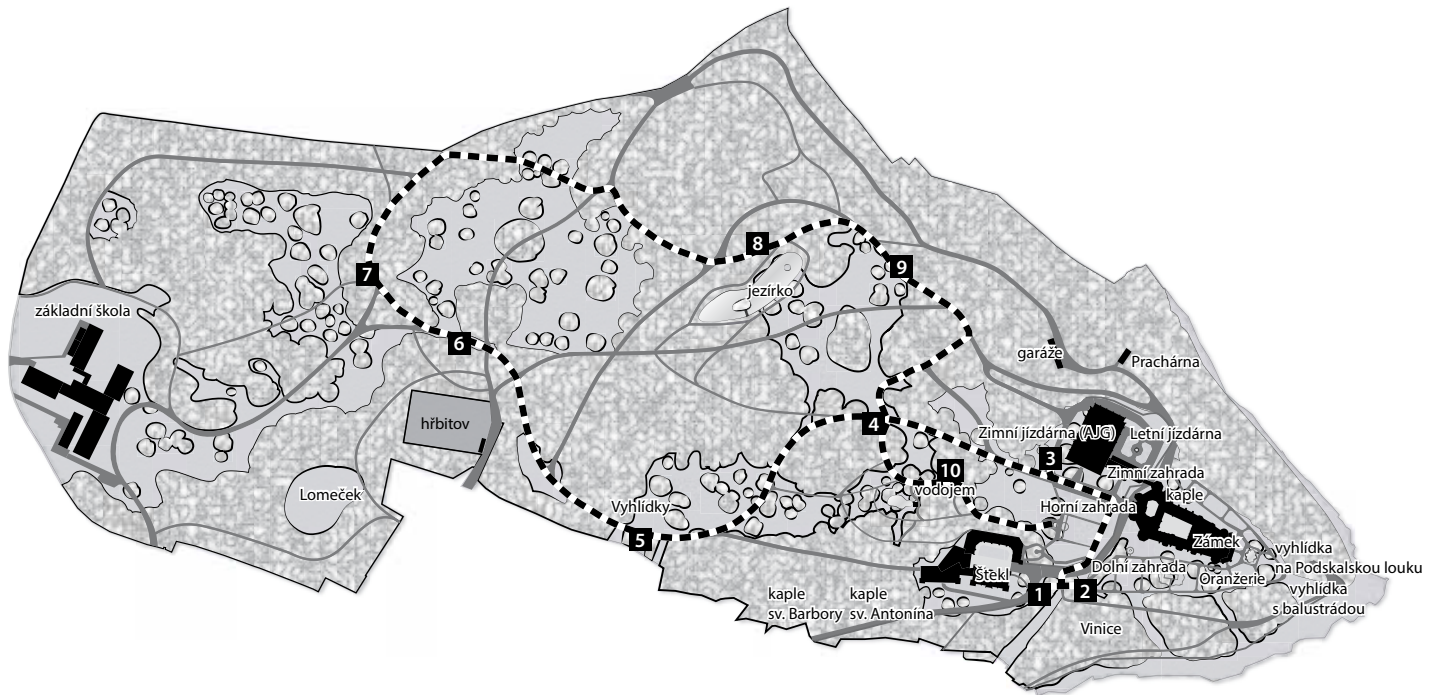


NATURE TRAIL THROUGH THE CHATEAU PARK IN HLUBOKÁ NAD VLTAVOU



NATURE TRAIL STOPS:

1. Nature trail through the chateau park in Hluboká nad Vltavou
2. Lower Garden
3. Upper Garden
4. Park composition
5. Vistas
6. Gardener Rudolf Wácha
7. Birds and plants
8. Pond
9. Insects
10. Water tower and Štekl

The 2.5 km nature trail route is suitable for visitors of all ages. With a short detour the trail can also be used with prams – pay attention to the notice on the final panel. Riding bikes in the park is not permitted; dogs must be kept on leads at all times. Nature trail texts are available at <http://www.npu-cb.eu/naucna-stezka-hluboka>.

Nature trail through the chateau park in Hluboká nad Vltavou. National Heritage Institute, branch office in České Budějovice and Hluboká nad Vltavou, October 2012. Texts: Marie Pavlátová, Eva Olšanová, Marek Ehrlich, Zdeněk Hanč, Jiří Pykal, Jan Chlumský. Cooperation: Jarmila Hansová, Ivana Troupová. Scanning of archive materials: State Regional Archive in Třeboň – Jakub Kaiseršat, Kristina Popelka. Graphic work: Halama publishing – Tomáš Halama. Printing: Kelt reklama. Stand design: Václav Bouška. Stand production: Truhlářství Jaroslav Čupita.

1. NATURE TRAIL THROUGH THE CHATEAU PARK IN HLUBOKÁ NAD VLTAVOU

Situated on a rocky promontory above the Vltava River, the Hluboká Chateau is a distinct landmark that makes a unique contribution to the characteristic image of the clear landscape of the České Budějovice basin.

