

## Dolge njive - Draga: Roman Crucium? The Roman roadside settlement in Dolenjska (southeast Slovenia)

### Dolge njive - Draga: rimski Crucium? Rimska naselbina na Dolenjskem

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#### Izvleček

V prispevku so predstavljena arheološka najdišča v okolici Bele Cerkve, podrobneje izsledki izkopavanj iz leta 2002, ko smo pri raziskavah na različnih lokacijah (Dolge njive, Draga 1, Draga 2 in Draga 3) dokumentirali del trase ceste, zidane temelje objektov, večje število vkopov za stojke, grobišče in naselbinsko gradivo iz rimske dobe. Povzeli bomo tudi hipoteze o domnevnih lokacijah rimske poštna postaje *Crucium*. Domnevamo, da smo odkrili rimski *Crucium*, ki je bil poseljen oziroma v funkciji od 1. do 4. st. n. št.

**Ključne besede:** Slovenija; Dolenjska; rimska doba; obcestna naselbina; *Crucium* (Dolge njive, Draga 1, Draga 2 in Draga 3); grobišče

#### Abstract

The paper presents the archaeological sites in the environs of the modern settlement of Bela Cerkev and the results of archaeological excavations in 2002, prior to motorway construction. Excavations at four (?) different, but contiguous locations (Dolge njive, Draga 1, Draga 2 in Draga 3) revealed and documented part of the line of the road, the masonry foundations of buildings, numerous post-built structures, a cemetery and domestic material, dating to the Roman period. The paper also considers hypotheses surrounding the location of the Roman-period roadside settlement of *Crucium*. It is posited that the excavation on these sites have revealed the location of the Roman roadside settlement of *Crucium*, which was occupied or functioned in the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD.

**Key words:** Slovenia; Dolenjska; Roman period; roadside settlement; *Crucium* (Dolge njive, Draga 1, Draga 2 and Draga 3); cemetery

The Dolge njive - Draga Roman roadside settlement is located on the northern edge of the Šentjernejsko polje in the central part of the Krka valley in Dolenjska (*Fig. 1*). The valley of the Toplica stream (a left bank tributary of the Krka at Kronovo) defines the south-western edge of

the Vinji vrh massif and the Krka terrace at the foot of the southern slopes of the Vinji vrh massif. The broad marshy valley of the river Radulja (a left bank tributary of the Krka at Dobrava pri Škocjanu) defines the northern edge of the Vinji vrh massif as a whole, combining with the Žlebec

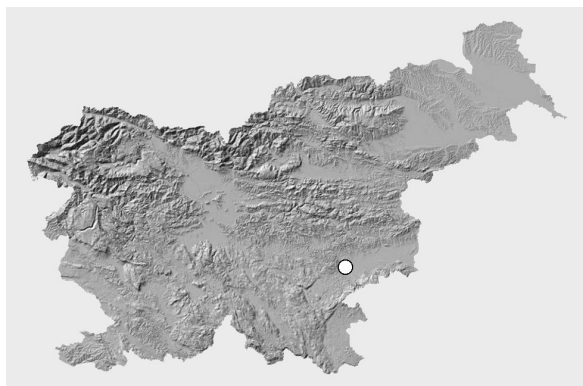


Fig. 1: The location of the Dolge njive and Draga 1–3 archaeological site.

Sl. 1: Lokacija najdišč Dolge njive in Draga 1–3. (basemap / podlaga: DMR ©GURS)

stream to define the north-eastern edge of the Krka terrace at the foot of the southern slopes of the Vinji vrh massif (Fig. 2; 3).

The archaeological site of Dolge njive - Draga itself is located to the southeast of Vinji vrh on the narrow strip of lowland between the foot of the Vinji vrh massif and the river Krka.<sup>1</sup> It is postulated that the route of the Roman road from Emona to Siscia followed the left bank of the river Krka at this point. A prehistoric road with a different orientation was excavated at Požarnice.<sup>2</sup>

## HISTORY OF RESEARCH

The history of archaeological research in the area of the Krka terrace to the south of the Vinji vrh massif can be divided into four main phases: 1 – antiquarian activity in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; 2 – the construction of the Ljubljana – Zagreb highway, 1955–1965; 3 – the construction of the Kronovo-Smednik sub-section of the Ljubljana–Obrežje motorway, 1999–2003; 4 – housing and infrastructure construction, 2004–2014.

### *The 19<sup>th</sup> Century*

This period was marked by antiquarian excavations of the barrow cemeteries on the approaches to the hillfort on Veliki Vinji vrh (Fig. 2: 1), as well as the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period Strmec flat cemetery on the terraces on the southern slopes below Veliki Vinji vrh (Fig. 2: 3).<sup>3</sup>

Schulz excavated two of a group of four prehistoric barrows in the village of Gorenja Gomila on the right bank of the Krka river circa 1880 (Fig. 2: 17).<sup>4</sup> In Gorenja Gomila were found Roman graves alongside the local road that ran through the village and extended beyond its confines and posited the existence of a ford across the river Krka between Draga and Gorenja Gomila at this point. The Roman cemetery at Gorenja Gomila were mentioned by Pirkovič as a potential site of the settlement of *Crucium*.<sup>5</sup> It has also been suggested that there was a crossing of the river Krka in the vicinity of the villages of Gorenja Gomila and Draga.<sup>6</sup> This is borne out by the position of the recently excavated complex on the left bank of the river Krka (see below).

### *The construction of the Ljubljana-Zagreb highway, 1955–1965*

A watching brief was undertaken during the highway construction, which led to the discovery and recording of a number of Roman period sites. These include the discovery and documentation of part of a settlement complex at Požarnice near Družinska vas (Fig. 2: 6),<sup>7</sup> a tombstone and part of a cemetery to the south-west of Bela Cerkev (Fig. 2: 7),<sup>8</sup> part of a cemetery and three sections across the Roman road at Draga (Fig. 2: 9),<sup>9</sup> as well as a cremation grave at Ruhna vas (Fig. 2: 16)<sup>10</sup> and a settlement at Stranje (Fig. 2: 8).<sup>11</sup> Milan Lovenjak has published an overview of the history of research on the route of the *viae publicae* from Emona to the modern eastern border of Slovenia.<sup>12</sup>

### *Motorway construction, 1999–2003*

Archaeological fieldwork in advance of motorway construction and monitoring during motorway construction from 1999 to 2004 represented the first systematic integrated archaeological fieldwork in the area at the southern foot of Vinji vrh. It revealed new details of the nature and extent of the Roman roadside settlement in the area of Bela Cerkev and Draga, as well as the settlement

<sup>4</sup> Pirkovič 1968, 58–60.

<sup>5</sup> Pirkovič 1968, 60–61.

<sup>6</sup> Gabrovec 1975, 226.

<sup>7</sup> Petru 1960a, 300, 302; 1961, 194, 195–198.

<sup>8</sup> Šašel 1975, Šribar 1960, 251–270; Urleb, Petru 1960, 298–299.

<sup>9</sup> Urleb 1960, 302.

<sup>10</sup> Urleb, Meze 1960, 304.

<sup>11</sup> Petru 1960b, 300, 304, 306; 1961, 197–198.

<sup>12</sup> Lovenjak 2006a, 39–47.

<sup>1</sup> Dular, A. 1991.

<sup>2</sup> Topličanec, Tica 2006, 53–54.

<sup>3</sup> Stare 1973, 16; Dular, A. 1991, 54–60.

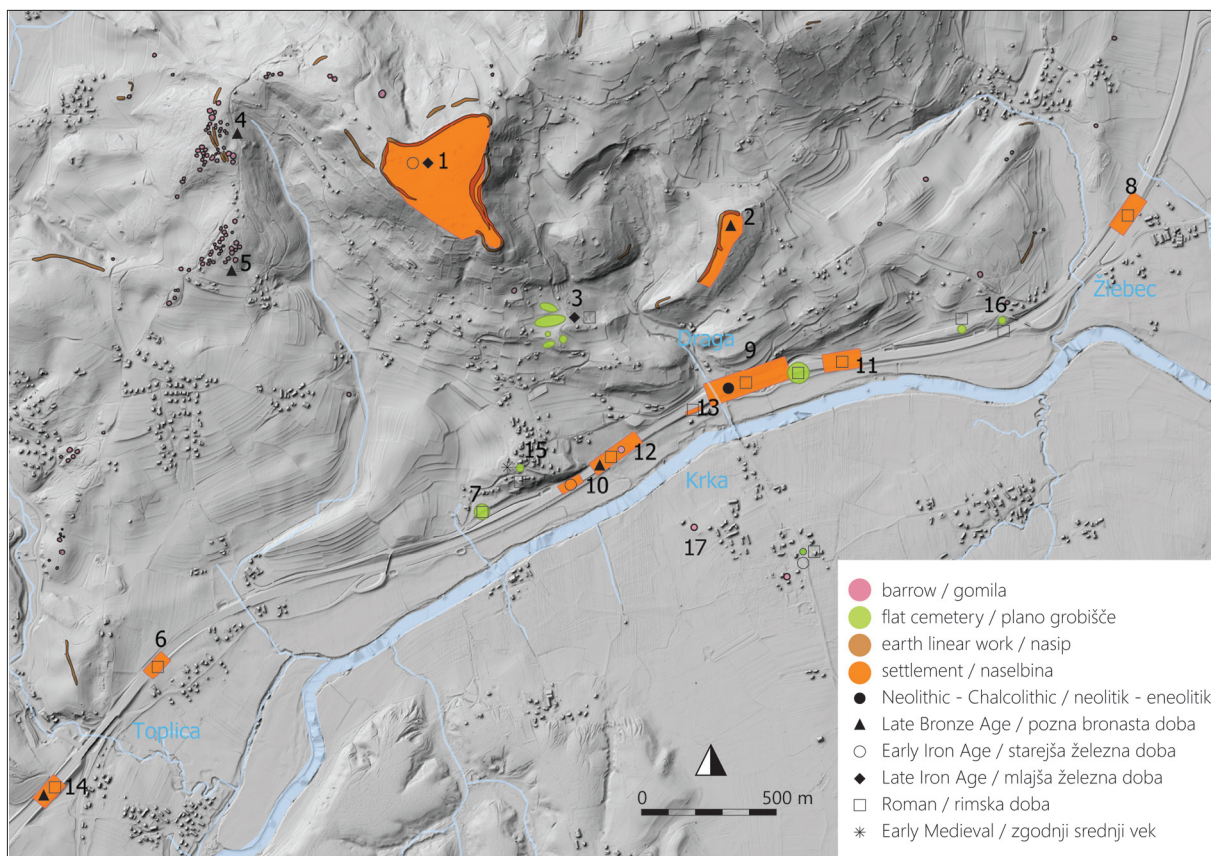


Fig. 2: The Dolge njive - Draga roadside settlement and other archaeological sites in the environs of Vinji vrh.  
 Sl. 2: Obcestna naselbina Dolge njive - Draga in druga arheološka najdišča v okolici Vinjega vrha.  
 (basemap / podlaga: DMR ©GURS)

1 – Veliki Vinji vrh: Early Iron Age/Late Iron Age hillfort / starejšeželeznodobno/mlajšeželeznodobno gradišče; 2 – Vihra: Late Bronze Age upland settlement / poznobronastodobna višinska naselbina; 3 – Strmec: Late Iron Age/Early Roman flat cremation and inhumation cemetery / mlajšeželeznodobno/zgodnjerimsko plano žgano in skeletno grobišče; 4 – Mlada vina: evidence of Bronze Age occupation; Early Iron Age barrow cemetery / sledi poselitve iz bronaste dobe; starejšeželeznodobno gomilno grobišče; 5 – Gradnje: evidence of Bronze Age occupation; Early Iron Age barrow cemetery / sledi poselitve iz bronaste dobe; starejšeželeznodobno gomilno grobišče; 6 – Požarnice near Družinski vas: Early/Middle Roman settlement complex and via publica; zgodnje-srednjerimskodobni naselbinski kompleks in via publica; 7 – Bela Cerkev: Early/Middle Roman flat cremation cemetery / zgodnje-srednjerimskodobno plano žgano grobišče; 8 – Stranje: Early/Middle Roman settlement complex and via publica / zgodnje-srednjerimskodobni naselbinski kompleks in via publica; 9 – Draga 1: Neolithic/Chalcolithic settlement and Early/Middle Roman roadside settlement complex (masonry mansio and timber buildings, cemetery) / neolitska/eneolitska naselbina in zgodnje-srednjerimskodobni mansio in lesene stavbe, grobišče); 10 – Bela Cerkev – Pod Vovki: Early Iron Age occupation and cobbled riverside surface / starejšeželeznodobna poselitvena in tlakovana površina; 11 – Draga 2: Late Roman timber dwelling complex / poznorimske lesene stavbe; 12 – Dolge njive: Late Bronze Age drystone mortuary platforms; Early Iron Age barrows; Middle/Late Roman timber dwelling complex / poznobronastodobne suhozidne pogrebne ploščadi, gomila iz starejše železne dobe in srednje-poznorimskodobni kompleks lesenih stavb; 13 – Draga 2: masonry mansio/customs building and via publica / zidan mansio/skladišče in via publica; 14 – Dolenje Kronovo: evidence of Bronze Age occupation; Early/Middle Roman settlement / sledi poselitve iz bronaste dobe; zgodnje-srednjerimskodobna naselbina; 15 – Bela Cerkev – Cerkev sv. Andreja: Early Roman flat cremation cemetery; Early Medieval inhumation cemetery / zgodnjerimsko plano žgano grobišče in zgodnjesrednjeveško skeletno grobišče; 16 – Ruhna vas: Early Roman flat cremation cemetery / zgodnjerimsko plano žgano grobišče; 17 – Gorenja Gomila: Early Iron Age barrow cemetery and settlement; Roman flat grave / gomilno grobišče in naselbina iz starejše železne dobe; plani grobovi iz rimske dobe.

history of the wider area of the Roman settlement pattern in the motorway corridor, some of which may have been integrated into the roadside settlement complex.

The Kronovo-Smednik sub-section of the projected motorway route largely followed the line of the Ljubljana-Zagreb highway including the section at the foot of the Vinji vrh massif. The entire sub-

section of the was subject to systematic extensive field survey in the planning stage, with subsequent intensive surface and sub-surface field survey in areas of high archaeological potential.<sup>13</sup> This led to the identification of definition of eight areas (sites) for excavation prior to motorway construction, as well as the identification of a further three sites, which were discovered and excavated during motorway construction. All but one of these sites was located on the terrace at the southern foot of the Vinji vrh massif.

Four of the excavated areas form a block in the core area of the Dolge njive - Draga settlement. The excavated areas of Draga 1 (Fig. 2: 9), and Draga 3 (Fig. 2: 11) are located to the northeast, whilst the excavated areas of Dolge njive (Fig. 2: 10) and Draga 2 (Fig. 2: 13) are located to the south-west of the Draga stream.<sup>14</sup> The remaining three sites lie on the north-eastern and south-western edges of the terrace at the foot of Vinji vrh respectively. Stranje is also a roadside settlement, possibly a *villa rustica* on the terrace between the Žlebec stream on the eastern edge of the Vinji vrh massif and the confluence of the Radulja with the Krka (Fig. 2: 8).<sup>15</sup> Požarnice near Družinska vas is a middle Roman period roadside settlement, which is closely associated with the main Aquileia - Siscia road. It is located on the eastern edge of the Toplica valley near its confluence with the Krka (Fig. 2: 6).<sup>16</sup> Part of a possible Early Roman period military complex was excavated at Dolenje Kronovo on the western edge of the Toplica valley, opposite the Požarnice complex (Fig. 2: 14).<sup>17</sup>

#### *Residential and Infrastructural construction, 2004-2014*

Archaeological fieldwork and monitoring accompanying connected with local and regional infrastructural projects as well as housing developments have also contributed to the knowledge of the hinterland of the roadside settlement. These have been numerous, but particular note should be taken of the discovery of Early Roman period mortuary activity during trial trenching and a watching brief from 2009 to 2010, which accom-

panied the extension and reconstruction of the cemetery around the parish church of sv. Andrej in Bela Cerkev (Fig. 2: 15).<sup>18</sup> The field survey and evaluation in advance of the construction of the Vinji vrh –lowland zone water main and the Gradenje main drainage schemes in 2011 located intact graves in the area of the late prehistoric and Early Roman period cemetery at Strmec and prehistoric settlement in the vicinity of Gradenje (Fig. 2: 5).<sup>19</sup> The watching brief on the construction of the water-main in 2014 revealed additional information on the extent of late prehistoric and Roman settlement and mortuary activity in the Strmec area.<sup>20</sup>

## PREHISTORY

The Vinji vrh massif was an important centre of settlement in the pre-Roman period, located as it is astride major east-west routeways. The earliest known settlement of the massif is dated to the Neolithic/Chalcolithic period and is located on the north-eastern edge of the Draga stream valley (Fig. 2: 9).<sup>21</sup> The excavations revealed structures and material, which are associated with the Lasinja culture. This interpretation is confirmed by radiocarbon dates of charcoal from one of the structures, which give a date of 4258–4053 BC (90.7% probability).<sup>22</sup>

Early Bronze Age Litzenkeramik group settlement is relatively widespread on the southern edge of the Vinji vrh massif.<sup>23</sup> There are at least two Late Bronze Age upland settlements in the area of the Vinji vrh massif. Mastni hrib near Škocjan is located on a hill, which rises above the Radulja valley on the north - eastern edge of the Vinji vrh massif.<sup>24</sup> The Vihra settlement is located on a hill that rises above the end of the Draga gorge (Fig. 2: 2).<sup>25</sup> There is also evidence of Late Bronze Age activity at Dolge njive, where a holloway connecting three drystone mortuary platforms with associated fragments of cremated bone were discovered in the

<sup>13</sup> Djurić, Pinter 2001a; Djurić, Pinter 2001b.

