

PRE-INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE OF THE JESENÍKY REGION AS A NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

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Abstract: Small parcels of agricultural land are rare in the present landscape of Czech Republic and become the subject of interests of the state protection of the nature, the landscape and the environment. At the same time, such areas represent interesting subjects for the local administration as attractive tourist object. In the historical territory of Moravia (the eastern 1/3 of the Czech Republic), a regional inventory of areas with preserved ancient land use structure was carried out on all individual cadastral territories (focused not only on small parcels, but also on large aristocratic estates on agricultural and forest land originated before the main wave of industrial revolution Moravia, before 1850. The sites are still subjects to topic economic pressure on land consolidation. Their existence in the future is under threat and is decreasing every year both in number and size. The inventory results are presented on example of the Jeseníky region.

Key words: terminology, regional specifics, inventory, geo-analysis

INTRODUCTION

The physiognomy, or appearance of the contemporary cultural landscape decisively determined by the relief and the land use of areas. These factors shape the landscape view together. This can then be additionally defined by other parameters, which, however, no longer have a strong visual character. The landscape view on the territory of today's Czech Republic has changed in various ways over the past historical times. Events of past times influenced the character of the landscape at that time. In the territory of the Czech Republic, a number of historical landscape zones have been designated, declared and protected, which are subject to special care and attention of the professional and general public. In addition to the so-called conceived landscape (e.g. parks, gardens and larger areas), these are often places of major historical events, battles, etc. However, the European Landscape Convention also obliges signatory countries to care for the "normal" landscape as well. However, the term "normal landscape" encompasses a very wide range of landscapes, both in terms of the appearance of the terrain and the appearance of the present land use, and also their innumerable combinations.

In addition to landscapes significantly influenced by large-scale collective and state owned agricultural and forestry management, by the socialist industrialization and rapid urbanization in the period after World War II (until about 1990) and by the phenomena associated with the return to the market economy, some preserved segments of ancient landscape survive without special attention and care. Under the conditions of the Czech Republic, these represents the remnants of the cultural landscape from the time before the key land reforms (division of large estates in the second half of the 19th century, after the establishment of independent Czechoslovakia, in the time of war emergency and after World War II). There is no doubt that even medieval landscape segments have been preserved in the Czech Republic. However, in order to identify and survey such landscapes, the necessary cartographic or at least pictorial documentation would have to be available. The oldest relatively reliable map documents describing the ancient use of the landscape come from modern times, when some owners of Baroque estates ordered such documents. The initial land use mapping in the Czech lands is related to the First military survey (Josephine) from 1764–1768. Due to the limited resolution given by the scale of approx. 1 : 28,800 and the absence of a reliable geodetic base, the detailed picture of the landscape at that time can only be relatively roughly documented. The following Second military survey (Franciscan) done in the years 1836–52 has partially corrected these problems due to the use of the high-quality geodetic base at that time. However, the resolution of 1 : 28 800 still remained insufficient for many practical and research purposes. The source of information included in this survey was based on the so-called Stable (Franciscan) Cadastre from the years 1826–1830 and 1837–1843 in Bohemia, respectively 1824–1830 and 1833–1836 in Moravia and Czech Silesia. Its map outputs at scale 1: 2880 have already provided location correct and factually detailed data on land use. Since this survey was carried out just before the onset of the main wave of the Industrial Revolution in the Czech lands, the landscape presented by these documents can be described as the pre-industrial landscape. Its segments, according to the comparison with the current land use, have been locally preserved in different sized areas and in

various quality due to the degree of similarity with the template registered in the Stable Cadastre.