The chateau, rebuilt in the Neo-Gothic style, along with parks established in the 19th century and the surrounding land groomed in a park-like manner represent a remarkable group with a uniform period appearance. In agreement with the rules of English landscape gardens, the land immediately surrounding the chateau features parterre gardens with a rich collection of exotic trees. The connected landscape park provides many fine views of the

surrounding land bordered to the south by the mountains of the Blanský Forest and Šumava.

Economic and aesthetic cultivation was pursued in the Hluboká region in rare harmony for several centuries. Contributing to the current appearance of the land are medieval fish ponds, Baroque pheasantries, game preserves, parks and numerous alleys. The romantic landscaping combines the earlier stages into a harmonious complex which, with an area of 20 km², is one of the largest parks of its kind in Bohemia.

The chateau and park have been afforded a high level of protection as a national cultural monument due to their extraordinary historical and artistic value. The facility is under the administration of the the National Heritage Institute.

Thanks to its natural value, the northeastern part of the chateau park has been designated as a Site of Community Importance in the Natura 2000 network (CZ0313099 “Hlubocké hráze”).

History of the Hluboká gardens and park

Mid-13th century – royal castle built on a rocky hill above the Vltava River.

1490 — reconstruction of castle to Late Gothic appearance under Vilém of Perštejn. Vilém builds new fish ponds (Bezdrev), cultivates the land below the castle and plants a vineyard on the southern slope.

1580–1596 — under the Lords of Hradec the castle is transformed into a three-storey Renaissance chateau with fortification and farm buildings.

1622–1661 — following the Battle of White Mountain, the Hluboká domain falls under the control of the Spanish noble Don Baltasar Marradas; the chateau takes on the appearance of a fortress with a massive system of fortifications.

1661–1948 — the chateau and the domain are held by the Schwarzenbergs.

1670 — as the chateau remains a fortress, John Adolf I of Schwarzenberg (1615-1683) establishes a garden below the chateau by the Munický Pond; designed by master gardener Georg von Meysse, the garden is composed of floral, fruit and culinary gardens.

1706–1729 — under Prince Adam Franz (1703-1732), the chateau undergoes a Baroque reconstruction designed by Pavel Ignác Bayer (†1733).

1708–1713 — construction of a representative hunting residence – the Baroque Ohrada Chateau designed by Pavel Ignác Bayer –

on the shore of Munický Pond; the Ohrada Chateau served as the noble family's residence in 1711-1728 during the reconstruction of the main chateau.

- 1743** — fortifications demolished and ditches filled; gardens are established by the chateau and are used mainly by court officials.
- 1766–1771** — the 1,500 ha Old Game Preserve is founded under Josef Adam (1732-1782) with moufflon, fallow deer and wild boar.
- 1777** — the land to the south and west of the chateau is surrounded by arbours with a fruit garden.
- 1786** — a summer house with an observation tower is built on a rocky promontory above the Vltava River south of the chateau (depicted in vedute from the beginning of the 18th century).
- 1839–1872** — Neo-Gothic reconstruction of the chateau under John Adolf II of Schwarzenberg (1799-1888) and his wife Eleonore von Liechtenstein (1812-1873); the project was designed by Viennese architect Franz Beer and court building director Damasus Deworezky; gardener Gervasus Immelin was commissioned to build the park, and the surrounding landscape was groomed in a park-like manner.
- 1851–1854** — work on the park continued under Theodor Rehder, the son of the garden inspector of Prince Pückler in Lusatian Muskau; Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau (1785-1871) established landscape parks in his domains that fully respected the rules of English landscape gardens.
- 1851** — 11,600 trees are planted in the park; 2,180 exotic trees are planted in 1856.
- 1854–1864** — finishing work in the park under the management of gardener Rudolf Wácha (1825-1899)
- 1844–1847** — a Neo-Gothic winter riding school hall is built to the north of the chateau; the riding school is connected to the chateau by a winter garden in 1853-1854.
- 1853** — the New Game preserve specialising in deer is founded on the right bank of the Vltava River.
- 1862–1865** — the Štekl manor is built on the site of old buildings on the grounds below the chateau.
- 1867–1868** — a cast-iron veranda is built on the southeast face of the chateau.
- 1945** — chateau and Hluboká domain come under state administration.
- 1970s** — parterre gardens surrounding the chateau are restored according to the project by Ivo Hofmann.
- early 1980s** — elementary school grounds are built in the outlying western part of the park.
- 1990s** — regeneration of the landscape park according to the project by Věra Hrubá.
- 1997** — pond in the central part of the park is repaired and filled.
- 1999** — a wall with a description of the view is built at the lookout site in the meadow above the cemetery.
- 2001** — Hluboká Chateau and grounds are declared a national cultural monument.

Illustrations

1. Renaissance form of Hluboká Chateau. Detail of the oldest preserved plan of Hluboká Chateau and the surrounding area, reputedly from 1663. State Regional Archive in Třeboň.
2. The Baroque chateau on the hill above the Vltava River is a distinct landmark. Geistmayer, 1862, according to materials from the early 19th century. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.
3. The prince and his wife with a hunting party in front of the Neo-Gothic chateau and winter riding school. Carl Goebel, 1865. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.
4. Prince John Adolf II of Schwarzenberg (1799-1888) and his wife Eleonore von Liechtenstein (1812-1873).

