

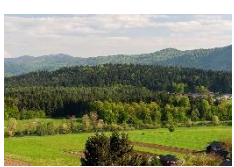






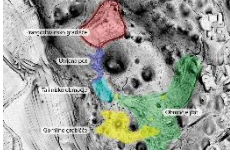


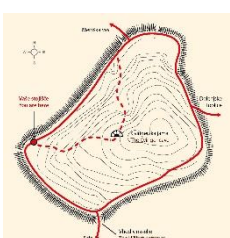
## The Cvinger Archaeological Site




Posts<sup>1</sup> on LinkedIn profile Klemen Ramovš and LinkedIn page Seviq Brežice

1) 27.2.2021 20:36 20:37		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>Cvinger near Dolenjske Toplice is one of the most important older Iron Age centres in Slovenia and the wider south-eastern pre-Alpine area. The site, which lies in an excellent strategic location, is presented in nature as an archaeological park. Its most important building blocks are connected by an archaeological path, thus presenting the prehistoric heritage in its original environment. The Cvinger Archaeological Site consists of several archaeological sites that must be understood as an inextricably linked whole. (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEria #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
2) 28.2.2021 11:11 10:12		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>The central part is a prehistoric hillfort, which is surrounded by a once mighty wall and has been partially reconstructed in a shorter segment. On its southern slope stretches a smelting area where natives mined iron in hundreds of smelting furnaces. This was then forged into tools, weapons, and jewellery, as well as other useful products, which were traded in the wider area. The content of the site is completed by mound cemeteries, where former members of the local Dolenjska prehistoric community are buried in numerous earthen mounds together with grave accessories. (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEria #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
3) 1.3.2021 8:59 9:00		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>The oldest parts of the site belong to the Late Bronze Age or the beginning of the Early Iron Age (10th-8th century BC). It was followed by the cessation of settlement, which lasted for several centuries until the Young Hallstatt period (6th-4th century BC), when Cvinger reached the peak of his power. Preserved material remains and exceptional archaeological finds eloquently testify to the importance and economic power of the community that co-created the European cultural space two and a half millennia ago and indelibly enriched the treasury of European cultural heritage. (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEria #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>

<sup>1</sup> The first time indicates the time of publication on the Klemen Ramovš profile, the second time indicates the time of publication on the Seviq Brežice page

<p>4) 2.3.2021 11:09 11:10</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>The site is a unit of cultural heritage Dolenjske Toplice - Archaeological site Cvinger (EŠD 110) entered in the register of cultural heritage. The status of a cultural monument was acquired by a municipal decree as early as 1992. Today's legal protection of this cultural monument is provided by the Decree on the proclamation of immovable cultural monuments of local significance in the Municipality of Dolenjske Toplice from 2018. (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEria #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>5) 3.3.2021 8:54 8:55</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>Due to its regional importance, Cvinger has been involved in several international research and promotion projects as an ironworks centre. As part of the Iron Age Danube project, the present archaeological trail was restored, which can be visited together with some other trails in the area with the help of an online guide (Guide@Hand). In addition, Cvinger is also one of the most important sites of the Iron Age Danube Route, which connects the most important sites from this period in the wider Danube region. (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEria #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>6) 4.3.2021 8:31 8:32</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>The first researchers were attracted to Cvinger as early as the 1970s, and the first excavations in the mound cemetery and in the settlement took place in the last years of that century. Excavations in the western part of the fort in the 1930s followed. The first post-war excavations of Cvinger took place between 1986 and 1991. During this period, archaeologists made six excavations to determine the time span of the fort, the method of building the walls and any remains of buildings inside the settlement. (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEria #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>7) 5.3.2021 9:43 9:44</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>As part of archaeological research, with the cooperation of cavers and locals, the younger embankment in Cvingerska jama (Cvinger abyss) was partially cleaned, a section of prehistoric walls was partially reconstructed on the hillfort, the first information boards were erected, and a circular footpath was marked. Its establishment in 1990 was a pioneering work, as it is the oldest archaeological thematic route in Slovenia. (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEria #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>

