

ČEŠNOVICE (DISTR. OF ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE)

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Investigation of villages threatened by destruction due to modern redevelopment took place in several localities in Central, West and South Bohemia in 1994-1995. Excavations within "living" villages are very limited and they can be usually focused only on individual farmsteads or a part of them depending on modern redevelopment (rescue excavations within later medieval-modern nucleated villages are completed with the study of the early medieval settlement pattern based on field-walking). These localities can be represented by rescue excavations in Češnovice in South Bohemia (Distr. of České Budějovice) and Praha 5-Vinoř in Central Bohemia (see Turek in this volume).

Češnovice was mentioned for the first time in documentary evidence as late as 1409 (Pletzer 1990, 293), however, rescue excavations and field-walking in the 1970's and 1980's¹ as well as the present excavations demonstrated early medieval-later medieval settlement activity within the present-day village.

Part of a later medieval-postmedieval house was excavated underneath a modern farm No. 13 during development activity in 1995 (Fig. 1.1). The 13th century features were traced to the present village green, being situated in front of the stabilised later medieval farmstead which originated possibly in the early 14th century. A corner-timbered partially subterranean storied storage room creating part of the 14th-15th century house (a very likely three compartment building-living room, hall and storage room) was situated immediately under the present house (Fig. 1.2 - C). There is only a slight difference in the setting and size of the modern and late medieval house (ca. 1 m), however, the functional-internal structure is opposed to the modern building.² This house was completely burnt in the 60'-70' of the 15th century (dating can be confirmed by stratified coin finds). The house of the 2nd building phase with stone foundations was erected in the 15th/16th century (Fig. 1.2 - A). The present masonry built house is dated to the 1818 (Fig. 1.2 - B). A large postmedieval slurry pit was excavated in the yard providing a rich environmental data set and collection of material culture items of both organic and inorganic material.

The future research will focus on the complex analysis of the archaeological data, documentary evidence and a more detailed investigation of the village as well as of the whole microregion. An investigation of the formation process of the later medieval green-village of Češnovice in South Bohemia could provide an interesting comparison with the research of the street-village Libkovice in North-West Bohemia which originated in the same period (cf. Nováček - Vařeka in this volume).

References

- Břicháček, P. 1989: Češnovice, okr. České Budějovice. Nálezová zpráva čj. 234/89, Archiv ARÚ, Praha.
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Beneš, A. 1977: Češnovice, okr. České Budějovice, Bulletin záchranného oddělení 1974, 31.
Pletzer, K. 1990: Češnovice na Hlubocku v urbářích z let 1490 a 1592. Výběr 27, 293-302.

- 1 The late 13th century sunken building situated in front of the house No. 77 which was excavated is in the South-Eastern part of Češnovice (Břicháček 1989; 1992) and the 11th-13th century settlement was discovered in the North-Eastern part of the village (Beneš 1977).
- 2 The internal layout of the 14th-15th century house was turned 180° (in place of the medieval storage room a living room was built in the modern house and the modern storage room was situated in the place where the original medieval living room had stood).



Fig. 1. Plan of the village from 1838. A - House plot No. 13 partly excavated in 1995, B - the late 13th century sunken building excavated in front of house No. 77 (Břicháček 1989; 1992).

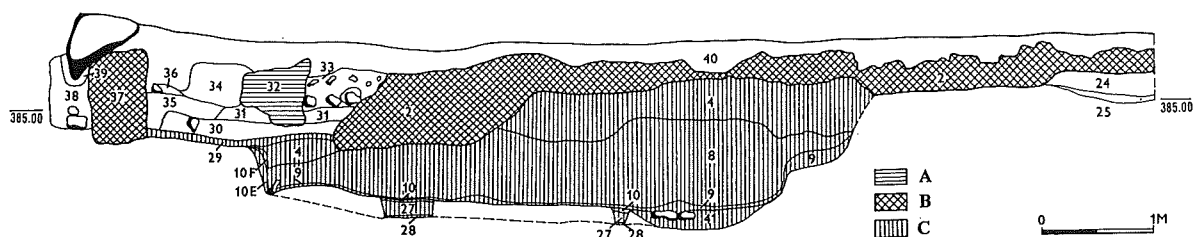


Fig. 2. Profile of the excavated part of house No. 13. A - Gable wall of the house erected in the 15th/16th century, B - Gable wall (context 37) and western wall (context 2) of the house built in 1818 (demolished in 1995), C - The subterranean part of the storage room dates from the early 14th - 60' -70' of the 15th century (the earliest phase of the house).