

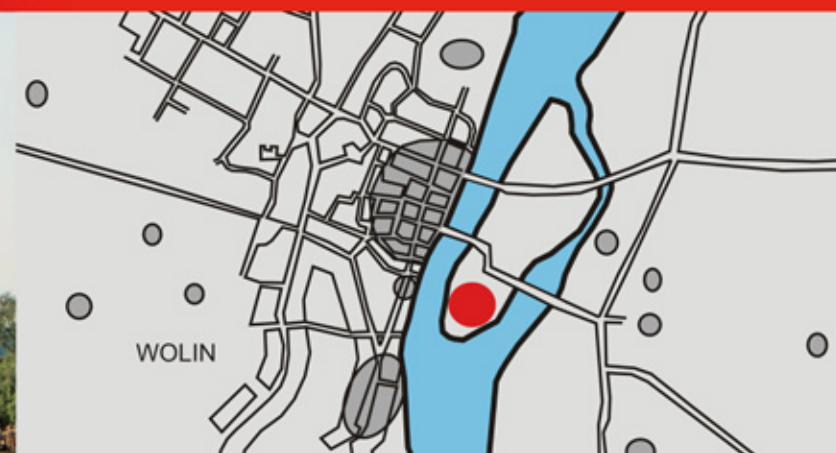
In situ preservation: management and presentation. Concept and design

In recent years reconstructions of archaeological sites, such as hillforts and settlements, have become very fashionable in Poland. This increased "reconstruction movement" results mainly from the opportunity to use EU's structural funds supporting the development of regional tourism. The main objective of such projects is to create tourist attractions, to raise the attractiveness of a region and boost the tourism. Stimulation of historical consciousness of local communities and creating the need to understand their own past often remains in the background, which means that not all reconstructions meet

the standards set by international conventions and doctrinal documents.

Promotion of archaeological heritage can be understood in different ways, which is illustrated by four different examples from Poland. Some of them, in the name of wrongly understood education and tourism, differ significantly from the standards of the Valetta Convention. That is why it is crucial for the Council of Europe to monitor the implementation of its provisions and for the EU and national and local authorities to supervise the use of public funds for the protection of archaeological heritage.

Wolin | Poland the Slavs and the Vikings together again



In the region of the island and the town of Wolin in north-western Poland numerous archaeological sites, including open and fortified settlements, skeletal and cremation burial grounds and hill forts, were recorded. They are dated from as early as the Neolithic period through the Bronze and the Iron Ages until the end of the early middle ages.

Sites related to the West Slavic tribe of Wollinians are of the greatest significance for the region. 600 of them, including 20 strategically placed forts, were recorded during archaeological survey.

The main regional centre - a fortified settlement and a harbour, was located on the Dźwina river, in the south-western part of the island. It existed from 6th/7th until the 1st half of the 12th century and flourished thanks to the long distance trade. It is identified with Vineta - a large seaside commercial centre mentioned in the 11th century by Adam of Bremen and the stronghold of Jomsborg said to be founded in the 10th century by Harald the Bluetooth, the king of the Danes. The site was accompanied by adjacent open villages and burial grounds. The population of this three-kilometre long settlement complex is estimated at 6-8 thousand people.

Most important sites were listed in the national register of monuments in the late 1960s.

An open-air museum - the "Centre of the Slavs and the Vikings" located outside the archaeological zone was built thanks to the funding provided under the Minister's of Culture and National Heritage Funding Programme for Infrastructure of Arts and Culture. The project objective was to reconstruct an early medieval town of Wolin-Vineta-Jomsborg with the use of historical building techniques and natural materials. Plans included construction of: several dozens of houses, 4 gates with ramparts and fortifications, a wharf and a boatyard where replicas of Viking and Slavic boats could be built. The open-air museum was designed as a centre for practice of traditional crafts (carpentry, laying the roof of thatch, boatbuilding, blacksmithing) and a centre for educational and commercial craftsmanship including: jewellery, amber processing, pottery, weaving, blacksmithing, miniting, wood-carving, tar production, leather crafting, horn and bone crafting.

At the moment although the reconstruction work is still in progress, the museum offers a wide range of educational activities. Various experimental archaeology projects and workshops are conducted on a regular basis (pottery firing, construction of a 10th century house for children, construction of a great drum) and the Slavs and the Vikings Festival is organised every year. It attracts thousands of visitors not only from Poland, but from the entire Baltic Sea region.

Pros:

- Reconstruction built outside the archaeological site
- Use of historical techniques and materials
- Diversed education programme based on scientific evidence



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management and presentation.
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Biskupin | Poland

Biskupin – reconstruction that became a monument



Fortified settlement of the Lusatian culture of the early Iron Age (the moment of construction dated to 738 BC) is one of the most significant discoveries in Polish archaeology. The site, located on a peninsula was discovered in 1933, after the water level in Biskupin Lake had lowered revealing 1,3 ha of wooden relics of houses, streets and embankments. Archaeological excavations that began a year later were interrupted by the outbreak of the World War II. The research, surprisingly for that time, was interdisciplinary including palynology, geomorphology, dendrochronology and architectural studies. Aerial photographs were taken from a balloon and movies were made as a part of the documentation process. Archaeologists returned in 1946 and carried out research until 1974. About the total of 75% of the site has been excavated but the rest remains intact for future generations.