The areas of cultural landscape with a preserved secondary (economic) structure that arose and developed in the period preceding the formation of industrial society in the Czech lands can be considered as a pre-industrial landscape or as a segments of the pre-industrial landscape. While the primary landscape structure is the natural structure, it is given by the territorial distribution of homogeneous units with specific relief forms, rocks, soils, humidity conditions, biota and topoclimate. The secondary landscape structure is given by the territorial distribution of various land use forms. Both structures are in deep interaction. It can be assumed that the pre-industrial landscape, respectively its smaller segments bear the signs of relatively uninterrupted technical, socio-economic and cultural development since the Thirty-years-war period, taking into account local natural conditions and the impact of pre-industrial agricultural innovations. The preserved areas found themselves on the periphery of the subsequent development for various reasons and become relics of the secondary landscape structure from the previous period. Consequently, such territorial segments of varying size and content avoided, or were only partially affected by socio-economic changes in following times. The nationwide inventory of preserved segments of the pre-industrial landscape has only been started in the Czech Republic.

The following areas can be considered as pre-industrial landscape segments in the Czech Republic, as these currently show:

1. a similar land ownership or usage as it was before 1850,
2. a similar land use structure as it was before 1850,
3. a similar appearance (view) to that territory as it did in the given past period.

In principle, the “similarity” is that the size, use, shape and location of typical plots of land have been preserved. Although their specific use varied from site to site within such parcels, they were merged and split (within the “local size standard”), the overall composition and mosaic of sub-area utilization in this segment remains unchanged.

CURRENT STATE OF RESEARCH OF THE ANCIENT LANDSCAPE

The identification and mapping of segments of the pre-industrial landscape is based on comparing the secondary structure of the landscape (land use) presented on old maps with current territorial documentation. The procedure is based on visual and contextual comparison of the ancient and contemporary secondary landscape structure in analogue or electronic form. In the optimal form the compared materials are available in mutually matched form (in terms of scale and projection).

Nowadays culturally well developed human society focuses its attention on natural and cultural, resp. historical heritage. In addition to protected areas and heritage sites, the industrial heritage is also in the center of interest. While post-industrial landscapes have

received more attention in the last two decades, landscapes created before the Industrial Revolution are inventoried and studied relatively less, usually due to the difficult access to old archival documents.

The increasing rate and scale of landscape changes have been observed in most of Europe over the last decades (Klijn & Vos, 2000). According to Antrop (2005), the earlier development of the European cultural landscape has experienced several interruptions, including the disappearance of former “landscapes”. For example, van Eetvelde and Antrop (2005) recall the devastating transformations of ancient landscape structures. Similarly, Lipský (2010) states that the socialist collectivization of agriculture in the Central and Eastern Europe is a typical example of rapid changes in the landscape, reflecting political and economic changes in communist society. These “current” breaking transformations are characterized by the overlapping of the previous landscape structures with new ones. For example, landscapes of the Middle Ages were in many places gradually (sustainably) linked to the older landscapes and then integrated with the neighboring landscapes without extreme step changes in a short time. Many present landscape changes do not respect a continuation of development. Landscape changes are related to land-use changes, where urban growth is undoubtedly the most important feature (Pacione, 2001). The urban growth is clearly affecting directly and indirectly changes in the rural landscape, which, among other things, complicates the landscape management itself (see Brandt et al., 2001). In a broader sense, the growth of bipolarity in land use can be observed in contrast to the densely populated urbanized area on the one hand and the abandoned rural landscape on the other, which in many cases becomes (again) a natural landscape (Vos & Klijn, 2000). Such landscapes, respectively parts of them that retain their ancient appearance attract scientific and public attention. The Landscape Convention supports efforts to inventory different types of landscape, in particular for better management of the landscape (Council of Europe, 2000). This is also one of the objectives of the project “The inventory of the pre-industrial landscape of Moravia and ensuring public awareness of its existence as a cultural heritage” (Kolejka et al., 2018), which is in some sense the successor of earlier landscape classifications and surveys in a more complex way (compare Antrop & van Eetvelde, 2008; Antrop, 2002; Correia et al., 2002; Somper, 2002), while other studies have emphasized biodiversity in a changing landscape (at random, Dramstad et al., 2001; Aalen et al., 1997; Ihse, 1996). Also, UNESCO considers segments of the ancient (old) landscape to be a valuable cultural heritage (e.g. Bandarin, ed., 2009). Few countries or their regions have so far systematically registered this type of cultural heritage, e.g. Belgium (van Eetvelde & Antrop, 2005), Great Britain (Bunce et al., 1996), Slovakia (Slámová & Jančura, 2012; Hřeško & Petluš, eds., 2015) and the Netherlands (Mücher et al., 2003) in the European landscape typology framework. Currently, the evaluation processes of the identified ancient landscapes are beginning only, both for the limited amount of material collected and for the evident novelty of the subject (see van Eetvelde & Antrop, 2005). Recently completed inventory of segments of the pre-industrial landscape of Moravia is an exceptional case of carrying out a comprehensive inventory of ancient landscapes in countries that have undergone radical changes in land use changes in the period of industrial society. One of the remarkable regions of Moravia is