<p>8) 6.3.2021 9:40 9:41</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>The starting points of the archaeological thematic footpath are in the forest near the primary school (at the crossroads at the turnoff for Dolenje Polje), next to the parking lot near the spa cemetery and in the middle of Meniška vas. It runs along forest paths and paths and is marked with a stylized situla. It is fully equipped with introductory explanatory boards at the starting points and intermediate boards at the three entrances to the fort.</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>9) 7.3.2021 8:54 8:55</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>The content extension with information boards awaits the hiker at key stations along the archaeological thematic route: at the partially reconstructed wall, Cvingerska jama (Cvinger abyss), paved access path, iron-smelting area, and mound cemetery. Direction signs are placed at intersections for easier orientation in nature. The path to Zwinger (265 m above sea level), which is 2.5 km long, is not demanding - you only need to overcome the height difference of 60 m. We invite you to take a walk among the preserved monuments of Dolenjske Toplice prehistory. We recommend off-road footwear and a happy journey! (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>10) 8.3.2021 10:07 10:08</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>In all periods of human presence on our soil, river valleys were the basic communications and at the same time a favourable place for settlement and residence. The tributaries and confluences were particularly attractive, as the intersections of the paths are the points with the greatest flow of people and goods. The wider area of Dolenjske Toplice in the municipality of the same name, which is simply called Topliška dolina, is a typical example of this kind. Here, from the path along the Krka river valley to the south, the path branches off along the Črmošnjice valley. Almost parallel to the afore mentioned, the route runs along the Sušica valley, both of which lead to Bela krajina and on to Croatia through the most favourable natural crossings.</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>11) 9.3.2021 10:34 10:35</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>Topliška dolina is richly dotted with the remains of human activity in the past. Due to numerous research and exceptional finds, the central place among the local archaeological sites belongs to the Zwinger archaeological site. It extends in the heart of the mentioned valley in the triangle between the settlements of Dolenjske Toplice, Meniška vas and Sela pri Dolenjske Toplice. Its key part is a fortified prehistoric settlement or fort, to which we add the iron-smelting area south of the settlement, the associated mound cemetery Branževac 3rd Seli and individual mounds around Meniška vas. Archaeological finds from the surrounding sites prove that life in this area took place from the Stone Age to the early Middle Ages.</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>

<p>12) 10.3.2021 12:39 12:40</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>The fortified prehistoric hillfort dominates the karstic and forested Cvinger hill with the highest point of 265 m above sea level. The Krka River flows in its north, and the Radeščica and Sušica torrent rivers encircle it in the west and east. The southern slope of Cvinger passes into the hilly ridge between Radeščica and Sušica. The peak sown with sinkholes, which at the highest point has an entire karst abyss, is surrounded by a 740 m long closed wall. Its remains are visible today as a stone moat that rises to a height of two meters on the inside and falls steeply towards the valley on the outside. (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>13) 11.3.2021 9:01 9:01</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>The still visible remains of the walls in the past gave the impression among the people that a monastery once stood on Cvinger. According to its monks, the Meniška vas lying at the foot got its name. Recent research by historians shows that the Stična monks did have their own property here, but there was no monastery on Cvinger. The main entrance to the fortified settlement was on the south side of the wall. To get there, a prehistoric path led from the Radeščica valley past mounds and the ironworks area, protected in turns by mighty stone barricades. (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>14) 12.3.2021 8:33 8:33</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>The archaeological site at Cvinger entered the literature relatively early. In his extensive book on the history of iron in Carniola, Goriško and Istria in 1909, Alfons Müllner wrote: "Here, between Krka and the Radeča and Sušica watercourses, lies the hill Branževci, where in 1873 I found a prehistoric wall. It covered 680 meters. The wall consists of earth and stones, between which is iron slag. Traces of huts and an open fireplace and a lot of iron slag can be found in the settlement. Outside Cvinger, in the woods, stood a beautiful, sadly now ruined, mound measuring 2 feet in height and spanning 70 paces. It contained about 40 graves. The finds from this mound and next to the lying graves were from the 'Hallstatt' period VI. and V. century". (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>