2. LOWER GARDEN

The first gardens, mainly the private gardens of the prince's officials, were created around the chateau building following the demolition of the fortifications and the filling of the ditches in the 1740s. At the end of the 18th century arbours were built around the space

below the chateau for a fruit garden. A multi-level gazebo with an observation tower was built on a rocky promontory. The northern part of the garden was lined by a chestnut alley; the slope beneath the alley was covered with a vineyard.

The area of the Lower Garden was increased significantly during the Neo-Gothic reconstruction of the chateau. The current layout was created during restorations in the 1980s based on period documentation. The garden has a geometric layout; the lawns feature ornamental edging with boxwood spheres.

Located on the ground floor of the multi-level cast-iron veranda built in 1867-68 on the south face of the chateau was an orangery that was used to hold heat-loving plants in the winter; the plants were placed around the garden in the summertime. The space has been used as a ceremonial hall since 2003.

The axis of the facade, which includes a large pool in the shape of a quadrilobe, ends with a lookout deck. The majestic panorama of the landscape composition of Podskalská Meadow is framed from the left by the wooded slopes of Hošínský Ridge. The view is completed beyond the skyline of České Budějovice by the distant Blaník Forest massif and its highest peak, Kleť. The vegetation on the descending slope is broken by observation windows looking out over the groomed Podskalská Meadow.

The landscape park at the Podskalská and Poříčská meadows was created in the 1840s by means of the transformation of the classicist landscaping from the end of the 18th century at the site of the abandoned fish ponds. The park is distinguished by a unique layout with a simple terrain relief of vast meadows with well-planned areas of vegetation, stands of trees and solitary trees. The entire grounds are characterised by the grand scale of the layout of trees and groves and are a remarkable example of a Czech park built on the principles of the 18th-century English landscape architects Lancelot Brown and Humphry Repton.

Illustrations

1. View of the chateau from the south capturing the decorative planting shortly after the founding of the park. Karl Zenker, second half of the 19th century. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.
2. Eastern part of the Lower Garden in front of the chateau chapel. Karl Zenker, second half of the 19th century. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.
3. Schmidt's plan from 1767 proposed planting shaped plant figures, geometric beds and other grand arrangements on both parterres. State Regional Archive in Třeboň, Český Krumlov branch.
4. The garden surrounded by arbours was finished with a summer house. A detailed plan of the chateau garden at the Baroque chateau. State Regional Archive in Třeboň, Český Krumlov branch.
5. Grand composition of Podskalská Meadow with a promenade along the water canal and groups of trees. F. Kraus, 1818. State Regional Archive in Třeboň.
6. The chateau prior to reconstruction with the summer house on a rocky promontory above the Vltava River. E. Janscha and C. Postl, early 19th century. From the collections of the Třeboň State Chateau.
7. View from the veranda toward the landscape composition of Podskalská Meadow and Ohrada Chateau. Karl Zenker, second half of the 19th century. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.
8. Cast-iron construction of veranda covered with dense vines, 1911.

The introduction of plants

The introduction of non-native plants significantly increased the assortment of trees cultivated in European gardens and parks. The fact that the collecting of foreign trees was enjoying its heyday at the time the park was built also had an impact on the development of the Lower Garden. The garden contains trees of considerable age and size, including in particular tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), sessile oak (*Quercus petraea* 'Mespilifolia'), London plane (*Platanus hispanica*) and Kentucky coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*); coniferous specimens include ginkgo biloba (*Ginkgo biloba*) and western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*). Noteworthy among native species are a mature European white elm (*Ulmus laevis*) and a robust European yew (*Taxus baccata*).

3. UPPER GARDEN

Since the chateau was still a massive fortress at the end of the 17th century, Prince John Adolf of Schwarzenberg established a sprawling garden in the space below the chateau by Munický Pond with floral and vegetable parts and also a conservatory for growing citrus fruits. The fortifications were demolished during the Baroque reconstruction of the chateau in the first third of the 18th century and were replaced by the gardens of the court officials; the decorative section of the garden was in the space of today's riding school. Though the geometric parterre beds were likely created in the second half of the 18th century, farm buildings still stood at the site of today's Upper Garden in 1812.

The space for today's geometric garden was created in the middle of the 19th century during the Neo-Gothic reconstruction of the chateau. The Neo-Gothic winter riding school built in front of the chateau in 1845-1848 was later connected to the chateau by a winter garden (1853-1854).

The parterre gardens as they appear today were designed by Ivo Hofmann in the 1970s. The Neo-Baroque parterre in front of the entrance to the chateau was arranged using documentation from the end of the 19th century. The composition includes shaped boxwoods accompanied by rose plantings. The south and west edges of the parterre feature colourful perennial beds. The north side ends with a double staircase with a Neo-Gothic fountain covered by mature beech trees. The former winter riding school (today's Alš South Bohemian Gallery) and the cast-iron construction of the winter garden line the parterre on the east side and underscore its representative character.

