



## **Velehrad Abbey (1205-1784)**

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## Introduction

Velehrad Abbey is situated in the valley of the Salaška River, 5 km northwest of the Old Town. It is one of the most important places of pilgrimage in the Czech Republic. For more than 800 years it has been an essential part of the religious and cultural heritage of the Czech lands. The Cyril-Methodius tradition as a centre of the spread of Moravian Christianity is also associated with the popularity of this place. The name Velehrad is closely related to the Cyril-Methodius and "Great Moravia" traditions. It was the name Veligrad (Velehrad), the name of the medieval village, today's town Staré Město near Uherské Hradiště from which the Abbey took its name. The importance of Cistercians, which has been preserved in the character of the local landscape, can be seen not only in the materialized form of buildings, technical structures in the form of ponds and mills that are a monument to their period. Their imprints are evident especially in the structure of the landscape, which gave it a new character and form that has been preserved to this day.



## Natural conditions

The Velehrad Abbey is located around 4 km northwest of the town of Uherské Hradiště and lies in an extended part of the Salaška stream valley at the foot of the Chřiby Mountains.

The continuous core district of the villages belonging to the Velehrad Abbey was called "Újezd". It formed a long-term stable basis for the development of the Velehrad Abbey and consisted of 15 municipalities. Already in 1270, the Velehrad abbey owned more than 70 villages in the entire Moravian Margraviate and Duchy of Silesia. The landscape characteristics are solved for the core district.

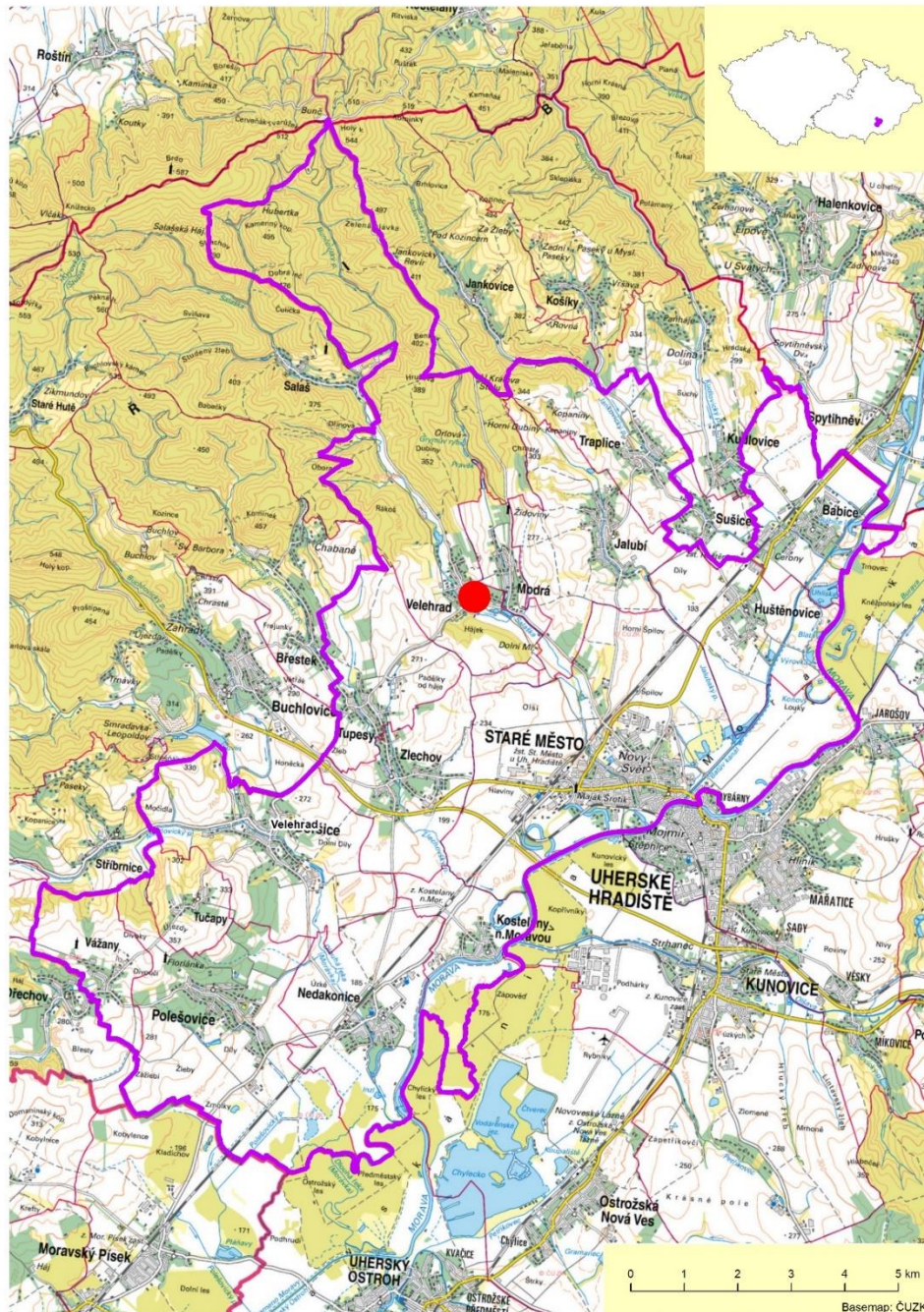


Fig 1. The Velehrad Abbey core district



## Topography, Geomorphology, Geology and Soil

The area belongs to the Western Carpathians mountain range. We can divide it into the three geomorphological units with different relief and rock composition which determine the final landscape features and its use (Fig. 2)

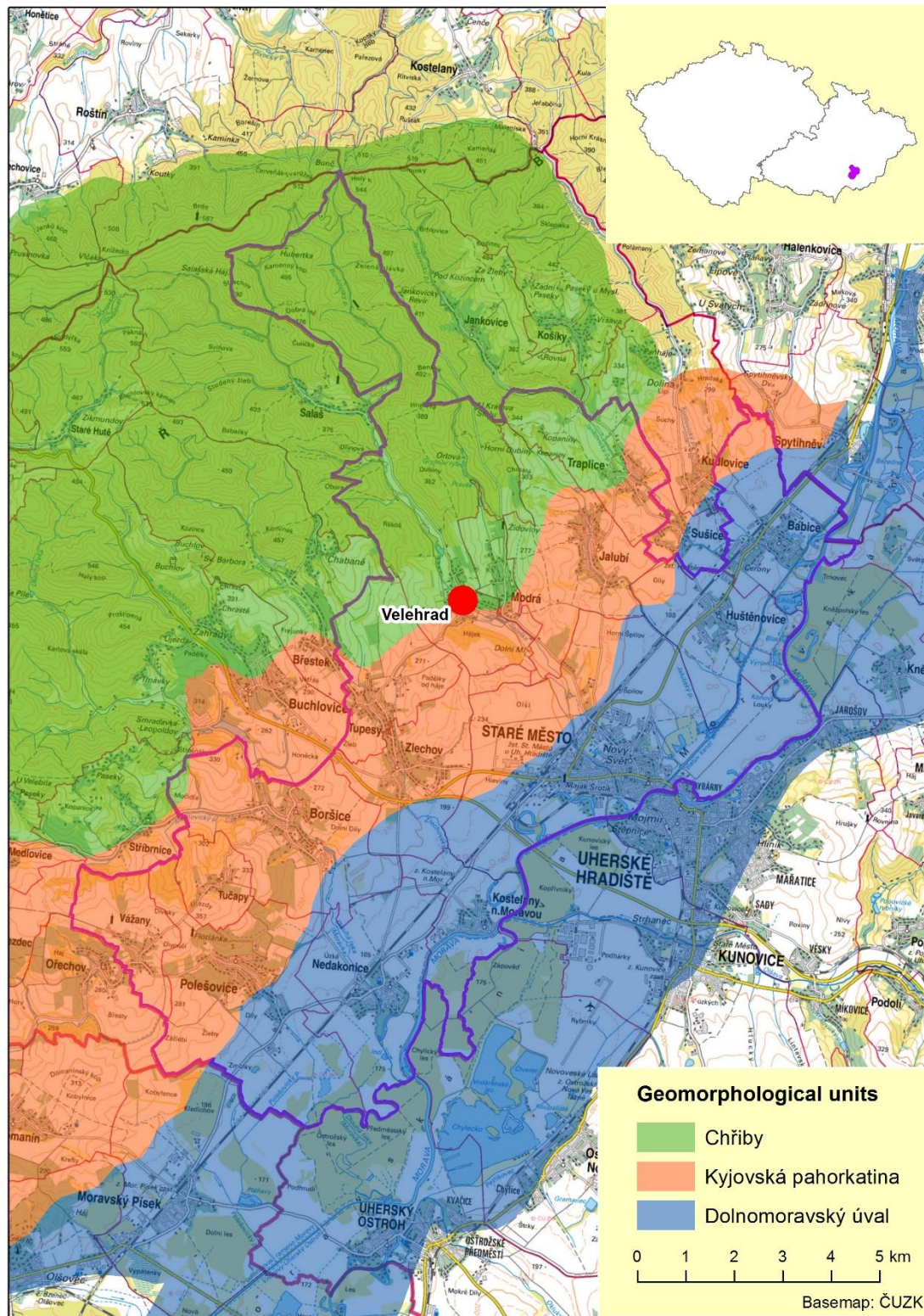


Fig 2. Geomorphological units in the Velehrad Abbey core district



From the north, the area is bordered by the highland type of relief of the Chřiby Mountains. It is a rolling highland with a middle-value altitude around 343 m and a middle-value slope around 7°. The highest point is Brdo peak with a height of 587,4 m (Fig. 3)