It has been established that the entire island was protected by a three-metre-wide wooden-earthen rampart strengthened by a wooden breakwater. The settlement consisted of 100 houses built in rows along 11 streets paved with wood.



photo by W. Stepien



photo by M. Bugaj



photo by J. Pilch



photo by J. Pilch

The idea of reconstruction appeared very quickly. First head of research, Prof. Józef Kostrzewski, in the second year of excavations proposed the creation of Biskupin museum and an archaeological reserve to ensure constant supervision and maintenance of this site. Construction work started before the war and continued afterwards. In 1950 the Museum of Biskupin took over the management of the site and the research. Since the beginning of the 1970s the reconstruction expanded - ramparts, a gate, a bridge, and new houses were built on a previously excavated area along the standards of experimental archaeology. Reconstruction work is ongoing, earlier reconstructions being updated in keeping with contemporary standards, additional settlements – a mediaeval and a Neolithic one – are being built. Experimental cultivation aims to reintroduce original vegetation determined in the course of palynological analysis.

Both the archaeological reserve and the museum are at the same time a centre for scientific research and education.

In Polish archaeology Biskupin is unique not only due to its scientific value but also because it is an example of a reconstruction from the times of formation of the principles of modern archaeology.



photo by M. Bugaj



photo by M. Bugaj



photo by M. Bugaj

Cons:

- Reconstruction built on the site, but in its excavated part

Pros:

- The oldest archaeological reconstruction in Poland
- Use of historical techniques and materials
- Based on the results of the interdisciplinary research
- Outdated reconstructions are gradually replaced
- Part of the site is protected *in situ*
- Application of new technologies (virtual reconstruction of the site)





Trzcينica | Poland

Carpathian Troy of metal and plywood



Hillfort in Trzcينica near Jaslo in the south-eastern Poland, called the Ramparts of the Kings, is situated on a promontory above the valley of the River Ropa. As a result of an archaeological excavations conducted intermittently since the 19th century until 2009, the remains of a fortified settlement from the Bronze Age (mierzanowicka culture, 2100-1650 BC), the first traces of a population of a Transcarpathian culture of Otomani-Füzesabony (1650-1350 BC) in Poland and the remains of an early medieval settlement were discovered. In the latter period, from the 2nd half of the 8th century until the 1st half of the 11th century the hillfort must have been a centre of local authority. It occupied more than 3 hectares of land, and even today its ramparts are as tall as 10m measured from the base.

In 1971 the hillfort in Trzcينica was listed in the national register of monuments.

An open-air museum – "Carpathian Troy" was created thanks to funding received from the Financial Mechanism of the EEA Grants (about 1 750 000 euro) and the local government. The aim of the project was to "give the past a new quality", so that the museum "became recognized, admired and tourist friendly" [quotations taken from the official website of the museum: http://www.karpackatroja.pl/misjawizjace1_11_0.html]

Construction, using modern techniques and materials, began in 2007. Construction work that resulted in creation of a life size model of an archaeological site instead of a proper reconstruction, cost about 2 750 000 euro with the total cost of the museum reaching almost 3 000 000 euro.

As a result, 160 m of ramparts, 2 gates and 6 houses were built. At the foot of the hillfort a "replica" of the early medieval and an Ottomani village was created. Metal stairs leading to the top of the hill resemble a fire escape and alleys near the "early medieval" village are paved with modern setts. There are still plans to build a 42-metre lookout tower for tourists at the highest point of the actual site.