Illustrations

1. Detail of parterre layout shortly after planting. Karl Zenker, second half of the 19th century. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.
2. The "Danube" sculpture in the winter garden. State Regional Archive in Třeboň, Český Krumlov branch.
3. The area below Baroque Hluboká Chateau, view from today's park toward the Burgrave's House. State Regional Archive in Třeboň, Český Krumlov branch.
4. The summer riding school with a period fence served for horseback training. Karl Zenker, second half of the 19th century. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.
5. The Upper Garden parterre richly decorated with flower beds (1885). State Regional Archive in Třeboň, Český Krumlov branch.
6. Tree roses were a distinct feature of the flower beds on the parterre (1885). State Regional Archive in Třeboň, Český Krumlov branch.
7. The chateau grounds prior to the commencement of reconstruction and the creation of the chateau park. The design of the reconstruction is captured in red. Above – the riding school; right – the chateau; below – Štekl. Builder Oswald's plan from 1865. Private collection.

4. PARK COMPOSITION

Along with the Neo-Gothic chateau and the groomed surrounding land, the landscape park founded in the middle of the 19th century forms a harmonious unit with a uniform period appearance. The grand design cleverly utilises the placement of the park on the plateau above the Vltava River, providing numerous views "deep" into the surrounding land and creating the impression that the park extends all the way to the horizon.

Historicizing modifications in the immediate vicinity of the chateau resulted in geometric parterre gardens spread over two terraces. The Lower Garden offers views of the groomed landscape beyond with meadows and alleys. The garden on the upper terrace in front of the chateau has a representative character further enhanced by the adjacent buildings of the winter garden and the riding school.

The elongated layout of the park is tied to the entrance areas and expands westward along the main carriage trails running through the entire park. Smaller walking paths branching off the main trail lead to natural scenery with native trees, meadows, modelled solitary trees and groves. Exotic trees are primarily located close to

the chateau; in the landscape garden they are used only for colour and formal enrichment.

The main part of the park is composed of three meadow spaces arranged in a row on a gentle hill sloping northward. The park meadows with the restored pond provide views of the wooded slopes of the game preserve. Located in the middle meadow below a beech grove is a dark rondel in the form of a dark ring of spruce trees. The concept of the western outlying part with distant views into the land was disrupted by the construction of the elementary school grounds.

One of the most interesting spaces is the "outlook meadow" with panoramic views of the groomed landscape.

Illustrations

1. View through a group of trees toward the pond in the middle of the park from the 1911 book by the prominent botanist Camillo Schneider. Library of the Hluboká State Chateau.
2. View through the Upper Garden.
3. Layout of the chateau garden indicating the main vistas through the park and views of the surrounding landscape.
4. Vista through the park toward the game preserve from the 1911 book by Camillo Schneider. Library of the Hluboká State Chateau.
5. View toward the meadow below the pond.
6. Plan of the Old Game Preserve. F. Kraus, 1818. On the right side are the chateau and the town of Hluboká; on the upper left is the town of Purkarec. State Regional Archive in Třeboň.
7. Wild boar hunt in the Old Game Preserve during a visit by Tsar Alexander I. Ferdinand Runk, 1815. Český Krumlov State Castle and Chateau.

Hunting grounds and gamekeeping

The cultivated landscape in the Hluboká region includes vast hunting grounds, pheasantries and game preserves. The local forests full of game were popular with Charles IV, and the emperor founded Karlův Hrádek with a small adjacent town to the north of Hluboká.

Developing in tandem with farming were hunting and gamekeeping, which reached their peak under the Schwarzenbergs. The Old Game Preserve with fallow deer and wild boar was founded north of the chateau on the left bank of the Vltava River in 1766-1771. The first breeding of moufflon in Bohemia began at the site in 1810-1815.

The hunting grounds were expanded in 1853 with the establishment of the New Game Preserve on the right bank of the Vltava River. The main focus of this preserve was deer.

5. VISTAS

Situated on a hill, the park provides panoramic views of the surrounding landscape through which numerous alleys wind. As early as 1664 Prince John Adolf of Schwarzenberg issued instructions to plant oak and beech trees so that game would remain on domain lands in the winter months and not cause damage to the fields belonging to other farmers. This period saw the planting of many oak alleys along routes and on the embankments of fish ponds, which up until that time had formed one of the typical features of the local landscape.

Adam Franz Schwarzenberg had the Ohrada hunting chateau built within site of the aristocratic residence at the beginning of the 18th century. The chateau and the surrounding landscape system of alleys served the nobles as a base during grand fox hunts. In 1842 head forester Václav Špatný was instructed by the prince to establish a forestry and hunting museum. Zoological gardens were founded at the chateau in 1939 as a live museum exhibit.

