

Libice nad Cidlinou, Nymburk dist., Central Bohemian Region

Early Medieval hillfort

(9th–11th cent.)

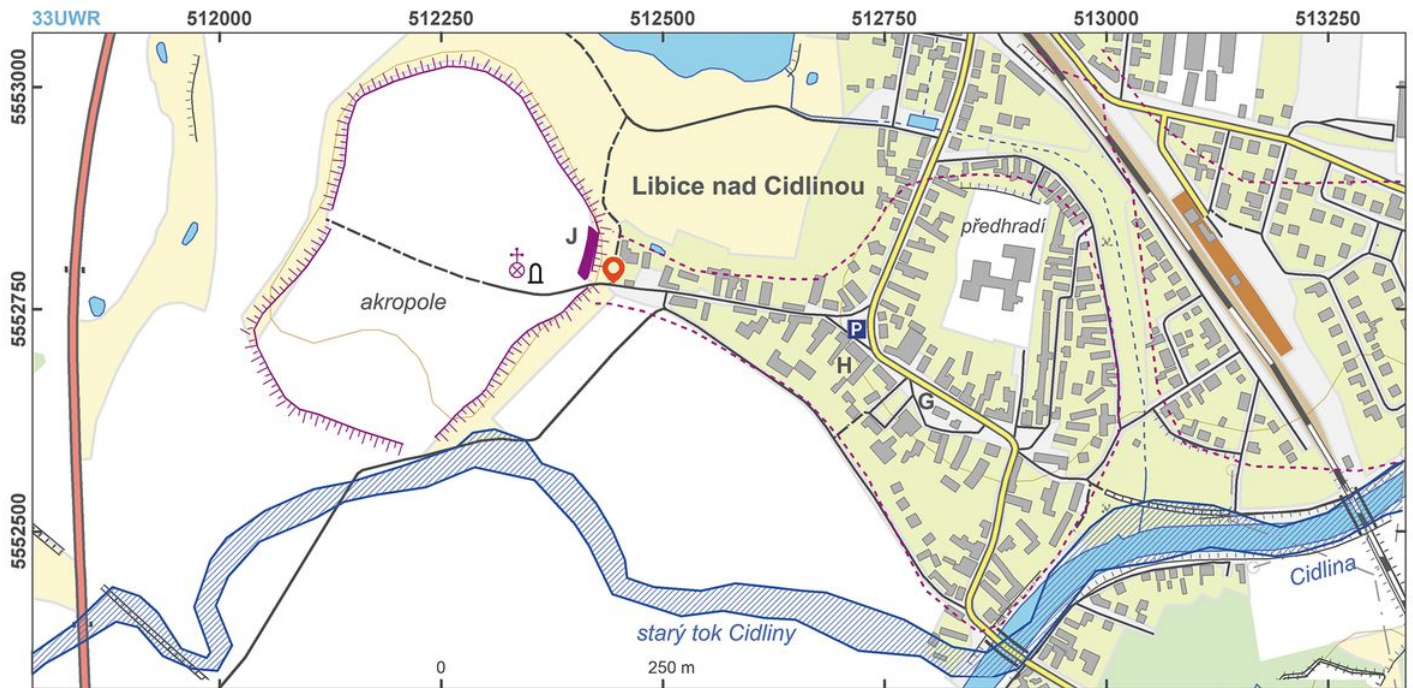


The Early Medieval stronghold of the 9th to 11th century was the scene of several important events in the early Czech history. Thanks to the chronicler Cosmas of Prague, Libice is regarded as the birthplace of St Adalbert and the seat of his father Slavník. Although most members of the Slavník family were to have been murdered at the site in 995, archaeological finds do not document a tragedy of such scope and/or any destruction of the site as a whole. More likely it was a raid by a small group of soldiers belonging to the Přemyslids, after which the stronghold remained in operation as an administrative centre until the beginning of the 12th century. Especially unique is the ground plan of the church in the acropolis, which has its closest parallels in Saxon Ottonian architecture. A cemetery and a 'palace' structure were discovered around the church.

References: Princová – Mařík 2006; Mařík 2009.