the area of the Jeseníky Mountains and their foothills, where has preserved numerous segments of the pre-industrial landscape not only due to extreme foothill to high mountain natural conditions, but also social, political and ethnic changes after World War II.

LANDSCAPES OF THE JESENÍKY MOUNTAINS AND THEIR FOOTHILLS

The landscape of the Jeseníky Mountains and its foothills in the northeastern part of the Czech Republic (Fig. 1) appears to be specific both in (1) the type of preserved segments of pre-industrial landscape and in their (2) relatively high number and relatively (3) considerable individual sizes. These segments are located in the highest Hercynian mountain ranges of Moravia belonging to the Czech Highlands and Sudeten (Krkonoše-Jeseníky) system – from west to east: Králický Sněžník Mts. (max. 1423 m), Rychlebské hory Mts. (max. Mt. Smrk – 1127 m), Hrubý Jeseník Mts. (Mt. Praděd – 1491 m) and in their foothills – from west to east: Branenská vrchovina Uplands (max. Mt. Jeřáb – 1003 m), Hraběšická hornatina highlands (max. Mt. Kamenný vrch – 964 m) as a part of the Hanušovická vrchovina Uplands, and Nížký Jeseník (max. Slunečná – 800 m). These mountains are mostly built by Proterozoic/Paleozoic metamorphites (paragneisses, orthogneisses, phyllites, amphibolites) and hard Paleozoic sediments (mudstones, sandstones, arkoses, conglomerates, shales). Due to the dissected relief (but with the large top plateaus) and the relatively cold and humid climate, mostly poor cambisols, often waterlogged, and podzols with peat islets developed here.

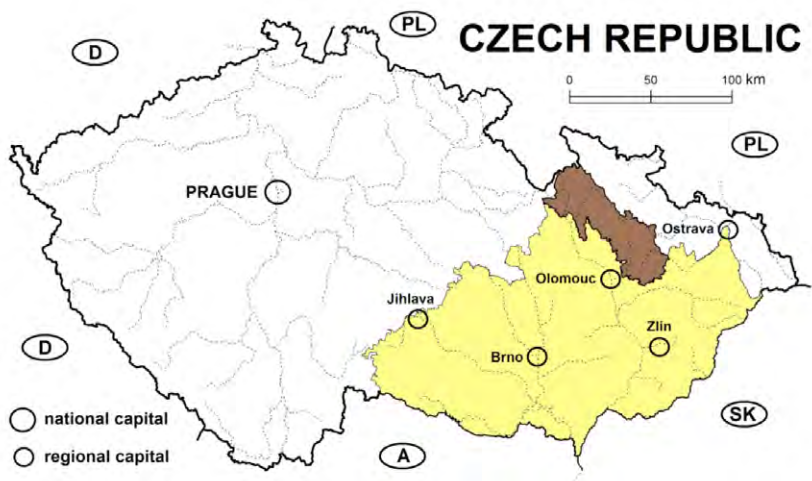


Fig. 1: The historical territory of Moravia (yellow) in the east of the Czech Republic with the Jeseníky region in the north (brown)