<sup>14</sup> Križ 2003c, 124–125; Mason 2003b, 119–121; Draga 1 and Draga 3 have already been published in Monographiaes AAS 101 and AAS 108; see: bibliography.

<sup>15</sup> Tica 2003b 249–250.

<sup>16</sup> Tica 2003a 233–235.

<sup>17</sup> Murko, Ciglar, 2012 14–24.

<sup>18</sup> Mason, Tiran 2010, 23.

<sup>19</sup> Mason, Pinter 2011a (report); 2011b (report), 16–18.

<sup>20</sup> Jovanović et al. 2014 (report), 21–42; 43–67.

<sup>21</sup> Križ 2003b, 18; Udovč 2022a, 56–58.

<sup>22</sup> Udovč 2022a, 58, Fig. 136; AMS analysis in the laboratory Centro di Fisica applicata DAtazione e Diagnostica in Lecce (CEDAD), as part of the DARS post-excavation project.

<sup>23</sup> Horvat 2003a, 43–47; 2003b, 177–178; Bavec 2006b, 44.

<sup>24</sup> Dular et al 2000, 129–134.

<sup>25</sup> Dular et al 2000, 122–124.



Fig. 3: Dolge njive - Draga. A view on location of the Roman roadside settlement at the foot of the Vinji vrh massif on the left bank of the river Krka; view from southwest.

Sl. 3: Dolge njive - Draga. Pogled na jugozahoda na rimsko obcestno naselbino, ki leži na levem bregu Krke ob vznožju Vinjega vrha

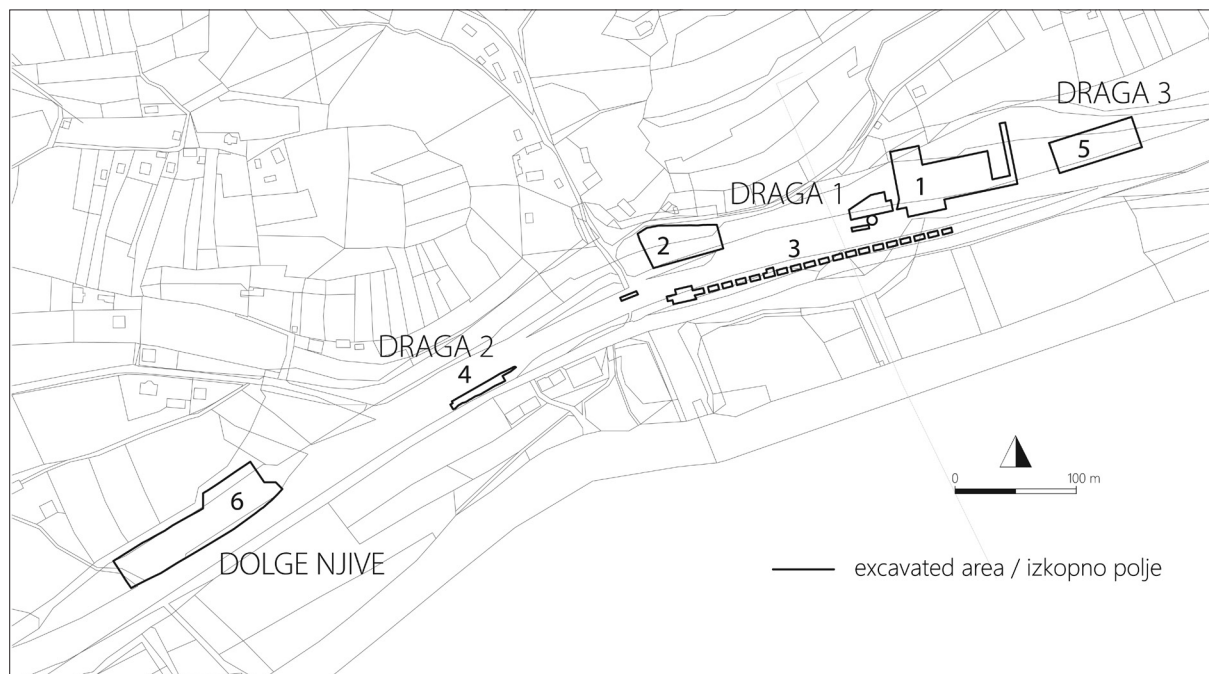


Fig. 4: Dolge njive - Draga. Plan of the settlement and mortuary remains excavated in 2002–2004 (basemap: Cadastre ©GURS). 1 – Draga 1, sec. I (see Fig. 15); 2 – Draga 1, sec. II (see Fig. 12); 3 – Draga 1, sec. III (see Fig. 6); 4 – Draga 2 (see Fig. 8); 5 – Draga 3 (see Fig. 13); 6 – Dolge njive (see Fig. 10).

Sl. 4: Dolge njive - Draga. Tloris obcestne naselbine in grobišča, izkopano od 2002 do 2004. (podlaga: Kataster ©GURS). 1 – Draga 1, sek. I (gl. sl. 15); 2 – Draga 1, sek. II (gl. sl. 12); 3 – Draga 1, sek. III (gl. sl. 6); 4 – Draga 2 (gl. sl. 8); 5 – Draga 3 (gl. sl. 13); 6 – Dolge njive (gl. sl. 10).

north - eastern part of the excavated area beneath later, Middle-Late Roman period buildings (Fig. 2: 12).<sup>26</sup> Field survey has also revealed the presence of Bronze Age settlement activity in the area of the Early Iron age barrow cemeteries in the vicinity of Družinska vas and Gradenje at the foot of the Vinji vrh massif.<sup>27</sup> Evidence of Bronze Age occupation was also discovered during excavations in advance of motorway construction on the site of Dolenje Kronovo in 2005 (Fig. 2: 14).<sup>28</sup>

The Veliki Vinji vrh hill that rises above the Dolge njive - Draga settlement is the site of an Early and Late Iron Age hillfort (12.6 ha), one of the largest settlement centres in south-eastern Slovenia (Fig. 2: 1).<sup>29</sup> There are large numbers of Early Iron Age barrows associated with the hillfort. These comprise the barrow groups at Kozjane (Ivanec), Gradenje (Fig. 2: 5) and Mlada vina (Fig. 2: 4), which define the SW-NE approach to the hillfort from the direction of the Toplica valley as well as the groups at Gabrina pri Vinici and Kolešniška hosta, which define the approaches from the Radulja valley to the north. There are also isolated barrows and barrow groups in the eastern part of the massif and lining the western side of the Toplica valley. It should also be noted that three Early Iron Age barrows were located in the area of the later, Roman roadside settlement at Dolge njive - Draga (Fig. 2: 12). Many of the modern hollow ways in the Vinji vrh area are closely associated with barrow groups and may have originated in the Early Iron Age. A length of potentially prehistoric stone surfaced road was excavated at Požarnice in 2002 (Fig. 2: 6).<sup>30</sup> A potentially contemporary small lowland settlement was excavated at Bela Cerkev – pod Vovki (Fig. 2: 10). It probably represents a small temporary settlement or farmstead associated with the small barrow cemetery at Dolge njive and with the major hillfort on Veliki Vinji vrh, but the nature of the finds and later disturbance of the site make it difficult to determine the nature and duration of occupation.<sup>31</sup>

A large Late Iron Age and Early Roman flat cremation and inhumation cemetery is located at

Strmec hill on slopes to the south of the hillfort (Fig. 2: 3). This mortuary complex may extend as far as the village of Bela Cerkev, where a single Early Roman cremation grave was found during excavation in the area of the modern churchyard around the parish church of sv. Andrej (Fig. 2: 15).<sup>32</sup> A recent watching brief has also produced evidence of Early Iron Age mortuary and/or settlement activity and a post-cemetery Roman period settlement in the Strmec area.<sup>33</sup>

## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OF THE ROMAN PERIOD

### Topography

The settlement complex extends for a distance of some 1500 m along the river terrace between the Vinji vrh massif to the north and the left bank of the river Krka to the south. The deeply incised gorge of the Draga stream (a tributary of the river Krka) is a natural choke point on the Roman state road, which followed the line of communications along the terrace at the foot of the Vinji vrh massif on the left bank of the river Krka (Fig. 3). This gorge forms the central axis of the settlement, dividing into a north-eastern section and a south-western section (Fig. 4).

*The excavated areas of the settlement are as follows:*

1 – Bela Cerkev – is located to the south-west of the administrative centre Bela Cerkev. A watching brief and subsequent limited excavation during the construction of the Ljubljana-Zagreb highway in 1957 revealed part of the south-western cemetery of the Roman settlement (Fig. 2: 7).

2 – Draga 1 (Fig. 2: 9; 4: 1–3) – is located on the slopes of the Vinji vrh massif and the Krka terrace to the east of the Draga gorge and was excavated during the construction of the Ljubljana-Obrežje motorway in 2002. The excavated area is divided into three sectors:

*Sector I* (Fig. 4: 1): is located on the slopes below the village of Draga. Excavation revealed part of the north-eastern Roman cemetery, which extended beneath the Ljubljana-Zagreb highway on the left bank of the Draga stream. This cemetery is typical of the so-called rural cemeteries utilised by

<sup>26</sup> Mason 2003a; 2003b, 119–121.

<sup>27</sup> Mason, Pinter 2011a (report), 9–11.

<sup>28</sup> Murko, Ciglar 2012, 14,18.

<sup>29</sup> Dular, A. 1991, 20–24; Dular, Tecco Hvala 2007, 177–181; Mason, Mlekuž 2016; Dular 2021.

<sup>30</sup> Topličanec, Tica 2006, 53–54.

<sup>31</sup> Udovč 2022b, 44.

<sup>32</sup> Dular, A. 1991, 52–59; Mason, Pinter 2011a (report), 16–18.

<sup>33</sup> Jovanović et. al. 2014 (report), op.cit.

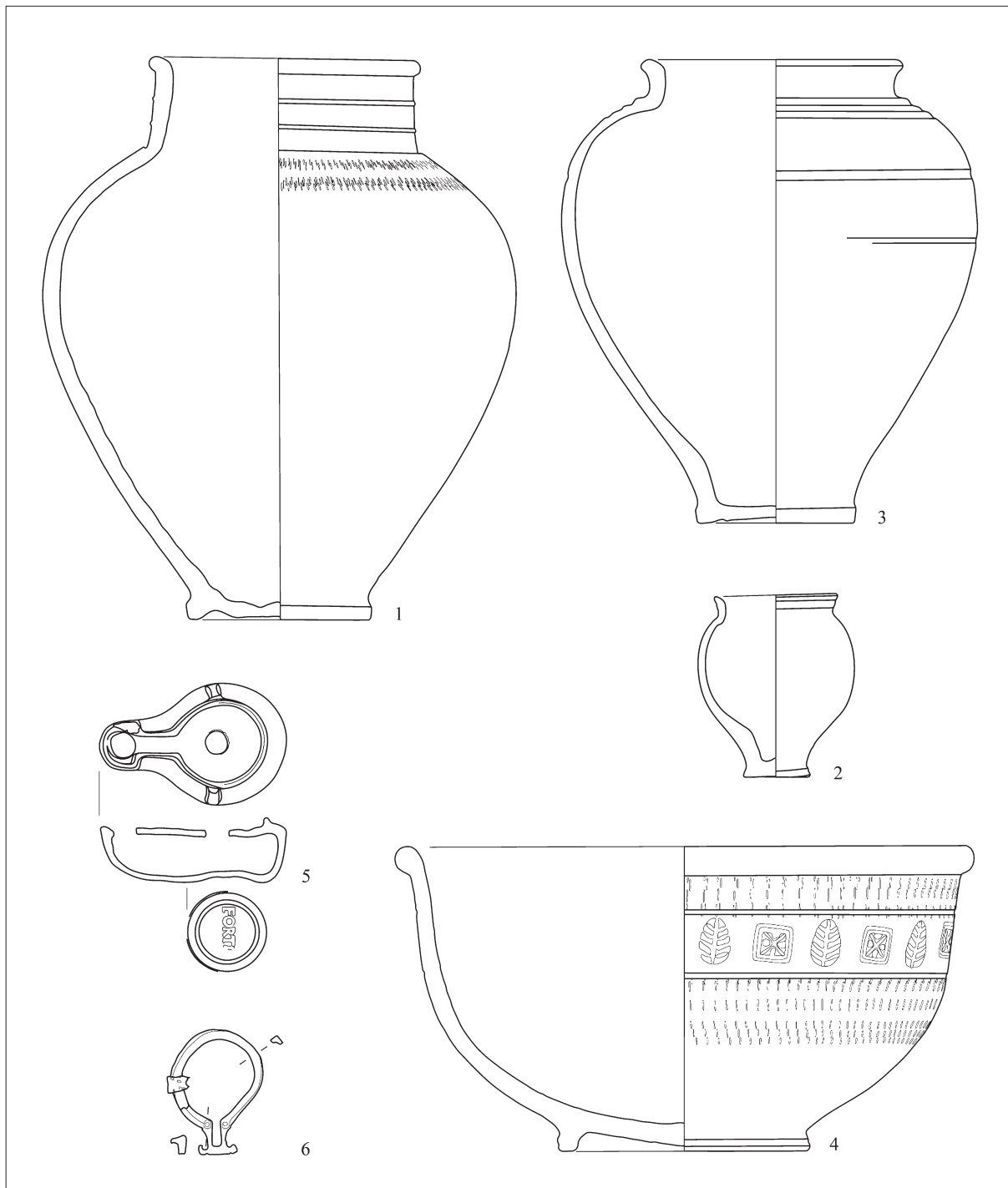


Fig. 5: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 1, sec. I, cemetery. Grave goods. 1–5 pottery; 6 bronze. Scale = 1:3.  
 Sl. 5: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 1, sek. I, grobišče. 1–5 keramika; 6 bron. M. = 1:3.

the local population. However, the presence of a walled grave plot and a large number of corbelled mortuary structures with entry tunnels distinguish it from the majority of rural cemeteries. Analogies for these types of mortuary architecture and grave goods occur in the wider area of the ager of *Nevidunum* or rather the *civitas Latobicorum*.

Pottery types in the local La Tene tradition, such as jars with ribbed necks (Fig. 5: 1) and so-called drinking services (Fig. 5: 2–3), are most common, followed by local imitation *Terra sigillata* dishes (Drag. form 37; Fig. 5: 4) and *firmalampen* (Fig. 5: 5). The burials in the cemetery date from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD. However, the majority of the

securely dated pottery, glass and metal artefacts in the graves date from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Centuries AD. The latest metal artefact is a Jobst 36b type fibula in grave 7 (*Fig. 5: 6*), which is dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD.<sup>34</sup>

*Sector II (Fig. 4: 2)*: is located south-east of the local Bela Cerkev-Draga road. It represents the north-western edge of the Roman settlement area and is characterised by post-built timber buildings, a large number of pits and postholes and other structures below the modern village of Draga.<sup>35</sup>

*Sector III (Fig. 4: 3)*: is located on the left bank of the Draga stream between the Ljubljana-Zagreb highway and the local Kronovo-Stranje road. Excavation revealed the mortared walls of Roman building on the north-eastern part of the core of the settlement complex.<sup>36</sup>

3 – Draga 2 (excavated area: 324 m<sup>2</sup>) (*Fig. 4: 4*) is located between the Ljubljana – Zagreb highway and the local road on the right (south-western) bank of the Draga stream. Excavation in 2002 revealed a warehouse or official complex, metalled road and courtyard in the south-western part of the settlement core.