During the reconstruction of the Hluboká Chateau in the middle of the 19th century changes were made in the surrounding landscape, providing picturesque views from the chateau and park. The "ornamented farm" style (*ferme ornée*) included fish ponds and meadows in which the individual buildings and sites were connected by a network of scenic paths. The landscape beyond Munický Pond was divided by oak and horse chestnut alleys and hunting blinds. The Vondrov farmstead was built in the vicinity

of the Ohrada Chateau at the end of the 19th century. Views of the groomed landscape below Hluboká are framed on the horizon by the silhouette of the Blaník Forest and Šumava mountain ranges. The vistas cover the range of the Schwarzenberg family's former holdings, which also included the Vimperk, Libějovice and Český Krumlov domains. A brick wall with a description of the view was built at the outlook site in 1999.

Illustrations

1. *Veduta by Ferdinand Runk from the early 19th century showing the popular wild duck hunt at Munický Pond by the Ohrada Chateau. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.*
2. *The landscape below Hluboká prior to the establishment of the park-like layout. State Regional Archive in Třeboň.*
1 – chateau; 2 – town of Hluboká nad Vltavou; 3 – Podskalská Meadow; 4 – Ohrada Chateau; 5 – Vondrov farmstead; 6 – pheasantry.
3. *View from Hluboká Chateau to Munický Pond and Ohrada Chateau. Karl Zenker, mid-19th century. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.*
4. *Ohrada hunting chateau from the old Vondrov farmstead. Unknown author, 1860. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.*
5. *The Baroque Ohrada hunting chateau from 1708-1713 is one of the finest works by Prague builder Pavel Ignác Bayer in south Bohemia.*
6. *The Baroque pheasantry built in 1771 below the Bezdrevská embankment near Ohrada Chateau has maintained its function to this day. State Regional Archive in Třeboň.*
7. *The new Vondrov farmstead near Hluboká in 1909. In addition to cattle, pigs and poultry, the farmstead also operated a modern cheese factory at the beginning of the 20th century.*
8. *The vast Vondrov farmstead from 1895-1898 was designed by court builder Jan Sedláček.*

6. GARDENER RUDOLF WÁCHA

In 1854 Prince John Adolf II summoned gardener Rudolf Wácha (1826-1899) a native of Chýnov near Tábor, from the chateau gardens in Děčín. Drawing on his vast experience from extensive study trips through Bohemia and abroad, Wácha supervised the work on the Hluboká park up until its completion in 1864. Wácha's list of the trees grown at Hluboká in 1865 includes several hundred species and cultivars of native and introduced trees. Wácha also designed the landscape park surrounding the Schwarzenberg family tomb near Třeboň (after 1875) and the Na Sadech town park in České Budějovice (1874-1880). An esteemed citizen of Hluboká, Wácha served for many years as mayor at the head of the town council. He is buried in the nearby cemetery at the edge of the chateau park.

Following his studies, Jan Topka (1858-1942) was hired at the court garden in Hluboká, where he worked with Wácha on the system of dendrological collections. He was the head of court horticulture from the 1890s until 1909. Gardener Vojtěch Mareš worked at Hluboká in the 1920s.

The court gardener traditionally lived in house no. 60, which was built in 1825; today the house stands behind the Sokol sports club building. New house no. 342 was built behind the chateau park in 1914.

The Hluboká town cemetery was founded in 1786 on domain land at the edge of the town. In addition to Rudolf Wácha, many other court employees are buried in the cemetery. A military hospital was located in a nearby former quarry (known as "Lomeček") at the beginning of the 19th century. The quarry has been filled and redeveloped.

1. *Thanks to its massive trees, the chateau park today is as impressive as it has ever been in its 150-year history.*
2. *Court gardener Rudolf Wácha in a period photograph and his signature from the plan for the Na Sadech section of the park. State Regional Archive in Třeboň, České Budějovice department.*
3. *Pedunculate oak (Quercus robur) is a long-lived tree with an irregular crown shape. The bark on the trunk is deep-fissured. The tree produces stalked acorns.*

4. *European beech (Fagus sylvatica) is a massive tree with smooth grey bark on its trunk. The large and smooth leaves have a crenate margin. The tree produces spiny seeds with edible beechnuts.*

5. *Small-leaved linden (Tilia cordata) with heart-shaped leaves produces a regular spreading crown. The tree flowers in early summer with fragrant yellowish blossoms. Linden is a valuable honey tree.*

6. *Location of the cemetery with military hospital at the Lomeček site on the plan of the surrounding area of the chateau from the beginning of the 19th century. State Regional Archive in Třeboň.*

7. *Ginkgo biloba is native to China. Despite having the appearance of a deciduous tree, ginkgo is a gymnosperm and is classified as a conifer. The fan-shaped leaves turn to bright yellow in the autumn.*

Ginkgo is a dioecious plant. Male and female trees grow in the Lower Garden, which is why yellowish fruits the size of cherries can be found at the site.

