

Loka

IRN 15511 Ruhna Vas – archaeological site Loka

Motorway section KO 17 Kronovo–Smednik

Geographical coordinates x 523251 y 80698 z 153

Primary topographical map sheet TTN5 Kostanjevica 11

Cadastral register c.c. Tomažja vas, cadastral plot nos. 927/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 934, 937, 954, 972 & 973

Site type Settlement, drainage channels

Period Early Bronze Age, Roman

Type and date of discovery, site discovered by Ildikó Pintér and Bojan Djurić, 2000–2001

Fieldwork method and date Excavation 2002

Excavation director Milena Horvat

Excavated area 12,000 m²

Site archive kept by Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Archaeology, Ljubljana University

The site is located in fields between the Otočec–Ruhna Vas local road and the river Krka. Occupation took place in the small valley of the constant Cedilnik stream, which is carved into the colluvial slope of low hills on the northern side of the river Krka. Its shape indicates that it was formed by the reverse erosion of a Karst spring. This fundamentally influenced the development of an alluvial-colluvial mound (153 m a.s.l.) that extends as far as the river bank. The western part of the mound was safe from the frequent floods, despite its direct proximity to the Krka.

The Bronze Age settlement covers an area of ca. 9,600 m². It was established that the entire southern part of the Cedilnik valley in the immediate vicinity of



Decorated vessel fragment,
Early Bronze Age



the river Krka was densely settled. The settlement was located on slightly elevated ground. The only part that remained unsettled was less appropriate from the geological and morphological aspect. It was an open settlement consisting of closed residential and economic units. These comprised at least one to two houses and one to two outbuildings. The buildings were arranged in groups along paths or around larger open areas. The paths were built along natural gravel lenses (from the alluvial-colluvial mound of the Cedilnik) so that they were always dry. Each farmstead had an inner courtyard connected to the central open area by a path. Residential buildings have one or three rooms with a special entrance hallway or a projecting roof above the main entrance. The associated outbuildings were smaller in size, as well as being more narrow and oblong. The buildings were timber-post built. They were oriented in an south-east/north-west direction. The settlement is dated to the Early Bronze Age, the period between 1,700 and 1,500 BC.

The drainage channels discovered in sectors F and G can be dated to the Roman period. They represent a Roman drainage system used for draining rain-water from the slope to the north of the site (from the Cedilnik valley). The geological and geomorphological conditions on the site indicate the possibility that the alluvial-colluvial area mound of the Cedilnik was maintained as agricultural land during the Roman period. This is borne out by the presence of by these drainage channels. Other locations in this area are less appropriate for cultivation.

MILENA HORVAT

References

- DJURIĆ, BOJAN; PINTÉR, ILDIKÓ, *Poročilo o rezultatih arheološkega pregleda na potencialnem najdišču Loka*, Ljubljana 2001.
- HORVAT, MILENA, *Poročilo o arheološkem zaščitnem izkopavanju na arheološkem najdišču Loka na trasi Smednik–Kronovo*, Ljubljana 2003.