4 – Draga 3 (excavated area: 2100 m<sup>2</sup>) (*Fig. 4: 5*) is located on the slopes below the local Draga – Hrib road to the north-east of the cemetery in Draga I. Excavation in late 2002 and early 2003 revealed an area of Late Roman post built timber structures, which are possibly military in character, given the presence of a Late Roman dart (martiobabula or plumbata). Excavation also revealed the remains of a contemporary road, badly damaged by recent interventions. The associated small finds (fibulae, coins, knives, and pins) date it to the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD.<sup>37</sup>

5 – Dolge njive (excavated area: 4500 m<sup>2</sup>) (*Fig. 4: 6; 10*). The site lies at the foot of the Vinji vrh massif to north of the Ljubljana – Obrežje road. It is located on colluvial deposits, which filled the depression between the high rocky plateau of the modern village of Bela Cerkev to the south-west and the flat-topped hillock that rises above the right bank of the Draga stream to northeast. This area represents the south-western edge of the Roman settlement area and is characterised by timber domestic buildings, pits and two bread

ovens of mid to Late Roman date. It is bounded on the southwest by an area of Roman (3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Century), and Early Medieval (7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Century) midden deposits. The midden deposits covered a number of earlier Roman four-post structures.

## Infrastructure

The settlement was unfortified and has no evidence for an organised street plan. The state road is clearly the central axis in the organisation of the settlement. The masonry building (Draga 2) on the right bank of the Draga stream was directly associated with the line of the state road, which ran down towards the stream itself and the masonry building on its left bank. There is no evidence of other roads or organised open spaces in the excavated part of the settlement area. The nature of the crossing of the Draga stream is also unclear, but could easily have been accomplished by the use of a metalled ford. Equally the nature of the communication with the right bank of the river Krka and the wider Šentjernejsko polje is also unclear, but would have been necessary given the possible function of the site as a collecting point for goods. However, this could have been accomplished via an as yet undiscovered bridge, or by ferry.

The river Krka could also have been used in the transport of goods and may have been navigable to a greater extent in the Roman period. This may be supported by the evidence for the use of travertine in building in the region in the Late Roman period, a material, which was definitely quarried from the travertine barrages of the river Krka in the medieval period. The existence of cobbled surfaces on the Early Iron Age bank of the river Krka at the foot of the bluffs below Bela Cerkev (*Fig 2: between 15 and 10*) suggest that the river was navigable in the Early Iron Age and that the area close to the Roman settlement at Dolge njive had already been used as a river landing in this period.<sup>38</sup>

There is no evidence for the presence of public infrastructure, such as main drainage systems, or an organised public water supply system. There is also an absence of evidence for localised domestic water supply systems (wells), but this is probably due to the restricted nature of the excavations in the area. There are also abundant freshwater

<sup>34</sup> Udovč 2022a, 75, 79, 81–84.

<sup>35</sup> Križ 2003b, 17–18; Udovč 2022a, 58–61.

<sup>36</sup> Križ, pers.comm.

<sup>37</sup> Bavec, Predan 2003 (report), 16; Stemberger Flegar et al. 2023, 8.

<sup>38</sup> Križ 2003b; Udovč 2022a.



sources in form of springs close to the settlement area at Dolge njive, as well as at the headwaters of the Draga stream, which would also negate the need for a conduit system.

### Individual buildings

#### *The settlement core*

The central part of the settlement is dominated by two large masonry buildings, which are located on either side of the Draga stream, close to its confluence with the river Krka.

The building on the Draga 1, sector III site is located to the north-east of the Draga stream. It is built of mortared quarry stone. The building was built in two phases (*Fig. 6*). The earlier phase (11.2 × 4.5 m) was without finds, but the later phase (15.4 × 7.25 m) dated to the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

The first phase comprises a single wall in the area of the south-western part of the building, which ran on an east-west alignment and survived to a length of 3.6 m. It was succeeded in the second phase by a large building.

This building was built on a different alignment (SW-NE) and was at least 15.4 m in length and 7.25 m in width. It was initially divided into at least six rooms. The four rooms in the NE of the building were smaller (4.35 m in width and at least 5 m in length), whilst the two south-western rooms were larger (at least 7.65 m in length and at least 4.5 m in width). The final phase or phases of the building saw further subdivision of the rooms and the installation of a hearth in the largest extant room in the south-western part of the building (*Fig. 6; 7*).

The fireplace (1.9 × 1.6 m) had a base of round stones and was coated with loam. The walls of the later phase extended under the north-east bound carriageway of the Ljubljana-Zagreb motorway, as well as under the local Kronovo-Stranje road to the south-east. As a result the north-western and south-eastern exterior walls were not discovered and the full width of the building remains unknown, as does its full length. The remains of the collapsed roof in the interior of the building show that it was roofed with tiles (*tegulae* and *imbrex*) in the final phase at least, before it was destroyed by fire in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD or later.<sup>39</sup>

The masonry building on the Draga 2 site (*Fig. 8; 9*) to the south-west of the stream is at least 20 m in

length and has an excavated width of 4–2.5 m, but extends under the former Ljubljana-Zagreb highway (now the north-east bound carriageway of the Ljubljana-Zagreb motorway). The south-eastern exterior wall was excavated and is butted by a road or courtyard. It was divided into at least four rooms, three larger and one smaller. The building had a tile roof, but no evidence of a hypocaust. The floor surfaces were poorly preserved with small areas of possible lime washed floor surfaces/plaster surviving in the some of the rooms. There is no evidence for under floor heating, but the virtual lack of surviving floor surfaces make it impossible to rule out the presence of hearths or even the use of braziers. A hearth was preserved outside the south-western wall of the building. It has been suggested that it may have functioned as a warehouse, given that it is a large building in the settlement core close to crossing point of the Draga stream. It is also without evidence of internal partitions or heating (hypocaust or hearths).<sup>40</sup> A second building may be indicated by a further transverse wall at the extreme south-western edge of the excavated area. However, its dimensions are unknown, because the area beyond this was destroyed prior to excavation (*Fig. 4: 4; 8; 9*).

#### *The south-western settlement zone*

The south western zone of the settlement at Dolge njive is defined by an area of at least two post-built rectangular buildings, which were aligned SW-NE. One of these is probably a dwelling, whilst the other may be a barn or byre. There are also ovens and grain storage structures on the extreme edge of the zone. The buildings in this area date to the mid to late Roman period (*Fig. 4: 6; 10; 11*).<sup>41</sup>

The north-eastern building (length: 12 m; width: 4 m) was rectangular or sub-rectangular and was defined by two roughly parallel linear groups of postholes, suggesting at least two phases of construction or repair. It was bounded on the north-western side by two short eaves-drip gullies, which mark the corners of the building. The presence of a considerable amount of fired clay roofing tiles in the collapse suggests that it was a timber building with a tile roof. There was no evidence of an internal hearth, but internal heating could have been accomplished by braziers. Rubbish pits were located on the exterior of south-eastern side

<sup>39</sup> Križ 2002 (report), 7; App. 1 and 7.

<sup>40</sup> Predan, pers. Comm.

<sup>41</sup> Mason 2003b.



Fig. 6: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 1, sec. III. The Roman masonry building in the settlement core on the left bank of the Draga stream.

Sl. 6: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 1, sek. III. Tloris temeljev rimske zidane stavbe na levem bregu potočka Draga.



Fig. 7: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 1, sec. III. The Roman masonry building in the settlement core on the left bank of the Draga stream from the west.

Sl. 7: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 1, sek. III. Tloris temeljev rimske zidane stavbe na levem bregu potočka Draga. Pogled z zahoda.

and north-eastern end of the building. (Fig. 4: 6; 10; 11). A group of six postholes to the northeast of this building probably formed a roof over the clay oven in this area.

The smaller south-western building (length: 9 m; width: 6 m) was rectangular or sub-rectangular and was defined by two parallel lines of postholes, which were bounded by two external eaves-drip

gullies on the south-western and north-western sides. It was probably timber built and had a drainage ditch or gully in the interior. The lack of a hearth suggests that it was a domestic out-building of some form (Fig. 4: 6; 10).

The north-western part and south-western part of the excavated area were characterised by a second oven and a number of small square or

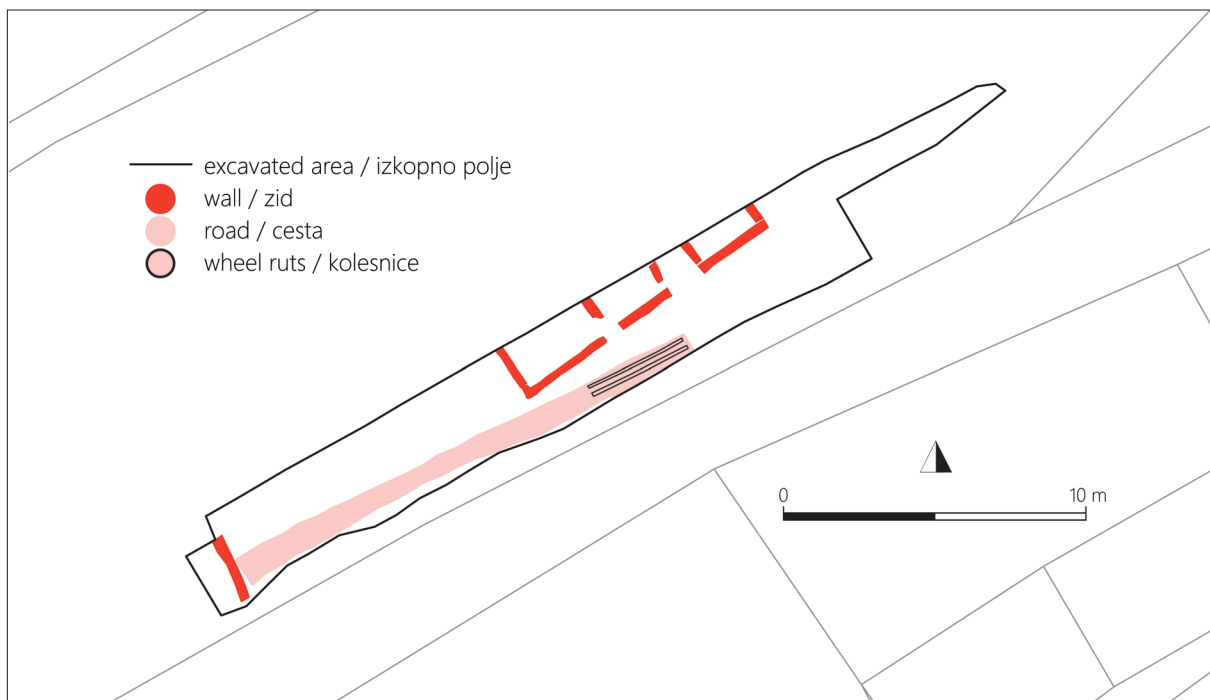


Fig. 8: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 2: stone foundation. (basemap: Cadastre ©GURS)

Sl. 8: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 2: kamniti temelji. (podlaga Kataster ©GURS)



Fig. 9: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 2: the Roman masonry building in the settlement core on the right bank of the Draga stream from the southwest.

Sl. 9: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 2: rimska zidana stavba na desnem bregu potočka Draga z jugozahoda.

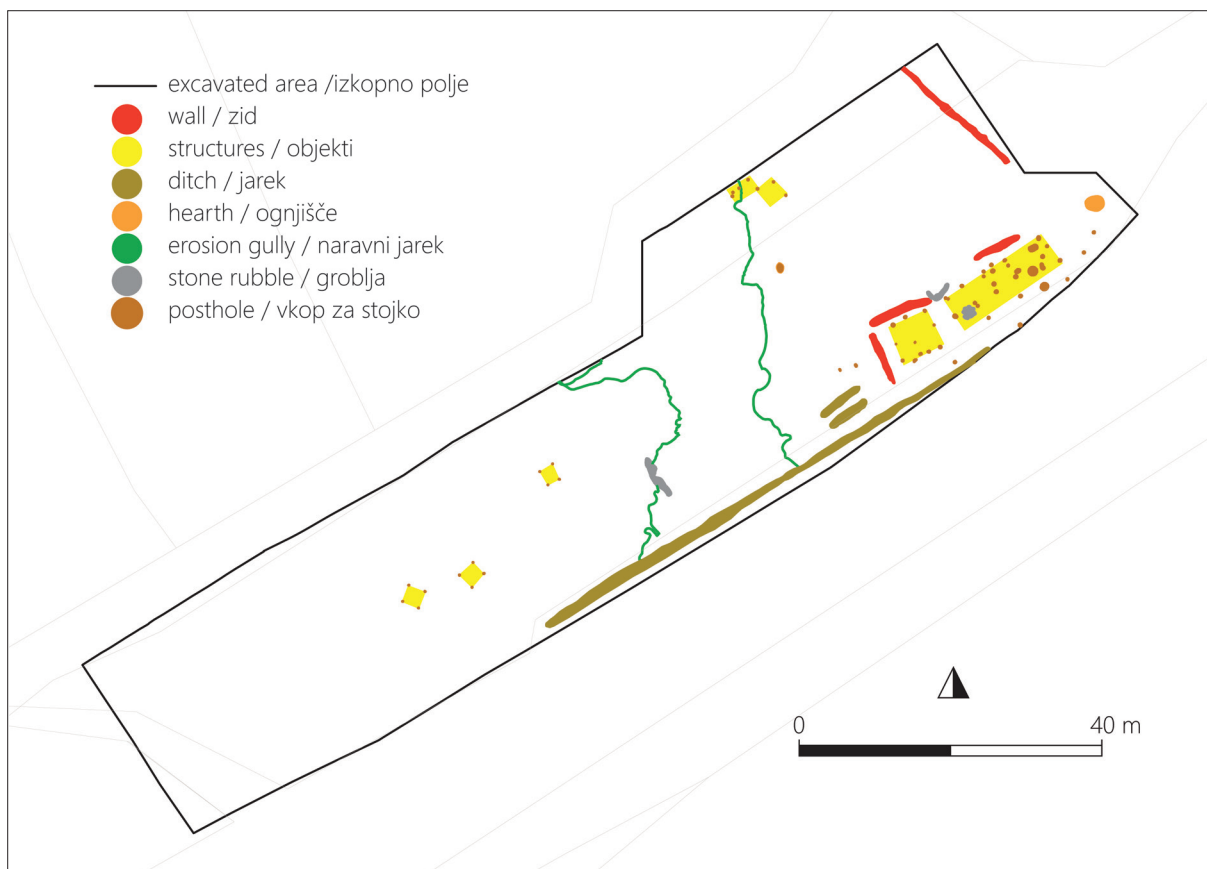


Fig. 10: Dolge njive - Draga. Dolge njive: the plan of timber domestic buildings, pits and ovens. (basemap: Cadastre ©GURS).  
 Sl. 10: Dolge njive - Draga. Dolge njive: načrt lesenih stavb, jam in peči. (podlaga: Kataster ©GURS)



Fig. 11: Dolge njive - Draga. Dolge njive: the Roman post built structure in the north-eastern part of the excavated area in 2002.  
 Sl. 11: Dolge njive - Draga. Dolge njive: lesena stavba (vkopi za stojke) v severovzhodnem delu območja, raziskanega leta 2002.

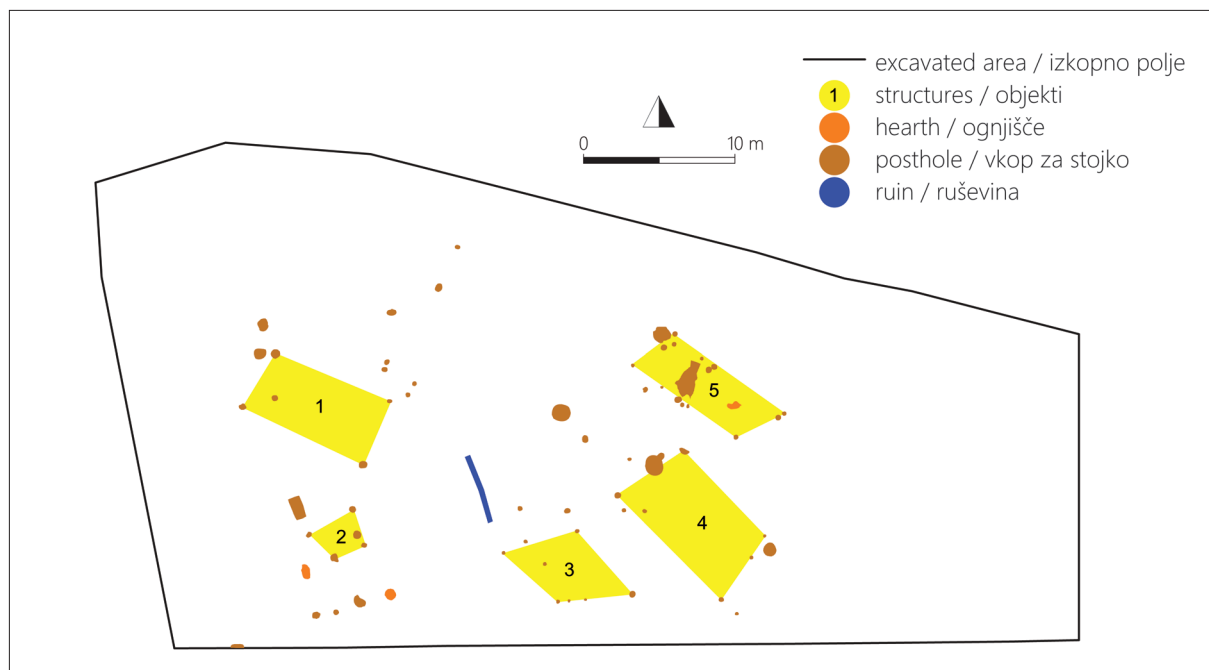


Fig. 12: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 1, sec. II: wooden structures – buildings and postholes.