Source: own data processing

The vast majority of the detected segments (more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total 87) are in the elevation range (measured according to the geometric centers of the segments) 400-700 m a.s.l. (see Table 1). More than 15% of them are even at altitudes above 700 m a.s.l. (Fig. 2). This situation is facilitated by rounded ridges and relatively narrow watershed plateaus between deep forested valleys, which are found in all local types of relief (Table 2). The settlement and agricultural colonization of these areas probably took place already in the 14th century, although many of the first mention of the villages dates back to the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries. The colonization of forest mountain areas was dominated by members of the German-speaking population from the territory of present-day Germany, eventually the Netherlands and the Alps. The result of the colonization efforts were the so-called linear hide villages with characteristic parallel land parcels running from the linear built-up area to the edge of the cadastral area.

Tab. 1: The spatial distribution of segments of pre-industrial landscape (PreIL) in elevation zones in the Jeseníky region

No.	Sea elevation (in m)	PreIL (number)	PreIL (share in %)
1	201– 300	0	0,00
2	301– 400	5	5,75
3	401– 500	17	19,54
4	501– 600	32	36,78
5	601– 700	19	21,84
6	701– 800	13	14,94
7	801– 900	1	1,15
8	901–1000	0	0,00
9	1000+	0	0,00
Σ		87	100,00

Source: own data peocessing

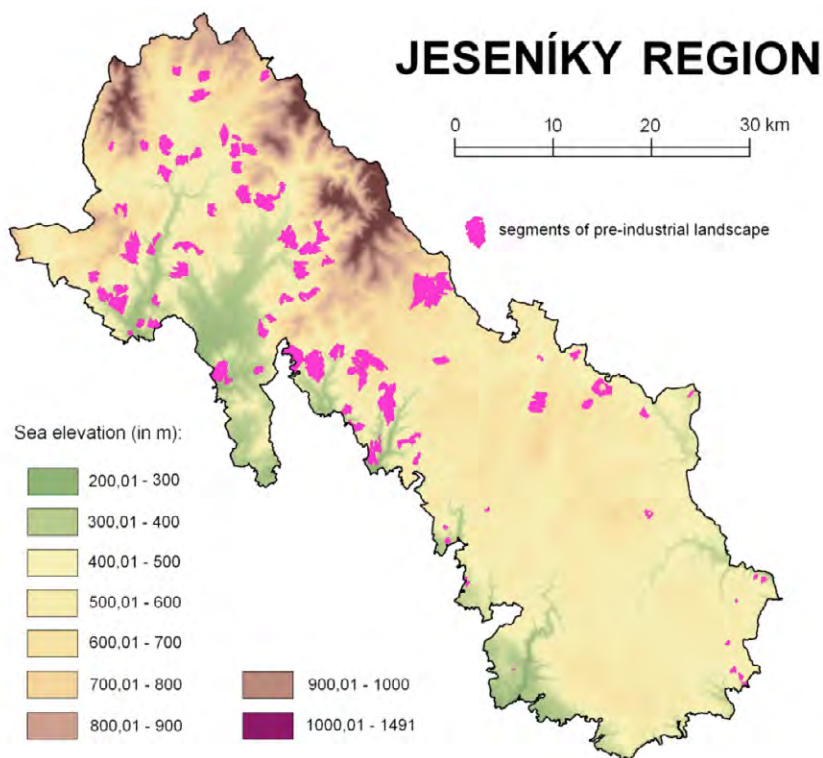


Fig. 2: Segments of pre-industrial landscape detected in the Jeseníky region (in the colour elevation zones)

Source: own data processing

However, it is interesting that even in the first half of the 19th century there were many (perhaps even most) mountain villages of the region (except for towns) having in addition to German names and Czech names as well. (Fig. 3). It can be estimated in general that the villages in higher elevation were more affected by the abandonment of land after World War II. The municipalities, which were established as mining localities, founded often later after the agricultural colonization, faced a particularly intense decline of their population, since their supplementary agriculture was localized to extreme slope and soil conditions and played a secondary role in the municipality's economy in times of prosperous ore mining. The segments of the pre-industrial landscape in these municipalities face intensive reforestation, both spontaneously by natural succession and purposeful afforestation. Originally extensive agricultural areas of arable land and pastures are currently covered by forest and are therefore not registered as segments of the pre-industrial landscape.



