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1. Characterisation of the pilot site

The remains of the Roman fort are located east of the city of Komárno, approximately 2.2 km southwest of the centre of the municipality of Iža, in location called Leányvár, on the left bank of the Danube, at an elevation of approximately 108–111 meters above sea level. Its area appears slightly above the surrounding flat plain terrain as a square-shaped low ridge accentuated in the western, northern and eastern part by the residues of ramparts and ditches. The surface is grass covered, lined with a row of trees in the west and east. The area is determined from the south by a high protective embankment of the Danube River, in the north is surrounded by a dirt road and drainage canals. On the west is an archaeological base station and on the east a shooting training ground.

The original ancient name of the Roman camp in Iža is unknown. It is not directly documented in any preserved written sources or inscriptions. According to the identical geographical data by Claudius Ptolemy about Brigetio and the site entitled Kelemantia (also Celemantia/Kelamantia/Celamantia) in his work “Geographia,” certain authors in older historical and archaeological literature identified the Roman camp in Iža with this name.

However it is not in compliance with the most recent archaeological research, according to which the first Roman fortification on the left-bank bridgehead of Brigetio was built after the death of Claudius Ptolemaeus.

The Hungarian name of the site of the Roman fort in Iža “Leányvár” (Virgin’s castle) which is documented from the beginning of the 18th century, could have originated from folk legend.

The Roman fort in Iža is the only identified permanent fortification and a unique proof of the long-term military presence of Romans on the northern bank of the Danube and one of the most extensive Roman construction complexes in *Barbaricum* in general. Its remains represent exceptional sources of the Roman history and provide important knowledge mainly about events in the time of the Marcomannic Wars, but also about the later development of the Northpannonian frontier.

The first excavations were done by J. Tóth-Kurucz at the beginning of the 20th century. He examined a major part of the fort and produced its ground plan with fortification, headquarters, barracks, stables, stores, granaries and bath in the inner area. During the further excavations in the middle of the 20th century (B. Svoboda) were discovered the north-east corner tower with the late extension of a fan-shaped floor plan from the 4th century there remain only the foundation ditches filled with debris and the east intermediate tower with two v-shaped ditches in forefront.

During the excavations of the Archaeological Institute of SAS since 1978 were uncovered the north gate with remains of horse-shoe shaped extensions from the 4th century, the north-west corner tower with remains of late fan-shaped extension and whole of the south part of the fortification with south gate, two intermediate and two corner towers. In the south-west quarter of the fort were the outlines of foundations of barrack building from the end of the 2nd and the first half of the 3rd centuries as well as three wells and the remnants of two large bakery ovens excavated. In the

south-east corner of the fort was a part of bathhouse uncovered; this was built at the end of the 2nd century with later reconstructions.

On the south beneath the massive layers of the stone fort large parts of an older timber-earth camp – relics of eleven barracks, were unearthed. The barracks were built from dried clay bricks bound with mud mortar. The find contexts inside the unearthed buildings and in their neighbourhood clearly proved that this camp was probably destroyed during an unexpected enemy attack. Shattered and complete ceramic vessels, components of military equipment and weaponry and more than one hundred iron hobnails from leather shoes were found lying on the floor of individual rooms and at the level of adjacent streets. The timber-earth camp was destroyed during the Marcomannic wars.

The main risk could be flood caused by the river Danube and field works not only for the fort, but also for the temporary camps found nearby.



Figure 1 Fort of Iža, roman military camp, picture: ©Ján Rajtár



Figure 2 Temporary camps around the Iža fort. Picture: ©Ján Rajtár

2. Threat analysis pilot site

Likelihood	Almost certain					
	Likely	Flood				
	Possible	Theft	Accidents, malfunctions	General security	Vandalism, deterioration, wear & tear, climate	
	Unlikely	Pollutants	Violence	Earthquakes		
	Rare	Fire Light	Pests and mold			
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Impact						

Flood:

Because of the nature of the territory and the local bodies of water, flooding may occur in the event of disturbance of the embankments particularly on the Váh River and the Danube River. In terms of legislation, flood protection is governed by Act No. 666/2004 Coll. on Flood Protection. Institutionally, protection is ensured by state administration bodies at all levels (Ministry of Environment, regional and district environmental offices). The municipality carries out transferred authority in its territorial district. Flood commissions are established at all management levels.

Flood protection incorporates regulating streams and the building of protective embankments. The protective embankments with a minimum of HQ 100 are built along the Danube River near Iža and high water is restrained in inundation areas between the embankments.

Vandalism:

It is not possible to completely exclude a threat of metal detecting and illegal excavations at the archaeological site Iža which is situated far from habitation. However, all indicated illegal excavations or metal detecting are classified as criminal offenses under the Slovak Criminal Code, and they are pursued and penalized also according to the Slovak Monument Protection legislation.