Sl. 12: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 1, sek. II: lesene strukture – stavbe in vkopi za stojke.

sub-rectangular structures, which bear a close resemblance to four-post raised granaries of the type known in Iron Age and Roman Britain.<sup>42</sup> A dry-stone terrace wall and agricultural terrace were located under the flat topped hill to the northeast of the site. (Fig. 4).

The numismatic evidence from this part of the site suggests that the main occupation phase dates to the late 3<sup>rd</sup> Century, the 4<sup>th</sup> and early 5<sup>th</sup> Centuries, but is sparse for the period from the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to the mid 3<sup>rd</sup> Century.<sup>43</sup>

#### *The north-western settlement zone, Draga 1- sector II*

This area is located on the slopes below the local Bela Cerkev-Druga road to the north and northwest of the core area on the left bank of the Druga stream (Fig. 4: 2; 12). It was an area of numerous postholes indicating the presence of several buildings on terraces cut into the marl sub-soil. The reconstruction of the buildings also took into account the similarity in depth and shape of the posthole sections. The buildings were rectangular in plan and were aligned on a north-west – south-east longitudinal axis parallel to the slope. They were wooden structures that largely post built, but sometimes in combination with sill

beams. The potential presence of these is shown by groups or lines of stones, which were found in close proximity to the postholes. It is also possible that these served as levelling of the area. The surviving elements of the Roman period buildings are the corner and side postholes, the outer wall lines of postholes bearing the roof.<sup>44</sup> The discovery of tegulae and imbrex in the collapse layers also bear witness to presence of tiled roofs.

#### *The north-eastern settlement zone, Draga 3*

This area is located to the north-east of the north-eastern cemetery on the lower slopes below the local Draga-Hrib road. It marks the extreme north-eastern edge of the roadside settlement. It is distinguished at least two post-built rectangular buildings, both of which have been interpreted as having a dwelling function (Fig. 4: 5; 13).

The south-western building (length: c. 8 m; width: 2.10 m) was rectangular and built on a WSW-ENE alignment. It was defined by two parallel lines of three postholes. There is no evidence of an internal hearth or for the nature of the roofing. However, the excavators have suggested that it was dismantled on abandonment, which would also have permitted the removal of any reusable

<sup>42</sup> Bradley 2005, 3.

<sup>43</sup> Miškec 2018 (report).

<sup>44</sup> Terminology: post-built structure, post, side and corner posts (after Dular 2008, 339–340).



Fig. 13: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 3: plan of post – built rectangular buildings and hearths. (basemap: TTN5 ©GURS)  
 Sl. 13: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 3: načrt lesenih struktur – stavb, vkopov za stojke in ognjišč. (podlaga: TTN5 ©GURS)

roofing material (tile or shingles). It has been interpreted as a barracks.<sup>45</sup>

The central north-eastern building (length: c. 3.50 m; width: 1.70 m) was rectangular or sub-rectangular and was defined by three postholes, which have been interpreted as those of corner posts. It was built on a NNE-SSW alignment in the central part of the north-western edge of the excavated area. There is no evidence of an internal hearth or for the nature of the roofing. However, the excavators have also suggested that it was dismantled on abandonment, as was the case with building no. 1. It has also been interpreted as a barracks.<sup>46</sup>

There are also two external hearths or ovens located close to each other to the south west of the centre of the excavated area and roughly equidistant from the two structures. The remaining features are isolated postholes.<sup>47</sup>

The finds in the excavated area include a cache of murex seashells, possibly connected with cloth dyeing, but certainly bearing witness to continuing long-distance contacts in the late Roman period. The finds of an iron tent pin (Fig. 14: 1) and a plumbata (Fig. 14: 2) (lead weighted dart) argue

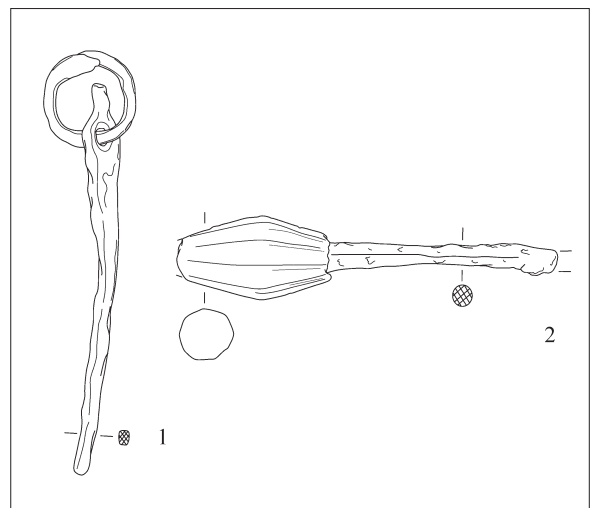


Fig. 14: Dolge njive - Draga. Iron tent pin and plumbata from Draga 3. 1 iron; 2 lead and iron. Scale = 1:3.

Sl. 14: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 3: železen klin za šotor in plumbata. 1 železo; 2 svinec in železo. M. = 1:3.

in favour of presence of military personnel on the north-eastern edge of the Dolge njive - Draga settlement.<sup>48</sup> It might even be appropriate to see this part of the site as the location of a garrison in the late Roman period.

<sup>45</sup> Bavec, Predan 2003 (report), 13–14; Stemberger Flegar et al 2023, 18–23.

<sup>46</sup> Bavec, Predan 2003 (report), 14.

<sup>47</sup> Bavec, Predan 2003 (report), 14–15.

<sup>48</sup> Bavec, Predan 2003 (report), 15–16; Stemberger Flegar et al 2023, 21.

## Cemeteries

Two bi-ritual cemeteries are directly associated with the roadside settlement of Dolge njive - Draga.

The south-western cemetery at Bela Cerkev is located to the south-west of the roadside settlement at Dolge njive (Fig. 2: 7). This cemetery was excavated in 1957 and contains at least one inhumation grave and one cremation grave associated with two mortared stone mortuary structures. The structures were interpreted as part of Roman port facilities by the excavator, but later reassessment suggests that these were mortuary structures, possibly a stone bordered burial plot and a mausoleum.<sup>49</sup>

The north-eastern Draga 1 cemetery is located to the northeast of the roadside settlement between the Draga 1 section of the settlement and the Draga 3 section of the settlement. It comprised at least 20 cremation graves that are dated to the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD and five inhumation graves, which date from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The full extent of the cemetery is unknown, as it extends outside the excavated area to the southeast, beneath the former highway (the modern north-east bound carriageway of the motorway), where it was unexcavated (Fig. 4: 1; 15; 16).<sup>50</sup>

The focus of the cemetery was a rectangular stone kerbed cemetery plot (8 × 5.7 m) in the central part of the excavated cemetery area, which contained three cremation graves, one in a fired clay roof tile cist, one in a wooden lined pit and the other in a simple pit. There were no other graves within the burial plot, but they may have been destroyed in antiquity. The southern side of the burial plot was largely absent, as was the worked stone base on most of the south-western and north-eastern sides. The six surviving kerbstones that formed the north-western side of the burial plot, as well as and part of the north-western corner of the south-western side and the north-eastern corner of the north-eastern side of the burial plot were made of limestone from the Roman quarries at Dolenja vas near Trebnje. The kerbstones were fastened to each other by iron clamps, sunk into carved grooves and fixed with lead. The upright iron pegs in lead-filled sockets on some of the blocks were probably used to attach the pillars of a stone parapet with elaborate stone kerbing, all of

which are now absent.<sup>51</sup> Similar walled mortuary plots have been excavated on sites with known status as vici such as at *Colatio* (Stari trg pri Slovenj Gradcu)<sup>52</sup> and at Ig,<sup>53</sup> as well as at the roadside settlement of *Romula* (Ribnica na Dolenjskem).<sup>54</sup>

The burial plot was surrounded by a further fired clay roof tile cist, six corbelled circular tombs, six stone slab cists and two simple grave pits, all of which contained cremation burials, as well as a variety imported and local metal, glass and pottery grave goods, including house urns of the type that are found in Dolenjska, Posavje, northern Bela krajina and the Gorjanci/Žumberak hills. This vessel type is interpreted a local vessel form, which were probably associated with the local peregrine population of the *Civitas Latobicorum*.<sup>55</sup> The inhumation graves were oriented north-south and were buried in wooden coffins. Two graves were without grave goods whilst the other three were accompanied by local Late Roman domestic pottery, pennanular (omega) fibulae and, in one case, glass beads.<sup>56</sup>

The Strmec flat cemetery is located on the southern slopes of the Vinji vrh massif, which run down in a series of terraces from the Veliki Vinji vrh hillfort to the village of Bela Cerkev (Fig. 2: 3). The cemetery on Strmec is bi-ritual with Late Iron Age inhumations and cremations, as well as early Roman cremations. The main part of the cemetery is located above the central part of the Dolge njive - Draga settlement, but a single outlying Early Roman cremation grave was found during the watching brief on the modern cemetery around the parish church in Bela Cerkev.<sup>57</sup> The majority of the graves were excavated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the grave lots are poorly preserved, but a small number of graves have been excavated in the last decade. Most of the burials date to the late La Tène period, although the earliest graves are of Early Iron Age date and there is a significant Early Roman component.

### Tombstones

Only one tombstone has actually been found in the area of a cemetery in this complex. This is a

<sup>49</sup> Šribar 1960, 251–270.

<sup>50</sup> Križ 2003a; Križ 2003b, 19; 2006, 58–59; Udovč 2022a, 23–32.

<sup>51</sup> Križ 2003b, 30–37; Udovč 2022a, 23–24.

<sup>52</sup> Djura Jelenko 2020, 316.

<sup>53</sup> Grahek, Ragolič 2020, 181.

<sup>54</sup> Lazar 2020, 396–398.

<sup>55</sup> Križ 2003b, 19; 2006, 41–55, 57–60, 62–69, 70–71.

<sup>56</sup> Križ 2006, 56, 61, 69–70.

<sup>57</sup> Dular, A. 1991, 54–60; Jovanovič et. al. 2014; Mason, Mlekuž 2016, 111–114; Mason, Tiran 2010, 23.



Fig. 15: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 1, sek. I: the plan of Roman cemetery.  
Sl. 15: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 1, sek. I: načrt grobišča iz rimske dobe.



Fig 16: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 1, sek. I: the Roman cemetery under excavation in 2002, view from the south.  
Sl. 16: Dolge njive - Draga. Draga 1, sek. I: grobišče iz rimske dobe med izkopavanji leta 2002, pogled z juga.

badly eroded monument found close to a cremation grave from the area of the Bela Cerkev cemetery.<sup>58</sup>

Only two other monumental carved stones, two reliefs of lions, built into a house in Škocjan, could

conceivably be from the wider area of the southern edge of the Vinji vrh massif. They were supposedly found at Dobrava near Škocjan, close to the north eastern edge of the Dolge njive - Draga complex.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>58</sup> Urleb 1960, 302; Lovenjak 1998, 219–220.

<sup>59</sup> Lovenjak 1998, 214–215.



## THE ANCIENT ROMAN PLACE NAME AND EVIDENCE FOR ITS LOCATION

There is no direct evidence in the form of inscriptions on milestones and tombstones, or graffiti on potsherds for the original Roman name for the settlement on either side of the Draga gorge. The *Tabula Peutingeriana* and the Ravenna Cosmography (*Ravennatis Anonymi Cosmographia*) state that *Crucium* was located on the main road at a point 16 Roman miles from both *Neviodunum* (Drnovo) and *Praetorium Latobiorum* (Trebnje), which would suit the location of the Dolge njive - Draga complex. Excavations prior to motorway construction at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century have confirmed this hypothesis. The evidence for and the structure of the complex will be discussed in greater detail below.

## THE STATUS OF THE SETTLEMENT ON THE BASIS OF WRITTEN AND EPIGRAPHIC SOURCES

The site represents a road station (*mansio*?), directly associated with the *via publica*. It may potentially be identified as *Crucium* (*Tabula Peuteringiana*: *Crucio*; *Cosmographia of Ravenna - Cruppi*).<sup>60</sup> It should be noted that the distances given from *Praetorium Latobiorum* (Trebnje) to *Crucium* and from *Crucium* to *Neviodunum* (Drnovo) on the *Tabula Peuteringiana* are problematic as the road station is shown as being equidistant from both *Praetorium Latobiorum* and *Neviodunum*. However, the analysis of the locations of known milestones between *Emona* (Ljubljana) and *Neviodunum* and the discovery of two new milestones at Karteljevo near Novo mesto also perpetuate this problem with the distances between the securely identified roadside settlements and towns.<sup>61</sup>

## ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS

Antiquarians suggested a variety of possible locations for the site of the roadside settlement of *Crucium* in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. These have ranged from the village of Hrast pri Jugorju in Bela Krajina in the south, to Bučna vas near Novo mesto in the west, as well as the Groblje area in eastern

part of the Šentjernejsko polje at the northern foot of the Gorjanci hills. Arguments in favour of the latter location were the subject of an article in 1968.<sup>62</sup> This location was favoured as late as the early 1990s. However, an analysis of the data has since shown that this hypothesis is flawed for a number of reasons.

I. Pirkovič argued in favour of the hypothesis of Müllner and suggested that *Crucium* was located in the village of Groblje pri Prekopi, a known Roman settlement. It lies well to the south of the known route of the *via publica* from *Praetorium Latobiorum* (Trebnje) to *Neviodunum* (Drnovo), which runs at the foot of the Vinji vrh massif on the northern edge of the Šentjernejsko polje. Furthermore, it is similar in structure to other *villa rustica* in the Šentjernejsko polje, which form a string of similar sites in the southern part of the basin.<sup>63</sup> Pirkovič solved the problem of the deviation from the known route of the state road that would be required to place this site on its route by suggesting that worsening climatic conditions resulted in flooding and led to temporary changes in the route of the road in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century.<sup>64</sup> However, the location of Groblje on an open low-lying interfluvium between two streams is very similar to that of other *villae rusticae* in this area and differs from that of the other known roadside settlements between *Emona* and the modern border crossing at Obrežje.

Pirkovič recognised the existence of the northern route of the *via publica* and Roman settlement on the terrace of the river Krka at the southern foot of the Vinji vrh massif. However, he proposed a temporary change in the road route in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century due to flooding to accommodate his hypothesis. He also attempted to explain the Celtic toponym *Crucium* in connection with the low mounds over graves in the Roman cemetery at Ostrog, although strangely he considered and dismissed its possible connection with prehistoric barrows in the case of Vinji vrh.<sup>65</sup> He failed to take into account the fact that the toponym is a Celtic placename in the singular and is unlikely to occur in connection with a Roman flat cemetery in a lowland area.

Groblje pri Prekopi itself is a cultural monument of local importance, which includes the village it-

<sup>60</sup> Šašel 1975, 76, 81, 91; Truhlar 1975, 101.

<sup>61</sup> Lovenjak 2006a, 40; 2006b, 50–51.

<sup>62</sup> Pirkovič 1968, 8–10.

<sup>63</sup> Petru, S. 1975, 221–222.

<sup>64</sup> Petru, S. 1975, 10–32, 43–62.

<sup>65</sup> Pirkovič 1968, 61.

