



# IRON AGE DANUBE ROUTE

2021

ISSN 2718-5400

MAGAZINE

JOIN  
THE  
IADR  
Protect  
our  
common  
heritage

FOLLOW  
THE  
ROUTE  
Become  
a part of  
our joint  
narrative

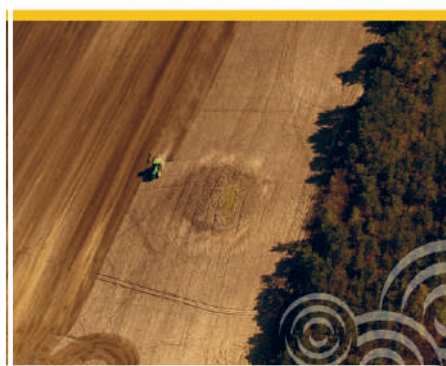
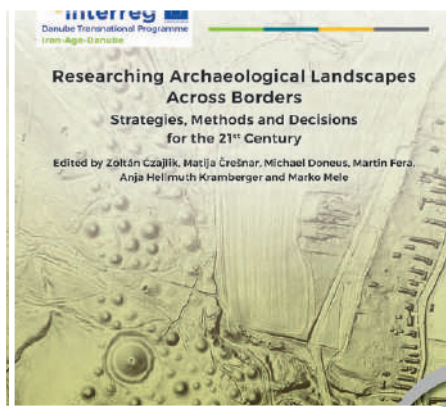




**T**he Archaeolingua Team has members with a wide range of competencies, from graphic design to desktop editing, from academic writing to layout management. Therefore, we are ready to assist with publications in the most comprehensive way: we offer help with applying for financial aid to publish your book, editing your manuscript and managing your images, preparing the cover design, supervising printing, and distributing the book in Hungary and abroad. If you have special requests, such as embossing lacquer on the book cover, we are happy to assist your needs.

Our partners include universities and academic institutions all over the world, many of which have commissioned us with publishing their scholarly series. Just to name a few, Archaeolingua publishes the **Occasional Papers of the European Archaeological Council**; the **Studia Aegyptiaca** Series of the Department of Egyptology at the Eötvös Loránd University; the **Yamnaya Impact on Prehistoric Europe** Series of the University of Helsinki; the **Innsbrucker Beiträge zur Kulturwissenschaft** Series of the University of Innsbruck; and the publications of the **European Research Network of Excellence in Open Cultural Heritage**. We pursue excellence in whatever we do, be it manuscript editing, proof-reading, or producing elegant book covers that appeal to the eye. We are honoured to be the official publisher of all material related to the **Iron Age Danube Route Project** as a founding member of the **Iron Age Danube Route Association**.

We are committed to bringing archaeology and cultural heritage closer to the general public and raise awareness for their protection; therefore, our bilingual (English and Hungarian) online journal, **Hungarian Archaeology**, has been open access for 10 years now, and will always remain available to everyone with an interest in our common heritage.



The project Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes is implemented under the Danube Transnational Programme, funded by the European Regional Development and IPA fund.

ERDF: 2,118,635.56 EUR  
IPA: 21,335.00 EUR



Programme co-funded by the European Union

## Pohorsko Podravje pred tremi tisočletji

### Pohorsko Podravje three millenia ago

*Tradition & Innovation  
in the Late Bronze and  
Early Iron Ages*

Biba Teržan  
Matija Črešnar

#### ABOUT THE MONOGRAPH

The monograph contains a series of presentations of significant sites from the Pohorsko Podravje region of NE Slovenia, dating to the Late Bronze and the Early Iron Ages, some of which were excavated quite recently, while others were known only through preliminary publications.

It was published jointly by the National Museum of Slovenia and the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana, with financial support of the Slovenian Research Agency and the municipalities of Zreče and Hoče-Slivnica.

#### AUTHORS

Biba Teržan, Matija Črešnar and collaborators:  
Teja Gerbec, Lucija Grahek, Mihela Kajzer, Vesna Koprivnik, Bine Kramberger, Tamara Leskovar, Mira Strmčnik Gulič, Iztok Štamfelj, Jayne-Leigh Thomas, Tatjana Tomazo Ravnik, Borut Toškan, Rafko Urankar.

#### ABOUT THE SERIES

*Catalogi et Monographiae of the National Museum of Slovenia.* The series, published since 1955, comprises catalogues with summarised presentations of important archaeological sites, excavations and findings from various periods in Slovenia. All volumes are published bilingually with a translation into one of the world languages.