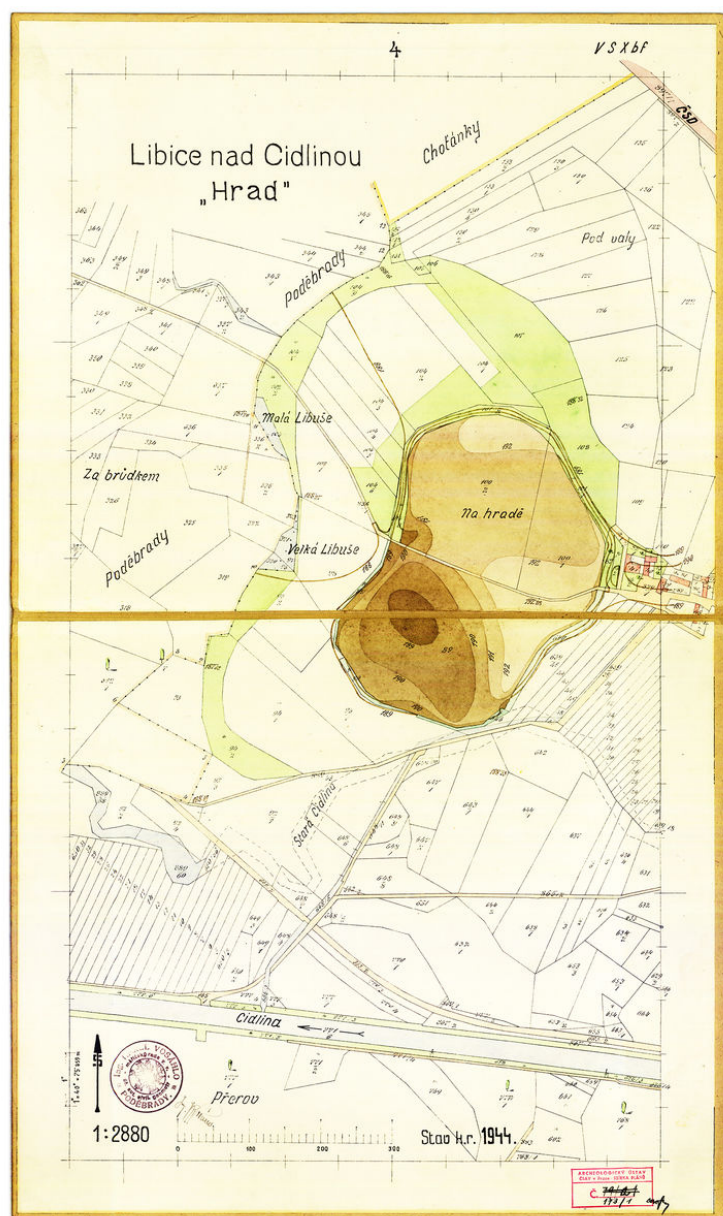
Navigation points: N 50°07'37.66", E 15°10'26.39".

Map notes: A – acropolis; B – bailey; C – open Early Medieval settlement; D, F – extensive cemeteries; E – small open Early Medieval settlement site hidden in the floodplain forest; G – today's rectory, near the site where the miraculous recovery of St Adalbert would have occurred; H – archaeological exhibition at the Town Hall; J – remains of ramparts.



Access map / site plan.

