

Abstract:

The submitted archeological exploration of area associated with the important battle of the Hussite wars near Lipany on May 30, 1434 was primarily focussed on searching for material remains of this short military event. The project is essentially based on field research using the methodology of battlefield archaeology – the most often research approach concerning conflicts in the early modern history both in the Czech Republic and abroad. The field research was preceded by an analysis of written and iconographic sources relating to the Battle of Lipany and Hussite Wars and by a detailed study of historical maps. The detector prospection combined with targeting the findings by GPS coordinate method for more than four years brought approximately forty findings directly or chronologically related to the event being investigated. Most of them are small militaria (crossbow bullets, projectiles for firearms, spur fragments), the set is complemented by small coins and personal items. Findings related to the battle indicate a spatial relationship, they refer to some of the terrain sites that were the scene of different phases of the conflict. The exploration presumably managed to locate the place where the wagon fort of radical Hussite was situated, other sites indicate a relation to combat maneuvers during the phases of the battle. It was not possible to locate the area of the Calixtine-Utraquist wagon encampment, as well as the retreat routes of the defeated radicals or places where the fallen warriors were buried. The most significant problem for the presented field research is confined to changes in the secondary character of the landscape related to a considerable extent to the collectivized phase of agriculture after 1948. These interventions were more important for the context of findings than the long-term activities of illegal detectors. The researched area also contains numerous archeological traces of human activity from periods of the Bronze Age, La Tène culture or Roman times, as well as from the Migration period and the Old Hillfort period. In the coming years the exploration in Lipany area, guaranteed by the National Heritage Institute (NPÚ), will continue; the further research will concentrate on the verification of previous conclusions as well as on the exploration of parts not yet covered.