8. *Pin oak (Q. palustris) and red oak (Q. rubra) in a publication on the oak trees of North America published in Dublin in 1809. Library of the Český Krumlov State Castle and Chateau.*

Trees in the park

The scenery of the landscape park is composed of stands of native trees and meadows with solitary trees and groves. The subtle colour and formal contrasts of the native trees are enlivened by exotic species from territories with a similar climate. At Hluboká this frequently involved North American trees such as pin oak, red oak, silver maple, white hickory, shagbark hickory, western redcedar, Kentucky coffeetree and Kentucky yellowwood.

Hluboká acquired many trees of East Asian origin following a visit by guests from the Japanese embassy in 1885. For example, Japanese larch, Veitch's fir, Chinese poplar and Katsura were added to the collections. The aristocracy's interest in foreign trees is documented by many books in the chateau libraries at Hluboká and Český Krumlov.

7. BIRDS AND PLANTS

The diverse spatial structure of the tree and bush growths with varying amounts of light, border stands and meadows, the presence of many old trees and a rich composition of species all contribute to an uncommonly high frequency and diversity of bird communities in the chateau park.

One of the most significant bird species nesting at the site is the middle spotted woodpecker. The south Bohemian distribution of this threatened species dependant on old stands of oak is centred in the Hluboká nad Vltavou area.

Several other woodpecker species also live in the park, specifically the European green woodpecker, the grey-headed woodpecker, the great spotted woodpecker and, in rare cases, the black woodpecker. A wide range of small songbirds use the hollows carved out by woodpeckers for their nests. The collared flycatcher, a species tied to old stands of deciduous trees, is among the most abundant birds in the park. A small colony of western jackdaws has settled in the hollows left behind by the black woodpecker. A wide range of bird species common to European deciduous forests also nests in the park; in a landscape with a predominance of coniferous forests, these birds are otherwise rare. Species include the hawfinch, the wood warbler, the common redstart and the short-toed treecreeper.

Illustrations

1. *The hawfinch's (Coccothraustes coccothraustes) strong beak is adapted for cracking hard pits such as cherry. Photo by Jan Ševčík.*
2. *Although the western jackdaw (Corvus monedula) originally nested in the hollows of old trees, today it nests mainly on buildings. Today the chateau park is home to one of the last "tree" colonies in south Bohemia. Photo by Zdeněk Hanč.*
3. *The collared flycatcher (Ficedula albicollis) nests in the hollows carved out by the great spotted woodpecker, but also willingly takes up residence in hanging boxes. Photo by Libor Šejna.*
4. *The middle spotted woodpecker (Dendrocopos medius) marks out its territory with a yowling call. Photo by Zdeněk Hanč.*

Meadows in open land are cultivated by farmers with the aim of obtaining the greatest possible amount of grass. This care frequently involves heavy fertilisation, the drainage of land to simplify mowing and planting mixes of productive grass varieties. However, these measures cause meadows to lose their biodiversity.

Although it might seem that fertilising helps plants, this is hardly true in many cases. Many plants are specialised for growth in habitats with low levels of nutrients. Heavy doses of fertilisers therefore either directly kill or at least damage other species bound to nutrient-rich habitats. The chateau park's meadows are a valuable example of extensively cultivated meadows that are disappearing today. Due to their position and mainly decorative function, the meadows avoided intensive agricultural use in the past. Thanks to regular mowing, the meadows maintained a high level of biodiversity.

The dominant biotope is preserved mesophilic oat grass meadows with a predominance of tall oat grass, sweet vernal grass, downy oatgrass and velvet grass. Herbaceous plants in the meadows include St Anthony's turnip, meadow saxifrage, spreading bellflower, yellow rattle, oxeye daisy, Great Burnet, vernal sedge and the threatened black rampion. Moist areas are dominated by black sedge and grass-like sedge with cuckoo flower and forget-me-not.

The chateau park's mosaic of forest stands was mostly created by man. Native trees are accompanied by a significant number of exotic species. Nevertheless, from the perspective of the park biotopes it is possible to distinguish small fragments of herb-rich beech forests in which the herbaceous layer is in fact virtually missing and primarily cow-wheat oak-hornbeam forests with dominant pedunculate oak and small-leaved linden mixed with Norway maple and European silver fir. The natural oak-hornbeam forests of the entire southeast part of Bohemia are characterised by an absence of European hornbeam, a tree that did not spread naturally to this territory. The hornbeams commonly found in the chateau park were introduced by man.

The herb layer of the oak-hornbeam forests is composed of wood bluegrass, wood cow-wheat, wood anemone, European columbine, wood sanicle, tuberous comfrey, Solomon's-seal, dog's mercury, addersmeat and others.

Illustrations

5. *Wood cow-wheat* (*Melampyrum nemorosum*) is a semi-parasitic plant that uses special haustorial roots to connect to the network of fine roots from host trees to obtain nutrients. The seeds of this plant are adapted for dispersal by ants: one end of the seed is equipped with an oily appendage that attracts ants. Ants take the seeds back to their hills, dropping some of them along the way. The ants bite the oily appendage on the remaining seeds and discard the remnants near the anthill. The plant's "bribe" enables it to spread greater distances. Photo by Jan Chlumský.