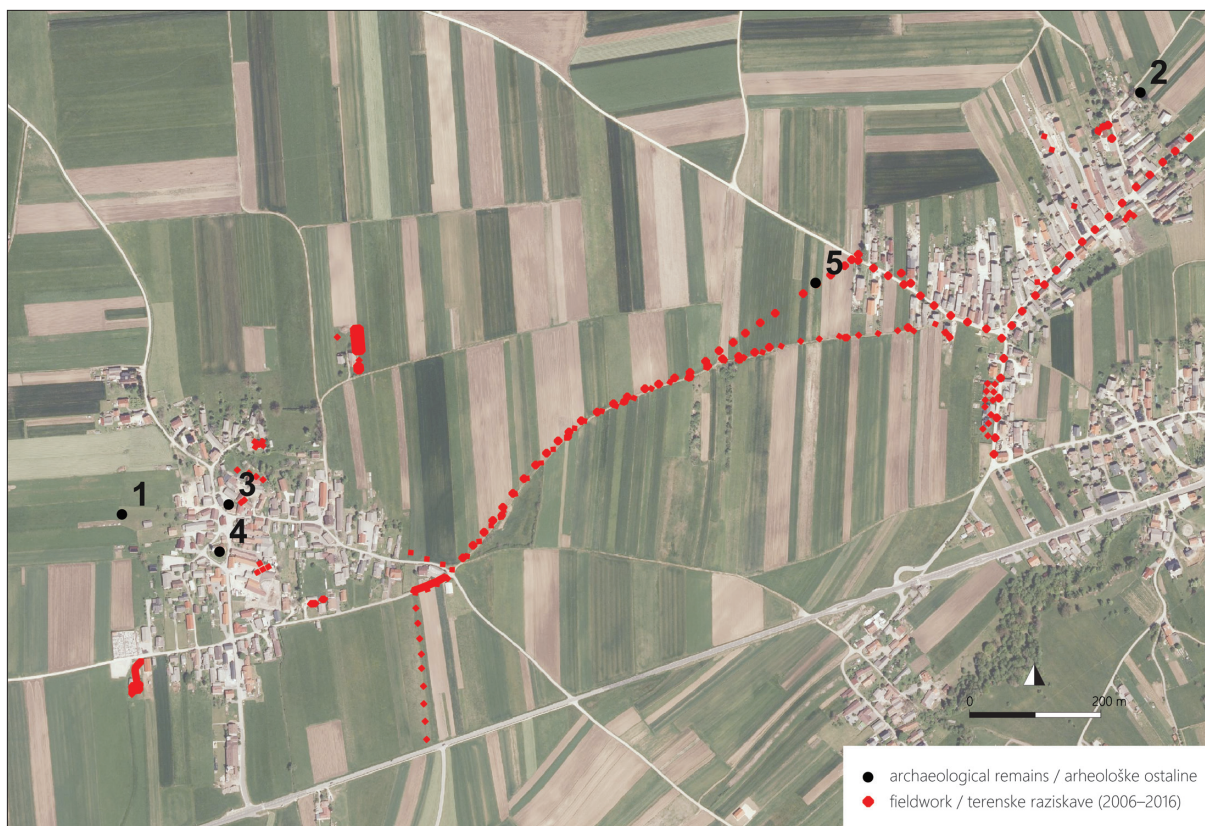


Fig. 17: Groblje pri Prekopi and Ostrog: the location of archaeological excavations and fieldwork plan (basemap: DOF5 ©GURS). 1 – Groblje pri Prekopi: part of bath complex and grave, 2 – Ostrog: cemetery, 3 – Groblje pri Prekopi: grave, 4 – St Martin: two walls and mortar floor surface, 5 – Ostrog: building material and pottery  
 Sl. 17: Groblje pri Prekopi in Ostrog: načrt oziroma lokacije arheoloških izkopavanj in terenskih pregledov (podlaga: DOF5 ©GURS). 1 – Groblje pri Prekopi: del kompleksa term in grob, 2 – Ostrog: grobišče, 3 – Groblje pri Prekopi: grob, 4 – Sv. Martin: temelji in tla iz malte, 5 – Ostrog: gradbeni material in odlomki lončenine.

self and the area between it and the neighbouring village of Ostrog. The first archaeological remains were discovered in fields to the west of the village Groblje and became a source of building material for the village. Huber excavated part of a bath complex (three rooms and a hypocaust) above a grave, which contained a coin of Antoninus Pius (Fig. 17: 1).<sup>66</sup> The Roman cemetery at Ostrog was partially excavated by Pečnik in 1890 (Fig. 17: 2)<sup>67</sup> and one Roman grave was excavated in 1984 in Groblje (Fig. 17: 3).<sup>68</sup>

Recent fieldwork has revealed more data. The construction of a watermain near the church of St. Martin (Fig. 17: 4) revealed a burnt layer, a large amount of brick, a mortar floor surface. To the west of this lay at least two walls, oriented NE-SW, built of mortared limestone quarry stone and covered by

the mortar floor surface mentioned above.<sup>69</sup> Part of a Roman road was discovered during the cutting of a drainage ditch in on the south-eastern edge of the village of Groblje.<sup>70</sup> Fieldwork in advance of the laying of a local cable/telephone network revealed a Roman period floor surface covered with plaster, tegulae and imbrex (Fig. 17: 4).<sup>71</sup> Twelve trial trenches on the projected route of the reconstruction of the Groblje - Ostrog watermain revealed slight traces of Roman occupation overlying traces of prehistoric occupation in 2006. The greatest concentration of evidence for settlement structures (building material, daub and pottery) was located on fields near Ostrog (Fig. 17: 5).<sup>72</sup> An archaeological watching brief on the projected route of street lighting in 2008 did not result in

<sup>66</sup> Pirkovič 1968, 16.

<sup>67</sup> Pirkovič 1968, 108, Petru, S. 1975, 222.

<sup>68</sup> Breščak 1984, 227.

<sup>69</sup> Šribar 1972, 127–128.

<sup>70</sup> Breščak, 1987, 257.

<sup>71</sup> Bavec 2006, 57.

<sup>72</sup> Bavec, Predan, Murko 2007, 70.

the discovery of archaeological remains.<sup>73</sup> However, in 2011 Roman tile and pottery was found during a watching brief on the projected route of a watermain between Groblje and Ostrog.<sup>74</sup> In summary, the results of recent fieldwork in the area of Groblje and Ostrog have borne out the existence of Roman period occupation, but only in the form of relatively extensive scatters of pottery and building material without the presence of building remains (Fig. 17). This suggests that the Groblje complex is relatively limited in extent, and probably represents a villa rustica. Fieldwork in the wider area of the Šentjernejsko polje has shown that Groblje is one of a series of Roman villae rusticae located on the southern edge of the Šentjernejsko polje. These include Gorenje Gradišče, Šmarje and Loka.<sup>75</sup> These sites are located in a rough arc below the Gorjanci hills roughly equidistant (between 2.3 and 2.6 km) from each other. This would seem to suggest the existence of a series of relatively regularly spaced and sized villa territories or estates in this area and probably beyond.

#### POPULATION/SOCIAL STRUCTURE

The lack of epigraphic data makes it difficult to assess the presence of administrative or military personnel in the Dolge njive - Draga complex. However, the archaeological remains permit a number of inferences. The stone built warehouses and/or administrative buildings of the type associated with collection and storage of goods in kind would require the presence of administrative personnel, perhaps connected customs duty and tax collection in kind. The presence of stone kerbed grave plots in both the Draga 1 and Bela Cerkev cemetery indicates the presence of at least some high status individuals/families of local or immigrant origin. However, the presence of cremation graves with house urns indicates that a substantial part of the inhabitants of settlement was derived from the local native peregrine population, which also frequently used these vessels in mortuary contexts. This population has been defined as being connected with the Latobici, although the distribution of these vessels extends beyond the

putative territory of this group, or rather the civitas Latobiorum.<sup>76</sup>

The offensive weaponry in the eastern part of the settlement (Draga 3) might indicate the presence of military personnel as a garrison in the later Roman period. This is probably also true of the concentration of late issue coinage in the western part of the settlement (Dolge njive).

#### SMALL FINDS

Occupation and abandonment/destruction layers on all four sites Dolge njive, Draga 1 (with the exception of the cemetery), Draga 2 in Draga 3 contained burnt stone, animal bones, quern stones, as well as sherds of coarse cooking wares, transport vessels and fine wares (terra sigillata). The ceramic material from Draga 1 dates to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Century, whilst the majority of the pottery from Dolge njive, Draga 2 and Draga 3 suggests a 3<sup>rd</sup> Century or later date. The fragment of a *Sarius* type cup is also part of the assemblage of imported fine wares (Pl. 1: 1). These cups were produced in the period from last quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC until the Claudian period. They are part of the North Italian relief decorated sigillata. The same context also at Draga also contained the rim and base of a *Conspectus* 22.6. type cup (Pl. 1: 2, 3). This cup type is a frequent find at sites such as Školarice<sup>77</sup> and at Kočvarjev vrt in Vrhnika.<sup>78</sup> Another noteworthy fineware is the fragment of a Drag. 37 dish (Pl. 1: 4). These were produced in the workshop at Rheinzabern and are dated to the period from the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> to the third quarter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century.<sup>79</sup> In addition to the imported wares the settlement also produced wares. A copy of the popular Drag. 37 type dish in a fine fabric (Pl. 1: 5–6) was found in association with vessels in local forms and fabrics (Pl. 1: 9–10). Another dish type (Pl. 1: 7) is similar to those in use from the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Century. They copy Pompeian dishes and are common on sites in the Rhine valley and in Pannonia.<sup>80</sup> Excavations at Draga produced the most common amphora type, found on Early Imperial sites, the amphora type Dressel 6 (Pl. 1: 11), which was most commonly used to transport

<sup>73</sup> Kovač 2008 (report).

<sup>74</sup> Predan, Čakš, Vinder 2011 (report).

<sup>75</sup> Križ 1999, 94.

<sup>76</sup> Križ 2003b, 14, 23–24; Petru 1971.

<sup>77</sup> Žerjal 2005, 271, Pl.1: 9.

<sup>78</sup> Horvat, J. 2012, 275, Fig. 6:6.

<sup>79</sup> Brukner 1981, 21.

<sup>80</sup> Istenič 1999, 119.

oil. It appears in the northern Adriatic region in the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC and disappears (from trade networks) in the first third of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD. It was produced in workshops in Fažana and Loron in Istria.<sup>81</sup> Mortars are also a frequently occurring type of pottery, used in food preparation. The mortar from Draga (*Pl. 1: 12*) is a common form of vessel for food preparation. It is a conical dish with an everted rim and an upright, grooved spout. Similar examples were excavated at Ilovica near Vransko.<sup>82</sup>

Rotary querns are also frequent finds on archaeological sites.<sup>83</sup> Quern fragments were also excavated at Draga (*Pl. 2: 1*).

The occupation deposits also contained a large number of fibulae. The most common type is that of the strongly profiled fibula with a single button on the bow (*Pl. 2: 2*). These fibulae are part of the local Norican-Pannonian forms, the suggested production centre of which is in Siscia. They appear at the transition from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Centuries. These are followed by the “knee-shaped” fibulae with a rectangular catch plate (*Pl. 2: 3*). These date to the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century and to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Centuries.<sup>84</sup> The masonry building at Draga 1 also contained the head of bronze statue bearing a five-pointed crown (*Pl. 2: 4*). V. Pintarič Kocuvan has studied seven statuettes with five-pointed star crowns from Slovenia. She identifies the headgear as a wreath of leaves. The iconographic analogies for this group of statuettes are representations of deities, such as Apollo (in the role of a priest), Dionysus, Hercules and a Lar (an ancestor spirit).<sup>85</sup> It is difficult to assign the head of the Draga statuette to a specific deity, due to the absence of other attributes, but it can be dated the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Centuries AD.

13 small iron hobnails with hemispherical heads (*Pl. 2: 5*) most probably represent the remains of leather shoes. The number of hobnails was probably dependant on the size of the shoe. They are only rarely excavated in cemeteries associated with large towns, but are common in rural areas.<sup>86</sup> A bronze stylus was found in sector 1 (*Pl. 2: 6*) at Draga, whilst an iron stylus was found on the Draga 3 site (lit.). Styluses were used to write on

waxed tablets throughout the Empire in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Centuries.

### DOLGE NJIVE - DRAGA

Another important factor is the meaning of the toponym *Crucium*, which is probably of Celtic origin. The same element is present in the name of the Roman period roadside settlement of *mutationes Pennocrucium* (Water Eaton, Penkridge, Staffordshire, England). This settlement is mentioned on the *itinerarium Antonini* and the toponym means “hilltop” or “ridge end”. The modern Welsh word “crug” also derives from “*crucium*” and means “hill” or “summit”.<sup>87</sup> Recent research suggests that it is also possible that the place name “*Crucium*” might derive from a Pannonian cognate of similar meaning.<sup>88</sup>

Pirkovič also mentioned the potentially Celtic origin of the name, as well as its meaning. However, he went on to connect this element with barrow mounds or even with the low mounds over the graves in a Roman flat cemetery. This is in itself problematic, because the toponym is clearly singular in form, as is the only known other contemporary cognate toponym.<sup>89</sup>

The concentration of Roman period settlement along the route of the Roman state road on the narrow terrace below Vinji vrh make it much more likely that the toponym is connected with the Vinji vrh massif, which rises above the Dolge njive - Draga site. The hillfort on Veliki Vinji vrh, the western summit of the Vinji vrh massif, was a major Early and Late Iron Age centre, which dominated the Šentjernejsko polje and the exchange routes in the central part of the Krka valley. Thus, the Roman roadside settlement below Vinji vrh might well have been known by the toponym that was applied to the hillfort. In the unlikely event that the toponym is connected with the presence of a barrow or barrows in the area, this could also be explained by the presence of three Early Iron Age barrows within the excavated area at Dolge njive itself and close to the middle and late Roman stone buildings in the area of Draga 1 and Draga 2. However, these barrows were largely covered by alluvial and colluvial deposits after the Early Iron Age and were probably not visible in the Roman

<sup>81</sup> Vidrih Perko 2006, 86–87.

<sup>82</sup> Vidrih Perko 2006, K395 and K396.

<sup>83</sup> Wilkins, Nadeau 2015, 213–214.

<sup>84</sup> Koščević 1980, 28.

<sup>85</sup> Pintarič Kocuvan 2012, 80–82.

<sup>86</sup> Powell 2010, 313–314.

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.roman-britain.co.uk/places/pennocrucium/>.

<sup>88</sup> Repanšek 2014, 194–196.

<sup>89</sup> Pirkovič 1968, 61; Mason 2006, 55–57.

period. Thus, the settlement on the state road at the foot of the hill was more likely to have borne the toponym, associated with the site of one of the four largest Iron Age hillforts in southeastern Slovenia.

The location of the Dolge njive - Draga complex is extremely similar to that of the known roadside settlement at *Romula* (Ribnica), which lies between *Neviodunum* (Drnovo) and *Quadrata* (unknown location) on the state road to *Siscia* (Sisak). *Romula* is located on a narrow terrace between the northern foot of the Gorjanci hills and the right bank of the river Sava. It is also bisected by a stream, the Mlinški potok, a right bank tributary of the river Sava. The deeply incised valley of the Draga stream cuts through the narrow terrace of the river Krka at the foot of the Vinji vrh massif and forms the central axis of the settlement.<sup>90</sup> It thus represents the optimal location for the maintenance of control over both road and river traffic, as well as over the collection and movement of goods. The site chosen for the location of the settlement is very similar to that of the Roman roadside settlement of *Romula* (Ribnica na Dolenjskem), suggesting that similar strategic concerns and functions (post station, traffic control, collection point for goods) were paramount in the selection of the site for the Dolge njive - Draga settlement.

<sup>90</sup> A deeply incised unnamed stream, which flows from the southern foot of the Vinji vrh massif into the river Krka at the village of Draga.

## FUNCTION AND STATUS OF THE SETTLEMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES

The structure of the settlement and the evidence for settlement continuity indicate that this is a roadside settlement, possibly a post station (*mansio*) on the *via publica*. A central core of stone-built official administrative buildings and/or warehouses on either side of the Draga stream, close to its confluence with the river Krka, recalls that of the roadside settlement at Ribnica (*Romula*). The settlement core would thus have served as a post station, but also as a customs post and a collection and storage point for goods and produce from the hinterland of the Šentjernejsko polje and the Vinji vrh massif. The settlement core was bounded by areas of wooden dwellings and potential craft areas the southwest and northeast.

The settlement core was flanked by cemeteries at its south-western and north-eastern edges on the line of the road. Both the north-eastern Draga cemetery and the south-western Bela Cerkev cemetery show evidence of unusual structure (the stone kerbed funerary plots), as well as burial continuity from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The apparent presence of a garrison on the Draga 3 site suggests that it might have been stationed here to protect an important node of communications and a centre for the collection of taxes in kind (*annona*) in the later Roman period.

