

## Abstract

**The fortification and settlement of the Bohemian oppida. The contribution of modern non-destructive methods.** Celtic oppida represent a special type of extensive hillfort that were founded and intensively settled in the late La Tène period. These distinctive sites in Bohemian archaeology were investigated mainly between the 1950s and 1980s by means of long-term, intensive archaeological excavations. The subsequent processing of additional information from these investigations still requires more time and intensive work by archaeologists. But in terms of the areas of the oppida, only a small fraction of the total (1-3%) has been subjected to detailed excavation up to now. The remaining varied terrain of the oppida commonly extending up to several dozen hectares is without any archaeological verification or information.

The application of modern, less expensive, non-destructive methods mainly during the last decade offers further opportunities for the systematic survey and research of larger unexcavated areas of Czech oppida. For the purposes of this dissertation, a variety of results from non-destructive methods from five oppida in Central and South Bohemia were used: Hrazany, Nevězice, Stradonice, Třisov and Závist. The primary methodology for the new study of oppida was based on geophysical (mainly magnetometric and also geoelectric resistivity) surveys of selected suitable terrains and locations of special archaeological interest. The geophysical results were then often combined with the results of other non-destructive methods such as new and historical aerial surveys, systematic surface artefact collection, metal detector survey and GPS or detailed vertical geodetic measurements. Some results were also combined with the results of archaeological excavations or old detailed maps.

In the last decade non-destructive surveys of oppida have focussed mainly on the identification and study of non-preserved parts of fortification systems, gates or the internal division of sites, on the study of the structure of settlement and other activities within the surveyed inner areas of oppida. The main objectives of the dissertation work involved four main areas: 1. The housing of oppida areas and its structure. 2. The character of hinterland and the setting of oppida in the surrounding landscape. 3. The general possibilities of non-destructive research. 4. The importance of results for the protection of archaeological monuments. In a number of cases large-scale geophysical surveys of ploughed agricultural land helped identify previously unknown and often uncovered remains of fortification systems (Hrazany), intensive settlement with separated internal divisions (Nevězice, Stradonice) and production features (Stradonice) or structured settlement and paths (Nevězice, Závist). New

results were also produced by various geophysical surveys of wooded (grassland) areas, the identification of unknown gates (Závist), additional entrances (Stradonice) or other activities inside the oppidum – acropolis (Stradonice), plateaus (Hrazany, Závist), enclosures (Třísov), medieval activities (Hrazany, Třísov) or fields (Závist).