15)  
13.3.2021  
9:28  
9:28



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Between 1898 and 1899, the head of the anthropological-prehistoric collection of the Natural History Museum in Vienna, Josef Szombathy, was the first to excavate inside the prehistoric hillfort, i.e. in the area of prehistoric settlement. He walked around the settlement, measured it and in his diary drew a sketch of the fort with the positions of individual probes. His work is the first major research of a prehistoric fort in the former Carniola. According to folklore, the Duchess of Mecklenburg also excavated at Cvinger before the First World War, but written sources about her work here are not known. (photo: Marko Pršina)

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16)  
14.3.2021  
13:47  
13:48

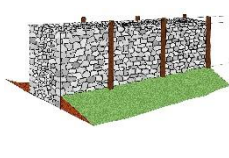


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In the 1930s, Walter Schmid also excavated a prehistoric settlement in the western part of the fort, but unfortunately the results of his work are lost. Only modest data from the newspaper Jutro, in which they published news about the four buildings he found, have been preserved. In 1986, the Institute for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage Novo mesto, headed by archaeologist Borut Križ, began modern research at Cvinger. In six consecutive years, the archaeological team made six excavations, which satisfactorily explained the appearance of prehistoric walls and their chronology, and in their interior indicated the method of construction of residential buildings. (photo: Marko Pršina)

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17)  
15.5.2021  
10:06  
10:07



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The oldest wall surrounding Cvinger was built of wood and earth. Among the double formwork made of wooden planks a good meter wide, its builders poured clay. As this wall was destroyed in some places by fire, it was set on fire. It has been preserved as a red-orange-gray mass mixed with the charred walls of the collapsed formwork. With the help of radiocarbon analysis of wood remains and a few small finds of pottery, this wall can be dated to the Late Bronze Age or the beginning of the Early Iron Age (10th-8th century BC). A stone wall was then erected over the ruins or remains of this wall.

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18)  
16.3.2021  
10:27  
10:28



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The walls around the prehistoric fort of Cvinger were built in such a way that the outer and inner faces were composed of selected stones, and the intermediate space was filled with stone debris and earth. The width of this wall was about two meters. In front of it, a ramp was arranged on the outside, which ended with a small scarp and ditch after a few meters of steep descent. The stone wall was additionally reinforced by vertical beams (stands) that reached below the level of the wall. At the same time, research yielded reliable findings that this wall was repaired in several places. (photo: Marko Pršina)

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19)  
17.3.2021  
8:22  
8:22

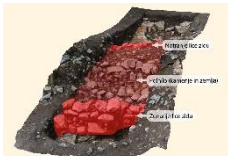


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The prehistoric fort on Cvinger had two entrances, north and south, all the other present-day passages through the trench were formed later. The main role was played by the southern entrance, in front of which, for the first time, the results of aerial laser scanning made it possible to identify an access path that is unique in its wider construction. It is a path about 180 m long and 4-5 m wide, which starts at the iron-smelting area on Branževcevec and leads to the entrance to the settlement. The path turns several times at this distance, it is paved on both sides and at the same time it is twice supplemented with transverse trenches. (photo: Marko Pršina)

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20)  
18.3.2021  
11:41  
11:42



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By excavating a transverse trench that fortified the access path, archaeologists determined that it was the remains of a stone wall that was about 4 m wide. Despite the less well-preserved remains, its outer and inner face, built of larger stones, was clearly recognisable. The wall had two more lines of larger stones inside. The intermediate spaces were, similarly to the walls around the fort, filled with smaller stones and debris.

