

Abstract:

Between 2007 and 2016, there was a rescue archeological research done by the Institute of Archaeology of the CAS in the locality of Brandýs nad Labem-Vrábí at the site „U Vodojemu“, where, above other, a large settlement from the Early Bronze Age was uncovered. Based on the ceramics, it is possible to classify it chronologically as the early period of the Únětice culture, typologically then, it is possible to associate the ceramics found with the post-classical phase of the Únětice culture. The discovery of the U-shaped ditch adjacent to the ground edge of the Hrušovský stream indicates that the settlement was fortified for a certain time, approximately at the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC. Based on the nature of the ditch filling, of the ceramic findings with analogies in the beginning of the tumulus culture, as well as of the carbon dating, it is obvious that the settlement served further on after the downfall of this fortification, too, and thus for another 100 years at least.

In the context of another very numerous, contemporaneous findings in the cadaster of Brandýs nad Labem, it is visible that the site „U Vodojemu“ used to be a part of a large settlement agglomeration. A detailed mapping of the Early Bronze Age findings from the district of the north-east part of Central Bohemia has shown further settlement concentrations at the Vltava and Elbe riverside, among which the Brandýs' agglomeration stands out for both its area and findings' intensity, though. The definite difference in the settlement form between the early and late period of the Únětice culture in the region observed is obvious, too. While the Vltava and Elbe (Labe) riverside had been populated intensively already in the early period of the Únětice culture, the population of Mladá Boleslav region was not fully developed until the late period. A distinctive concentration of depots and amber in the area of Mladá Boleslav region indicates the existence of a long distance route heading to the central Bohemia, and thus, together with the assumed route alongside the Elbe (Labe), it is possible to interpret the settlement agglomeration in Brandýs nad Labem as a significant point at the crossing of two long distance routes.