6. *The purple blossoms of the western marsh orchid* (*Dactylorhiza majalis*), including white forms on rare occasions, appear in moist locations in May and early June. This threatened species is protected. Photo by Vladimír Hans.

7. *Black rampion* (*Phyteuma nigrum*) is related to the bellflower. However, the black rampion does not have a classic "bell" shape but is connate and elongated with openings in the lower part, thanks to which this type of flower is referred to as a "window blossom". The flowers are arranged in a dark purple spicate inflorescence that lengthens once the blossoms fall. Photo by Jan Chlumský.

8. *Meadow saxifrage* (*Saxifraga granulata*) is a medicinal plant that was once used to treat kidney stones. In addition to dispersal by seed, the plant is also able to spread asexually by means of bulbils growing on the stalks. Photo by Jan Chlumský.

8. POND

Prior to the founding of the landscape park, the space was occupied by fields surrounded and reshaped by alleys. A remnant of this former layout, the linden tree below the spruce rondel, is apparently the only tree in the park that dates to the period before the middle of the 19th century. The footbridge on today's pond

is located at the site of an aviary that appears on a plan from as early as the 1780s.

Domain maps from the years 1807-1854 show a defunct romantic park at the Holý vrch site north of today's chateau park. Grottoes (artificial caves) and a Chinese summer house are drawn in the space with a dense network of paths. The summer house is also visible in the veduta by court painter Ferdinand Runk from the beginning of the 19th century along with the adjacent valley spanned by an arched bridge. The landscaped area also included a regular system of alleys at the Křesín farmstead on the opposite bank of the Vltava River.

The pond mirroring the stands of trees and the man-made rock formations on the shore was built toward the end of the main period of park construction. The wooden footbridge took visitors to a small island. However, the pond was apparently dry before the middle of the 20th century. It wasn't until 1997 that the pond was repaired and refilled; the small arched bridge to the island was subsequently restored.

Illustrations

1. *Veduta by Ferdinand Runk from the early 19th century with the arched bridge, Chinese summer house and the Křesín farmstead in the background. From the collections of the Český Krumlov State Castle and Chateau.*

2. *The alcoved Chapel of the Virgin Mary with a kneeling bench located near the pond originally stood in the Lower Garden. Karl Zenker, mid-19th century. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.*

3. *The pond in the meadow in the middle of the park from the 1911 book by Camillo Schneider. Library of the Hluboká State Chateau.*

4. *The pond in the meadow in the middle of the park as shown on the park plan from the 1911 book by Camillo Schneider. Library of the Hluboká State Chateau.*

5. *The area with the pond on a postcard from the end of the 19th century. State Regional Archive in Třeboň, Český Krumlov branch.*

6. *The parcels of today's chateau park at the beginning of the 19th century. Detail from the plan of the Baroque chateau in Hluboká nad Vltavou and the Old Game Preserve. State Regional Archive in Třeboň. 1 – Křesín farmstead; 2 – Chinese summer house; 3 – arched bridge; 4 – aviary; 5 – chateau; 6 – town of Hluboká, 7 – Podskalská Meadow*

9. INSECTS

The diversity of insect life in the chateau park is linked to the immediate proximity of the vast deciduous forests in the New Game Preserve, the oak alleys and the embankments of the Hluboká fish ponds. Also having a positive effect is the varied composition of tree species and the presence of solitary trees with heavy sun exposure.

Old and dying trees are the most attractive for insects; several dozen types of beetles develop in their wood, which is often rotting as the result of various fungi. Oaks are most valuable in this regard, particularly pedunculate oak and sessile oak. In addition to wood, insects also eat leaves and sap. Intricate ecological relationships prevent the infestation of one species at the expense of another, which would have a negative impact on the health of trees. If possible, old trees and their roots are left in the park for up to several years until the development of the larvae present in the wood is complete.

Prominent species include the protected stag beetle and hermit beetle. Also occurring in large numbers in the park is the lesser stag beetle, whose larvae develop in decomposing fallen trunks and branches of oaks and ash trees.

Particularly noteworthy among the many insects dependant on trees is the occurrence of one of the country's rarest members of the Hemiptera order – the stink bug *Pinthaeus sanguinipes*. This striking predatory species lives off phytophagous insects in the crowns of trees.

The park's insect diversity is enhanced by water species living in the reservoirs. Dragonfly larvae, for example, mature at the bottom of the reservoir. In the summertime, adult dragonflies, including the downy emerald, then hunt other insects around these reservoirs. Water striders, predatory members of the Hemiptera order, can be seen moving across the surface of the water.