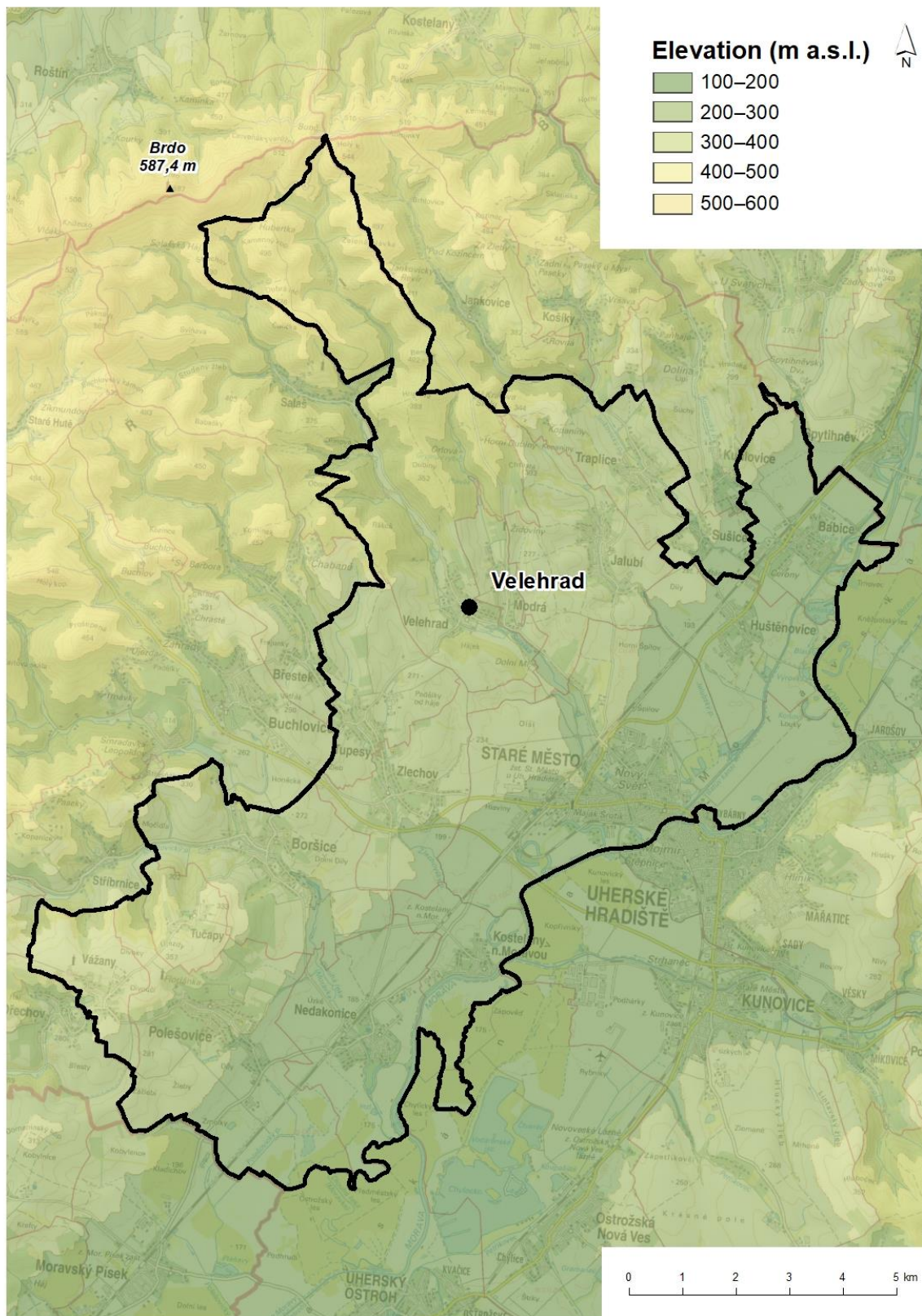


Fig 3. The Elevation map of the Velehrad Abbey core district

It has southeast slopes slightly sloping and divided into a set of rounded ridges and valleys with steeper slopes. The top part of Chřiby has characteristic structurally based narrow ridges with outcrops of resistant sandstone rocky ridges, separated by deep valleys with periglacial modelling and robust cryopediment covers at the foot of slopes. The subsoil is built by intensely wrinkled flysch rocks of the Račanská jednotka Unit of the Magura Nappe group, covered in the marginal parts by loess and loess clays. The sandstones found here are also an essential source of building stone and are also crucial for regional sculpture production.

The predominant soil types are cambisols, which turn into haplic luvisols on the slopes. In the floodplains, we can find fluvisols. The dominant landcover are forests, which have a large proportion of preserved natural localities represented by Carpathian beeches. In the lower altitudes, we can find oak-hornbeams forests. The predominant formations are high forests with fragments of ancient low coppice forests on the southern and southwestern edges, which represent an ancient and memorable form of sustainable landuse. Chřiby Mountains represent a unique type of landscape with a high density of natural and close to natural ecosystems with an almost unchanged species composition of forests linked to the specific characteristics of the relief.

The second area, Kyjovská pahorkatina Hills, represents the core area of settlement concentration in the long term. It follows the upland relief of Chřiby Mountains with a middle-value height of 235 m and a middle-value slope around 3°. The rock environment is similar to Chřiby Mountains with the occurrence of Paleogene claystones and sandstones of the Račanská jednotka unit of the Magura Nappe group. Loess and loess clays depositions are typical in the whole area, which alternate fluvial and deluviofluvial sandy-clay sediments in dry valleys and floodplains of watercourses. The flat distribution ridges with wide contemplative to neck-like valleys represent the predominant type of relief.

The prevailing southern to the southeastern orientation of the slopes, together with the rolling relief and protective factor of the Chřiby Mountain forests from the north, offers almost ideal conditions for agriculture, viticulture and fruit tree growing. These ideal conditions were also reflected in the naming of this area "Garden of Moravia". Fruit tree cultivation and viticulture have a long tradition here and fruit was in the past an important export item, especially pears, plums, apples, peaches and apricots. Wines from the Polešovice area belonged and are among the best wines in Moravia. Loess and loess clays are also necessary for brick production and also an ideal environment for building wine cellars.

Due to the relief character and loess cover, the area is prone to water and wind erosion. Most of the long-term cultivated regions were deforested. Collectivization processes harmed a negative effect on the landscape structure and significantly changed the landscape from the 1950s. Fragments of forest stands in the form of oak-hornbeams or oak forests. In the lowest altitudes can be found only locally in places with manifestations of gully erosion, which can no longer be restored or in localities where slope conditions and slope aspect do not allow the apply standard agricultural techniques.

The third area represents the Dolnomoravský úval Depression, the tectonic depression which represents a flat relief with a middle-value slope around 1° and middle-value altitude around

200 m. The subsoil is formed by marine and lake sediments of the Neogene, which is covered by Quaternary fluvial deposits of river sands and gravels and recent flood loam. In the past, the very active flat meander belt of Moravia river induced many river branches, cut-off meanders and oxbow lakes accompanied by a unique complex of floodplain forests and floodplain meadows, which were gradually eliminated by agricultural activities. At the same time, the meander belt provided natural protection against possible attacks by enemies from the east.



### Climatology, Hydrology

The territory of the Dolnomoravský úval Depression is one of the warmest and most fertile regions of the Czech Republic.

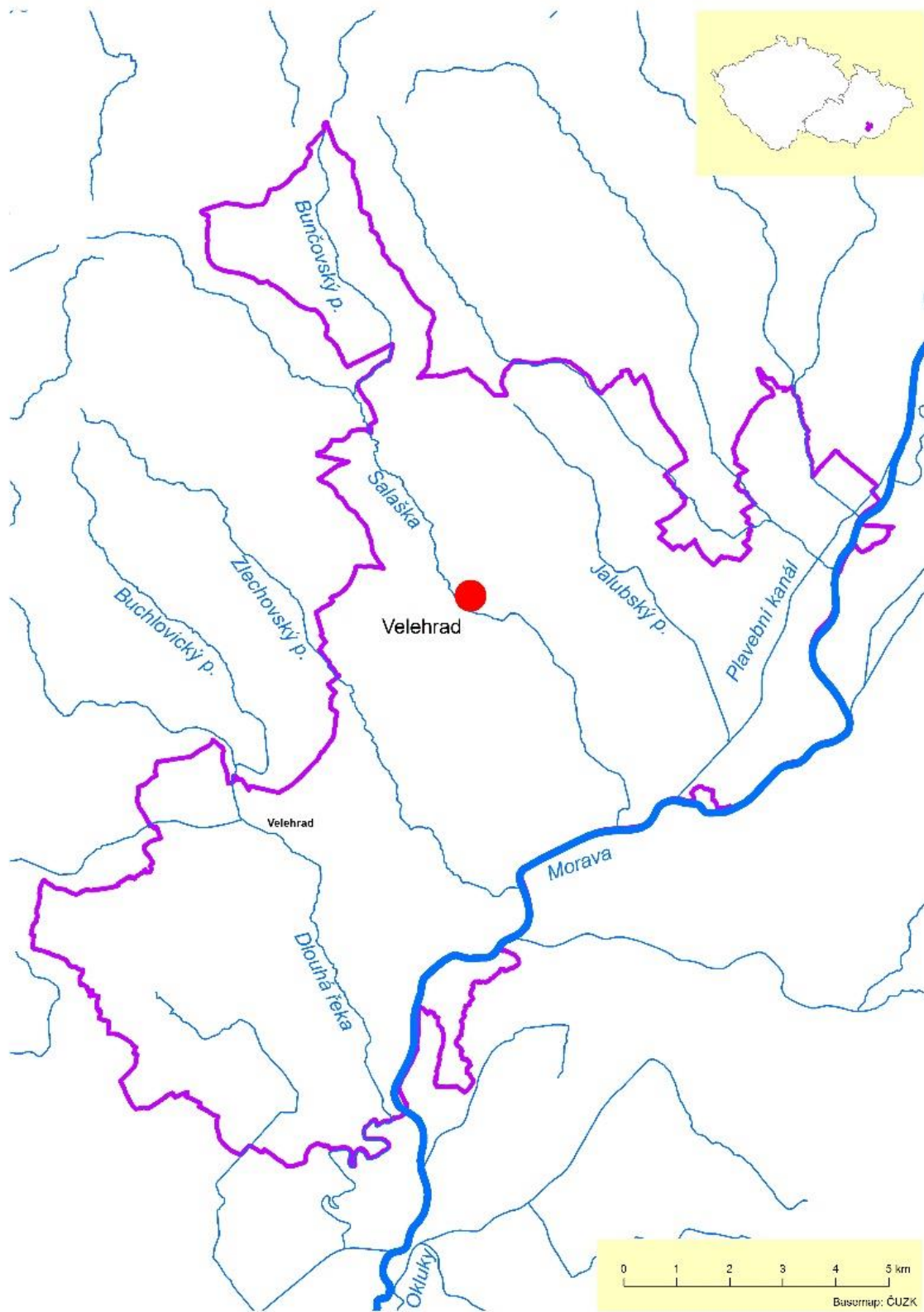


Fig 4. The recent river system in the Velehrad Abbey core district

The area belongs to the Morava river basin, the right-hand tributaries springing in the area of Chřiby Mountains with a structurally conditioned orientation NW-SE predominate here. The Morava River has a long-term average flow of 55.36 m<sup>3</sup>/s in the Babice village river profile. The significant stream is Salaška, which flows through Velehrad village with an average flow rate 0.18 m<sup>3</sup>/s, Zlechovský potok stream with an average flow rate 0.08 m<sup>3</sup>/s or Dlouhá river stream with an average flow rate 0.12 m<sup>3</sup>/s. These watercourses with lower water content can dry out in the summer months. The loess depositions together with the long-term cultivation of the landscape combined with steep slopes induced erosion processes, eliminated the ponds, which were built here in the past and disappeared by the 18th century. Preserved fragments or restoration of the original ponds were not more intense until the 1990s. The meander belt with a number of lakes and channels was eliminated during the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century due to the regulation of the main course of Morava river. In terms of climatic regionalization, the area belongs to a warm climatic zone with a long, very hot and dry summers. The transition period of spring and autumn is relatively short. Average annual temperatures range from 8.7° to 9.4°. The coldest month is January with an average temperature of -1.9 - 2.2 °. The warmest month is July with average temperatures over 19°. In the cold half of the year, 217–404 mm of precipitation falls here, which is about 36-43% of the annual total. In the warm half of the year (April – September), 350–522 mm of precipitation falls here, which represents 57–64% of the annual total (Tolasz 2007).

The above-mentioned natural conditions demonstrate how far-sighted and ingenious the founders of the Velehrad Abbey were. From the possible localities that the region offers, they chose the best one with enough natural resources, which ensured the stability and development of the Velehrad Abbey in the long term for more than 500 years.

## History of the cultural landscape

### History before the foundation of the Abbey

The territory was settled a long time ago the Cistercian's arrival. Archaeological finds prove this in almost the entire territory of the dominium. Directly on the territory of Velehrad, there are several locations where findings from the Paleolithic region are documented. The richest location and probably the former settlement was in the "Dolní Rákoš" area. Surprisingly, the most valuable site is the Velehrad Abbey first location, which is a rich archaeological site that is still waiting for more detailed research. The most valuable is probably the foundations of the early Christian church of St. John from the 9th century.

The whole wider area of Velehrad Abbey has the favourable conditions of the naïve landscape of the Morava River. The importance of the region is underlined by the existence of Great Moravia Empire in the 9th century. The centre of which was Veligrad (Velehrad), today's Staré Město town. The region also became a centre for the spread of Christianity in Moravia thanks to the then Great Moravian Prince Rostislav. He wanted to lay the foundations of a church independent of Frankish bishops. Constantine and Methodius came to Moravia region in 836.