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21)  
19.3.2021  
8:22  
8:23



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The paved path provided the residents of Cvinger with additional security and control over the newcomers. It needs to be understood along with other parts of the site, which is thoughtfully organized. Only with aerial laser imaging was it possible to identify the sunken paths that join the movement corridor and are understood as remnants of former paths. These lead first past the mound cemetery on Branževcevec, past the smelting area and then through the fortified access to the settlement. (photo: Marko Pršina)

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<p>22) 20.3.2021 11:34 11:35</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brevice.si/">https://www.seviq-brevice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>The course of prehistoric paths, which merge into one before the fortified entrance to the fort, is not unique, but it represents a hitherto little-known aspect of Iron Age society, which we are trying to explain. A visitor who came to Cvinger went on through the necropolis (world of the dead), where he realized the glory of past generations. He continued past the smelters that ensured the well-being of the local community. He then had to pass a check at the fortified passages on the access road in the last meters to enter the settlement. You, today's modern visitors to Cvinger, may be thinking about this the next time you walk our archaeological trail. (photo: Matija Črešnar)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>23) 21.3.2021 9:55 9:56</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brevice.si/">https://www.seviq-brevice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>Dolenjska hills and hills are widely dotted with prehistoric forts. The one in Cvinger stands out among all the fact that at the highest point, which is almost in the centre of the fort, there is the karst Cvinger abyss (also called Celtic). Whether it was already known in the Hallstatt period, or perhaps it was opened later, is a mystery that archaeologists and cavers from Novo mesto tried to solve together during many years of research. (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>24) 22.3.2021 9:16 9:17</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brevice.si/">https://www.seviq-brevice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>The location of the karst cave in the middle of a prehistoric fort near populated places stimulated the imagination of some writers from the beginning of the 20th century to dedicate a few lines to the cave each. The oldest known record of it can be found in the small booklet Zdravišče Toplice, written in 1900 by Pavel Zhuber pl. Okrog. In the chapter Surrounding the health resort, he stated: "Immediately behind the park, the previously named Tabor hill is slowly rising. From the road, beautiful forest paths and paths lead between dense, tall spruces towards the top to a former Celtic settlement. Right at the top is a vertical cave over 20 meters deep. Due to the dangerous entrance, no one has investigated this cave so far, but it is believed that other horizontal cavities relate to this vertical cave. There are beautiful stalactites in this cave." (Photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>25) 23.3.2021 8:52 8:52</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brevice.si/">https://www.seviq-brevice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>Less than a decade after the publication of Zhubr's book Zdravišče Toplice (1900), Alfons Müllner published a book on the history of iron in 1909, in which he briefly described his visit (1873) to prehistoric walls and mounds, and provided drawings with the first location of Cvinger. On the other he added a cross-section of the settlement to the drawing of the walls, in the middle of which the abyss is clearly visible. (photo: Marko Pršina)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>

26)  
24.3.2021  
8:28  
8:29



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Cvingerska jama (Cvinger abyss) waited for the next written hearing until 1991, when the local Andrej Hudoklin published a brief overview of the events with the cave in question in Naše jame magazine (Our caves). One of his findings was that the embankment in the cave was formed after the Second World War, which was also confirmed by the remains of exploded mine bodies. He also recorded stories about the cave and its secrets circulating among the locals. (photo: Mihael Rukše)

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27)  
25.3.2021  
9:32  
9:33



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Cvingerska jama (Cvinger abyss) was officially first visited by spa cavers, members of the Novo mesto Cave Club (1982). Behind the triangular entrance (2 × 2.5 m), a 6 m deep and 10 m long entrance abyss was measured, in which there was no continuation due to the obvious backfill from the top. Since its immediate and wider surroundings have been inhabited for centuries, various objects from different historical periods could also fall into the cave by chance (or intentionally). Due to its specific location, the cave was therefore attributed a high archaeological potential. (photo: Marko Pršina)

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28)  
26.3.2021  
8:40  
8:40



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Between 1986 and 1987, cavers from Novo mesto also took part in the archaeological excavations led by Borut Križ at Cvinger. During these two summer seasons, an excavation was excavated, which supposedly covered the archaeological layers and which at the same time closed the passage to the lower parts of the cave. With the help of rope technique, about 10 m<sup>3</sup> of material (earth, stones, municipal waste) was extracted from the cave, which deepened the cave by several meters. As the larger rocks, which they could not pull out, began to threaten to collapse, they stopped digging in the cave. The transition to a possible cave continuation or access to the archaeological strata therefore remained unknown even after the research was completed. (photo: Tomaž Grdin)