## KATALOG

The finds are kept by the Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto. The description of the finds is according to the form, technological and typological categories, suggested by Milena Horvat (1999).

### Abbreviations / Okrajšave:

d. – diameter / premer

w. – width / širina

recon. – reconstructed / rekonstruiran

l. – length / dolžina

h. – height / višina

inv. no. – inventory number / inventarna številka

ex. – extant / ohranjen

### Plate 1

1. Fragment of a Sarius type cup: terra sigillata; colour: orange-brown, reddish-brown slip; surface: smooth; fabric: very fine grained; ex. l.: 10 cm; ex. h.: 5 cm; rec. d.: 16.5 cm; inv. no. A 3817.
2. Fragment of a small cup rim, Conspectus type 22.6: terra sigillata. Production: mould; colour: orange-red fabric, reddish brown slip; surface: smooth; fabric: very fine grained; ex. l.: 3.2 cm; ex. w.: 2 cm; rec. d.: 7.2 cm; inv. no. A3819.
3. Fragment of a cup base, Conspectus type 22: terra sigillata with inscription OVA CRA. Production: mould; colour: orange-brown fabric, reddish brown slip; surface:

smooth; fabric: very fine grained; d. base: 9 cm; ex. h.: 5 cm; inv. no. A 3151.

4. Rim and body fragment of a bowl: terra sigillata. The rim is separated from the body by a groove with swagging decoration (forming an oviform frieze). Production: mould; colour: orange-brown fabric, reddish brown slip; surface: smooth; fabric: very fine grained; ex. l.: 7.3 cm; ex. h.: 4 cm; ex. d.: 19.5 cm; inv. no. A 3829.
5. Bowl fragment: pottery. Production: wheel thrown; fabric: very fine grained; surface: smooth; colour: dark gray; ex. l.: 11.5 cm; h.: 8 cm; recon. d.: 18 cm; inv. no. A 3848.
6. Bowl fragment: pottery. Letters incised in surface. Production: wheel thrown; fabric: very fine grained;

- surface: smooth; colour: orange-brown fabric with reddish brown slip; ex. l.: 4 cm; ex. h.: 5.5 cm; recon. d.: 17.1 cm; inv. no. A 3850.
7. Plate fragment: pottery. Production: wheel thrown; fabric: fine grained; surface: smooth; colour: light brown fabric with reddish brown slip; ex. l.: 16 cm; ex. h.: 5 cm; recon. d.: 25.8 cm; inv. no. A 3844.
  8. Beaker fragment: pottery. Body decorated with rilling. Production: wheel thrown; fabric: very fine grained; surface: smooth; colour: orange brown fabric with reddish brown slip; ex. l.: 3.8 cm; ex. h.: 3.7 cm; recon. d.: 8.4 cm; inv. no. A 3840.
  9. Jar fragment, decorated with rustication: pottery. Production: wheel thrown; fabric: coarse grained; surface: rough; colour: dark gray; ex. l.: 13 cm; ex. h.: 6.5 cm; recon. d.: 15 cm; inv. no. A 3843.
  10. Jug fragment: pottery. Production: wheel thrown; fabric: fine grained; surface: smooth and dusty; colour: orange brown; ex. l.: 8 cm; ex. h.: 7.7 cm; recon. d.: 10.5 cm; inv. no. A 3842.
  11. Amphora fragment, rim and neck, Dressel type 6B: pottery. Production: wheel thrown; colour: orange brown; surface: smearable; fabric: fine grained; ex. h.: 10 cm; d.: 14.2 cm; inv. no. A 3820.
  12. Mortar fragment: pottery. Wheel-thrown; colour: yellowish brown (beige); surface rough and smearable; fabric: very small grained; ex. l.: 13.6 cm; ex. h.: 9.8 cm; recon. d.: 25.8 cm; inv. no. A 3828.
- Plate 2
1. Quernstone fragment. Ex. l.: 16 cm; ex. w.: 13.6 cm; rec. d.: 32.4 cm; inv. no. A 31150.
  2. Bronze 'kräftig profilierte' fibula with button, pin missing. L.: 5.4 cm; w.: 1.8 cm; h.: 2.4 cm; inv. no. A 3139.
  3. Bronze knee fibula. L.: 3.3 cm; w.: 1.8 cm; h.: 1.6 cm; inv. no. A 3137.
  4. Bronze statuette head. Ex. l.: 1.9 cm; ex. w.: 2 cm; inv. no. A 3162.
  5. Bronze stylus. L.: 13.6 cm; d.: 0.5 cm; inv. no. A 3149.
  6. 13 small iron nails or hobnails from military footwear. Inv. no. A 3883.
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## Dolge njive - Draga: rimski Crucium? Rimska naselbina na Dolenjskem

### Povzetek

S predhodnimi terenskimi pregledi na trasi današnje avtoceste Ljubljana–Obrežje so odkrili številna najdišča, izkopali in dokumentirali smo jih v letih 2002 in 2003. Arheološka najdišča Dolge njive, Draga pri Beli Cerkvi, Draga 2 in Draga 3 smo združili in poimenovali rimska naselbina Dolge njive - Draga. Menimo, da predstavljajo najverjetnejšo lokacijo rimske poštno postaje *Crucium*, kar bomo v nadaljevanju tudi utemeljili.

Raziskave v okolici Vinjega vrha lahko razdelimo na štiri obdobja. Prva raziskovanja so potekala v 19. stoletju, drugo obdobje predstavlja gradnja hitre ceste med letoma 1955 in 1965, tretje pa gradnja avtoceste Ljubljana–Obrežje v letih 1999–2003. V zadnjem obdobju (2004–2014) so raziskave povezane z gradnjo stanovanjskih stavb in infrastrukturnih vodov. V najstarejše obdobje raziskav sodi izkopavanje prazgodovinskih gomil v vasi Gorenja Gomila na desnem bregu Krke. Tu so odkrili tudi sledi poselitve iz starejše železne in rimske dobe, v bližini pa tudi grobišče iz rimske dobe (sl. 2: 17). Zaradi grobišča omenja I. Pirkovič Gorenjo Gomilo kot eno izmed možnih lokacij postaje *Crucium*.<sup>1</sup> Med gradnjo hitre ceste so dokumentirali oziroma evidentirali del stavbnih kompleksov pri Požarnicah (sl. 2: 6),<sup>2</sup> grobišče zahodno od Bele Cerkve (sl. 2: 7),<sup>3</sup> cesto in rimske

grobove v Dragi (sl. 2: 9),<sup>4</sup> grobove v Ruhni vasi (sl. 2: 16)<sup>5</sup> in del naselbine v Stranjah (sl. 2: 8).<sup>6</sup>

### PRAZGODOVINSKA ARHEOLOŠKA NAJDIŠČA

Greben Vinjega vrha je bil pomembno naseljeno središče že v prazgodovini. Najstarejša znana naselbina na najdišču Draga 1 v sektorju II je datirana v neolitsko obdobje (sl. 2: 9). Strukture in najdbe uvrščamo v t. i. lasinjski kulturni krog. Radiokarbonska analiza oglja jih z 90,7-odstotno verjetnostjo umešča v čas med 4258 in 4053 pr. n. št.<sup>7</sup> V bronasti dobi sta bili poseljeni vzpetini Mastni hrib, ki se pne nad Raduljo, in Vihra (sl. 2: 2) nad potokom Draga. Na Dolgih njivah (sl. 2: 12) v čas bronaste dobe sodijo kamnite ploščadi. Na sledi bronastodobnih poselitvenih aktivnosti so naleteli tudi v okolici gomil iz starejše železne dobe v bližini Družinske vasi in Gradenj (sl. 2: 5) ter tudi ob izkopavanjih na Dolenjem Kronovem (sl. 2: 14).<sup>8</sup> Vinji Vrh sodi med največja gradišča iz obdobja starejše železne dobe v jugovzhodni Sloveniji (sl. 2: 1). Po pobočjih grebena se razprostirajo skupine gomil Kozjane, Gradenje (sl. 2:

<sup>4</sup> Urleb 1960, 302.

<sup>5</sup> Urleb, Meze 1960, 304.

<sup>6</sup> Petru 1960b, 300, 304, 306; 1961, 197–198.

<sup>7</sup> Križ 2003b, 17–18; Udovč 2022a, 56–58.

<sup>8</sup> Murko, Ciglar, 2012, 14–24.

<sup>1</sup> Pirkovič 1968, 58–60, 62.

<sup>2</sup> Petru 1960a, 300, 302; 1961, 194–198.

<sup>3</sup> Šašel 1975; Šribar 1960, 251–270; Urleb, Petru 1960, 298–299.



5) in Mlada vina (*sl.* 2: 4).<sup>9</sup> Predvidevamo, da so ležale ob dostopnih poteh. Skupine gomil Gabrina pri Vinici in Kolesniška hosta nakazujejo dostop do Vinjega vrha iz doline Radulje. Posamezne in izolirane skupine gomil ležijo tudi v vzhodnem delu masiva, zahodno od potoka Toplica. Tri gomile, ki jih časovno uvrščamo v starejšo železno dobo, so izkopali v rimski obcestni naselbini Dolge njive - Draga (*sl.* 2: 12). Kamnito – domnevno prazgodovinsko – cesto so dokumentirali leta 2002 na Požarnicah,<sup>10</sup> medtem ko so na najdišču Bela Cerkev – Pod Vovki (*sl.* 2: 10) izkopali manjši zaselek, s katerim lahko povežemo gomile z bližnjih Dolgih njiv in tudi gradišče na Vinjem vrhu.<sup>11</sup> Na južnem pobočju grebena se razprostira plano grobišče Strmec (*sl.* 2: 3)<sup>12</sup> iz obdobja mlajše železne in zgodnje rimske dobe.

## ARHEOLOŠKA NAJDIŠČA IZ RIMSKE DOBE

Rimsko naselje Dolge njive - Draga se razprostira 1500 m v dolžino na terasi med grebenom Vinjega vrha na severu in reko Krko na jugu. Po ravnini na levem bregu Krke je bila speljana rimska državna cesta. Njen potek od *Emone* do današnje vzhodne meje Slovenije je preučeval Milan Lovenjak.<sup>13</sup>

V t. i. rimsko obcestno naselbino smo združili naslednja najdišča:

1 – Grobišče jugozahodno od Bele Cerkve, ki so ga odkrili ob gradnji hitre ceste leta 1957 (*sl.* 2: 7).

2 – Draga 1 oziroma Draga pri Beli Cerkvi (*sl.* 2: 9; 4: 1–3) je obsegala območje ob vznožju in deloma pobočju grebena Vinji vrh ter teraso reke Krke, vzhodno od potoka. Izkopno polje smo razdelili na tri sektorje:

*Sektor I* (*sl.* 4: 1) je obsegal ravninski del na levem bregu potoka Draga. Izkopali so del severovzhodnega grobišča iz rimske dobe, ki se je nadaljeval pod hitro cesto Ljubljana–Zagreb. Grobišče uvrščamo med t. i. podeželska grobišča. Od večine drugih tovrstnih grobišč se razlikuje po kamniti grobni parceli in kamnitih kupolastih grobnicah z jaškastim vhomom. Analogije za ta tip grobnic in grobne pridanke najdemo na širšem območju agra mesta *Neviudunum* oziroma območja *civitas Latobiorum*. Med

lončenimi najdbami prevladujejo posode, izdelane v lokalni, latenski tradiciji. Mednje spadajo vrči z narebrenim vratom (*sl.* 5: 1), pivski servisi (*sl.* 5: 2–3), posnetki terre sigillate (sklede tipa Drag. 37; *sl.* 5: 4) in pečatne oljenke (*sl.* 5: 5). Na grobišču so pokopavali od 1. do 4. st., vendar večina lončenih, steklenih in kovinskih najdb iz grobov sodi v 1. in 2. st. Najmlajši kovinski artefakt je fibula Jobst 36b iz groba 7 (*sl.* 5: 6), datirana v 3. do 4. st.<sup>14</sup>

*Sektor II* (*sl.* 4: 2) je ležal jugovzhodno od lokalne ceste Bela Cerkev–Draga. Predstavlja severozahodni del rimskega naselja. Za ta del najdišča so značilne jame, vkopi za stojke in leseni objekti.<sup>15</sup>

*Sektor III* (*sl.* 4: 3) je zajemal ozek pas med lokalno cesto Kronovo–Stranje in hitro cesto Ljubljana–Zagreb. Izkopali so kamnite temelje objekta oziroma severovzhodni del naselbinskega kompleksa.<sup>16</sup>

3 – Draga 2 (*sl.* 4: 4) je zajemala območje na desnem bregu draškega potoka, med cesto Ljubljana–Zagreb in lokalno cesto Kronovo–Stranje. Tu so izkopali kamnite temelje skladišča, del ceste in dvorišča.

4 – Draga 3 (*sl.* 4: 5) je bila locirana na rahlo vzpenjajočem se terenu pod cesto Draga–Hrib, severovzhodno od grobišča Draga I. Izkopavanja so razkrila lesene barake iz poznorimske dobe, po vsej verjetnosti vojaškega značaja, in ostaline ceste iz rimske dobe. Gradnja sodobne ceste je poškodovala starejšo. Najdbe uvrščamo v čas od 1. do 4. st.

5 – Dolge njive (*sl.* 4: 6; 8) ležijo ob vznožju grebena Vinji vrh, severno od ceste Ljubljana–Obrežje. Najdišče je ležalo na koluvalnih depozitih, ki so zapolnjevali dolino med skalnatim platojem, na katerem je zgrajena današnja Bela Cerkev, in med gričem, ki se vzpenja nad potokom Draga na severovzhodu. Dolge njive predstavljajo jugozahodni rob rimske naselbine. Odkrili so lesene stavbe, jame in peči za kruh.

## Infrastruktura

Državna cesta oziroma *via publica* je centralna os v organizaciji neutrne naselbine. Skladiščna stavba na najdišču Draga 2 na desnem bregu potočka Draga je neposredno povezana s cesto in usmerjena proti stavbi na levem bregu. O organizirani ulični mreži oziroma drugih javnih

<sup>9</sup> Dular 1991.

<sup>10</sup> Topličanec, Tica 2006, 53–54.

<sup>11</sup> Udovč 2022b, 44.

<sup>12</sup> Jovanović et al. 2014, 21–67.

<sup>13</sup> Lovenjak 2006a, 39–47.

<sup>14</sup> Udovč 2022a, 75, 79, 81–84.

<sup>15</sup> Križ 2003b; Udovč 2022a, 58–61.

<sup>16</sup> Križ, ustna opomba.

ali odprtih površinah v naselbini ni arheoloških dokazov. Nejasna je tudi komunikacija s Šentjernejskim poljem na drugem bregu Krke. Morda je potekala po do zdaj še neodkritem mostu ali s čolnom. V naselju in okoli njega niso izkopali drenažnih sistemov ali vodovodne napeljave, prav tako ni dokazov o uporabi vodnjakov.

## Naselje

### *Osrednji del naselbine*

V osrednjem delu naselja sta stavbi, locirani vsaka na svoji strani potočka, v bližini njegovega izliva v Krko. Potok in hitra cesta razdelita najdišče na štiri dele.

Stavba, katere temelje smo izkopali v sektorju III, je bila zgrajena v dveh fazah (*sl.* 6; 7). Stavba v prvi fazi je merila 11 × 4,5 m, najdb, ki bi sodile v to fazo, nismo našli, medtem ko smo stavbo iz druge faze na podlagi najdb datirali v čas od 1. do 3., morda celo 4. st. Stavba je bila zgrajena na različnih nivojih, dolga je bila najmanj 15,4 m in široka 7,25 m. Razdeljena je bila na šest prostorov, štirje prostori na severovzhodu so bili manjši, površina vsakega je obsegala 4,35 × 5 m, medtem ko sta bila prostora na jugozahodu večja in sta merila po 7,65 × 4,5 m. V sklop stavbe sodi tudi ognjišče. Temelji ognjišča (1,9 × 1,6 m) so bili zgrajeni iz okroglih kamnov in prevlečeni z ilovico.<sup>17</sup> Temelji stavbe so se na jugovzhodu nadaljevali pod lokalno cesto Kronovo–Stranje. Med ruševinami strehe smo v njeni notranjosti izkopali tegule in imbrekse, ki so prekrivali streho v drugi fazi. Stavba je bila v 3. st. ali pozneje uničena v požaru.

Na drugi strani potoka (najdišče Draga 2) so ohranjeni temelji druge stavbe. Izkopno polje na Dragi 2 je bilo široko od 2,5 do 4 m, temelji so se nadaljevali pod hitro cesto Ljubljana–Zagreb. Jugovzhodni temelj je bil izkopan in poškodovan s cesto, morda dvoriščem. Objekt so razdelili na najmanj štiri prostore različnih površin. Stavba je imela streho, ni pa dokaza o hipokavstu. Talna površina oziroma tlaki so bili skromno ohranjeni. Temelje so interpretirali kot temelje skladišča.