#### PAGES

589

#### ISBN

978-961-06-0418-1

Price: 59 €

Order: [www.knjigarna.ff.uni-lj.si](http://www.knjigarna.ff.uni-lj.si)  
[blagajna@nms.si](mailto:blagajna@nms.si)

Available also as e-book:

<https://doi.org/10.4312/9789610604198>



Iron Age Danube Route Magazine  
Vol. 1  
2021

#### PUBLISHERS

Archaeological Museum in Zagreb  
Iron Age Danube Route Association

#### EDITOR IN CHIEF

Sanjin Mihelić

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

Jacqueline Balen  
Erzsébet Jerem  
Matija Črešnar  
Marko Mele  
Petra Stipančić  
Katalin Wollák

#### EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Porin Šćukanec Reznicek

#### AUTHORS

Jacqueline Balen  
Zoltán Czajlik  
Szabolcs Czifra  
Matija Črešnar  
Ivan Dručić  
Ana Đukić  
Szilvia Fábián  
Nataša Gorenc  
Anja Hellmuth Kramberger  
Erzsébet Jerem  
Boštjan Laharnar  
Zsolt László Márkus  
Marko Mele  
Sanjin Mihelić  
Daniel Modl  
Adrienn Pálincás  
Hrvoje Potrebica  
Marko Pršina  
Marta Rakvin  
Petra Stipančić  
György Szántó  
Tibor Szkaliczki  
Miklós Veres  
Anja Vintar  
Petra Vojaković  
Zsolt Weisz  
Katalin Wollák

#### ART DIRECTION AND DESIGN

Sensus Design Factory  
Nedjeljko Špoljar  
Kristina Špoljar  
Stanislav Novak

#### ADVERTISING DESIGN

Srećko Škrinjarić

#### MAP DESIGN

Martin Fera

#### PRINT

Tiskara Zelina

#### PRINT RUN

2000

ISSN 2718-5400



Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe



Bone figure of a horseman  
on a horse — a part of fibula  
from tumulus 12 in Kaptol-Gradca.  
© CP/H. Potrebica

#### COVER PHOTO:

Tumuli at Süttő at the Danube  
by Zoltán Czajlik  
Eötvös Loránd University  
Institute of Archaeological Sciences  
Budapest

## CONTENTS

5	Editor's Letter
6	The Iron Age — a Short History of Almost Everything
12	What is the Iron Age Danube Route?
16	Follow the Route
40	Calendar
44	Iron Age News
48	Iron Age Stories
50	Pungrt Hill — Astonishing New Discovery
52	Valley of the Iron Age Princes in Northern Croatia
54	The Making of hamuG
56	Iron Age in Our Hand
58	Heriterra — Nature to Human and Back
60	Iron Age Cooking
66	Iron Age Youth
68	Archaeological Encounters
70	When I am Grown Up, I Want to be an Archaeologist
71	Tomi — the Iron Age Danube Mascot
72	Iron Age Events
74	Iron Age Exhibitions
78	Object of the Year — Cult Wagon from Strettweg



# IRON AGE

# STORIES

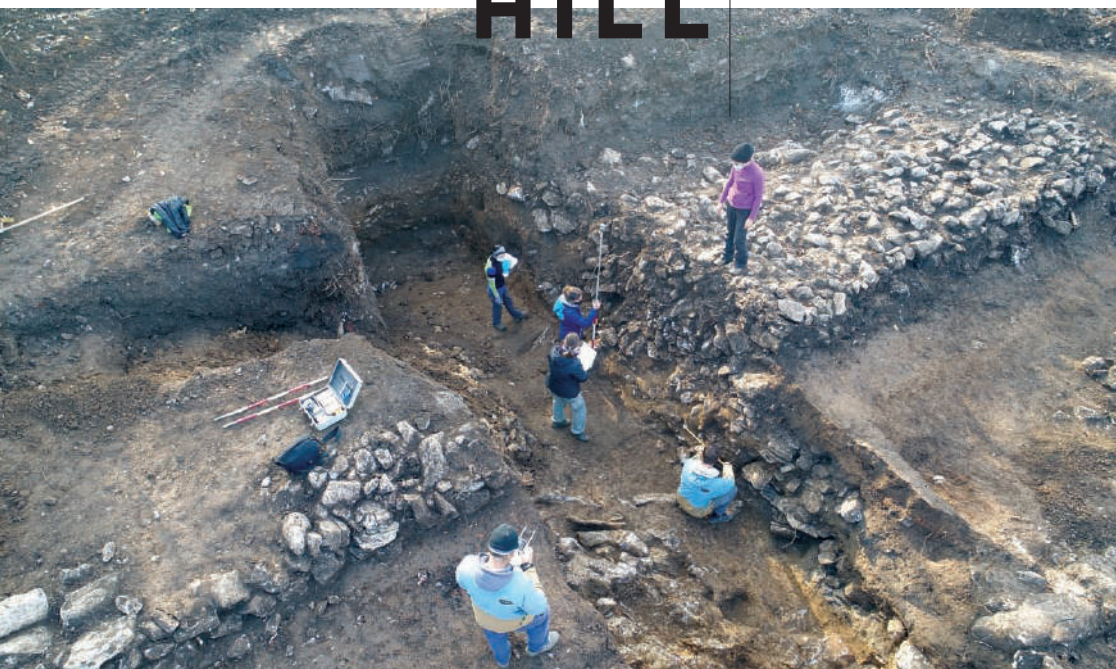
Site Pungert Hill.  
Early Iron Age buildings  
running parallel to  
the rampart and  
the hallway beside it  
© Arheološki muzej Ljubljana



by Petra Vojaković  
Matija Črešnar

# PUNGRT HILL

RECENT EXCAVATIONS  
ON THE PUNGRT HILL  
NEAR IG (SLOVENIA)  
REVEAL AN ASTONISHING  
NEW DISCOVERY —  
AN EARLY IRON AGE  
PROTO-URBAN HILLFORT  
ON THE OUTSKIRTS  
OF LJUBLJANA