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29)  
27.3.2021  
18:05  
18:06



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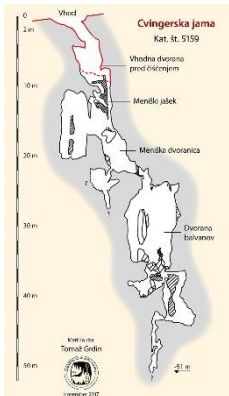
Work in the cave stalled for exactly three decades until cavers in 2016 received another invitation from an archaeological research team led by Dr. Matija Črešnar (Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana) to continue cleaning the embankment cone under the cave entrance. The diggers in the cave loaded the backfill into plastic barrels, from where they were lifted with an electric winch and dragged along a horizontal cable car to a landfill fifteen meters away for an archaeological survey. (photo: Tomaž Grdin)

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30)

28.3.2021  
12:31  
12:31



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In several campaigns in 2016 and 2017, the cavers extracted a new 10 m<sup>3</sup> of material from the Cvingerska jama (Cvinger abyss) cave and deepened the cave to such an extent that a continuation was opened along the cave wall in two places. Cave research then showed that the abyss between branched corrosion cracks and smaller halls continued in several stages. The largest interior space is the Boulder Hall, which is 15 m high. At its bottom is a web of side tunnels and passages, all of which are closed in turn by impassable straits. The newly discovered parts are completed in a shaft of more than 10 m below the collapse blocks of the said hall at a depth of 51 m.

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31)

29.3.2021  
8:42  
8:43



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Upon completion of the research, it turned out that in archaeological terms Cvingerska jama (Cvinger abyss) did not meet expectations. During the excavation, only a large piece of prehistoric pottery, which was once part of the wall of a cooking vessel on the fire, stood out in the multitude of modern objects. There were no cultural layers in the newly discovered parts of the cave, as they were obviously inaccessible to humans so far. Experts explain the absence of finds by the fact that the entrance to the cave was blocked or blocked at the time of the settlement. Equally plausible is the explanation that the entrance to it was opened by the collapse of the cave ceiling only after the prehistoric community had already abandoned the settlement. For safety reasons, a wooden protective fence has been erected around the entrance abyss of the Cvingerska jama (Cvinger abyss). (photo: Marko Pršina)

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32)

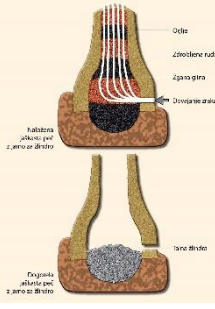



30.3.2021  
8:21  
8:22



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Among the most important activities of the prehistoric inhabitants here are iron smelting and blacksmithing. Traces of these activities are present both within the settlement, where blacksmith slag can be found on the ground, and especially on the southern slope of the Cvinger. Somewhere in the middle of the road between the settlement and the Branžavec mound cemetery, in 1988, experts found large quantities of iron slag during field inspections on the surface. Since there were also pieces of burnt clay in between, all indications were that the remains of Iron Age smelting furnaces were hiding under forest humus. (photo: Marko Pršina)

