

Bela Cerkev – Pod Vovkom

IRN 15515 (1)	Bela Cerkev – Dolge Njive archaeological site
Motorway section	ko 17 Kronovo–Smednik
Geographical coordinates	x 521904 y 80247 z 154
Primary topographical map sheet TTN5	Novo Mesto 20
Cadastral register	c.c. Bela Cerkev, cadastral plot nos. 2643/1, 2644 & 2647
Site type	Building
Period	Early Iron Age
Method and date of discovery, site discovered by	Archaeological survey 2000–2001, Ildikó Pintér and Bojan Djurić
Fieldwork method and date	Excavation 2002
Excavation director	Borut Križ
Excavated area	5,000 m ²
Site archive kept by	Dolenjski muzej Novo Mesto

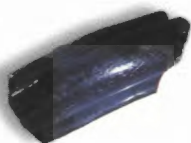
The archaeological site is located on the edge of the river Krka flood plain directly below the village of Bela Cerkev. Stone flakes and tools deposited by the river Krka from an unknown site located higher up the river were discovered all over the entire site.

The most important part of the archaeological remains is located 160–200 cm beneath the modern ground surface. A considerable amount of daub and prehistoric potsherds was discovered at this level, as well as a 16-m-long stone setting, which represented a house foundation wall. Numerous daub fragments with wattle imprints, animal bones and potsherds lay alongside the wall. The building was destroyed by fire. A further, circular building (3.80 m in



Early Iron Age
bronze brooch





La Tène glass bracelet
fragment



Medieval glass bead

diameter) was located in the vicinity. The presence of daub fragments and intensive burning indicate that it was a timber house with wattle and daub walls.

In addition to some postholes for vertical posts, two stone-paved surfaces were also discovered. The context and date of these structures has not yet been determined.

A bronze pin, a band fibula and a Certosa fibula from the destroyed building foundations date them to the Early Iron Age and the final phase of the Bronze Age. Lowland settlement is rare in this period and had not yet been found so far, although its existence seemed possible. Early Iron Age lowland settlement is a novelty in the region of Dolenjska, where only hillforts were known, with the exception of the defended enclosure at Straža. Such settlement has been confirmed in Bela Cerkev for the first time.

BORUT KRIŽ



Eneolithic stone tools and flakes

References

- DJURIČ, BOJAN; PINTÉR, ILDIKÓ, *Poročilo o rezultatih arheološkega pregleda na potencialnem najdišču Bela Cerkev*, Ljubljana 2001.
- KRIŽ, BORUT; PETERLE UDOVIČ, PAVLA, *Poročilo o zaščitnih arheoloških raziskavah na trasi AC Kronovo–Smednik na arheološkem najdišču Bela Cerkev*, Novo Mesto 2001.