## — ASTONISHING NEW DISCOVERY

Early Iron Age rampart  
during the excavation and  
documentation thereof.  
© Arhej d.o.o. / N. Ciglar

THE PUNGRT HILL (366 m) rises above the small town of Ig, hardly 10 km to the southwest of the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana. As part of the north-eastern edge of the Krmsko-Mokrško range, it overlooks the southern edges of the extensive Ljubljansko barje (the Ljubljana marshes). In 2020, one of the most important discoveries of the recent years was made atop the hill: during development-led archaeological excavations, which will continue on the site in 2023, a proto-urban hillfort was discovered.

There are numerous archaeological sites with a long research history at Ig and in its surroundings, the most significant of which are the UNESCO World heritage pile dwelling sites. However, prior to the recent discovery, the existence of an Early Iron Age hillfort at Pungrt was only presumed on the basis of the topographical features of the hill. Meanwhile, Roman literary sources indicated that a port for shifting cargo developed in the marshy area at the north-eastern foot of the hill, during the Late Iron Age. Little is also known to date about the Roman Period settlement so far, however, it has been given great historical importance. In contrast to the tombstones from the Roman colony of Emona (Ljubljana) more than one hundred Roman Period tombstones from Ig reveal the presence of a local population without Roman citizenship.

Until now, only the Roman tombstones and a few Roman literary sources provided limited information about the lifeways and cultural affiliation of this local population. The Roman historian Strabo mentions, for example, that nearby Nauportus, located on the western edge of the Ljubljansko barje, less than 20 km from Ig, was founded as a village of the Celtic Taurisci, who came into this area relatively late, i.e. not before the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC (during the Late Iron Age). In contrast to Nauportus, the personal names on the tombstones from Ig reveal that the Celtic newcomers had no significant impact on the local communi-

ty, which retained their “pre-Celtic” names well into the Roman period. The origin of these names can most likely be traced back to at least the Early Iron Age when the Pungrt hillfort would have held an important position within the wider cultural landscape. At the time, the proto-urban settlement was located at the crossroads of the three distinct Hallstatt period cultural groups, namely the Dolenjska, Gorenjska and Notranjska groups, each of which had their distinct characteristics and burial rites.

During the recent excavations, an extensive area of 5500 m<sup>2</sup> of the hillfort interior was unearthed, representing the largest contiguous excavated area of any hillfort site in Slovenia. Considering the scale of the excavation campaign and excellent preservation of the unearthed archaeological remains, it comes as no surprise that Pungrt has attracted the attention of both experts and the wider public since the of fieldwork started. The preliminary results have shown this was a multi-period settlement, first settled at the beginning of the Early Iron Age (late 9<sup>th</sup>/early 8<sup>th</sup> century BC) and finally abandoned in the Roman Period (2<sup>nd</sup> century AD).

The remains of the Early Iron Age occupation at Pungrt are arguably the most striking. At the time, the site was surrounded by a monumental rampart, which can be clearly seen in the hill's relief. The current excavations have revealed that it was designed as a multiphase stone rampart with corresponding outer embankments. Along its inner side ran a wide path, the so-called “hallway”. In the Early Hallstatt period (9<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> century BC) the area next to it was utilised for various economic activities. The residential buildings were probably located somewhat upslope.

At the beginning of the Late Hallstatt period (6<sup>th</sup> century BC), the settlement underwent several changes. A new, mightier rampart was built over the old one and a series of regularly arranged wooden buildings with



Figural fibula  
with horse head,  
dated to the  
5<sup>th</sup> century BC.  
© Arhej d.o.o. / P. Vojaković

stone foundations (ca. 6×10 m) were built next to it. Narrow streets were perpendicular to the hallway and ran upslope between the buildings, while the hillslope was reshaped into smaller terraces on which various buildings would have stood. Further up the slope, near the top of the hill, an embankment of stone and earth ran across the slope, with a paved path parallel to it. The occupation of the lower and upper terraces continued into the Late Iron Age and the Roman Period (1<sup>st</sup> century BC–2<sup>nd</sup> century AD).

The orthogonal layout of buildings, streets and roads make Pungrt the first fortified Early Iron Age hilltop settlement with a documented proto-urban design in Slovenia. Significantly, the site is one of the most important archaeological discoveries in Slovenia in recent years, and we aim to continue our research within a scientific project that will reveal the wealth of information, which this extraordinary site holds.

Stone mould  
confirming bronze  
casting activity  
at Pungrt.  
© Arhej d.o.o. / P. Vojaković





Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe