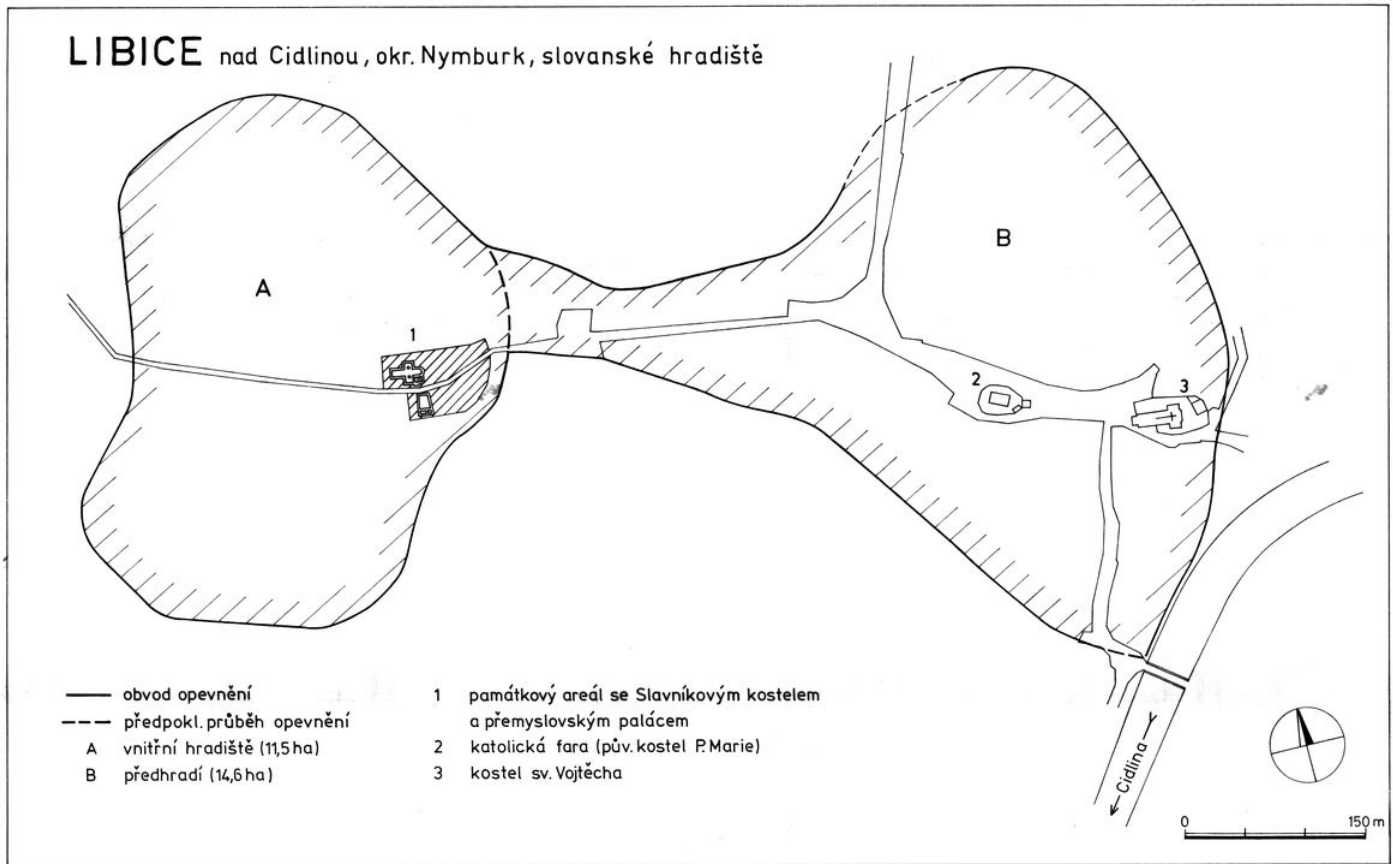
After Kuna et al. 2014.



Coloured cadastral plan of the hillfort, excavations in 1944.

K. Vosáhlo, 1949. Archives of the IoA, PY000173001.

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Slavic hillfort.

Archive of the IoA, PY000173106.



Aerial view of the hillfort.

Photo M. Gojda, 2013.



Aerial view of the hillfort.

Photo M. Gojda, 2011.

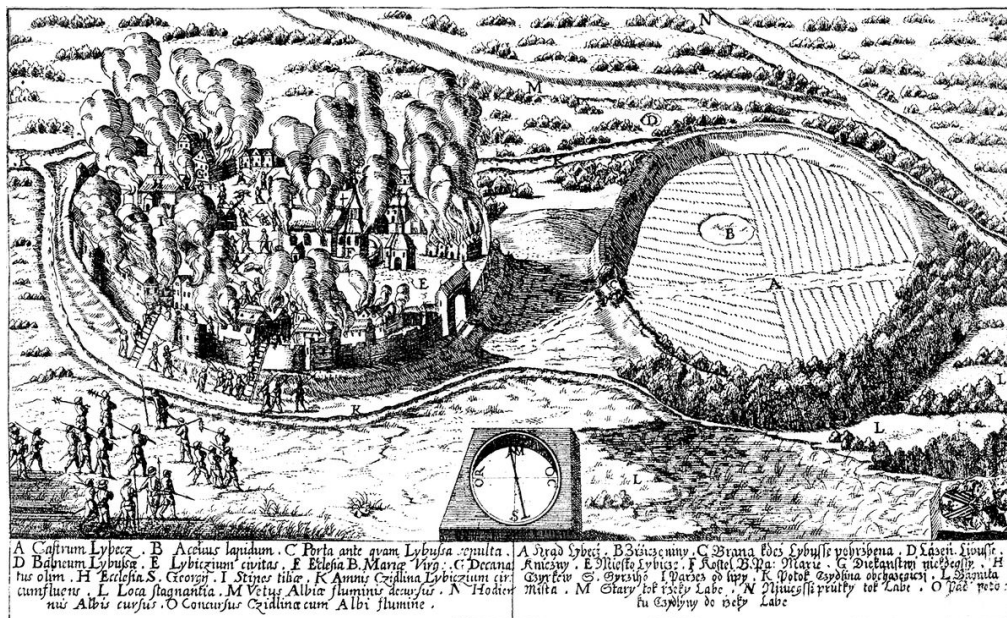


Aerial view of the acropolis with reconstructed groundplan of the church. P
Photo M. Gojda, 2013.