The region also benefited from its convenient location and proximity to important supra-regional trade routes. The eastern edge of Chřiby mts. was led by one of the branches of the Amber road in the north-south direction, as well as the trade and cattle road from Hungary to the west in the east-west direction.

### Founding of the Abbey

At the instigation of the Cistercian prior Robert in the Abbey of Nepomuk, the notary of King Přemysl Otakar I and since 1201 the Bishop of Olomouc. Shortly after arriving in Olomouc, he was looking for an opportunity to establish a Cistercian Abbey in the Margraviate of Moravia, where there had been none so far. He found a follower in Moravia in the form of the Moravian Margrave Vladislav Jindřich (brother of Přemysl Otakar I.), who took on the task of founding a Cistercian Abbey in Moravia.

The preserved false document in the name of Přemysl Otakar I., voting in 1202, proves the purchase by Margrave Vladislav of the farm for 10 hryvnias of silver with an area of about 200 acres (57 ha) from the Litomyšl Premonstratensian. On the farm there was a watermill and a desolate church of St. Jan. Vladislav also bought the village of Boršice from the nobleman Přibyslav for 50 hryvnias, from the nobleman Doben for 30 hryvnias of silver village Zlechov and from Smil for 28 hryvnias of silver village Huštěnovice (Hurt 1934, p. 38). With the consent of Vladislav and Přemysl, the nobleman Dětrich Grutovič dedicated the village of Kostelany to the Abbey. This property became the territorial and economic base of the newly founded Abbey. There are two locations of the presumed place of the first foundation of the Abbey. One is located in the Staré Město village in the locality Na Valách, which lies about 4.5 km southeast from the current area of the Abbey. The second, presented here, is closer to the existing Abbey complex. The area of the first foundation of the Abbey corresponds to the assumed location, also besides, the foundations of the church were found here in the line "Díl U božího syna". The area became a base for 12 monks, who on November 11, 1205, came with the Abbot of Plasy Thicelin to establish a new Abbey in Moravia. The Velehrad Abbey became a daughter of Plasy and thus joined the branch derived from the Burgundy Abbey of Morimond.

The construction of the Abbey building complex was provided by German masonry groups, the share of which is evidenced by the number of stone marks. These groups also participated in the construction





of other buildings in the dominion (church in Boršice, Polešovice) and beyond, such as Buchlov Castle (Pojsl 2006, p259 ).

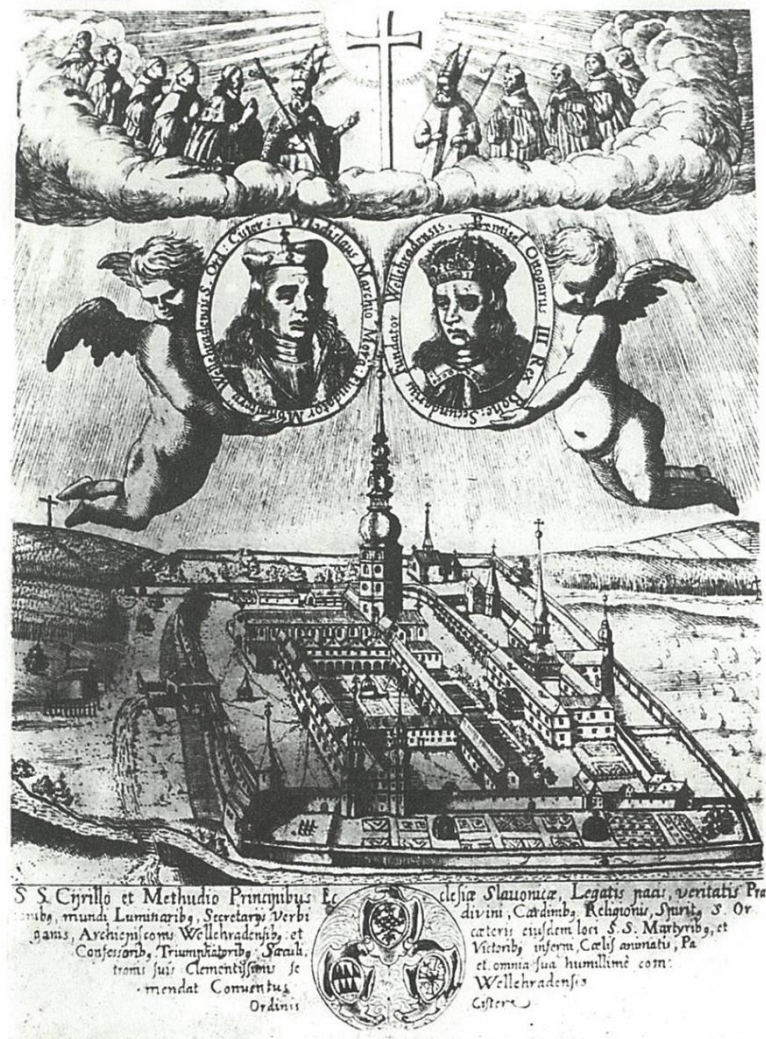
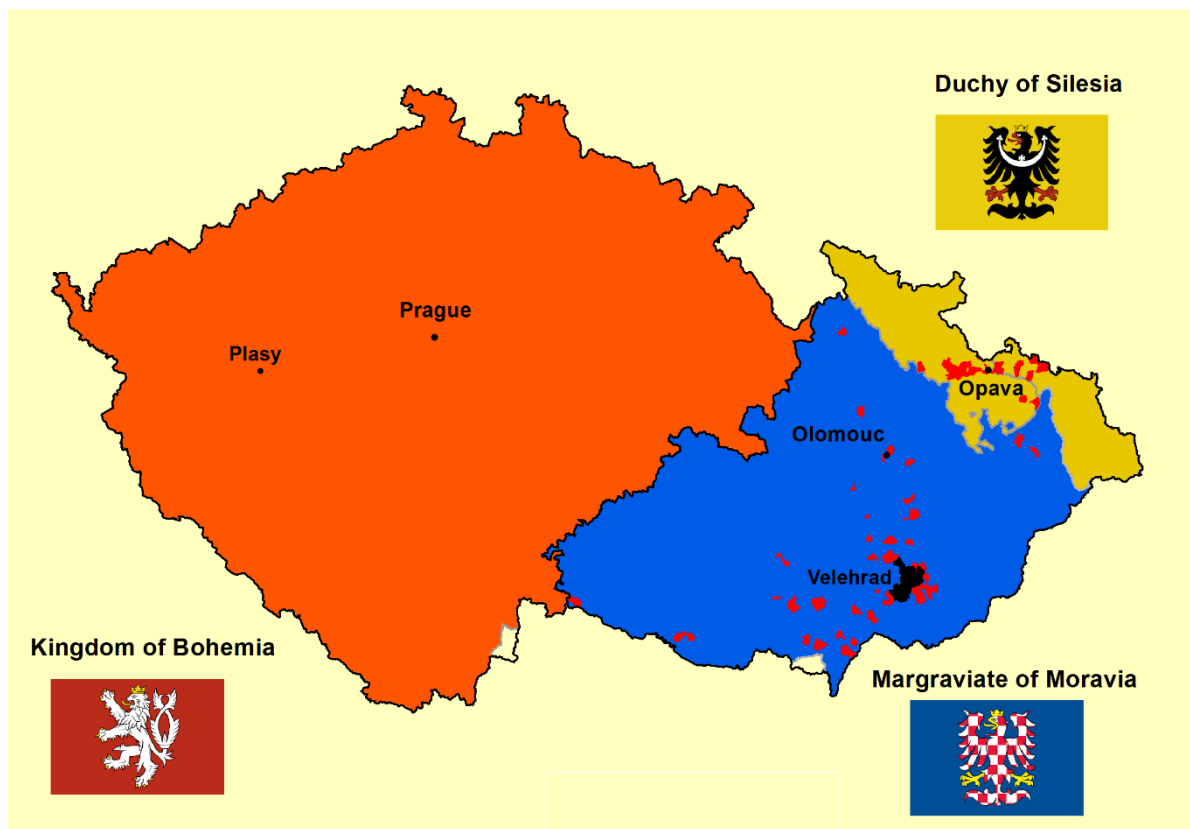


Fig 5. Velehrad Abbey with its founders, Margrave Vladislav and King Přemysl Otakar with a crowd of heavenly patrons - an engraving from the 2nd half of the 17th century in a publication of K. Hirschmetzl (Pojsl 1997, p. 11)

### The first period of flowering - the golden era

Practically from the beginning of its existence, the Abbey had a lucky period, because its development was taken care of by the Olomouc bishop Robert himself and the Margrave Vladislav Jindřich. In addition to diplomatic support, Bishop Robert gave the Abbey a financial gift in the form of forgiveness for the payment of tithes in all the villages belonging to the Abbey and those which it will own in the future. The popularity of the newly established Abbey was also reflected in the number of donations made by the nobility, which was reflected in the growth of the Abbey property. On April 30 1208, Pope Innocent III issued protective privileges to the Abbey. On August 12 1222, the founder of the Abbey, Vladislav Jindřich, died. According to contemporary sources, he was buried in the Abbey in Velehrad.

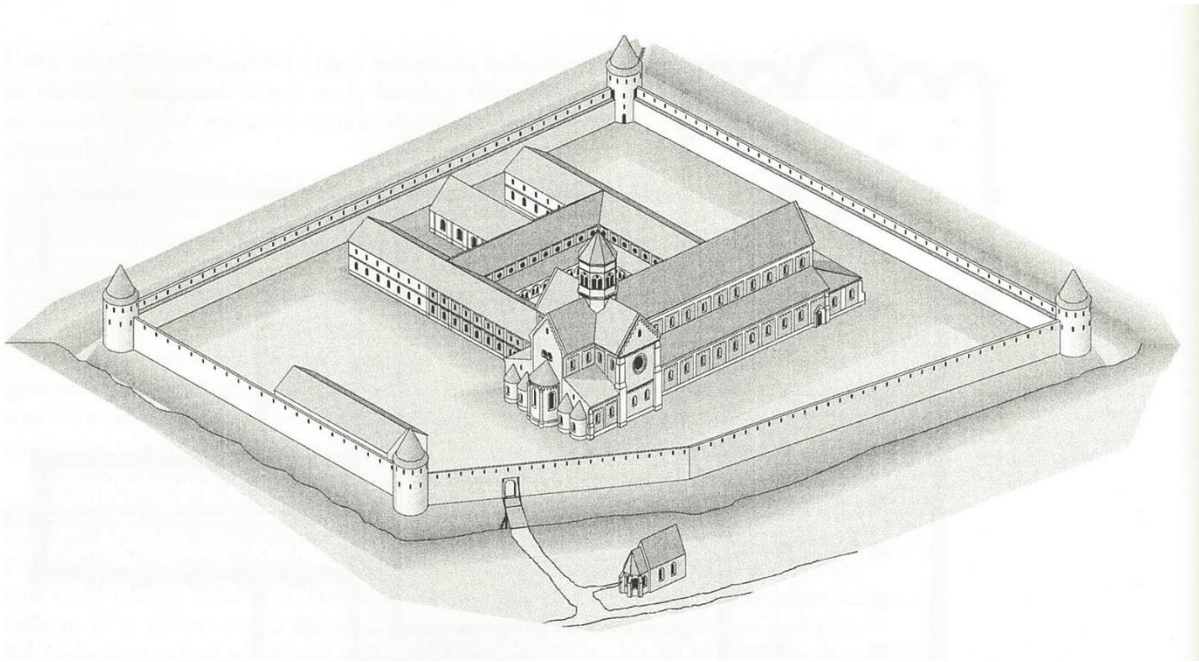
The consecration of the Abbey church by Bishop Robert took place on November 27 1228. It was a significant event for the whole Czech Kingdom for its time. The ceremony was attended by King Přemysl Otakar I with his wife Queen Constants and son the Moravian Margrave Přemysl, as well as the most important representatives of the Czech, Moravian and Silesian nobility. The significance of the event is also illustrated by the participation of Bishop Jakub of Nitra. At that time, the Velehrad Abbey received from přemysl Otakar the so-called Velehrad privilege, which confirmed the earlier immunity granted by Vladislav Jindřich. Immunity consisted of the liberation of all subjects of monastic goods from the authority of secular officials, and they were subject only to the Abbey. The entire Abbey property, including future acquired estates, was also included under royal protection. The Velehrad privilege had rights to the possibility of mining stone and wood in royal forests, as well as grazing cattle or harvesting firewood for subjects.



