Týn nad Bečvou, Přerov District, Olomouc Region

Helfštýn Castle

(14th–2nd half of the 18th cent.)

The monumental castle at Helfštýn is situated on a mountain ridge at the entrance to the narrowest part of the Moravian Gate. It was founded at the beginning of the 14th century by Friduš of Linava and was enlarged by the Lords of Kravaře sometime around 1400. Since the last quarter of the 15th century, when the castle was owned by the Pernštejn (Pernstein) family, it was rebuilt in the Gothic style. The last family seated there were the Bruntáls of Vrbno, under which a vast Renaissance Palace was finished. The whole complex consists of a number of service buildings and fortifications (five gates, a number of bastions, towers and a vast system of inner and outer fortifications) and ranks among the largest castle complexes in Europe. Archaeological excavations in the castle area have yielded a large number of artefacts, which are presented in the permanent "Archaeology at Helfštýn Castle" exhibition.
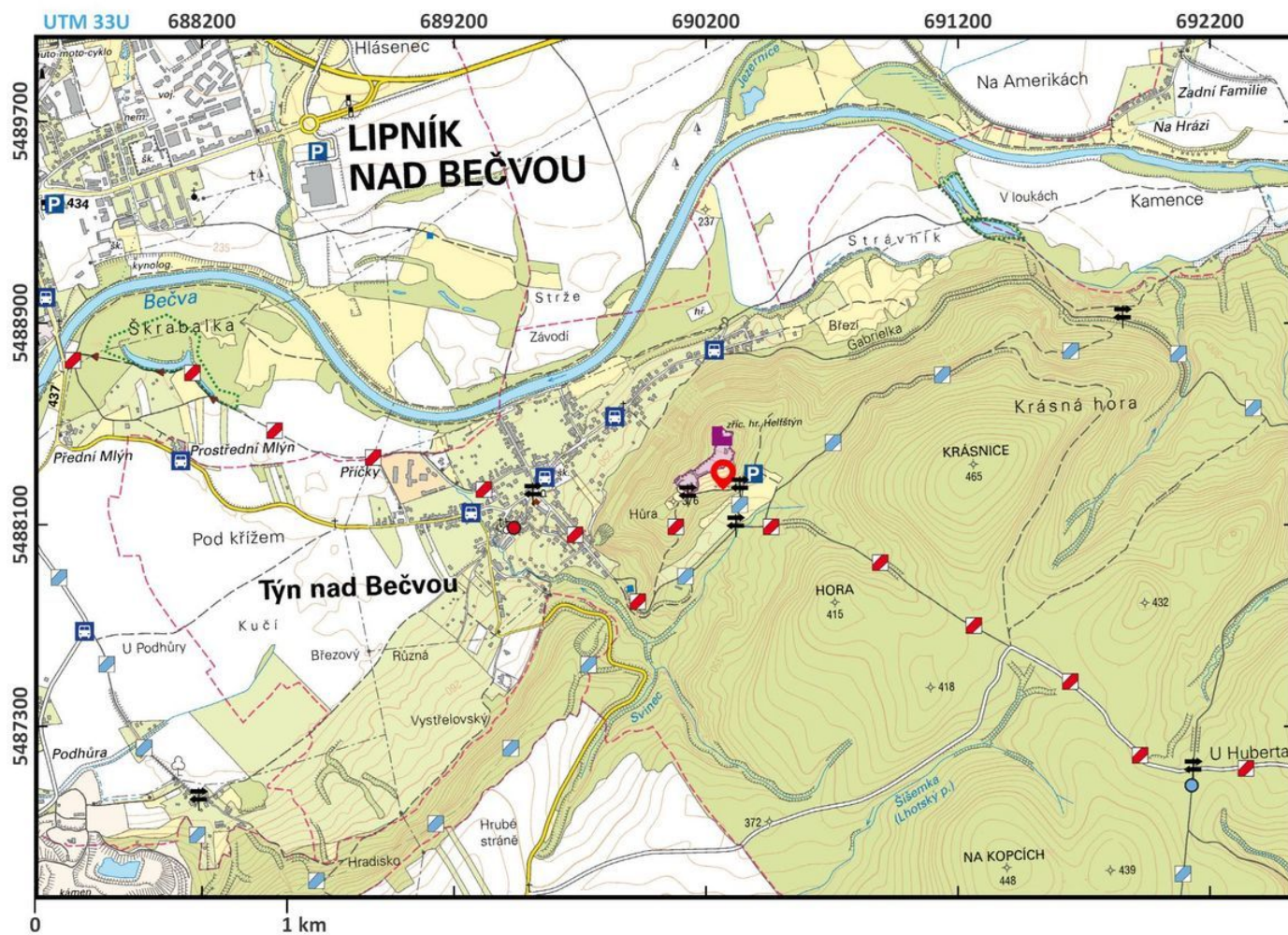
References: Kohoutek 1997; Plaček 1996; 2001; Schenk – Mikulík 2017.

Navigation point: N 49°31'01.2", E 17°37'45.0".