Deterioration / wear & tear:

Due to agriculture – the main site's territory is not being agriculturally cultivated, however, agricultural land forms most of the buffer zone of Iža – rímsky vojenský tábor (kastel) and is intensively used for agriculture and water-management purposes. Preservation Principles of the Preservation Principles for the buffer zone for the National Cultural Monument Iža – "Kelemantia" is a basic instrument for the prevention of threats and it strongly regulates current as well as future land use activities, especially the depth of plowing.

Climate:

As a result of climate change freeze cycles or instances of radical daily temperature swings may become more unpredictable. Climate change primarily affects the water balance, so the incidence and damaging effect (erosion) of floods may increase in all sections of the Danube. Also, the level of the floods may increase leading to the flooding of nominated component parts which have never or only rarely be affected of flooding so far. In the case of remains above ground the chance of damage endangering building materials due to temperature swings (erosion, cracking) may increase and supercell storms or microburst storms may become more frequent, thus the general reduction of the extent of air and soil pollution due to human activity is an ever more urgent task, since the remains cannot be protected, the prediction of these events can only aid living creatures and movable elements.

Pests & mold:

Animal and plant pests damage remains above and below the surface, although to differing degrees. Roots that extend deeper or animals that burrow may have a damaging impact on remains that are underground and that are generally better protected. They do not have an impact worthy of mention on the construction materials; instead they endanger the stratigraphy and the finds enclosed, therefore disturbing the original archaeological conditions. However, their impact is always limited.

Severe weather:

The risk of frost damage should not be underestimated. Every year as many as one hundred freeze-thaw cycles can occur, which damages architectural remains on or close to the surface to a great extent. After the ruins have been exposed particular care must be taken, and until a permanent solution is found seasonal protection from frost must be provided. In the case of final rehabilitation, conservation or exhibition, solutions to the problems of water infiltration and frost for the remains must be found through water management, insulation/damp-proofing and the employment of proper techniques for interventions. The regulations for interventions are controlled by strict official supervision.

Earthquakes:

Slovakia is not a seismically threatened area; seismic activity on its territory is rated as mild. There are about 70 - 80 earthquakes occurring annually, with the vast majority of them being very poor phenomena recorded only by technology. The earthquakes observed by the inhabitants are approximately three to six in a year and mostly have an epicenter outside the territory of Slovakia. The component parts are situated in an area where the strength of earthquakes does not exceed grade 4 of the EMS-98 scale.

3. Additional selected sites along the Danube

3.1. Bratislava - Rusovce (*Gerulata*)

The remains of the Roman fort, vicus and necropolis are located in Bratislava-Rusovce, 15 km south of Bratislava, approximately 1,5 km away from the river Danube. During excavations, the remains of Roman structures have been partly uncovered and restored/reconstructed, so that they can be visited today. Other areas are still underground and covered with modern superstructures. Geophysical surveys have been completed in these areas. The oldest building phase, a wooden fortress, goes back to the year 81 CE (founded under Domitian), the most recent building phase in form of a late antique fortress dates back between 375-380 CE.



Figure 8: Remains of the Burgus.

© Pudelek (Marcin Szala)/CC BY-SA 3.0.

Likelihood	Almost certain					Construction Activity
	Likely					
	Possible	Accidents, Pollutants, Earthquake, Severe Weather	Vandalism, Theft, Climate, Deterioration	Flood		
	Unlikely	Light				
	Rare	General Security, Violence, Pests & Mold				
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Impact						

4. Protection Mechanisms

The site is protected as a national cultural monument (since 1963) in accordance with the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No 49/2002 Coll. on the Protection of the Monuments and Historic Sites – this category represents the supreme level of monuments protection in the Slovak Republic.

The buffer zone of the Iža – “Kelemantia”, rímsky vojenský tábor (kastel), (ID No 33) was declared in 2015 as the Protective Zone of national cultural monument (by the Decision of the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic no. PUSR-2015/126-28/56278).

Actual performance of state administration connected with monuments protection, expert consultancies, negotiations with various stakeholders on current challenges and requirements of the areas’ development, as well as duties related to regular monitoring are being carried out by the respective Regional Monuments Board Nitra – office Komárno as a first-instance body of monuments protection, or by means of the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic (in the second instance). In specific cases directly through the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, its Monuments Inspection (Monuments Act, § 5) and the Commission for the Coordination of the Tasks of the World Cultural Heritage Protection.

Beside the Monuments Act, monuments protection is ensured also with tools of the urban planning, that forms the long-term development of the communities and territories and determines obligatory modus operandi of the territory in question. In case of national cultural monuments it fully respects the need of their protection, including the monuments environs (in terms of the Act 254/2015 Coll., by which is changed and amended Act 50/1976 Coll. on Urban Planning and Building Order as amended by posterior regulations, so called „Building Act“). This Act is implemented directly the Building Authorities in the individual municipalities.

The Act 543/2002 Coll. on Conservation of Nature and Landscape concerns the site as well since it is partially incorporated in the Protected Landscape Area Dunajské Luhy. The professionally competent body for state protection of nature represents the Landscape Protected Area Administration.

5. References

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