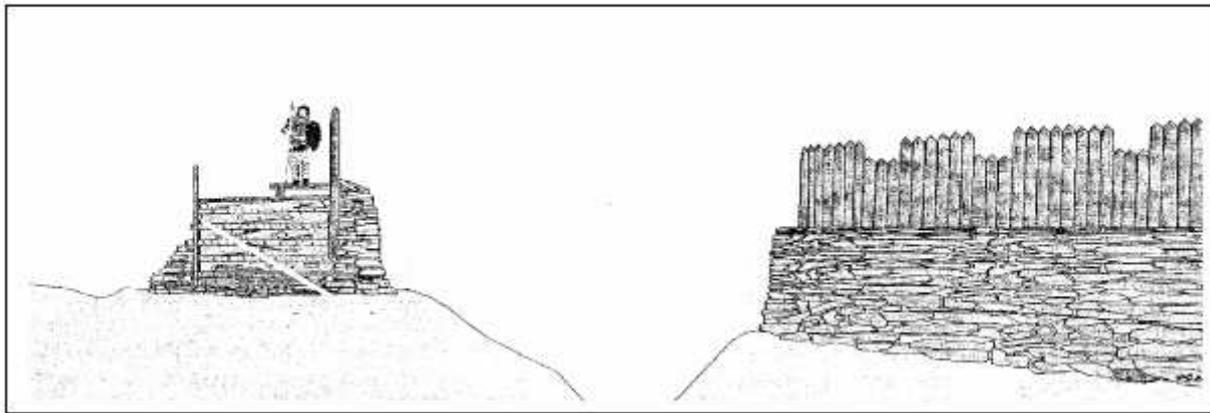


KALAMÁRKA - archaeological site

Detva is not one of historically oldest seat in Zvolen District. It was founded in 17th century (first written information is from 1638), while many neighboring cities like Zvolen, Krupina, or Banská Bystrica, the important royal and mining centers, have done a 400 years history. Nevertheless, its unique culture and traditions quickly become a symbol of Slovakia and the Slovaks.

However, the settlement of Detva territory still goes deeper into the past than the official dates, evidenced by the nearby important archaeological site - fort Kalamárka.



Reconstruction of early-medieval fortress rampart on Kalamárka

Kalamárka, strategically located over the eastern part of the Detva basin, is formed from andesite hump (803-816 m asl) with a peak plateau, protected on three sides by high vertical cliffs. Only in the east there was built about 50 m long wall above the natural terrain. Archaeological research, which took place here in the years 1986 - 1989 certainly proved and confirmed multiple settlement sites of several cultures from the late period (the first stone - earth fortification was created at the end of the Bronze Age in the 9th / 8th century BC) over a period of iron, Roman period, migration period to the early Middle Ages. The focus of the settlement belongs to Late Moravian till Great Moravian period.

Early Medieval wall was built on the remains of prehistoric settlements and its total length is about 50 m. The amount of ceramic findings and the construction of this wall can be dated to the 9th - 10th century. The collection of other findings from this period consist of weapons, gear and clothing (arrowheads, buckles, horseshoe ...) agricultural and craft tools and household utensils (sickle, millstone, whorls, knives, hatchets ...), construction or hanging forgings (nails, pins, key). However the older Celtic findings are also valuable, probably just from around Kalamárka - including 4 Laten iron spears, 3 swords with remnants of a belt sheath, showing that both militarily and economically capable Celts at that time evidently controlled Central Slovakia areas which were rich of metal. This is also evidence by the amount of iron tools and typical ornaments - bronze and iron buckles, jewelry, tools, beautiful glass bangles, and numerous fragments of ceramic vessels.



Pins, buttons, ax

After stabilization and political changes in the Carpathian Basin Kalamarka fort lost its strategic importance in guarding the mountain pass from Poiplie valley through Kriváň to Zvolen basin and it was not settled any more. Its builders and residents - the Slavs moved into lower part of Detva basin.

Ancient archaeological sites is described in presentation of Podpoľanie Museum in Detva and also in new publication "DETVA. Prehistoric and early - historic fort from the ancient history of Slovakia by Peter Šalkovský, a renowned archaeologist, who led the archaeological research in 1986 - 1989. He is a researcher at the Archaeological Institute in Nitra and teaches at the Department of Archaeology at Faculty of Arts in Bratislava.

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