora. Naselbina se je širila proti severozahodu, proti brodišču, kjer je bila odkrita tudi peč za keramiko (*Lubšina Tušek, 2008 b*).

Znova gre za izjemno najdbo, saj iz tega časa skoraj ne poznamo zasnov srednjeveških vasi, ker so danes večinoma skrite ali uničene pod sodobnimi naselji. Gre za naselbino, ki sta jo kmalu nasuta srednjeveška cesta in brod čez Dravo povezala s širšim prostorom. V srednjeveški topografiji ima to območje vsekakor izjemen pomen. V kraju sta že v 15. stoletju znani dve cerkvi. Prva, cerkev sv. Miklavža, se omenja že leta 1430, in župnija leta 1442 (*Blaznik 1988, 532*). Druga, cerkev sv. Marije Vnebovzete, je bila zgrajena v drugi polovici 15. stoletja in ima gotski kamnoseški okras, ki so ga izdelali najboljši mojstri svojega časa. Gre za mojstre, ki so najverjetneje po naročilu cesarice Barbare Celjske, soproge cesarja Sigismunda Luksemburškega, gradili cerkev na Ptujski Gori – mojstre, ki so izvirali iz cesarskih delavnic iz glavnega mesta Prage.

Ob cenitvi gosposčine Borl leta 1542 je cenilec navedel, da ima omenjena gosposčina dva broda, pri čemer je zanimivo, da je bil tisti v Zavrču cenovno veliko višje ocenjen. Glede na navedene podatke kot tudi dejstvo, da je slednji bil meja, na kateri so pobirali mitnino, je v svoji analizi cenitve Vladimir Bračič domneval, da je takrat potekal glavni promet čez Dravo pri Zavrču, kar je povezal z idejo o kontinuiteti prometa po trasi nekdanje rimske ceste. Brod je bil v uporabi vse do leta 1964 (*Bračič 1967, 28*).

Tisočletja na vzhodu

Arheologija je veda, ki predstavlja predmete, ki so jih ljudje uporabljali v preteklosti, ter pojasnjuje, kaj so ljudje s temi predmeti počeli v prostoru. Arheologija osupne ter odgovarja na vprašanja o našem izvoru, razvoju kulture ter zgodovini prostora. Predmetom vdihne življenje ter nam nariše ljudi, ki jih že zdavnaj ni več. Arheologija pokaže, da lahko največje zaklade velikokrat odkrijemo na najbolj nepričakovanih krajih, kajti naši predniki preprosto velikokrat

The original village, consisting of smaller wooden houses, was erected as early as the 12th century on the site along the former Roman road, and on the site where a medieval road was later paved, running with minor deviations in the same direction. Buildings of various sizes were discovered, from smaller ones measuring 3 x 3 meters to larger buildings measuring up to 6 x 10 meters. Again, their form did not differ much from the prehistoric ones. The base was formed by logs driven into the ground, and traces of constructions and larger excavations inside show that some houses were partitioned into two spaces. The settlement spread to the northwest, towards the port, where a pottery kiln was also discovered (*Lubšina Tušek, 2008 b*).

Again, this is a remarkable find, as we hardly know the designs of medieval villages from that time, because today they are mostly hidden or destroyed under modern settlements. It is a settlement, which was soon connected by a medieval road and a boat across the Drava River with a wider area. In medieval topography, this area is certainly of exceptional importance. Two churches are known in the place as early as the 15th century. The church of St. Nicholas is mentioned as early as 1430, and the parish in 1442 (*Blaznik 1988, 532*). The second, the church of St. Mary of the Assumption, was built in the second half of the 15th century and has a Gothic stonemasonry ornament made by the best masters of that time. These are masters who probably built a church on Ptujška Gora on the orders of Empress Barbara of Celje, the wife of Emperor Sigismund of Luxembourg – masters who came from the imperial workshops in the capital city of Prague.