*Fig 6. Velehrad Abbey dominium in the golden era*

The growth of Velehrad Abbey was very fast from the beginning. In 1220 they belonged to the dominion already 20 villages (CDM II, No. 107). In 1228 it already had 53 villages or parts thereof with granges. The continuous territory that formed the core of the dominion throughout its existence consisted of 16 municipalities on the right bank of Moravia (Fig. 1). Opava region in Silesia was a particular regional unit. Administration centre of Silesian estate laid in Štebořice. The peak of the development of the Velehrad Abbey dominion can be seen in 1270 when it belonged to over 70 municipalities (Fig. 6).

Due to the proximity of the eastern border of Moravia (approx. 40 km), the Abbey had to be protected by fortification against possible attacks from Hungary (Fig. 7). The Abbey area was also defended by external fortification of Dolní Hrádek, which covered the area from potential attacks from the south and southeast (for more detail Schenk 2017)

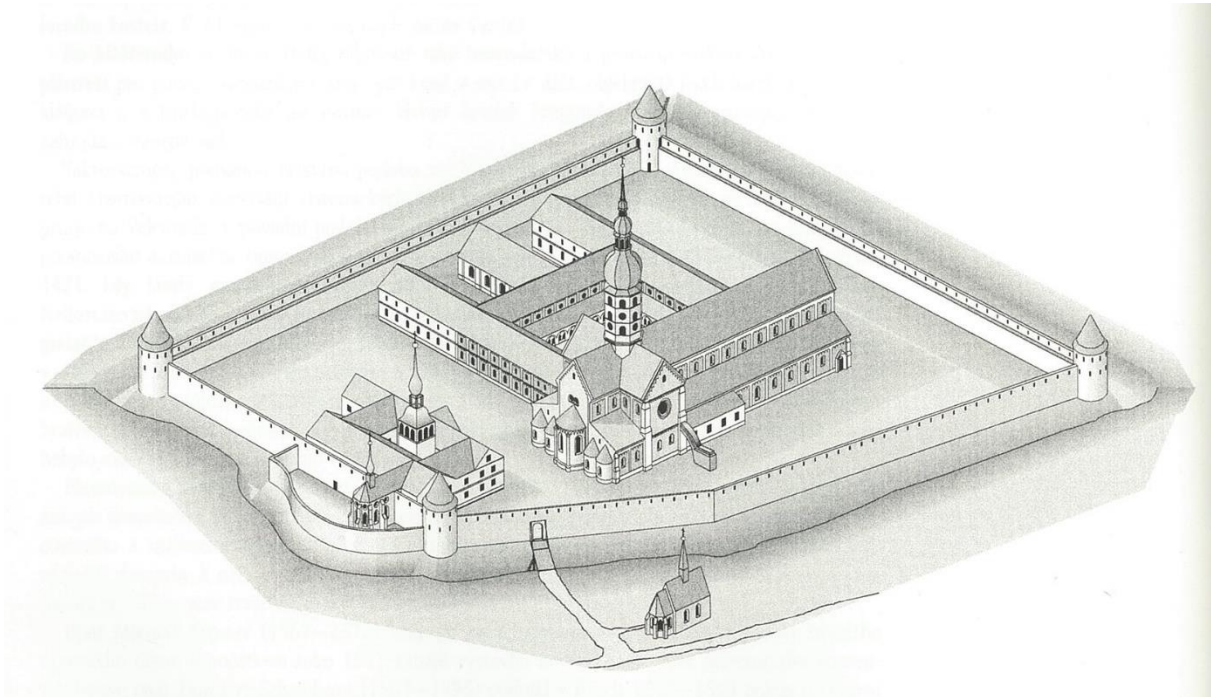


*Fig 7. Reconstruction of the Velehrad Abbey (Pojsl 1997, p. 30)*

### First destruction of the Abbey

The first big problem of the Abbey was its destruction of the Hussites. Early on the morning of January 12 1421, the Abbey was attacked by Moravian Hussites. Abbot Jan and 4 monks were burned alive in the church when the Abbey was attacked. The others managed to find safety in the royal town of Uherské Hradiště. The whole area was demolished and set on fire. For about 15 years the Abbey complex was abandoned, and the former staff lived near the Church of St. George in Uherské Hradiště. Similarly, all church buildings in the monastic dominion turned out. After the monks returned to the abbey grounds, only a small part of the convent was repaired, the Abbot house and its extensions. A major reconstruction of the convent began up to 150 years after its destruction of the Hussite. It was only in 1567-1572 that Abbot Nicholas Kromer began the restoration of the convent. Abbot Ekart of Schwoben continued with restoration in 1587-1594 (Fig. 8).

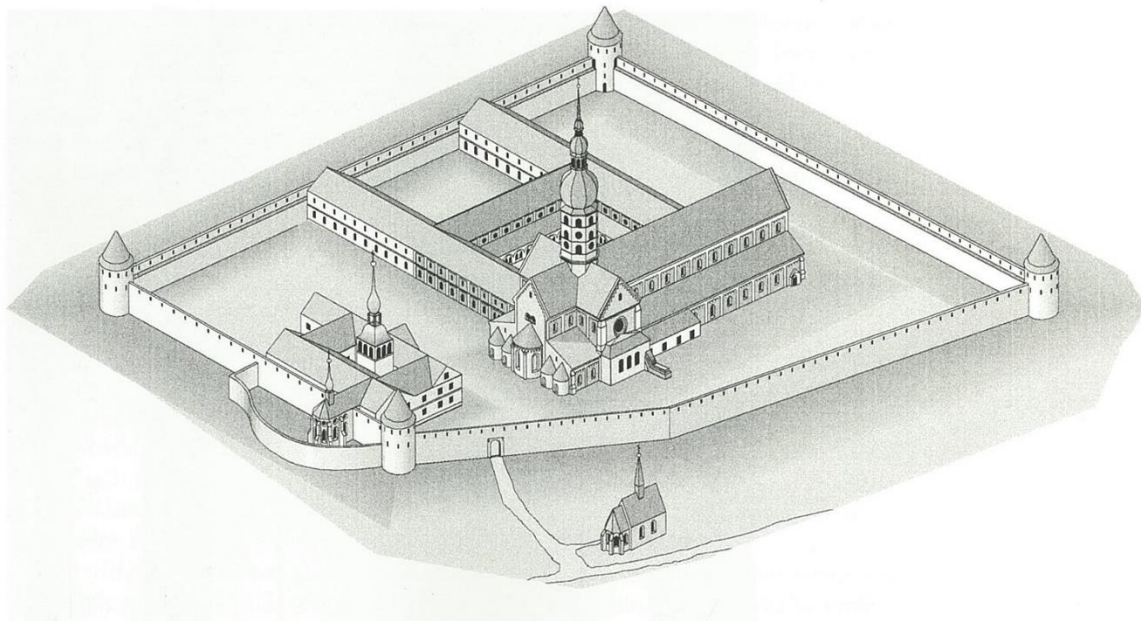




*Fig 8. Reconstruction of the Abbey complex at the end of the 16th century (Pojsl 1997, p. 34)*

### Baroque restoration - the second period of prosperity

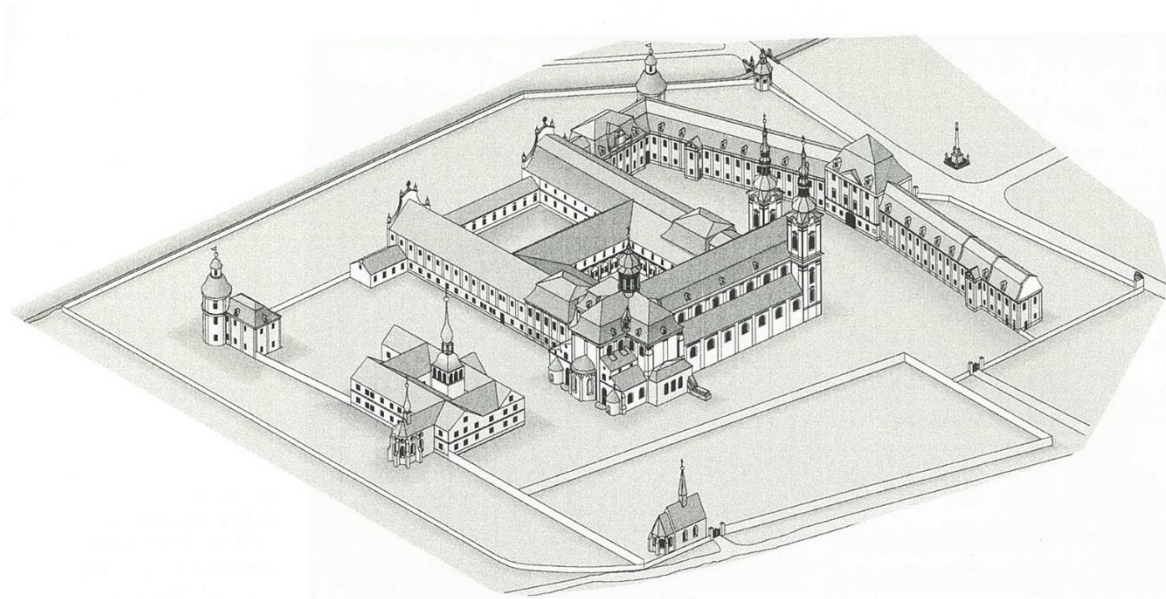
The period of the 17th century was a bad time for the whole Czech landscape. The economic and internal conditions in the Abbey were very unfavourable. During that period, the monastery was plundered several times. It was in the autumn of 1621 and in 1626 during the so-called Wallachian Uprising. However, the region was worst damaged by the troops of the Duke of Transylvania Gabriel Bethlen in 1623. Despite these losses, a period of development under Abbot Greifenfels can be found. In addition to the Baroque reconstruction of the convent (1629-1635), its activity was reflected in the entire Abbey dominion. He caused the restoration and development of granges and the re-growth of Abbey property that was stolen in the period after the Hussites wars. In particular, he tried to improve the management of the monastery under his own direction. He had to build modern mills in Nedakonice with a coaching inn. He also attempted to obtain the necessary funds by trading in wine, grain, cattle or leather (Hurt 1938, p. 263). During the 17th century, another significant loss affected the convent's premises. A fire on December 27 1681, destroyed all convent buildings and the church with all its equipment. In the subsequent fifty-year period of extensive reconstruction, the monastery received its final form, which it still has today. The reconstruction of the Velehrad monastery and church was completed in 1735. In the same year, the church of St. Peter and Paul in Polešovice was built. This period, as well as the time until the abolition of the monastery, was a period of dominion development in which the monastery continued the initial period of development. In addition to important buildings of the Abbey a large number of small sacral architecture in the landscape from the given period has been preserved.