Fig. 3: Names of municipalities in the Jeseníky region on title pages of imperial prints of the Stable Cadastre from the 1830s.

Source: maps Moravský zemský archiv, own data processing

An interesting role in the current territorial distribution of segments of the pre-industrial landscape plays the type of relief in terms of vertical dissection (Table 2). As it is generally an elevated high mountain area, there is a very dissected relief. The differentiation of relief by river valleys reached the highest intensity in the uplands and mountains, while in the hilly lands remained extensive plateaus and areas of slightly undulated terrain separated by systems of deep valleys (Fig. 4). The territory in a more dissected relief of uplands and mountains, or large valleys in otherwise flat surrounding terrain thus especially resisted the post-war settlement and collectivization of the land. These dissected territories account for 74.58% of the Jeseníky region, but 94.81% of all identified segments of the pre-industrial landscape. This ratio is especially significant in the uplands, where almost 2/3 of the identified segments account for approximately 1/3 of the region's territory. On the other hand, plateaus and hilly lands make up 22.11% of the region, but only 3.06% of all identified segments. Obviously, the vertical dissection of the relief led favorably to the preservation of the ancient landscape structure. Due to more complex natural conditions, it was not subject to pressure on land consolidation after abandoning their agricultural use.

Tab. 2: Results of analysis of territorial distribution of pre-industrial landscape segments in relief types of Jeseníky region

No.	typ of relief	%	PreIK (n)	PreIK (%)
1	mountains	20,28	31	27,65
2	upland	37,54	69	59,86
3	hilly land	15,91	10	3,03
4	plateau	6,20	3	0,03
5	plain	2,28	5	0,82
6	valley	16,76	14	7,30
7	escarpment	1,01	2	1,31
8	inclined foothills	0,02	0	0
Σ	total	100,00	134	100,00

Source: own data processing

Also regionally (see Table 3), it is clear that most segments of the pre-industrial landscape are concentrated in the foothills of higher mountain ranges, albeit rather in the contact area between foothills and mountains at higher altitudes (Figure 5). Most of the preserved remnants of the ancient landscape remained in the northwest end of the region, peripheral in terms of location (at the state border), as well as of economy and population (relatively far from large cities and key roads in areas with low population density). Many of 87 identified segments are also divided into more parts (totally 134) into different types of relief by their natural borders (Table 2).