Jugozahodno ležijo Dolge njive, kjer so dokumentirali najmanj dve pravokotni stavbi, usmerjeni jugozahod–severovzhod. Ena izmed njiju je bila po vsej verjetnosti stanovanjska, druga pa skedenj. Na območju Dolgih njiv so dokumentirali tudi peči in kašče. Stavbe so datirane v srednjo do pozno

rimsko dobo (*Fig.* 4: 6; 10).<sup>18</sup> Stavba (12 × 4 m) v severovzhodnem delu izkopnega polja je imela pravokoten ali nepravilno pravokoten tloris. Določata ga delno vzporedni skupini vkopov za stojke, ki nakazujeta vsaj dve fazi gradnje ali popravila. Na severozahodni strani sta ga omejila kratka drenažna jarka, ki označujeta vogala stavbe. Večja količina odlomkov opeke v ruševini kaže na leseno stavbo s streho iz opečnatih strešnikov. V notranjosti stavbe ni sledov ognjišča, vendar se kaže možnost uporabe premičnih peči. Odpadne jame so vkopali ob zunanjščini na jugovzhodni in severovzhodni strani objekta (*sl.* 4; 10). Skupina šestih vkopov za stojke severovzhodno od stavbe je verjetno nosila streho nad glineno pečjo v tem delu. Manjši objekt (9 × 6 m) v jugozahodnem delu izkopnega polja s pravokotnim tlorisom sta določali vzporedni liniji vkopov za stojke. Ob jugozahodni in severozahodni strani objekta sta bili na zunanji strani omejeni z vzporednima jarkoma. Ker stavba ni bila opremljena z ognjiščem, so jo verjetno uporabljali kot gospodarski objekt (*sl.* 4; 10).

Na severo- in jugozahodnem delu izkopnega polja so se razprostirale morebitne gospodarske strukture (glinena peč in več manjših kvadratnih ali nepravilnih pravokotnih struktur, ki po videzu spominjajo na kašče). Podobne kašče, s štirimi vkopi za stojke, so znane iz Britanije v železni in rimski dobi.<sup>19</sup> Vznožje griča z ravnim vrhom na severovzhodnem robu izkopnega polja so preoblikovali v poljedelsko teraso, podprto s suhim kamnitim podpornim zidom – škarpo (*sl.* 4; 10).

### *Severozahodna naselitvena cona Draga I, sektor II*

Izkopno polje sektorja II je ležalo na pobočju pod lokalno cesto Bela Cerkev–Draga, na levem bregu potoka Draga (*sl.* 4: 2; 12). Na območju smo odkrili številne vkope za stojke, ki nakazujejo obstoj več stavb, vsekanih v lapornato geološko osnovo. Rekonstrukcija stavb temelji na podobnosti oblike tlorisov in globine vkopov za stojke. Objekti pravokotnega tlorisa so bili usmerjeni severozahod–jugovzhod. Podolžna os je bila vzporedna s pobočjem. Njihova konstrukcija je bila lesena, včasih kombinirana s kamnitimi pragovi oziroma podpornimi zidovi, kar se kaže v ostalinah zloženega kamenja v bližini stojk. Kamne bi lahko uporabili tudi za izravnavo terena. Ostaline iz rimske dobe predstavljajo vogali in stranski vkopi za stojke,

<sup>17</sup> Udovč 2022a, 66–69.

<sup>18</sup> Mason 2003.

<sup>19</sup> Bradley 2005, 3.

zunanje linije pa vkopi za strešne nosilce.<sup>20</sup> Med ruševinami smo odkrili tegule in imbrekse, kar potrjuje, da so bile stavbe krite z opečnato streho.

#### *Severozahodna naselitvena cona, Draga 3*

Območje leži severovzhodno od grobišča, v sektorju I, in predstavlja zunanji rob naselbine. Na tem območju se raztezata najmanj dve pravokotni stavbi, interpretirani kot bivalni (sl. 4: 5; 13).

Jugozahodna stavba (8 × 2,10 m) je imela pravokoten tloris. Tvorili sta jo vzporedni liniji s po tremi vkopi za stojke. Niti znotraj niti v neposredni bližini ni indicev, da je imela kurišče ali streho. Domnevajo, da je bila razstavljena in zapuščena, interpretirali so jo kot barako.<sup>21</sup> Na jugozahodu izkopnega polja so odkrili zunanja ognjišča, lahko tudi peči.<sup>22</sup>

Najdbi klina za šotor (sl. 14: 1) in plumbate (sl. 14: 2) nakazujeta prisotnost vojske, mogoče je šlo za ostaline vojaškega tabora, na severovzhodnem robu naselbine Dolge njive - Draga.

### Grobišča

Na obcestno naselbino Dolge njive - Draga sta se navezovali biritualni grobišči Bela Cerkev (sl. 2: 7) in Draga, sektor I. Na grobišču Bela Cerkev so izkopali najmanj en skeletni in žgani grob. Kamniti bloki so bili sprva interpretirani kot del rimskega pristanišča, pozneje pa kot ograja grobne parcele oziroma kot mavzolej.<sup>23</sup>

Drugo grobišče je ležalo v sektorju I, med najdiščema Draga 1 in Draga 3 (sl. 4: 1). Na njem so izkopali najmanj 20 žganih grobov, datiranih v čas od 1. do 3. st. n. št., in pet skeletnih grobov iz obdobja od 3. do 4. st. Celoten obseg grobišča ni znan, ker se je nadaljevalo pod hitro cesto Ljubljana-Zagreb oziroma današnja avtocesto (sl. 4: 1; 15; 16).<sup>24</sup>

Značilnost grobišča je tudi kamnita grobna parcela (8 × 5,7 m), znotraj katere so bili trije žgani grobovi. Pri enem izmed njih je bila grobna konstrukcija narejena iz opek, drugi je imel leseno krsto, tretji pa je bil le preprosta grobna jama. Drugih grobov nismo zasledili, morebiti so bili izropani

in uničeni že v preteklosti. Od ograje parcele se je ohranilo šest kamnitih blokov. Kamen, iz katerega so izklesali bloke, so lomili v rimskem kamnolomu v Dolenji vasi blizu Trebnjega. Bloke so uporabili kot nosilce za spominske stebre in plošče, za boljše prilaganje so v kamnite bloke izklesali utore. Vanje so vstavili pokončne železne piramidalne kline in jih zalili s svinčcem.<sup>25</sup> Podobno ograjene grobne parcele so izkopali na najdiščih s statusom vicusa, kot so *Colatio* (Stari trg pri Slovenj Gradcu),<sup>26</sup> *Ig*<sup>27</sup> in obcestnem naselju v Romuli (Ribnici na Dolenjskem).<sup>28</sup>

Poleg grobne parcele so bili na grobišču dokumentirani še grobovi s konstrukcijo iz tegul, šest kupolastih grobnic, grobovi v obliki kamnitih skrinj in preproste grobne jame. Grobnice in preproste grobne jame so vsebovale različne uvožene ter v lokalnem okolju proizvedene kovinske, steklene in lončene izdelke oziroma pridane, vključno s hišastimi žarami. Skeletni grobovi so bili usmerjeni sever-jug. Pokojniki so bili pokopani v lesenih krstah, dva od petih grobov sta bila brez pridakov, v preostalih treh so izkopali posodo lokalne proizvodnje, omega fibulo in stekleno jagodo.<sup>29</sup>

Časovno starejše je plano grobišče na Strmcu, na južnem pobočju Vinjega vrha, ki zlagoma, terasasto pada proti naselju Bela Cerkev (sl. 2: 3, 15).

Na grobišču zahodno od Bele Cerkev so v bližini obcestne naselbine odkrili močno erodiran nagrobnik.<sup>30</sup> Preostala dva nagrobnika, v podobi levov izrezljana kamna oziroma spomenika sta vgrajena v hišo v Škocjanu. Domneva se, da izvirata s širšega območja na južnem delu grebena Vinji vrh. Po vsej verjetnosti so jih izkopali v Dobravi pri Škocjanu.<sup>31</sup>

### LATINSKO OZIROMA ANTIČNO IME ZA KRAJ IN DOKAZIO NJEGOVI LOKACIJI

V napisih na miljnkih in nagrobnikih ne najdemo prvotnega, rimskega imena naselbine, ki leži na obeh straneh potoka Draga. Na *Tabuli Peutingeriani* in v Kozmografiji Anonimnega geografa

<sup>20</sup> Termini gradnja s sohami, stojka, stenska in vogalna stojka so povzeti po Dular 2008, 339–340.

<sup>21</sup> Bavec, Predan 2003, 13–14; Stemberger Flegar et al. 2023, 18–23.

<sup>22</sup> Bavec, Predan 2003, 14–15.

<sup>23</sup> Šribar 1960, 251–270.

<sup>24</sup> Križ 2003b, 19; 2006, 58–59; Udovč 2022a, 23–32.

<sup>25</sup> Križ 2003b, 19; 2006, 58–59; Udovč 2022a, 23–32.

<sup>26</sup> Djura Jelenko 2020, 316.

<sup>27</sup> Grahek, Ragolič 2020, 181.

<sup>28</sup> Lazar 2020, 396–398.

<sup>29</sup> Križ 2003b, 19; 2006, 41–55, 57–60, 62–71.

<sup>30</sup> Urleb 1960, 302; Lovenjak 1998, 219–220.

<sup>31</sup> Lovenjak 1998, 214–215.

iz Ravene (*Ravennatis Anonymi Cosmographia*) je navedeno, da je *Crucium* oddaljen 16 milj tako od *Neviodunuma* (Drnovega) kot od *Praetoriuma Latobioruma* (Trebnjega), kar ustreza lokaciji naselja Dolge njive - Draga. Tezo so potrdila izkopavanja na začetku 21. st. ob gradnji avtoceste Ljubljana–Obrežje.

### STATUS NASELJA NA PODLAGI PISNIH IN EPIGRAFSKIH VIROV

Arheološko najdišče oziroma naselje Dolge njive - Draga predstavlja obcestno postajo (mansio?) ob državni cesti (*via publica*). Morda jo lahko interpretiramo kot *Crucium* (Tabula Peutingeriana – *Crucio*; Kozmografija – *Cruppi*),<sup>32</sup> kar bi ustrezalo omembi na Tabuli Peutingeriani, kjer je vrisan na enaki razdalji tako od *Neviodunuma* kot od *Praetoriuma Latobioruma*. Vprašanja lociranja *Cruciuma* ne pojasnijo niti že dolgo znani miljniki<sup>33</sup> niti ne na novo odkrita miljnika pri Karteljevem pri Novem mestu.

### ALTERNATIVNE LOKACIJE

V preteklosti so *Crucium* locirali na več možnih lokacij: Hrast pri Jugorju v Beli krajini, Bučna vas blizu Novega mesta, Gorenja Gomila v bližini obcestne naselbine Dolge njive - Draga in Groblje pri Prekopi na Šentjernejskem polju.<sup>34</sup> Müllner je predlagal, da se znano rimsko naselje *Crucium* umesti v Groblje pri Prekopi, s čimer se je strinjal I. Pirkovič. Ta je predlog utemeljil s spremembo poteka trase glavne ceste, ki naj bi se v 3. st. zaradi poplav izpod vznožja Vinjega vrha na levem bregu Krke premaknila na njen desni breg, na južni rob Šentjernejskega polja. V članku so kot najverjetnejšo lokacijo *Cruciuma* opredelili Groblje, vendar so analize pokazale, da je to napačna teza zaradi številnih razlogov. Toponim je poskušal povezati z nizkimi kupi nad rimskimi grobovi pri Ostrogu, vendar ni upošteval gomilnih grobišč v okolici Vinjega vrha in dejstva, da je keltski toponim v ednini, zato je malo verjetno, da bi bil povezan z rimskim grobiščem. Najstarejše ostaline v Grobljah pri Prekopi so odkrili na poljih zahodno od vasi in so jih uporabili kot material pri gradnji hiš. Huber

je izkopal del rimskih term (tri sobe in hipokavst) nad grobom, ki je vseboval kovanec Antonina Pija (*sl. 17: 1*).<sup>35</sup> Večje rimsko grobišče v sosednji vasi Ostrog je leta 1890 izkopal J. Pečnik (*sl. 17: 2*), več podatkov smo dobili z arheološkimi raziskavami v 20. st. Leta 1984 so v Grobljah naleteli na le en rimski grob (*sl. 17: 3*).<sup>36</sup> Ob napeljavi vodovoda mimo cerkve sv. Martina (*sl. 17: 4*) so našli prežgano plast, večje količine opeke, talno površino iz malte in zid.<sup>37</sup> Na jugovzhodnem robu vasi Groblje so ob izkopu drenažnega jarka odkrili del rimske ceste.<sup>38</sup> S predhodnimi raziskavami ob napeljavi telefonskega kabla so dokumentirali plast z ometom, tegulami in imbreksi (*sl. 17: 4*).<sup>39</sup> Dvanajst testnih sond so naredili na trasi rekonstrukcije vodovoda med vasema Groblje in Ostrog leta 2006. V njih so izkopali sledi prazgodovinske poselitve. Največ dokazov o poselitvi iz rimske dobe (gradbeni material, ožgano glino in lončenino) so izkopali na polju blizu Ostroga (*sl. 17: 5*),<sup>40</sup> dokaze o poselitvi so odkrili tudi ob pregledu leta 2011.<sup>41</sup> Rezultati arheoloških raziskav v vaseh Groblje in Ostrog ter njuni okolici so potrdili, da je bilo območje poseljeno v rimski dobi. Najdbe lončenine in gradbenega materiala so razpršene, prav tako niso odkrili temeljev oziroma ruševin stavb (*sl. 17*), kar nakazuje poselitev omejenega obsega. V Grobljah je bila po vsej verjetnosti ena izmed vil rustik, te so bile odkrite še v Gorenjem Gradišču, Šmarju in Loki.<sup>42</sup> Zgrajene so bile v oddaljenosti od 2,3 do 2,6 km druga od druge.

### POPULACIJA OZIROMA SOCIALNA STRUKTURA

Pomanjkanje epigrafskih podatkov otežuje vrednotenje prisotnosti administrativnega ali vojaškega osebja v naselbini Dolge njive - Draga, vendar pa arheološke ostaline nakazujejo številne sklepe. Skladišče in stavbo bi lahko povezali s pobiranjem dajatev v naturalijah in njihovo shrambo. Grobni parceli na Dragi I in v Beli Cerкви kažeta višji socialni status posameznikov oziroma družin iz lokalnega okolja. Hišaste žare v žganih grobovih

<sup>32</sup> Šašel 1975, 76, 81, 91; Truhlar 1975, 101.

<sup>33</sup> Lovenjak 2006a, 40; 2006b, 50–51.

<sup>34</sup> Pirkovič 1968, 8–10.

<sup>35</sup> Pirkovič 1968, 16.

<sup>36</sup> Breščak 1984, 227.

<sup>37</sup> Šribar 1972, 127–128.

<sup>38</sup> Breščak, 1987, 257.

<sup>39</sup> Bavec 2006, 57.

<sup>40</sup> Bavec, Predan, Murko 2007, 70.

<sup>41</sup> Predan, Čakš, Vinder 2011.

<sup>42</sup> Križ 1999, 94.

potrjujejo, da so tu živeli in pokopavali lokalni prebivalci oziroma lokalna peregrinska skupnost, verjetno povezana z Latobiki. Hišaste žare se pojavljajo tudi zunaj območja *civitas Latobicorum*.<sup>43</sup>

Ofenzivno orožje na vzhodnem delu naselbine, na Dragi 3, nakazuje obstoj vojaškega tabora iz pozne rimske dobe. Po vsej verjetnosti je z vojaškim taborom povezana tudi večja koncentracija novcev na zahodnem delu naselbine Dolge njive.