*Fig 9. Reconstruction of Early Baroque Abbey complex (Pojsl 1997, p. 38)*

### Abolition of the Abbey during the Josefin reforms

As part of the state-church reforms of Emperor Joseph II, the Abbey was abolished on September 27 1784. The monks broke into spiritual administration as diocesan priests or asked the Archbishop of Olomouc for laicization and gave a lifetime pension. The last Abbot of Velehrad, Zuri, tried to reverse the situation through diplomatic efforts, but he failed to do. After the abolition of the Abbey, he went to Ořechov Castle, where he had a guaranteed lifetime stay. From there he moved to Vyškov in 1797, where he died in 1800. The Abbey church was deprived of all liturgical and artistic objects, a large part of which was moved to parish churches belonging to the dominion. The Abbey library was sold to merchants, and a substantial part of it was destroyed. The convent church was transferred under the spiritual administration of the Olomouc Archbishopric. The works of art of the convent were sold, stolen or destroyed. The successor organization managing the former property of the Velehrad Abbey was the so-called religious fund.



*Fig 10. The High Baroque reconstruction in the 18th century (Pojsl 1997, p. 41)*

### Velehrad dominion development after the abolition

Dominion's economic units were handed over in part to the religious fund. The buildings of the convent became barracks of the cavalry army, part of it was used for the economic management of secularized monastic estates managed by the religious fund. After the abolition of the Velehrad Abbey, there was tremendous pressure from municipalities and nobility on the land originally belonging to the Abbey. The religious fund managing these estates sold some of them, rented them, or continued with economic activity, which gradually fell away. The auction of the Velehrad Abbey estate ended the effort to restore it. For the sum of 567 thousand zl. in conventional currency bought the Abbey and estate of George, a free lord of Sina. It was only in connection with the millennial Cyrillic celebrations that the Catholic Support Society for the Olomouc Archdiocese bought from the new owner of the Velehrad estate and Abbey on 22.11. 1883. In 1890, the Olomouc Archbishopric entrusted the Velehrad Abbey spiritual administration to the Jesuits. In 1902, the Rector of the Jesuit College and A.C. Stojan founded the Velehrad cooperative, which aimed to care for the uplift of Velehrad place. In 1907, thanks to A.C. Stojan and Antonín Podlaha in Velehrad missed the first Unionist congress. On 13-14 April 1950, a nationwide secret event took place to liquidate male monasteries and religious houses. The Abbey was looted. After the eviction, it became a warehouse for the furniture of Czech monasteries. In 1990 Velehrad returned to the spiritual administration of the Jesuits. On 22.4. In 1990, John Paul II visited Velehrad, which was the first papal visit to the Velehrad Abbey in history. Since 1990, the Abbey complex has been a gradually restored and development. Since August 8, 1995, the entire complex of the Velehrad Abbey and the adjacent area get the national cultural monument status.



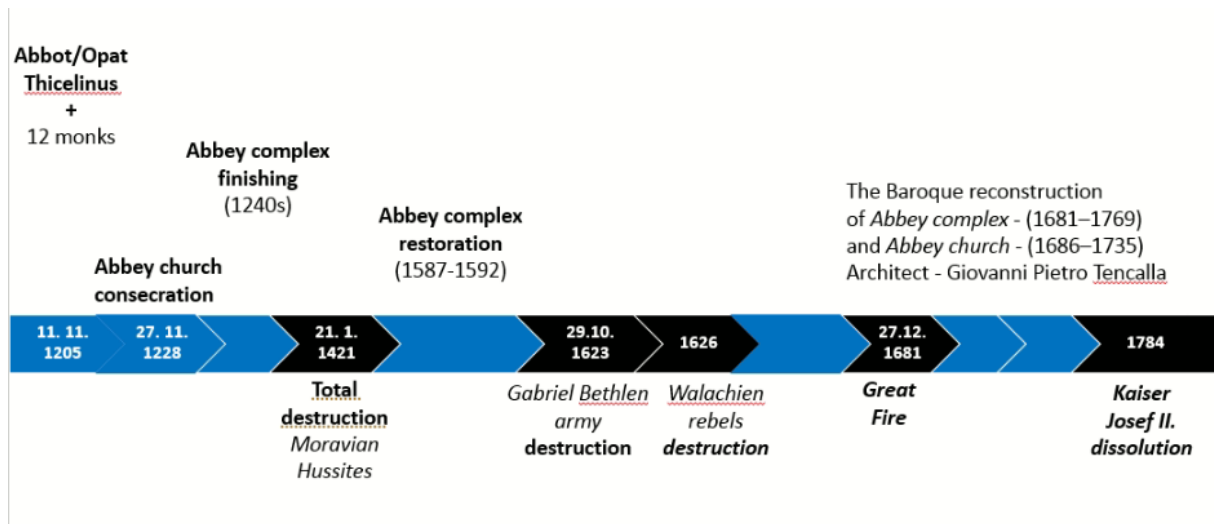


Fig 11. Velehrad Abbey Timeline

## Abbey complex and its conditions

### Granges

The Velehrad Abbey had a large number of granges, the number of which and the actual size of the farmyards changed over time depending on the economic prowess of the Abbey. Throughout its existence, the granges have been an important and stable source of income. That's why most abbots tried to magnify the farmyards, or at least keep them in good shape. If there was a possibility, they tried to expand the acreage that the grange managed. Since the second half of the 16th century, the central principle of the monastic economy has been the expansion of existing and the establishment of new businesses led under Abbey's own direction. This situation was forced by the fall in the purchase price of money, and the newly established enterprises were to be a substitute for stolen property in the 15th and 16th centuries (Hurt 1938, p. 143).

At any time, granges were the core of progressive technologies that were applied in economic practice at the time. For the region of the Velehrad dominion, the economic activity of granges was focused on crops production, viticulture, planting and livestock farming. In addition to fields and meadows or pastures, orchards and vineyards, hop fields or ponds were also owned by them. Wine and fruit, mostly dried, was an essential commercial item, which became famous in the Abbey of Velehrad abroad. These were mainly plums, apricots and pears.

The administrators of the granges, called the Hofmeister, were chosen from the convers. In important granges, centres of administration of farmyard rroups, this function was held by priests of the Velehrad Abbey. An example is the management of estates in Opava region, which was in the village of Štěbořice. At the beginning of the 16th century, the importance of the regional centre of the Velehrad Abbey in Silesia was referred to as the "Hofmistrovství Štěbořské" (Hurt 1934, p54 ). The significance of that centre was also confirmed by the seal, which appears on the documents relating to the territorial scope together with the Abbey and the Convent Seal.

If we look at the development of the granges throughout the period of the Velehrad Abbey existence, it is possible to see the development stages here. In the early days until the destruction of Abbey by Hussites, more than 30 granges can be traced (of which more than half were granges in the territory of Újezd and the surrounding area). According to the rule applied by the Cistercians, the granges were located on the outskirts or outside the built-up area of the settlements. Unlike the estates in the 17th and 18th centuries, granges had no large plot of land in the 13th-15th century. These were most often 2-3 lány (37.2-55.8 ha; 1 lán = 18.6 ha). The largest farm in this period was grange in Nedakonice with an area around 160 ha (Hurt I, p55 ). Lán is an old Czech unit of area acreage or distance. These measures were valid in the Czech Kingdom in the period 1268-1756 (Sedláček 1923, p. 39).

Granges in the first period was located in these villages (Fig. : Velehrad, Mařatice, Horní and Dolní Popovice, Kněžpole, Zlechov, Tupesy, Babice, Boršice, Kostelany, Vážany, Polešovice, Traplice, Domanín, and Nedakonice. In Huštěnovice 1261-1321, the so-called Neudorf (New Court) was founded in the place of which the ves Huštěnovice was moved, referred to in 1371 as Nova Curia (Hurt I, p55 ).

As a result of the Hussite's wartime, Velehrad Abbey lost most of its granges, and only the farmyard in Velehrad and Bolatice in Opava region stayed. In the middle of the 16th century, Nový dvůr (village Modrá) was established. At the end of the 16th century, the grange in Ivanovice was restored. Under Abbot Greifenfels, the property was extended to include granges in Polešovice, Domanín and Ořechov. In 1660 Abbot Ferreus bought a mill with two compositions in Babice and also a farmyard. The construction of the grange in Babice was completed by Abbot Malý. The last extension of the courts

comes under Abbot Nezorin. In 1719 was built farmyard in Tučapy, 1715 in Doloplay, Ořechov and Těmice in 1717.