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<p>33) 31.3.2021 8:35 8:36</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>The assumption that the remains of Iron Age smelting furnaces are hidden between the prehistoric settlement and the Branževac mound cemetery was verified during archaeological excavations in 1988 with a small excavation (3 × 4 m) in the middle of the area where the concentration of finds on the surface was highest. Probing confirmed the allegations, as just below the surface was a large amount of iron slag and burnt clay, which lay scattered over the entire surface of the excavation. At the level of the orange-red clay (50–60 cm below the surface), clear outlines of twelve iron smelting furnaces were shown. They lay close together, the two even touching.</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>34) 1.4.2021 8:58 9:00</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>Further archaeological excavations at the Branževac mound cemetery showed that these were caves dug into the clay soil. Their interior was mostly badly burnt and filled with darker earth, pieces of iron slag, charcoal and in some places even burnt stones. Only the lower parts of the kiln with a wall made of clay have been preserved. In the floor plan, the furnaces were mostly round with a diameter of 40 to 70 cm, only one measured 80 × 100 cm. (photo: Matija Črešnar)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>35) 2.4.2021 8:53 8:53</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>Archaeological excavations at Branževac confirmed the assumption that a smelting plant stood here during the Iron Age. This was followed by the first non-destructive geophysical research (magnetic method, 1997), which showed that it stretched over an area of about 0.6 ha, on which hundreds of melting furnaces were once set up. Iron extraction at that time took place outside the settlement, and the extracted pig iron (wolf) was also processed and forged inside the settlement. (photo: Matija Črešnar)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>
<p>36) 3.4.2021 8:31 8:32</p>		<p>The surroundings of the Seviq Brežice festival <a href="https://www.seviq-brezice.si/">https://www.seviq-brezice.si/</a> offer an exceptional wealth of Slovenian landscape. One such pearl is Cvinger <a href="https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod">https://cvinger.net/#page=vhod</a> in the municipality of Dolenjske Toplice <a href="https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/">https://www.dolenjske-toplice.si/</a>.</p> <p>From 2013 to 2018, additional archaeological research was carried out in Branževac, where the most modern geophysical methods were used. Based on their results, another archaeological excavation was made, which again showed a dense distribution of melt furnaces. He further showed that some furnaces were used multiple times. When the old furnace became unusable, it was sometimes even partially re-used to erect a new furnace, or it was built in its immediate vicinity. (photo: Matija Črešnar)</p> <p>#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #visitdolenjska #VisitDolenjskeToplice</p>

37)  
4.4.2021  
10:13  
10:14

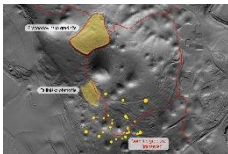


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One of the furnaces of the Cvinger mound cemetery Branževac was successfully dated by the magnetic dating method (used in Slovenia for the first time). Its result is in accordance with archaeological evidence and indicates the last use of the furnace in the period 640-370 BC. n. no. Successful dating is important, as no useful ceramic or metal finds have been discovered in the melting range, and radiocarbon dating of charcoal is only of limited use for the Early Iron Age. (photo: Marko Pršina)

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38)  
5.4.2021  
10:08  
10:09



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The Cvinger mound cemetery Branževac is one of the classic older Iron Age sites in Dolenjska, which, with its rich finds in the archaeological world, co-formed the term "flourishing Dolenjska Hallstatt" at the end of the 19th century. A prehistoric path leads down to it from the settlement, which descends south past the smelting area to the Branževac wasteland above the present-day village of Sela. The cemetery today counts 31 still visible earth mounds. These are in the ground plan round round formations with a diameter of 6 to 20 meters and with a preserved height of up to 4 meters. At the time of their creation and use, they were even much higher.

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39)  
6.4.2021  
8:54  
8:54



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Jernej Pečnik, a well-known antiquary from Dolenjska, started excavating mounds at the Branževac mound cemetery in 1898, and in this and the following year he excavated 16 mounds and another in Dolgi deli near Meniška vas. During his work, he was visited several times by the aforementioned Josef Szombathy, who supervised and at the same time financially supported him. The excavated material therefore found its way into the collections of the Natural History Museum in Vienna, where some of the restored finds are included in the permanent installation of the archaeological collection. All the objects from the mounds belong to the younger period of the Early Iron Age. (photo: Marko Pršina)

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40)  
7.4.2021  
8:46  
8:47



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Among the excavated objects, ceramic vessels predominate, which to a large extent probably contained food and drink as a journey for the dead on their way to the afterlife. As a rule, all containers are decorated with plastic, carved, and painted decoration. They often have handles and stand on legs of varying heights. They were made by hand in local pottery workshops and are found in men's and women's graves. In addition to ceramic vessels, jewellery items were also included in the women's graves: bronze variously decorated massive and hollow bracelets and nanowires, bronze and iron fibulae or buckles of various types and sizes, bronze hair rings and bronze decorated cylindrical earrings and pendants. (photo: Marko Pršina)