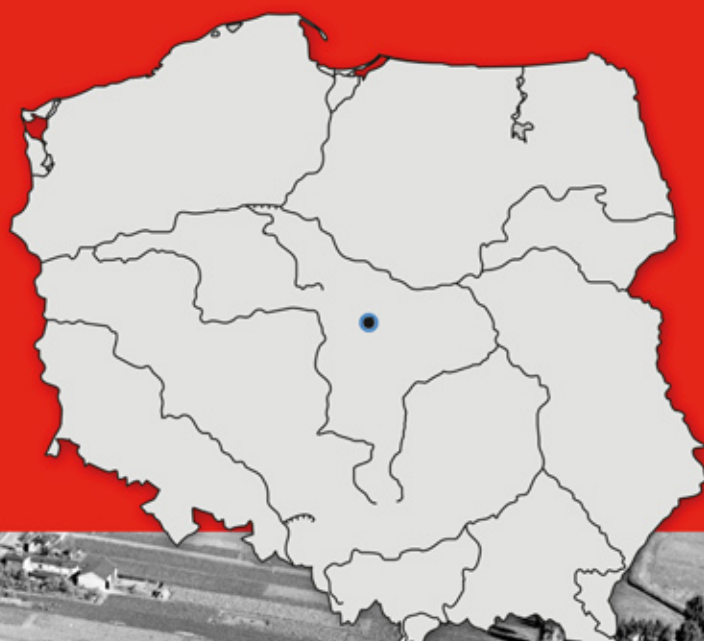
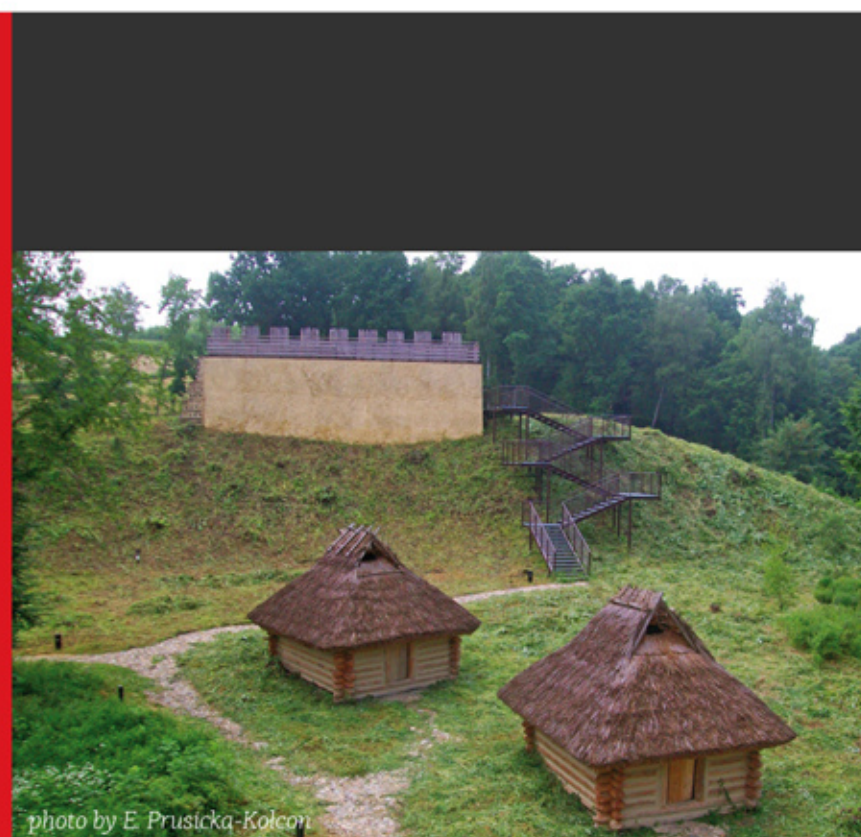


Pros:

- Tourist product for an undemanding visitor

Cons:

- Life size model rather than a proper reconstruction
- Use of modern materials and techniques
- Ignoring original functions of the objects (fragments of ramparts treated as lookouts with the tourist path leading inside them)
- Extensive constructions built directly on the site, more of them to come (e.g. a 42-metre-high lookout tower)



Tum | Poland

reconstruction/destruction



Surrounded by meadows, located near the twelfth-century archcollegiate church (one of the best preserved Romanesque churches in Poland), a ring-fort in Tum has been an integral part of cultural landscape that remained unchanged for almost 800 years. As it clearly results from the excavations carried out in the mid-twentieth century, the oldest fort in Tum, dated to the 6th – 7th century, was surrounded by a double palisade. It was rebuilt over the period of the 8th – 10th century and surrounded by a wooden-earthen rampart.

In the 12th century the fort, at that time dilapidated, was rebuilt by duke Boleslaus the Wry-mouthed (1102-1138), the Polish ruler. Triple line of ramparts and moats gave the ring-fort a military character. Throughout the 12th – 13th century it served as a seat of a duke and a castellan. Burned in the 13th century by the Lithuanians the fort was never rebuilt and lasted until present in the form of grass-covered rampart with accompanying outlines of the old moat.

The ring-fort in Tum was listed in the national register of monuments already in 1933.



Recently the site and the surrounding area was bought from the local authorities by the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology in Lodz. The idea of reconstruction emerged with the project "Tum - Pearl of the Romanesque Route" that was to be carried out from the structural funds for the development of regional tourism. According to the project the reconstruction was to be built on the excavated area of the site, therefore, in 2009, extensive excavations began covering in total 90% of the site (including 20th century research).

The reconstruction project involves the total transformation of the area: increase of the ground level and the height of the ramparts, construction of "the court of Princess Salome" (a building which existence has not been confirmed by excavations). Constructions, such as the court and the gates of the fort, are to have concrete foundations and the stones forming the face of the defense wall are to be fixed to it with an adhesive.

Final decision on the financing of the project has not yet been made.

Cons:

- Reconstruction planned directly on the site
- Additional research was carried out for the sake of planned reconstruction, now the site is excavated in 90%
- Reconstruction is to be carried out with the use of modern techniques and materials
- Project highly interferes with the cultural landscape which had remained unchanged for 800 years