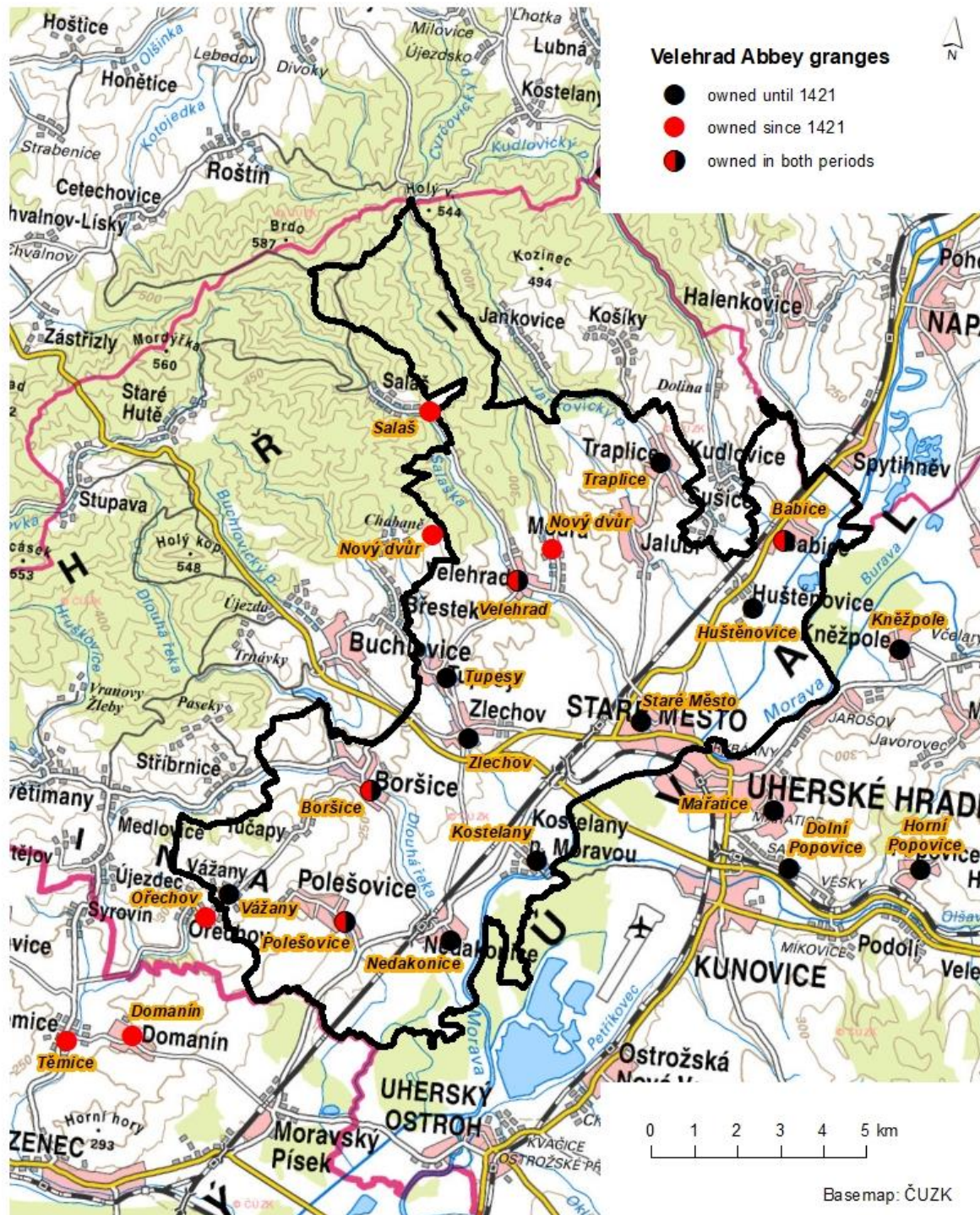


Fig 12. Velehrad Abbey granges



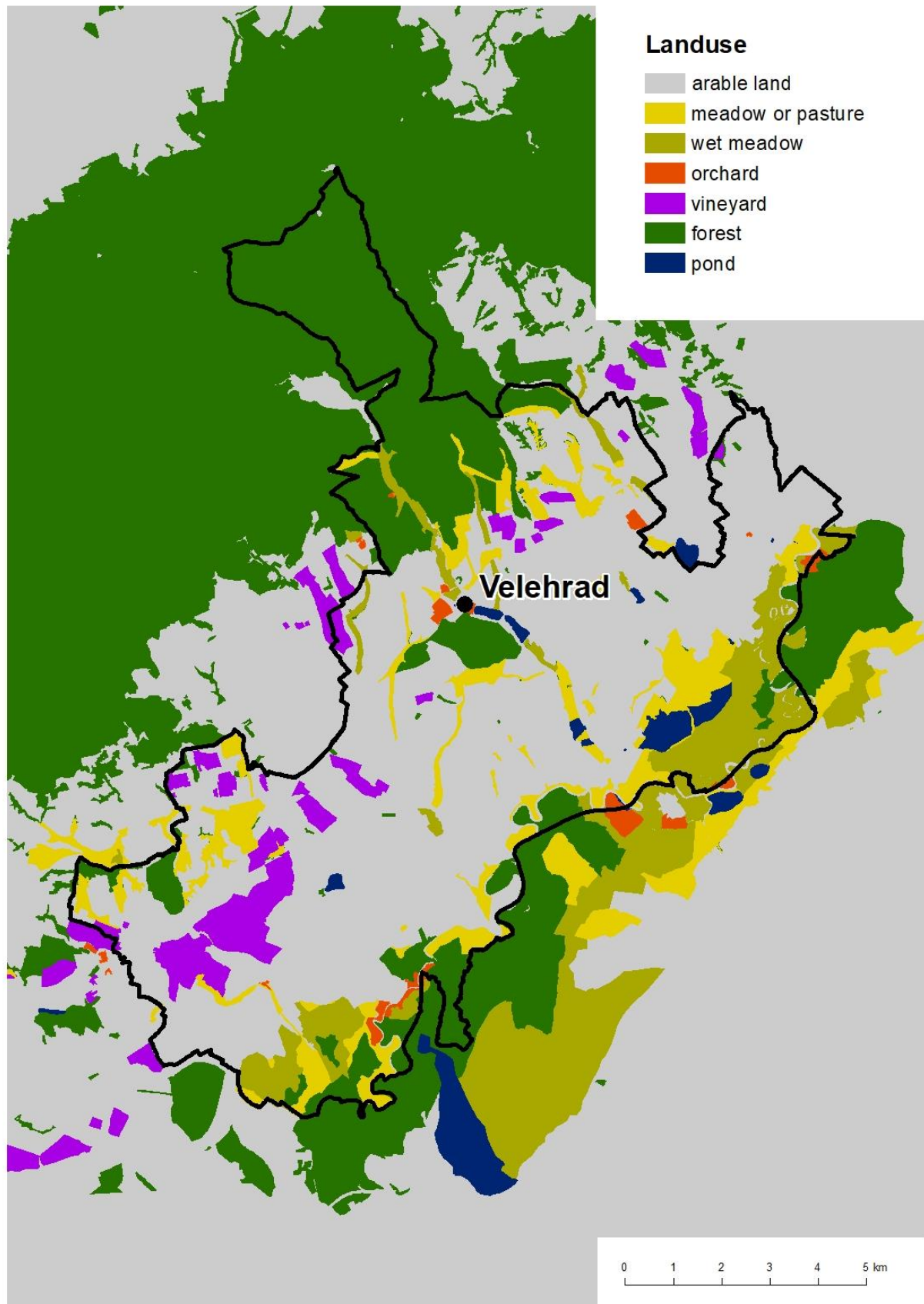
According to the Dominican Fasse from 1750, the Abbey belonged to the following granges: the largest area of fields we could find in Polešovice dvůr - 121 ha, Velehrad - 113 ha, Nový dvůr - 75 ha, Ořechov - 62 ha, Domanín - 56 ha, Babice - 42 ha, Těmice - 35 ha, Tučapy - 32 ha, Ivanovice - 29 ha. A new sheep house was established in Salaš at the beginning of the 18th century. (Hurt 1938, p. 148-149)

In the rest of the territory, the Abbey had granges in Komárov near Brno, Chválkovice, Břest, Potvorovice, Ivanovice (Brno), Kloboučky, Mistřín, Fryšava, Vlkovice, Walthersdorf, Přítluky, Němčice near Brno, Štěbořice, Doloplazy, Podivín.

### Agriculture and farming

Agricultural activities were mainly focused on plant production. Wheat, rye, barley, oats, bee, lentils, peas, poppies, flax and hemp were grown here.

Within the farmyards, workers of the so-called fratres bubulci, which were farmed with ox cover, pastores ovium caring for sheep, and in some granges beekeepers are also mentioned. In addition to cows providing milk for the needs of the Abbey, beef cattle were reared for sale as well as pig farming. Grazing of cattle and pigs took place in all forests in Morava river floodplain, as well as in monastic and royal forests in Chřiby or smaller groves outside the continuous forest area of Chřiby. Of course, grazing also took place within the three-field system, as well as on damp meadows in the floodplains of rivers and streams.



*Fig 13. Landuse in Velehrad Abbey in 18th century*

### Viticulture, arboriculture,

In addition to cereal and sheep farming, winemaking was an essential component of the granges. An Abbey owned famous vineyards in Polešovice and Přítluky (except Újezd). The importance of Cistercian Abbey in the region was mainly in the development of winemaking and wine-growing techniques, including the import of new varieties of wine. Valuable information undoubtedly brought contacts with the famous wine region near Klosterneuburg in Austria. Although the Abbey had its own vineyards, it increasingly used to rent vineyards. Besides, they also obtained wine from wine tithes. The wine trade was a valuable source of funds for the Abbey. In 1740, Abbey's reserves were estimated at 3400 casks (1 cask = approx. 100 litres).

On the landuse map it is clear that the vineyards were located in virtually every village belonging to the monastic dominion. The area of the vineyards at the end of the 18th century was never reached again.

Orcharding is another important sector of the Cistercian granges. The area also provided suitable conditions for fruit tree growing. The development of fruit growing was helped by the exchange of experience between Cistercian Abbeys in the field of growing new varieties of fruit trees, or in tree nursery management and tree breeding.

In addition to the already mentioned plums, pears and apricots, apple trees, peaches, cherries or walnuts were grown here. Larger areas of orchards were concentrated near granges, large areas of orchards were in the Morava river floodplain near Staré Město and Nedakonice (Fig. 13).

### Fish farming, fishing

Although pond building and water management in general, were the domain of Cistercians, the natural conditions in Velehrad Abbey, were not suitable for the construction of pond systems for fish farming. Most of the ponds owned by the Abbey disappear during the 18th century. The Morava River provided enough fish for the needs of the Abbey. Fishing right for Velehrad Abbey in Morava river or oxbow lakes in floodplain shows Fig. 14. Ponds used for fish farming we could find in the other part of Velehrad Abbey dominion. Ponds were in villages Němčice, Přítluky, Kloubouky, Plešovec, Štěbořice and Bolatice (Hurt I, p57 ).



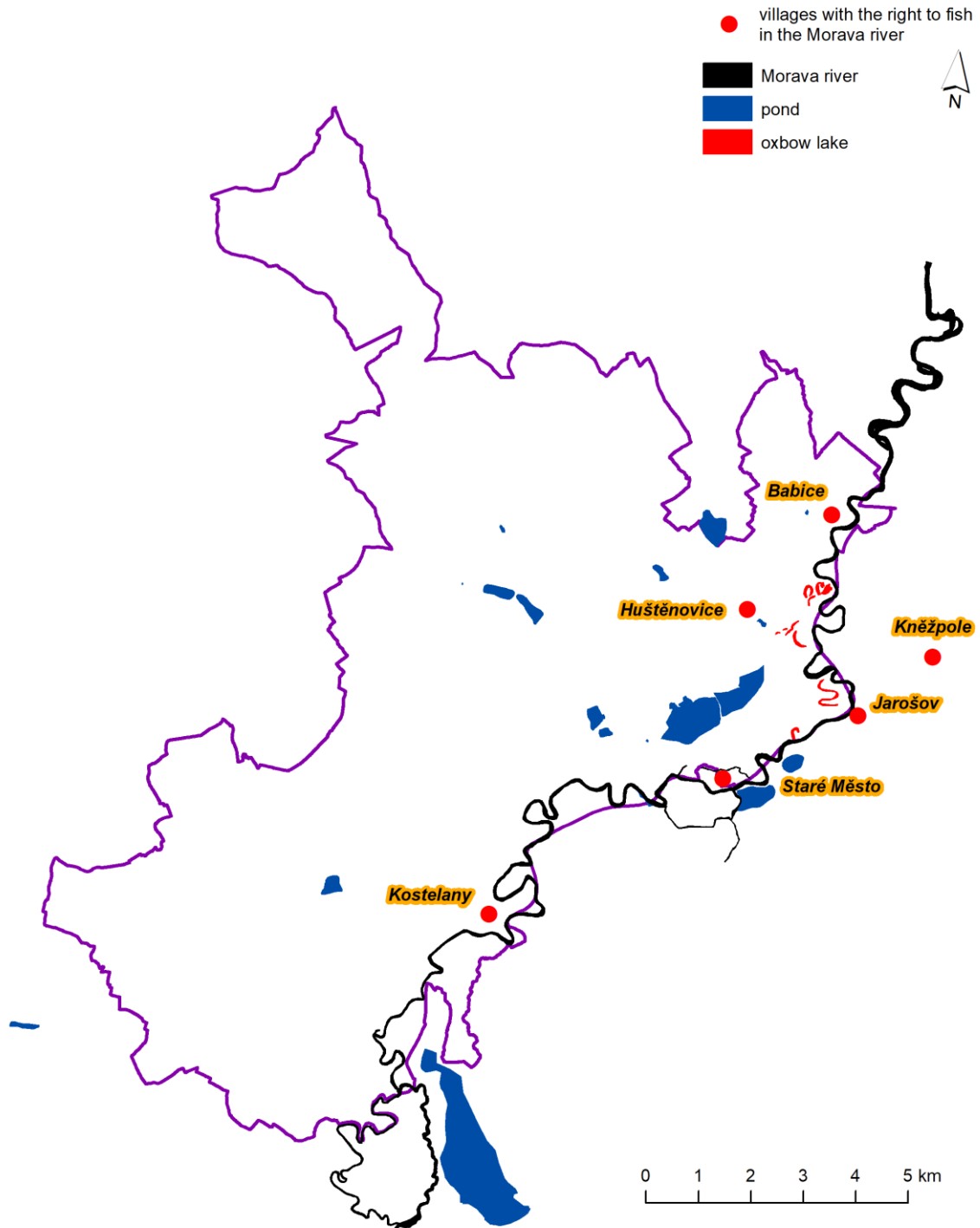


Fig 14. Fish farming and fishing in Velehrad Abbey

## Trade, transport, services and mineral extraction

Trade in agricultural commodities were one of Abbey's revenues. In addition to the sale of crops, wine and fruit, the farmyards obtained the funds by selling livestock. Sheep farming, which complemented cattle and pig farming, clearly dominated the animal production framework. For the purposes of pig farming, in particular, grazing conditions in oak-hornbeam forests with enough acorns were ideal. Forest stands until the reign of Maria Theresa were commonly used for cattle grazing, and the farming method shows that most of the oak-hornbeam forests were maintained in the form of low forest (coppice).

The Abbey's economy was also contributed by monastic breweries and monastic taverns, where wine or brandy was sold in addition to beer.