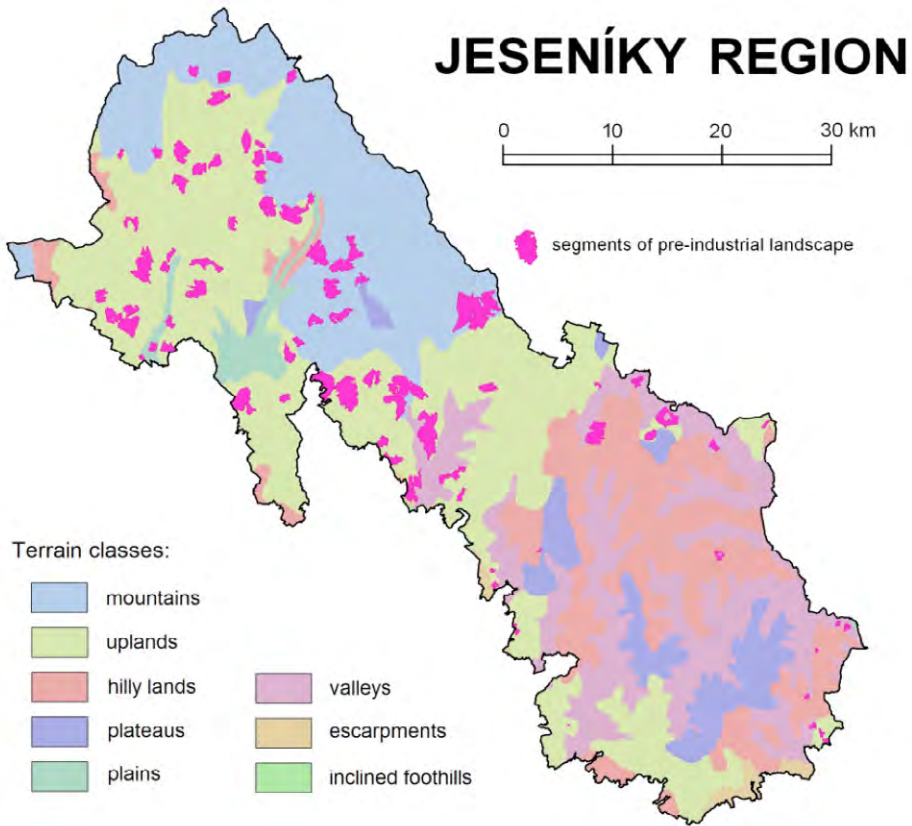


Fig. 4: Location of segments of pre-industrial landscape in relief types in Jeseníky region.

Source: own data processing

In the foothills of the Branenská vrchovina and Hraběšická hornatina regions, more than 50% of the identified segments of pre-industrial landscape (50.76%) are concentrated. Together with Nížký Jeseník it is a total of 72.89%. Among other mountain assifs, Hrubý Jeseník Mts. only show a significant number of segments (almost 25%). A number of segments are shared together by mountains with foothills (this way 104 fragments originated). Hrubý Jeseník Mts. have a central location in the region, while the Rychlebské hory Mts. and Králický Sněžník Mts. represent an extreme periphery. The valleys of Hrubý Jeseník are open to economic influences from the south, and therefore the abandonment of agricultural land and afforestation has not reached the dimensions known in cadastres further to the northwest, although the arable land conversion to grassland is at the same level.

Tab. 3: Results of analysis of territorial distribution of pre-industrial landscape segments in individual mountains and foothills of the Jeseníky region

No.	Sub-region	Share (in %)	PrelK (number)	PrelK (share in %)
1	Králický Sněžník	2,34	1	0,52
2	Rychlebské hory	2,55	5	1,62
3	Hrubý Jeseník	15,42	24	24,97
4	Branenská vrchovina	19,15	31	34,14
5	Hraběšická hornatina	6,83	10	16,62
6	Nízký Jeseník	53,71	33	22,13
Σ	total	100,00	104	100,00