Acropolis of the hillfort with reconstructed groundplan of the church and statues of St. Adalbert and Radim
Gaudentius.

Photo J. Mařík, 2014.



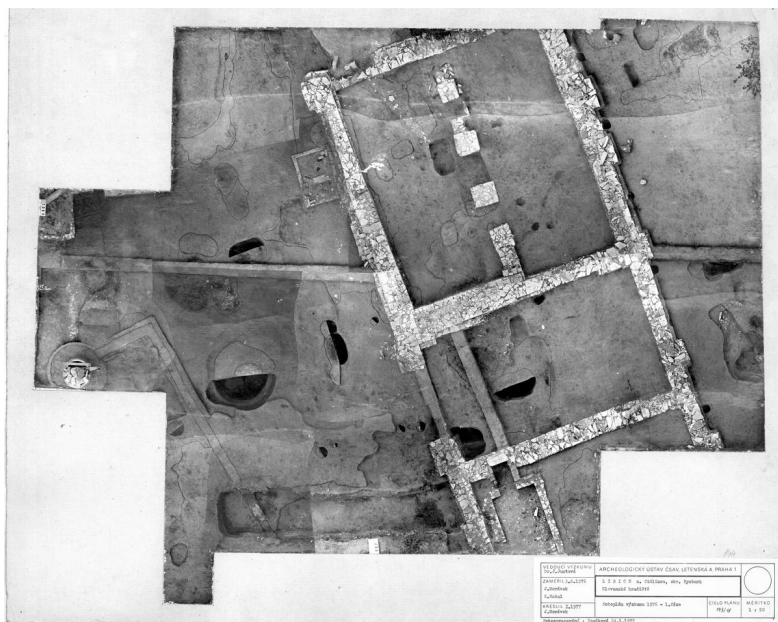
Libice nad Cidlinou on an engraving from the second half the 17th century.

After Sklenář 2006.



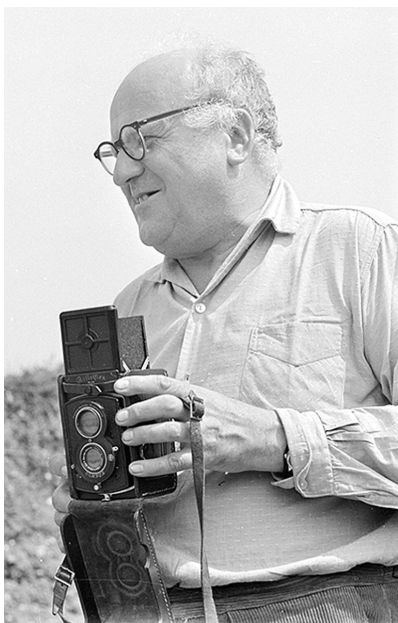
Picture from the second excavation phase of the acropolis (1967–1973).

Archives of the IoA.



Photoplan of the first phase of the 1976 excavations.

Photo J. Morávek, 1977. Archives of the IoA, PY000173018.

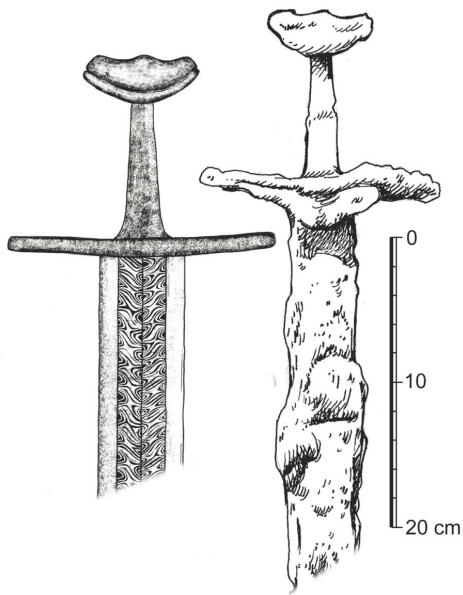


Long-term head of the archaeological field work Rudolf Turek.

Archives of the IoA.



Excavations (1949–1950) of the church on the acropolis.
Archives of the IoA.



A sword decorated by pannels made of Damascus steel (reconstruction is on the left) from a cemetery on the hillfort's agglomeration.

after Mařík 1999, adjustments by J. Mařík and J. Hošek.



Fragment of the so-called Inscription Stela found in the vicinity of the church on the hillfort's acropolis.
Photo J. Mařík, 2012.



Gold ring found at the acropolis during surface collections in 2013.
Photo J. Mařík, 2013.