There were several breweries in the monastic dominion. The brewery was in Velehrad and after the purchase of Ořechov in 1719 also there. However, the brewery was cancelled after the purchase and Ořechov, Těmice had to take the beer from the Velehrad brewery. Breweries were also set up on other villages. In the years 1672–1688 a brewery was established in Ivanovice near Brno and at the Opava region in Bolatice in the years 1692-1702 (Hurt 1938 p. 153).

The breweries had the privilege of a so-called mile brewery right, which ensured the sale of beer from the brewery at a distance of 1 mile from the brewery. The mile right was often the cause of disputes between monastic breweries and breweries owned by other authorities, such as the city of Brno or Uherské Hradiště. At breweries, there was mostly located a distillery. It was the solution for bad beer production. The Abbey taverns provided the sale of beer, wine or spirit from distilleries.

Around 1667 there were six monastic taverns in Velehrad, Nedakonice, Babice, Huštěnovice, Jalubí and Tupesy, which was supplemented by a tavern in Doloplazy and after 1719 in Ořechov and Těmice, in 1749 was also established a tavern in Traplice (Hurt 1938, p154). These enterprises were forced to sell out beer and wine from monastic sources. If monastic wine ran out, they could sell wine produced by private subjects. Monastic taverns were mostly rented for an annual rent with the obligation to sell out monastic products.

The source of income was also to the watermills. In the 17th-18th century, thirteen mills were owned by the Velehrad Abbey (Fig. 15). Two mills in Velehrad, two mills in Staré Město, two mills in Boršice, three mills in Nedakonice, the mill was also in Babice and in Bolatice. After the purchase of Ořechov and Těmice, the Abbey got additional two mills (Němec 2012, p. 295). Mills were most often annually rented with some natural payment in kind for grinding. The most powerful mills were in Nedakonice, which was built by Abbot Greifenfels in 1639 together with a coaching inn. They consisted of a pair of mills, which together had 11 mill compositions and together with a mill for peeling groats or pits for porridge (Kašník) formed a significant economic unit. Mills powered by water from Morava river, which ensured practically year-round grinding without restrictions in the dry season, as was the case with other mills of the estate (Tlachová 2008, p. 24-25).



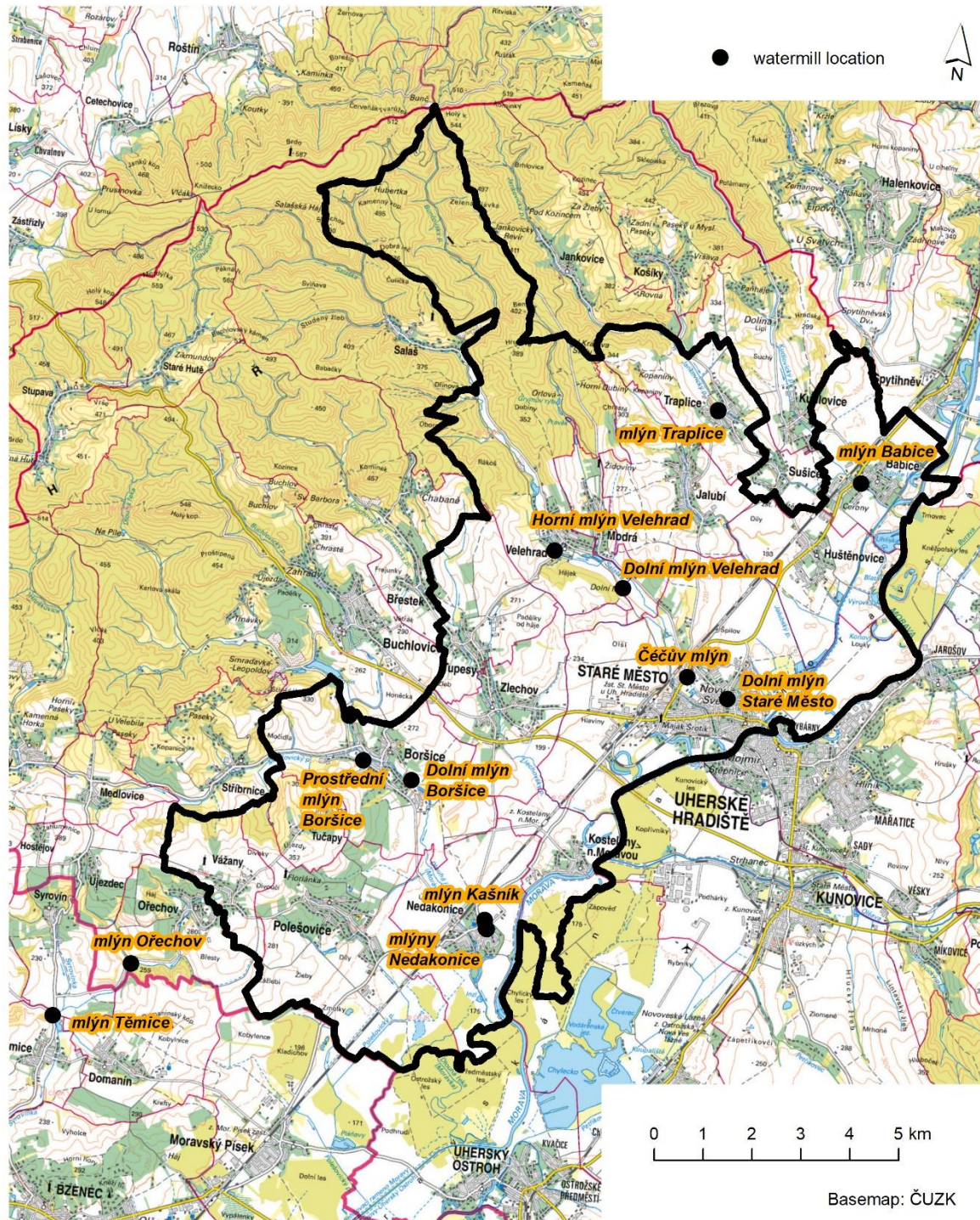


Fig 15. Watermills in Velehrad Abbey

Sufficient wood in manor forests and also a greater need for wood for other economic activities or buildings (brickworks, brewery, limestone, potash production, etc.) on the estate required the existence of sawmills. The sawmill in Velehrad was in the area of the brickworks. The sawmill in Nedakonice was in the mill's area (Fig. 16).

The brickworks have been part of the Abbey since the foundation, and the production of bricks due to sufficient supplies of loess and loess-clay had a limit in the amount of firewood or enough experts in



the bricks production. From the available written sources and landscape field mapping, it is possible to identify brickworks in the following municipalities: Velehrad, Jalubí, Boršice, Babice, Polešovice, Ořechov, Tupesy and Bolatice. It is possible that small production was also in other villages.

Limestone was used for building construction or for iron production. The production of iron and the extraction of limestone concretion for that purposes was documented in the abandoned village Záblačany, which became part of the Polešovice village (Čoupek 1995, p. 41). The extraction of limestone for the needs of the Abbey took place in the forests of Chřiby, where several sites were identified. After exhaustion of small deposits, the limestone was obtained from the Brno region (Moravian Karst).

In 1759, Abbot Malý also established the production of potash in the area of the Velehrad brickworks.

Particular attention should be paid to the production of tar from wood, which is not mentioned in historical documents, but it has undoubtedly been realized in the region. The tar production, which was provided by the so-called "pkelníci" was archaeologically confirmed (Čoupek 1995, p. 41).

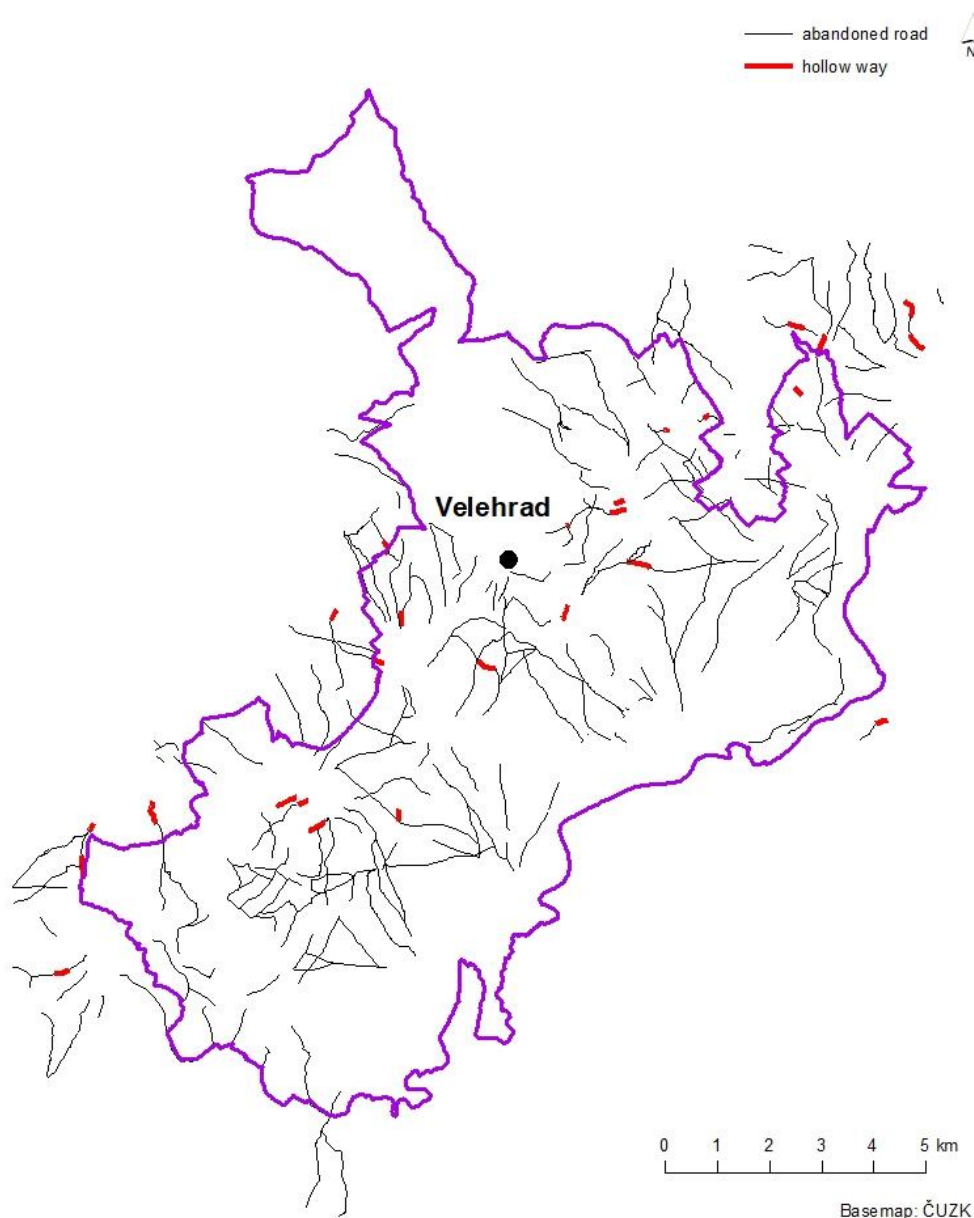
### Roads

The location of Velehrad Abbey also benefits from the proximity of regional trade routes. In addition, during the Golden Age, the Abbey had to maintain contacts and economic exchange between their granges and other centres. Until modern times, Central European roads did not offer any comfort, and their passability was sometimes a big problem. The Velehrad region was no exception, and the local soil conditions with loess prone to erosion are proof of this. In the territory, we find a large number accompanying relics of old roads in the form of recessed hollow ways, or bundles of roads in forests, which help us identify the former routes. In places that had to keep passable, it is possible to find paved sections. An example could be a road in the Háj forest (Fig. 16), which directly demonstrates the possibilities of maintaining the year-round passability of important transport routes.