Source: own data processing

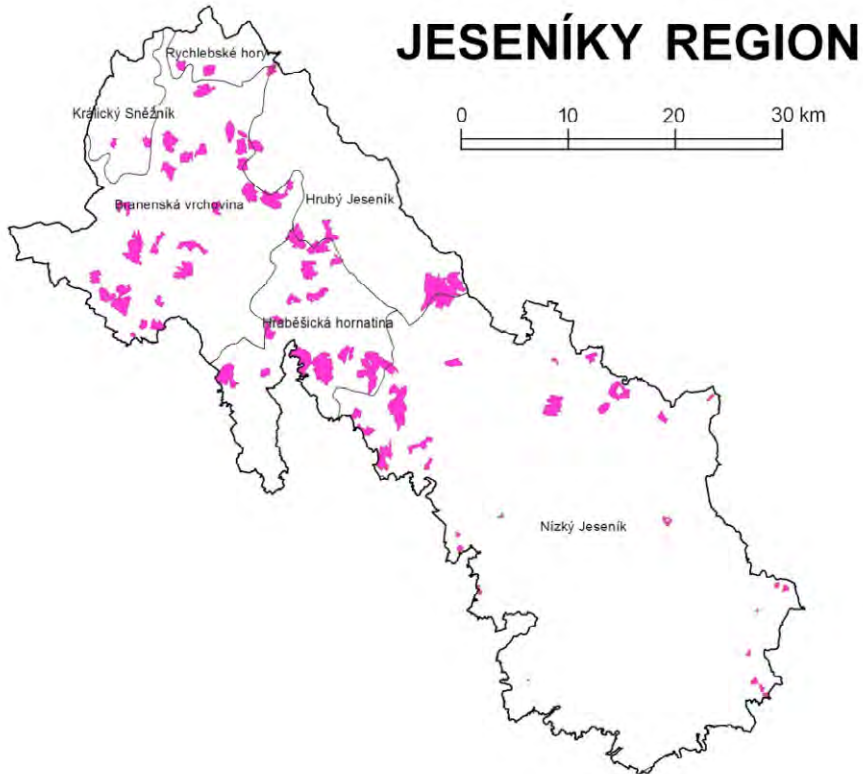


Fig. 5: Position of segments of pre-industrial landscape in sub-regions of the Jeseníky region.

Source: Landscape Atlas of Czech Republic, modified

The local configuration of the relief greatly influenced the layout of the land of linear hide villages, where each farmstead was followed by an elongated plot (Fig. 6). There are basically three types of land arrangement with regard to the slope of the relief.

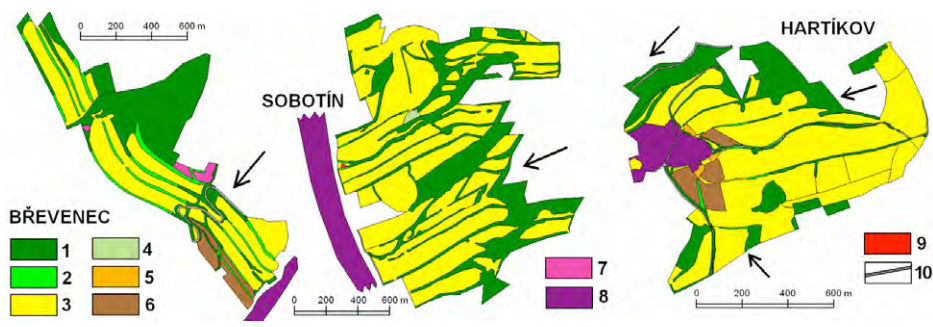


Fig. 6: Types of land organisation in linear hide villages of the Jeseník regions in well-preserved segments of pre-industrial landscape (Legenf: 1 – forests, 2 – shrubs, 3 – meadows and pastures, 4 – forest nurseries, 5 – orchards, 6 – arable land, 7 – abandoned areas, 8 – urban areas with buildings and gardens, 9 – isolated buildings, 10 – roads, arrows indicate the down slope direction).

Source: Own data processing.

The land to the northwest of the village Břevenc is still mostly horizontally arranged along the contour lines (between 320–400 m a.s.l.) on the marginal slope of Nizký Jeseník Uplaands above the fertile plains of the Hornomoravský úval lowland. The upper part of the village is in a narrow valley, while the lower part is already in the plain. The plots are arranged perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the village.

Sobotín municipality located in the deep valley of Hrubý Jeseník Mts. about 10 km northeast of the district centre Šumperk shows a large landscape segment with preserved pre-industrial structure of the land use on slopes (between 450–670 m a.s.l.) to the east from the village. The plots are arranged perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the development, but downhill along the slope. Such character of land organisation has a relatively large number of segments of the pre-industrial landscape in the Jeseníky region.

The Hartíkov settlement, now part of the village of Bušín, is situated on the western slope of a long round ridge extending from the Mt. Kamenec (912 m) to the southeast to the Morava River, about 10 km west of Šumperk. Due to its location in the shallow dish-shaped end of a small valley with plots reaching up to the watershed (between 500–630 m a.s.l.), the land arrangement is significantly influenced by the local relief in the preserved segment of pre-industrial landscape. The parcelling takes the form of a fan converging from the sides of the arches into the center. The plots coming downhill from the watershed lead straight to the edge of the village, where they suddenly turn to the center of the village. Such an arrangement of land is typical for municipalities located bear-by flat ridge tops.