When valuing the Borl manor in 1542, the appraiser stated that the manor had two ferryboat, and it is interesting that the one in Zavrč was valued much higher. Given the above data, as well as the fact that the latter was the border at which tolls were collected, Vladimir Bračič assumed in his valuation analysis that the main traffic across the Drava River near Zavrč took place at that time and he linked to the idea of continuity of traffic along the route of the former Roman road. The ferryboat was in use until 1964 (*Bračič 1967, 28*).

niso razmišljali tako, kot mi danes. Morda lahko včasih na podlagi naravnih danosti poskušamo razumeti pomen, ki ga je za njih imel prostor – tako lahko domnevamo, da je geografska lega pogojevala, da so kar trikrat v zadnjih dveh tisočletjih na istem kraju zgradili cesto. Hkrati pa si moramo priznati, da nikoli ne bomo popolnoma doumeli, zakaj je bil v prazgodovini ta prostor tako pomemben, da so kar 600 let tukaj pokopavali svoje umrle. In zakaj so tukaj pokopavali tako imenitne? Zakaj so nekateri od teh bili še otroci in mladostniki?

Če je bilo naše vedenje o najstarejši preteklosti področja Zavrča pred dvema desetletjema še dokaj skromno, so po obsegu ne prav velike arheološke raziskave popolnoma spremenile poznavanje rabe tega prostora. Že dosednji rezultati analiz in raziskav odkritega pa so pokazali številne novosti v poznavanju delovanja preteklih družb. Dokončne analize prazgodovinskega grobišča in naselbine bodo pokazale številna nova spoznanja. Dopolnili bomo poznavanje procesa rimske zasedbe tega prostora, rimskega cestnega prometa ter procesa zatona rimske oblasti. Spoznali bomo življenje srednjeveških kmetov ter poskusili v svet pogledati skozi njihove oči. V zadnjem desetletju smo na nekaj mednarodnih kongresih predstavili rezultate raziskav arheološke dediščine Zavrča in posledično je kraj v strokovnih krogih dobro poznan. Sedaj je treba le še zaključiti raziskave ter izpolniti svoj dolg do javnosti – takoj ko bodo razmere to omogočale, bo treba na številne načine pokazati v Zavrču, v vzhodni Sloveniji ter celotni državi in tujini pomen odkritij ter spoznanja o življenju v završki preteklosti, na sončni strani Haloze.

Millennia in the East

Archaeology is a science that presents objects which people have used in the past and explains what people did with those objects in their space. Archaeology impresses and gives answers to questions about our origins, the development of culture and the history of space. It breathes life into objects and draws images of people who are long gone. Archaeology shows that the greatest treasures can often be discovered in the most unexpected places because our ancestors simply did not often think the way we do today. Based on natural circumstances, we can sometimes try to understand the meaning that space had for them – so we can assume that the geographical location conditioned that they built a road on the same place three times in the last 2 millennia. At the same time, we must admit that we will never fully understand why this place was so important in prehistoric times that they buried their dead here for 600 years. And why were such great people buried here? Why were some of these still children and adolescents?

If our knowledge of the oldest past of the Zavrč area two decades ago was still at fairly modest levels, the extent of not very large archaeological research has completely changed the knowledge of the use of this area. The results of analyzes and research of what has been discovered so far have shown many new facts in the knowledge of the functioning of past societies. Final analyzes of the prehistoric graves and settlements will show many new insights. We will supplement our knowledge of the process of Roman occupation of this area, Roman road traffic and the process of the decline of Roman domination. We will discover the life of medieval farmers and try to look at the world through their eyes. In the last decade, we have presented the results of research on the archaeological heritage of Zavrč at several international congresses, and as a result, the place is well known in professional circles. Now all that remains to be done is to complete the research and fulfil our obligation to the public – as soon as the situation allows, it will be necessary to show in Zavrč, in eastern Slovenia and throughout the country and abroad the importance of discoveries and insights into life in the Zavrč past, on the sunny side of Haloze.

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