

# PRAGUE AS AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

The history of Prague covers more than a thousand years. It was the centre of the state and seat of rulers for many consecutive centuries beginning in the Early Middle Ages. Yet, the earliest traces of human existence in Prague are much older. The abundance of water sources and fertile lands as well as its favourable position at the junction of trade routes created suitable conditions for the settlement of the Prague basin as early as the Palaeolithic period. Thus, the entire area of Prague is covered with the remains of human life from various periods of prehistory which makes it one large archaeological site.

Humans living in the past left architectural remains especially in the historic core of Prague. As a result, Prague has retained an astonishing collection of historic monuments which have been acknowledged as part of the world cultural heritage. In addition to historic structures of various periods, this collection is also comprised of the monuments that remain hidden to both the residents and countless tourists - the outstanding and vast archaeological remains.

Romanesque structures of the city's historic centre, luxurious goods as well as objects of everyday use, and the preserved massive layers of debris of buildings, landfills, and rubbish are also part of this collection. Reaching up to several metres, these 'cultural' layers provide us with information about the development and changes of Prague from its early times after the mid-9th century to its heyday in the Late Middle Ages and the later Industrial Period.

All of these archaeological sources are extraordinary even in the European context. The learning about them is a long and challenging process that will flourish over time. These informations were not widely know in the public. The praha-archeologicka.eu portal opens the door to archaeological sources.

The praha-archeologicka.eu portal is the main outcome of the project Integrate Information System of Archaeological Sources of Prague (IIS\_APP) which is the joined project of the Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, v. v. i. and the National Heritage Institute. The project was compiled in 2012. During the period from 2013 to 2017, it is financed by the National and Cultural Identity (NAKI) Programme of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic programme (reg. no. 13P01OVV014).



www.praha-archeologicka.eu

www.arup.cas.cz • www.npu.cz • www.archeopraha.cz www.muzeumprahy.cz • www.archaiapraha.cz







Praha Archeologickā



www.praha-archeologicka.eu



## INTEGRATE INFORMATION SYSTEM OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES OF PRAGUE

**Praha-archeologicka.eu** is a website portal that seeks to make available the archaeological sources of Prague to professionals and the wider public. It shall facilitate the archaeologists and their collaborators to be able to systematically study the past and to embrace it in a faster and broader way. The preservationists shall find there materials helping them decide about the extent of the necessary protection of archaeological heritage, and the businessmen shall draw information about the risks of their business plans.

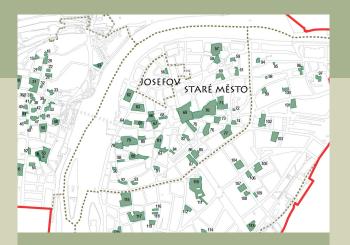
The portal is divided into five sections providing basic information about archaeological sources in map and data windows. General characteristics introduces each section. More detailed information is found in presentations dedicated to selected topics of the relevant section and complemented with an abundance of pictures.











#### The sections in brief:

## **EXCAVATED AREAS**

# I Map of Archaeological Reference Points within the Prague Heritage Area

Provides information about the extent of archaeologically researched test pits in the real scale of the cadastral map; Gradually, it will be updated and interconnected with the information system Archaeological Map of the Czech Republic (AMČR: archeologickamapa.cz)

## PRAGUE - THE CITY OF ARCHAEOLOGY

#### Archaeological sites

Informs about known, unknown, and hidden historical sights and about the history and techniques of their presentation and protection

## DISCOVER ARCHAEOLOGY IN PRAGUE

### City walks

Tips for trips

Invites the wider public to visit archaeological sites and locations in the city centre and vicinity

## INTERDISCIPLINAE

- Natural sciences
- Archive sources
- Building research
- Conservation and restoration
- Geological points

Enables one to gather the basic available data about interdisciplinary research and makes available selected documents



## HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

The goal of this section is to ease the access of information to the conservation of monuments sphere in order to facilitate qualified decision-making and administration of cultural heritage mainly in the area of archaeological sites.

#### I Significant Archaeological Sites

Places with exceptionally well-preserved archaeological terrains which had been picked within the Prague Heritage Area as the most valuable and require increased protection (the content is regularly revised by the Prague Regional Office of the National Heritage Institute)

#### I Protected Areas and Cultural Monuments

Information about the structure and nature of the collection of historic monuments in the area of the City of Prague and about the degree of their protection adopted from the central register of the National Heritage Institute (pamatkovykatalog.cz)

#### I Situation of Historic Terrains

Relicts of terrains which have not retained anthropogenic rock cover, i.e. areas with the archaeological layer removed (cellars, basements of new houses, underground transport structures, etc.)

The website provides up-to-date links to the full wording of legislative regulations enacting the protection and care for the cultural heritage of the Czech Republic.