Illustrations

1. Stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), the largest European beetle, lives in oak and mixed forests and even urban parks. Males often fight duels. Females lay their eggs in decaying trunks, logs and tree stumps. Under local conditions the larvae, which feed on rotting wood, take 3-5 years to develop into pupae. Adult beetles typically hatch in the autumn and spend the winter in pupal cells. The stag beetle appears between May and August. During the day they can be found on the trunks and in the crowns of trees; in the late afternoon and evening when the weather is warm they fly in the crowns of trees. The heaviest occurrence in the Czech Republic is in south Moravia; in south Bohemia the stag beetle lives almost exclusively in the Hluboká region. The main threat to their existence is the removal of old wood, especially the extraction of trunks and the ploughing of clearings. Photo by Zdeněk Hanč.
2. The great capricorn beetle (*Cerambyx cerdo*) develops mainly in oak trees. The species mainly prefers older living sun-drenched trees on the edges of forests, in alleys, sunny stands on hillsides and solitary trees in meadows and pastures. Development lasts 3-5 years and occurs beneath the bark and, later, in the wood of trunks and thick branches in the crowns of trees. The adult beetles appear from the end of May to August, with a peak between the middle of June and the middle of July. The beetles are active in the evening and at night; during the day they typically remain concealed and in the crowns of trees. Photo by Zdeněk Hanč.
3. The hermit beetle (*Osmoderma barnabita*) is a typical species living in tree hollows (saproxylic). As the species prefers sunny hollows, hermit beetle populations can often be found in solitary trees and in alleys. The larvae take several years to develop in the hollows of living oaks, lindens and, sporadically, in other deciduous trees. The beetles appear in July and August and are active in the evening and at night. However, they rarely leave their hollows. The hermit beetle can fly only very short distances. This beetle is threatened by the removal of old, hollow trees, by fires and the treatment of tree hollows. Photo by Zdeněk Hanč.
4. The downy emerald (*Cordulia aenea*) hunts above the surface of ponds. Photo by Zdeněk Hanč.
5. The related lesser stag beetle (*Dorcus parallelipipedus*) appears in greater numbers in certain years. Photo by Zdeněk Hanč.
6. With an area of 67 ha, the Hluboké hráze location was declared a Site of Community Importance for the protection of the rare stag beetle and the great capricorn beetle. This site includes part of the chateau park, oak stands in the meadows near Hluboká and fish pond embankments with alleys.

NATURA 2000

Natura 2000 is a network of protected areas in the European Union. The aim of the program is to protect animal and plant species as well as types of natural habitats that are, from a European perspective, the most valuable, the most threatened, rare or whose occurrence is limited to only a certain area.

Natura 2000 is composed of two types of areas:

- 1) Bird Sites – according to Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (“the Birds Directive”)
- 2) Sites of Community Importance – Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (“the Habitats Directive”)

10. WATER TOWER AND ŠTEKL

The system for supplying the chateau with water designed in the mid-16th century involved a wooden waterworks along the Vltava River equipped with a pump that was regarded as ingenious for the period. The masonry waterworks building from 1735 underwent further reconstruction in 1822. Water turbines drive the pump installed in 1932.

A water tower was built on the foundations of a demolished bastion on a hill in front of the chateau during the most recent reconstruction work at Hluboká. The Neo-Gothic utility structure is the lone masonry construction inside the landscape park. A reservoir was carved into the rock next to the water tower

to hold surplus water. Today the water is used to supply the fountains around the chateau and the pond in the middle of the park.

The path from the water tower to the chateau runs by a romantic Neo-Gothic building known as “Štekl”. The original building of the same name located in the grounds in front of the chateau housed the flats of court officials. Prince John Adolf II ordered the demolition of the old building and the construction of the new Štekl in 1861 following the completion of the main phase in the chateau reconstruction. Designed by Damasus Deworezky and completed in 1863, the new Štekl resembled the other buildings on the chateau grounds. The adjacent courtyard is enclosed by stables. In 1996 the grounds were redeveloped into the Hotel Štekl, at which time a lower north wing was also added. Additional information on the history of the chateau grounds, including many pictures, is available during tours of the Hluboká Chateau. Thank you for your interest in the chateau park, and we trust that this inspiring setting is one you will enjoy returning to for pleasant strolls and relaxation time and time again.

Illustrations

1. View of Hluboká prior to the completion of the demolition of buildings in the area in front of the chateau, 1860s. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.
2. Area around the water tower. Karl Zenker, second half of the 19th century. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.
3. Plan of the chateau grounds following reconstruction showing the water lines. Right – waterworks by the river; left – water tower and reservoir on the hill. Second half of the 19th century. Private collection.
4. The name of the tall building in front of the entrance to the Baroque chateau – “Štekl” (derived from the German word *Stöckl* meaning “outbuilding”) – was also used for the new building. Geistmayer, 1862, according to a drawing from the early 19th century. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.
5. The waterworks on the bank of the Vltava River on a plan of the Baroque Hluboká Chateau, redrawn using an earlier plan. Karl Zenker, 1864. State Regional Archive in Třeboň.
6. Design variations for the Neo-Gothic reconstruction of the water tower. Second half of the 19th century. State Regional Archive in Třeboň.
7. The buildings that stood on the site of today's Štekl. Drawing by Karl Zenker, second half of the 19th century. From the collections of the Hluboká State Chateau.
8. The water pumping technology is installed in the Baroque waterworks building on the bank of the Vltava River. 2004.