### NAJDBE

V naselbinskih plasteh smo na vseh štirih najdiščih Dolge njive, Draga 1 (izjema je grobišče), Draga 2 in Draga 3 izkopali ožgane kamne, živalske kosti, žrmlje, kuhinjsko posodje, posode za transport in fino posodje. Posodje je na Dragi 1 datirano v čas od 1. do 2. st., medtem ko je večina posod z Dolgih njiv ter Drage 2 in Drage 3 uvrščena v 3. st. ali pozneje. Med raznovrstnim gradivom smo izkopali odlomek severnoitalske reliefne sigilate, čašo Sarius (*t. 1: 1*). Proizvajali so jo od zadnje četrtine 1. st. pr. n. št. do klavdijskega časa. V istem kontekstu smo izkopali tudi ustje in ostenje skodelice tipa Consp. 22.6 (*t. 1: 2, 3*). Med uvoženo, fino posodje uvrščamo odlomek sklede tipa Drag. 37 (*t. 1: 4*), narejene v Rheinabernu med sredino 2. in tretjo četrtino 3. st. Zelo priljubljeni so bili ponaredki finih skled Drag. 37 (*t. 1: 5–6*), pogoste so sklede lokalnih oblik (*t. 1: 9–10*). V čas od konca 1. do 4. st. smo umestili krožnik, ki posnema pompejanski tip. Razširjeni so bili v dolini Rena in v Panoniji.<sup>44</sup> V naselbinskih plasteh med pogostejše najdbe sodijo tudi žrmlje (*t. 2: 1*).<sup>45</sup> Izkopali smo najpogostejšo obliko amfore na zgodnjecesarskih najdiščih, amforo tipa Dressel 6B. V njih so najpogosteje prevžali olje. Ta tip se je na severnem Jadranu pojavil v drugi polovici 1. st. pr. n. št., v prvi tretjini 2. st. pa je izginil s trga. Izdelovali so jih v istrskih delavnicah v Fažani in Loronu.<sup>46</sup> K pogosto odkritemu tipu kuhinjskega posodja uvrščamo melnice. Tista z Drage (*t. 1: 12*) sodi k običajnim, koničnim oblikam z zavihanim robom in pokončnim ustjem z žlebičkom. Podobne so bile izkopane na Ilovici pri Vranskem.<sup>47</sup>

Med najdbami so zastopane tudi noriško-pansonske fibule, katerih produkcijski center je bil v Sisku. Pojavljajo se od 1. do 2. st. Največ fibul sodi k močno profiliranim fibulam z gumbom na loku (*t. 2: 2*). Sledijo kolenčaste fibule s pravokotno oporno ploščico (*t. 2: 3*) s konca 1. ter iz 2. in 3. st. Na Dragi 1 smo odkrili tudi glavo bronastega kipca (*t. 2: 4*) s peterokrako krono, kar je lepo vidno z zadnje strani. Med ikonografskimi analogijami, ki jih lahko povežemo z omenjeno skupino kipov, so upodobitve božanstev, in sicer Apolona (Apolon v vlogi svečenika), Dioniza, Herkula in lara oziroma duha prednikov.<sup>48</sup> Glavo kipca z Drage težko povežemo z določenim božanstvom, ker manjkajo drugi atributi. Časovno ga lahko uvrstimo v obdobje od 1. do 3. st. n. št.

Pri 13 manjših železnih žebličkih s polkroglo glavico (*t. 2: 5*) gre po vsej verjetnosti za edini ostanek usnjenega čevlja. Število žebličkov je bilo odvisno od velikosti čevlja. Redko jih izkopljejo na grobiščih večjih mest in utrdb, pogosto pa v ruralnih predelih.<sup>49</sup>

Na Dragi v sektorju 1 so odkrili bronast stilus (*t. 2: 6*), na Dragi 3 pa železnega.<sup>50</sup> Stiluse so uporabljali za pisanje na povoščene tablice v celotnem imperiju v 1. in 2. st.

### DOLGE NJIVE - DRAGA

Lokacija naselja Dolge njive - Draga je zelo podobna lokaciji znane obcestne postaje Ribnica (*Romula*), ki leži ob državni cesti proti Sisciji (Sisak), med Neviodunumom in Kvadrato (*Quadrata*) (neznana lokacija). Poštno postajo Romulo so prav tako zgradili na ozki terasi ob severnem vznožju Gorjancev in desnem bregu Save. Mlinški potok, desni pritok Save, deli Romulo na dva dela, podobno kot draški potok deli Drago. V ozko teraso reke Krke vrezana struga draškega potoka oblikuje centralno os naselja. Obe naselji oziroma njuni lokaciji predstavljata odlično točko za nadzor nad cestnim in rečnim prometom, pa tudi za pobiranje davkov.

Tezo, da bi lahko bila obcestna postaja locirana na območje obcestne postaje Dolge njive - Draga, pa poleg odlične lokacije in izkopanih kamnitih temeljev potrjuje tudi izvor imena *Crucium*. Krajevno ime *Crucium*, ki je na Tabuli Peutingeriani

<sup>43</sup> Križ 2003b, 23–24; Petru 1971.

<sup>44</sup> Istenič 1999, 119.

<sup>45</sup> Wilkins, Nadeau 2015, 213–214.

<sup>46</sup> Vidrih Perko 2006, 86–87.

<sup>47</sup> Vidrih Perko 2006, 92, K395 in K396.

<sup>48</sup> Pintarič Kocuvan 2012, 80–82.

<sup>49</sup> Powell 2010, 313–314.

<sup>50</sup> Stemberger et al. 2023, 22, G131.

zapisano kot *Crucio*, v Kozmografiji pa kot *Cruppi*,<sup>51</sup> je keltskega izvora in pomeni hrib ali greben (moderna valižanščina *Crug*). Edino podobno antično krajevno ime najdemo v Angliji, v grofiji Staffordshire na meji z Walesom. Gre za obcestno postajo *Pennocrucium* (Penkridge), pri čemer je ime keltskega izvora in pomeni vrh hriba.<sup>52</sup> Uporaba imena *Crucium* za obcestno postajo verjetno predstavlja prenos keltskega pomena v Panonijo in bi se lahko nanašalo na utrjeno gradišče na vrhu Vinjega vrha, ki je dominiralo nad Šentjernejskim poljem in dolino Krke.

## FUNKCIJA IN STATUS NASELJA NA PODLAGI ARHEOLOŠKIH VIROV

Struktura naselja in dokazi o kontinuiteti poselitve nakazujejo rimsko obcestno naselje, po vsej verjetnosti poštno postajo (*mansio*) ob državni cesti (*via publica*). Osrednji del s stavbo in skladiščem na obeh straneh potoka Draga blizu izliva v Krko spominja na naselbino v Ribnici (*Romula*). Naselje bi bilo lahko v uporabi kot poštna postaja ali pa kot skladišče za dobrine in davke, pobrane v naturalijah. Osrednji del naselbine so sestavljale lesene bivalne stavbe in potencialno obrtniško območje, ki je bilo na jugozahodni in severovzhodni strani omejeno z grobišči ob cesti. Na obeh grobiščih, v Dragi in Beli Cerkvi, najdemo redke grobne strukture, ki niso značilne za ruralna grobišča. Grobni parceli sta bili ograjeni s kamnitimi bloki in kažeta kontinuiteto pokopavanja od 1. do 4. st. Najdbe vojaške opreme na območju Drage 3 bi lahko nakazovale prisotnost vojaške posadke, ki je varovala pomembne točke ob državni cestni mreži, in obstoj središča za zbiranje davkov v naravi (*annona*) v poznem rimskem obdobju.

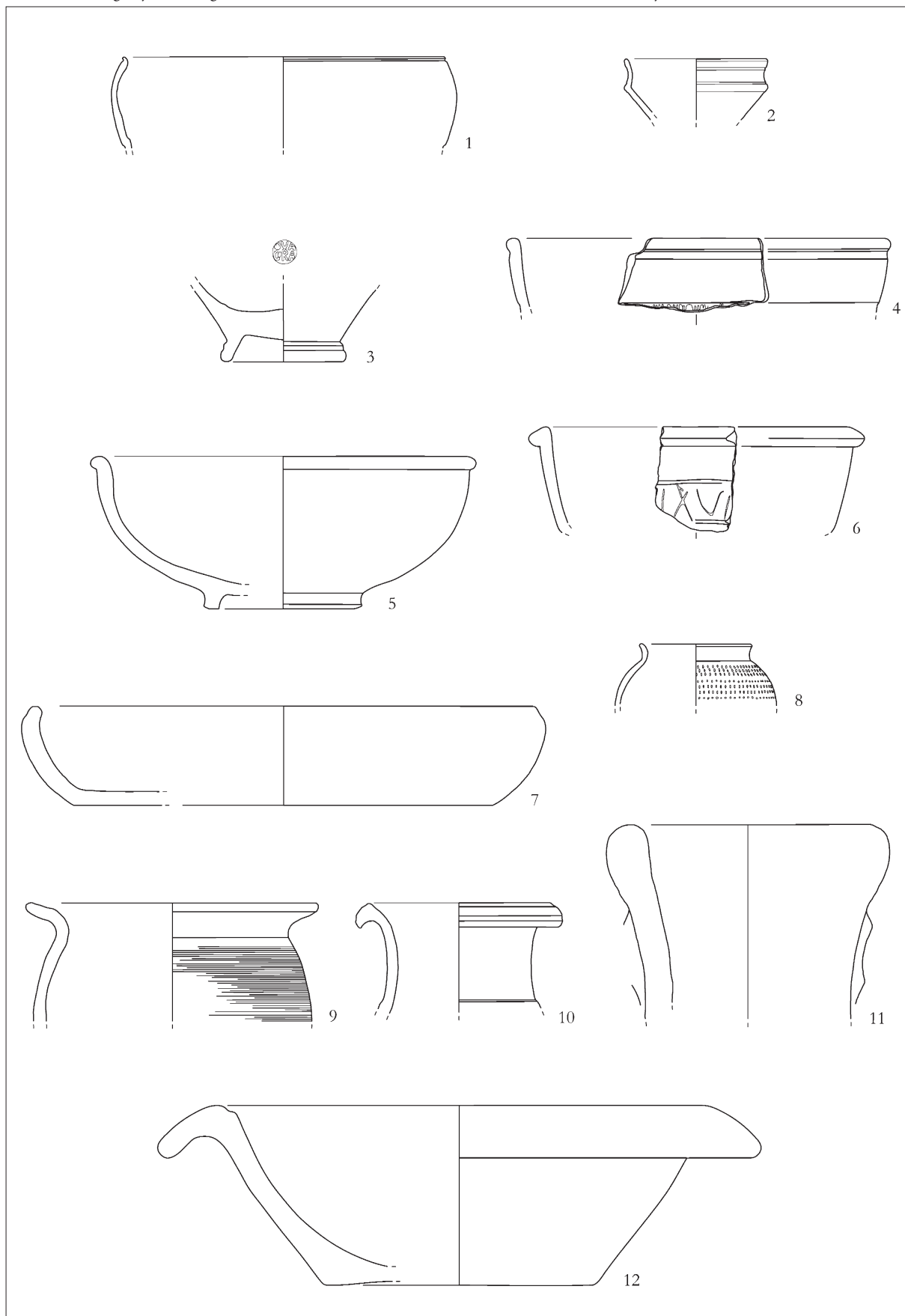
<sup>51</sup> Šašel 1975, 76, 81, 91; Truhlar 1975, 101.

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.roman-britain.co.uk/places/pennocrucium/>

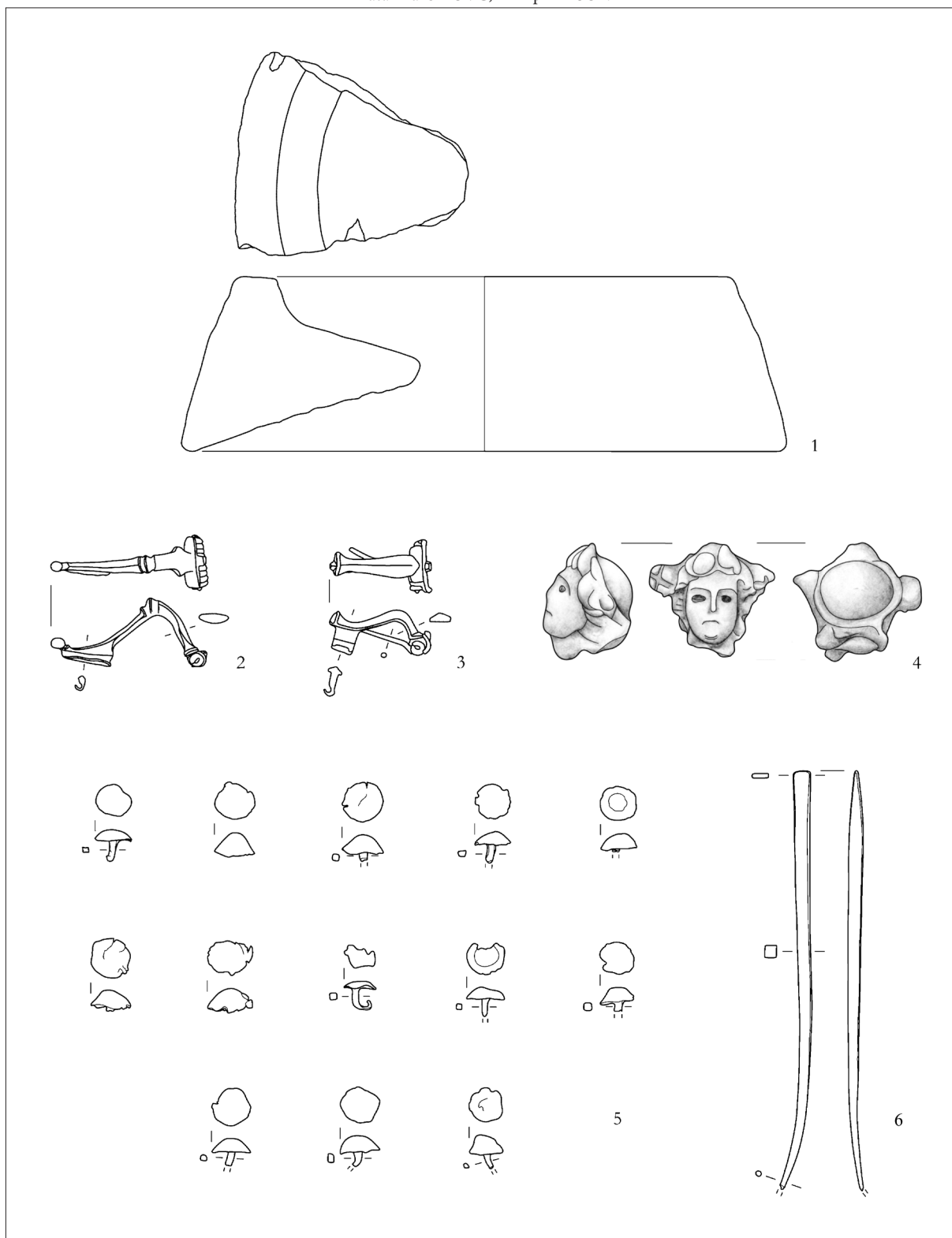
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*Illustrations:* Fig. 2, 6, 8, 12, 15 (drawing: Archive ZVKDS CPA and Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto). – Fig. 1, 4 (drawing: Danilo Cvetko, ZVKDS CPA). – Fig. 13 (drawing: Archive PJP). – Fig. 3, 7, 16 (photo: Borut Križ, Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto). – Fig. 9 (photo: Aleš Ogorelec). – Fig. 10, 18 (drawing: Archive ZVKDS CPA). – Fig. 11 (photo: Martin Pungerčar, ZVKDS OE NM). – Fig. 14 (drawing: Suzana Puhar). – Fig. 5, Pl. 1–2 (drawing: Samo Oman, Janže Lorber, ZVKDS CPA). *Slikovno gradivo:* Sl. 2, 6, 8, 12, 15 (risba: arhiv ZVKDS CPA in Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto). – Sl. 1, 4 (risba: Danilo Cvetko, ZVKDS CPA). – Sl. 13 (risba: arhiv PJP). – Sl. 3, 7, 16 (foto: Borut Križ, Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto). – Sl. 9 (foto: Aleš Ogorelec). – Sl. 10, 18 (risba: arhiv ZVKDS CPA). – Sl. 11 (foto: Martin Pungerčar, ZVKDS OE NM). – Sl. 14 (risba: Suzana Puhar). – Sl. 5, T. 1–2 (risba: Samo Oman, Janže Lorber, ZVKDS CPA).



Pl. 1: Dolge njive - Draga. Finds from occupation and abandonment/destruction layers: 1–12 all pottery. Scale 3 = 1:2, other 1:3.  
 T. 1: Dolge njive - Draga. Najdbe iz naselitvenih in ruševinskih plasti. 1–12 vse keramika. M. 3 = 1:2, drugo 1:3.



Pl. 2: Dolge njive - Draga. Finds from occupation and abandonment/destruction layers: 1 stone; 2-4,6 bronze; 5 iron. Scale 1 = 1:4; 2-6 = 1:2.

T. 2: Dolge njive - Draga. Najdbe iz naselitvenih in ruševinskih plasti. 1 kamen; 2-4,6 bron; 5 železo. M. 1 = 1:4, 2-6 = 1:2.