Map notes: 1 – shield wall, referred to as "broad"; 2 – first courtyard; 3 – second courtyard; 4 – ditch with walled

slopes, today called "boulevard"; 5 – corridor between the third and fourth gate; 6 – area of the outer castle, today called "kennel"; 7 – third courtyard; 8 – original service building for the castle, today called "bakery"; 9 – fourth courtyard; 10 – massive artillery bastion, today called "dungeon"; 11 – one of the bastions of the outer fortification built from earth and wood in the 17th century; I–V – individual gates.
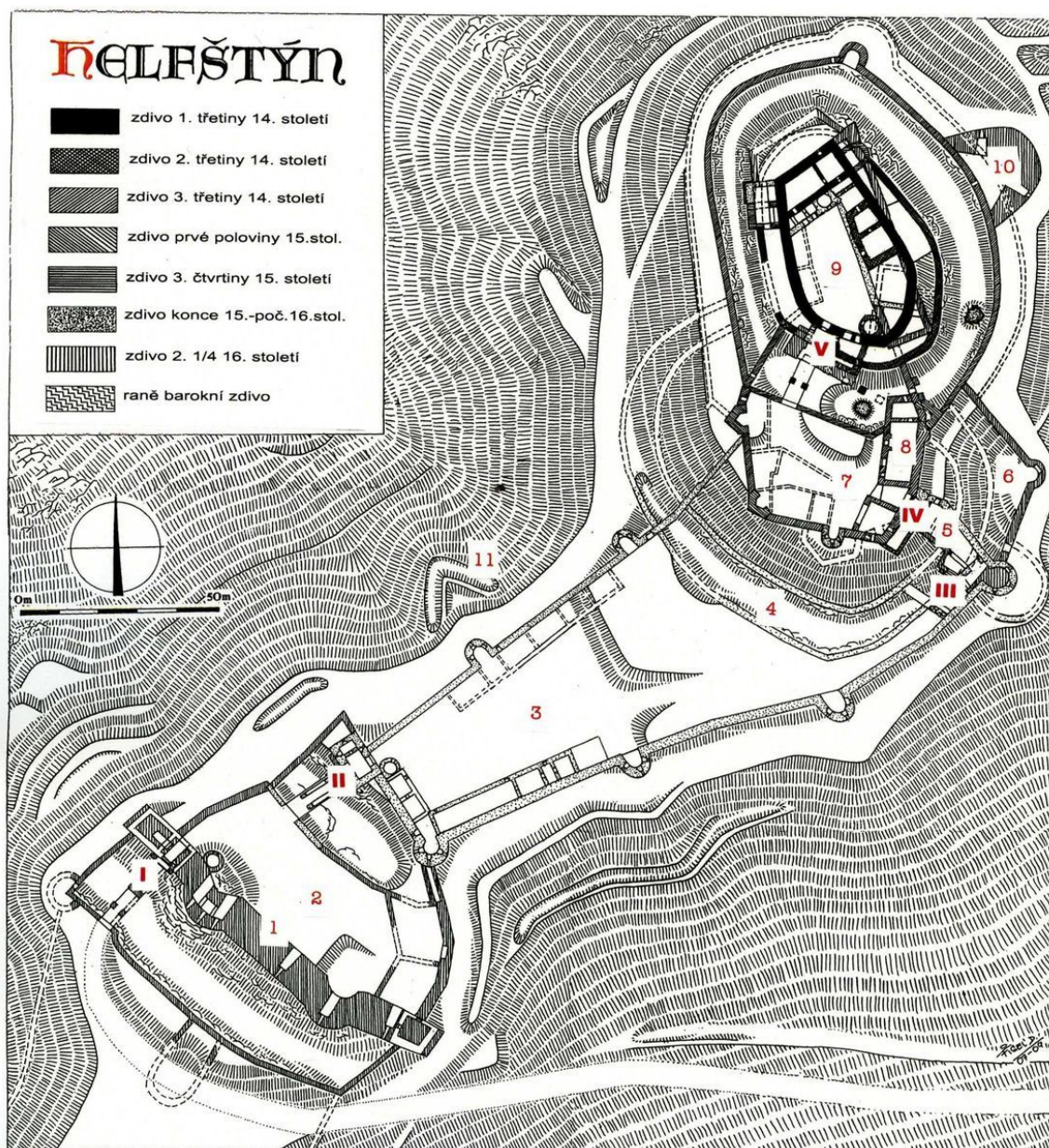
Access map.

Edited by A. Gašpar, 2020.

Plan of Helfštýn Castle.

Edited after Schenk 2017.

Overall view of the fringe of Podhůra Quarry, from the west, into the valley of Bečva Gate. The upper part of the image shows the Maleník Massif marked with Heflštýn Castle, the guardian of the Moravian Gate. The municipality of Týn nad Bečvou spreads over the foot of the castle hill. On the left: the skyline shows the Odra Highlands framing the northern border of the Bečva Gate.

Photo Z. Schenk, 2015.

Overall aerial photo of the vast area of Helfštýn Castle from the south; Bečva Gate can be seen in the background.

Photo Z. Schenk, 2011.

View of the high wooded knoll at Helfštýn Castle in the autumn; from Lhota in the south-west.

Photo Z. Schenk, 2017.

View of the fortified area of Helfštýn Castle in the winter; from Lhota in the south-west.

Photo Z. Schenk, 2017.

Aerial photo of the castle core with the Kravaře Bailey from the south.

Photo R. Tamáš, GLOBDAS, s.r.o., 2018.

Collection of fragments of late Gothic stove tiles decorated with the coat of arms of the Lords of Kravaře and the Kostkas of Postupice, which were found in the debris under one of the residential rooms.

Photo Z. Schenk, 2019.