CONCLUSION

Preserved segments of pre-industrial landscape of the Jeseníky region mostly correspond to the type of so-called linear hide colonization villages, whether they were inhabited by Czech or German ethnic groups or both together. They document representative examples of the natural and cultural heritage of the region. In contrast to the original agricultural use with the predominance of arable land, grasslands of meadows and pastures dominate at present. Once narrow edges are highlighted by tree or shrub lines. The main degrading factor of the original land use structure is spontaneous or organised afforestation. This leads to a gradual change in the landscape from mountain farming to mountain woodland. Afforestation is particularly striking in the less accessible peripheries of cadastral areas, distant from local economic centers. Narrow parallel parcel merging into larger units is (rather was) common if there were only dran edges between the original fields. At present, the tree or shrub lines on edges are often cut by punching transverse passages for agricultural machinery and for cattle herds, or for conducting the electricity lines.

Although a considerable part of the identified segments of the pre-industrial landscape of the Jeseníky region is already subject to some conservation attention within the Jeseníky PLA, most of them (and often well preserved) remain out of reach of the nature and landscape conservation authorities. The protection and care of the old structures of the local mountain cultural landscape would be particularly beneficial for the local public and the businessmen to be aware that it is an interesting historical heritage typical of the region, which could, if not already is, surely constitute an extraordinary attraction in the future for visitors. In the relatively less favorable conditions for the development in the foothills (mountain areas are already overloaded by intensive winter and summer recreation now), the preserved segments of the pre-industrial landscape can represent a significant tourist potential, the romantic and harsh environment for historical movies or contemporary scenarios. Then only specially selected most valuable representative segments of the ancient cultural landscape could enjoy a legislative protection.

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Shrnutí

V současné době kultivovaná lidská společnost zaměřuje svoji pozornost na přírodní a kulturní, resp. historické dědictví. Vedle chráněných území a památkových objektů se do centra zájmu dostává rovněž průmyslové dědictví. Poněkud stranou zůstává zachovalá běžná (nikoliv parkovní) kulturní krajina z doby před průmyslovou revolucí. V ČR neexistuje pokryvná inventarizace segmentů předindustriální krajiny a ani iniciální náznaky její ochrany, resp. regulovaného managementu. Kolektivizace zemědělství a zestátnění lesů v období reálného socialismu vedlo ke spojování pozemků drobných vlastníků do rozsáhlých homogenních ploch, které zcela překryly staletí formovanou pestrou mozaiku polí, luk a lesů. Privatizace půdy po ekonomických a politických změnách v bývalém Československu po roce 1990 trend spojování pozemků ještě zesílila. Drobné parcely zemědělských kultur jsou tak v současné krajině vzácností a stávají se předmětem zájmu statní ochrany přírody, krajiny a životního prostředí. Současně se o takové areály zajímá místní administrativa jako o atraktivní turistický objekt, který může do lokalit přilákat návštěvníky. Na historickém území Moravy (východní 1/3 území ČR) byla po jednotlivých katastrálních územích provedena regionální inventarizace ploch se zachovalou starobyrou strukturou využití ploch (nejen drobná parcelace, ale i šlechtické velkostatky na zemědělské a lesní půdě) z doby před hlavní vlnou průmyslové revoluce na Moravě, tedy před rokem 1850. Každá lokalita byla posuzována z 10 hledisek. Všechny lokality byly vloženy do geodatabáze GIS a provedena jejich mnohoparametrická analýza za účelem odhadu možnosti zákonitostí jejich prostorového výskytu. Vlastní geodatabáze je také určitým svědectvím jejich současného stavu a míry ohrožení. Lokality jsou stále podrobovány ekonomickému tlaku na spojování pozemků a jejich velkoplošné využití. Jejich existence do budoucna je ohrožena a každoročně jich ubývá. V příspěvku jsou demonstrovány výsledky inventarizace, dokumentace a hodnocení zjištěných segmentů předindustriální krajiny Moravy na příkladu regionu Jeseníky.