*Fig 16. Paved route in the Háj forest, close to Velehrad Abbey complex*

An important identification element of the old roads is the small sacral architecture, which has been preserved here mainly from the Baroque period. These artefacts, together with the hollow way sections, help us to identify the former road network, which was irretrievably destroyed by the process of collectivization in the second half of the 20th century. It demonstrates the much greater importance of local routes in former times. Here we can find church or cemetery paths that led from villages to parish centres, pilgrimage routes through which the procession of pilgrims from other regions passed every year to the most important pilgrimage site of Moravia, Velehrad. Although the reasons for using ancient roads have disappeared, it is good to remember their existence as evidence of earlier life in the countryside



*Fig 17. Abandoned roads and hollow ways in the Velehrad Abbey*

As shown by Fig. 17, there are a large number of extinct roads in the area of interest, which played an essential role in the service of the region.

### Religionism

Christianity and the Roman Catholic Church have strong support in the region of the former Velehrad Abbey and, within the Czech Republic, have long been among the regions with the largest share of believers. During the flowering of pilgrimage in the Czech lands during the Baroque period, the Velehrad Abbey became one of the most visited places of pilgrimage. The tradition of pilgrimages did not disappear even after the abolition of the Velehrad Abbey and the most remarkable flowering reached in the second half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century. Velehrad has become a place of frequent church pilgrimages, congregations and Cyrillic celebrations. The main Cyril-Methodius pilgrimage takes place every July 5 on the day of the feast of Saints Cyril and Methodist.

Respect for the Cistercian order and the expansion of faith was reflected in the patronage of churches located on its estates. Already in 1222, the edict of the church in Fryšava and Přebuz (CDB II, 226) is mentioned, in 1228 the Velehrad Abbey is mentioned as the holder of the chapel in Spytihněv, in 1247 to the patron of the law of the chapel in Popovice. St. Peter's Church in Uherské Hradiště was a filial church of The Church of St. Michal in Staré Město. This relationship died out in the 15th century. In addition to the above, there were also churches in Polešovice, Boršice and Jalubí (Fig. 18). Religious priests were placed in all churches that belonged to the administration of Velehrad Abbey. Other parishes sometimes had secular priests. The scheme includes churches in Spytihněv, Přebuz and Bolatic (Hurt 1938, p264-266).



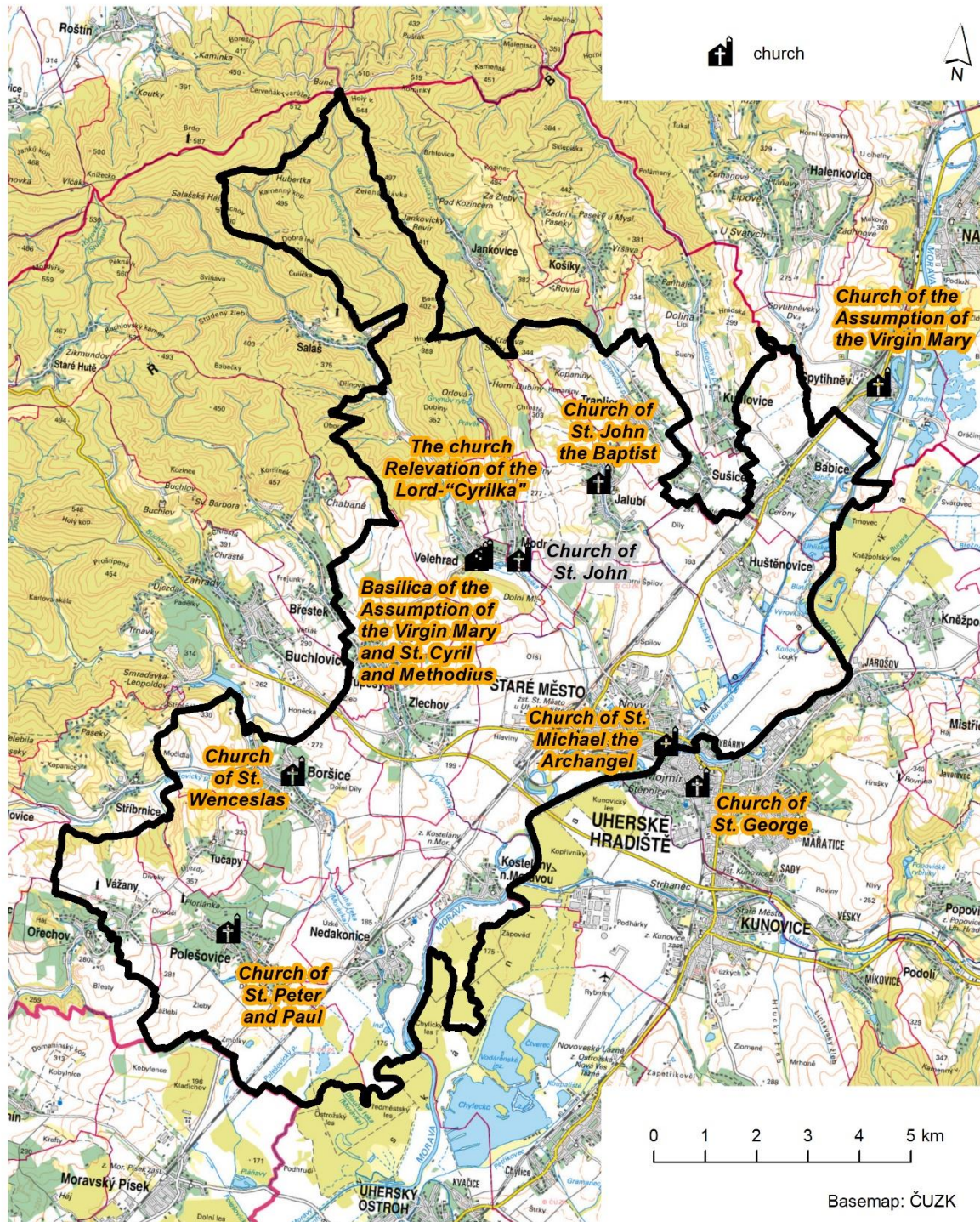


Fig 18. Velehrad Abbey churches

In addition to churches, religionism also includes small church buildings and sculptures in the landscape, which form the accompanying elements of the routes. The greatest boom in the building of small church monuments (chapels, crosses or statues of saints) is preserved from the Baroque period, where pilgrimage was growing in popularity. These important landscape elements form a complete composition and character of the cultural landscape from the period of the 17th-19th century. Very often a statue of St. Jan Nepomuk, who is one of the Czech patrons of the Czech Republic, appears in the territory. His name is directly linked to the Cistercians. He was born in Pomuk, today's



Nepomuk, which belonged to the Cistercian Abbey near Nepomuk. Most of these tiny elements of the landscape have been preserved and restored. Part of it was irretrievably destroyed during the period of collectivization, which changed the overall character of the landscape after the Second World War.



*Fig 19. Statue of St. Jan Nepmucký in front of the building of the former Abbey brewery in Velehrad*

### Settlement structure, types of landuse, towns and villages

The Velehrad Abbey region had been cultivated long before the arrival of the Cistercians. At the time of the establishment of the Velehrad Abbey, the settlement structure was already established and, with the exception of the Chřiby mountain area, the Abbey did not have a greater share in the colonization processes. The actual process of colonization of forested territory is documented in the north of the Margraviate of Moravia and in Silesia. Examples of newly created villages and estates can also be found in the Velehrad Abbey core area. The Abbey participated in the reconstruction and colonization of pre-existing settlements, but they disappeared due to adverse factors. Documented is the transfer of the village Huštěnovice to a new location, which was less threatened by the Morava river and had more suitable conditions. The new village took the German settlements form, which was closed at both ends by gates. The settlement of the new location of Huštěnovice on the site of grange was settled by the German population (Hurt 1934, p. 256). The village of Polešovice, whose original location was closer to the Morava river and bore the name Záblačany, was probably dealt similarly. Archaeological research has found a longer-term settlement here. Newly established settlements can be found on the eastern border of the Újezd. The forest villages were founded in the 17th century.

The Velehrad Abbey had a part in the creation of a new settlement in the forest area called Salaš. Its origin and name is connected with the sheepfold. The village Salaš is mentioned in the period 1652-

1664. Two municipalities merged into one in the 19th century. Western Salaš was established by Buchlov founded by Buchlov estate. East Salaš was founded by Velehrad Abbey.

The landuse structure in the final stage of the development of the monastic dominion can be seen in Fig. 13. Arable land is prevalent, in inappropriate positions it is replaced by meadows, wet meadows and pastures. The occurrence of larger areas of grassland was also tied to Chřiby mountains and river floodplains with the highest concentration in the Morava river surroundings. Already in the past, due to the susceptibility of the area to water erosion, efforts to stabilize erosion (grassland and forest stands) are evident. Larger areas of orchards can be found near the granges and in the Morava river floodplain. However, the cultivation of fruit trees was mostly not concentrated in orchards. Very common was their appearance in vineyards or in meadows. The cultivation of fruit trees in the form of avenues or tree lines along the paths appears more massively during the reign of Maria Theresia.

The phenomenon of the area called the Garden of Moravia shows on the map the distinctive areas of vineyards. Suitable conditions can be found practically throughout the region. The highest quality location confirmed for centuries by the quality of a wine is situated in the area of Polešovice.

The forest stands were most represented by oak-hornbeam forests, which were transferred to the form of low forest (coppice) by long-term intensive use. Low forests are an ancient and memorable form of sustainable use of the landscape. In the past, most of the forest stands of lowlands, warm hills and highlands were managed not only in the Czech republic, but also in virtually all European temperate forests (Szabó et al. 2015).

Coppice forest throughout the Middle Ages mainly served the production of firewood, but they were also used for the production of thin utility assortments, charcoal, incisor bark and for cattle grazing. (Maděra 2016, p. 5).

According to the available information, the area of forests managed by the Velehrad Abbey did not change much and was an effort to preserve their size. An exception is the forest stands in the Ořechov cadastre (31 ha) and Těmice cadastre (18 ha), where they were felled sometime between 1719-1749. The local people had a problem with that because they had to transport wood from distances of more than 2 miles and had to pay for it (Němec 2012, p. 292-293). The newly established village of Salaš in Chřiby mountain also affected a change in forest stands.

The high forest form can we find in the highest parts of Chřiby Mts. and in places with the predominant occurrence of beeches, which are not very suitable for the low forest form.

In the monastic dominion, there was any town except the village of Polešovice, which was granted to the town status by Emperor Rudolf II at the request of Abbot Ekard. In 1595 Polešovice was promoted to a small town with the right to hold two annual markets of the year and to hold weekly markets on Tuesdays (Vašků 1981, p. 144-145).

A new town was established in 1357 on the former Abbey property in the island of the Morava River. The name of the town developed from the name Nový Velehrad, Hradiště to the present Uherské Hradiště (Uherskohradištsko 1982, p. 396). Uherské Hradiště as a royal town was founded by Přemysl Otakar II. and the population of the new town was transferred in part from the nearby royal town of Kunovice and from the monastic market village Staré Město (the original name of which was taken by the Cistercian Abbey - Velehrad). The Abbey received as financial compensation part of property and market taxes (Nekuda p. 396) 396). The Abbot also had the right to appoint a mayor. Due to financial problems, the Abbey was forced to sell to the town of Uherské Hradiště the surrounding villages. The original advantage of the defensive city for possible attacks from the east became the disadvantage of



a strong economic entity near the Abbey, which tried to free itself from dependence on the Velehrad Abbey (payment of taxes, use of monastic mills, etc.). Despite the disputes, the city served as a refuge for the escaped monks in the period after the destruction of Velehrad convent by the Hussites.

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