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41)  
8.4.2021  
8:16  
8:17

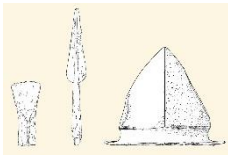


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In addition to bronze and iron jewellery, women's graves also contain necklaces made of imported amber strawberries and multi-coloured, richly decorated and very probably made glass strawberries in the Dolenjska region. Decorated ceramic vertebrae (flywheels and weights for horsehair when spinning) are also among the most characteristic grave accessories of women's graves. In addition to ceramic vessels, iron and bronze weapons and parts of clothing and equipment were included in the men's graves. The warrior's armament consisted of an iron sleeve or fin axe and one or two spears. The equipment included a curved iron knife and a stone grinder, as well as a metal belt set - a belt plate or rings and belt tabs that were attached to the belt with rivets.

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42)  
9.4.2021  
8:55  
8:55

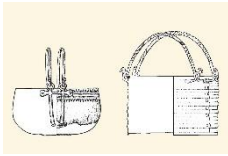


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A special category of the deceased is represented by burials, where bronze helmets, horse equipment and bronze vessels appear as grave goods. In these graves we can recognize the leading layer of the society of that time - the Hallstatt princes. These were dignitaries who combined military, political and economic power in their hands. With prestigious additions, they also represented a specialty in the afterlife, not only within their family, but in the entire community. In addition to the exceptional grave appendages, the status of the deceased was also indicated by their position in the mound and the grave architecture.

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43)  
10.4.2021  
10:05  
10:08

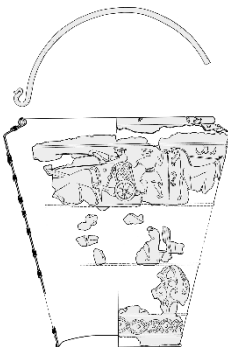


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It is worth mentioning grave 9 in mound V, which was, as the excavator Pečnik wrote, "covered with three carts of stones". It contained a care-type helmet, a bronze ribbed cyst, two spears, an axe, a knife, a razor, bronze fibulae, and a belt set. Grave 17 in the same mound is like it, except that in this case it is a double burial (of a man and a woman). In addition to the typical male grave accessories, such as a bronze nursing helmet, two iron spears and an axe, two iron skewers, a knife and a razor, parts of a belt and rings, and a bronze situla and a bronze cauldron, typical female accessories such as amber necklaces appear. and hollow and massive bronze bracelets.

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44)  
11.4.2021  
9:21  
9:22



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Cvinger situla: A special feature is also grave 23 in mound II. In this, according to the appendages of the man's grave, lay two iron spearheads, an iron knife, two bronze Certosa fibulae, bronze belt tongues, an iron spur, and a bronze figural decorated situla. Together with the situlas from Vače and Magdalenska gora, this is one of the most beautiful in Slovenia. The Situla monument has a cloak decorated with three figural friezes. The above shows a procession of horsemen and single-axle horse-drawn carriages.

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45)  
12.4.2021  
11:58  
11:58



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Cvinger situla: The first in the procession, which moves to the left, is a pedestrian, followed by a two-wheeled cart with a passenger and a person stepping on the cart with a long stick. They are followed by horses led by their husbands on a leash, and a poorly visible carriage, followed by a horseman. All persons are male and covered with beret-like headgear. In the second, central frieze, which is quite damaged, a pedestrian procession and a rider are presented. (photo: Alice Schumacher, Naturhistorisches Museum Wien / Vienna Museum of Natural History)

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46)  
13.4.2021  
10:26  
10:26



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A three-dimensional computer model of a prehistoric situla. In the lower, damaged frieze of the Cvinger situla, there is a famous scene of a hunter with a bow and a trained hunting dog and a herd of horned animals. The Cvinger situla is decorated in the classical situla style from the transition from the 6th to the 5th century BC. n. no. Among the Situla monuments from the tombs on Cvinger is the figural decorated belt buckle from grave 21 of mound XI, which is less well made, as the horses are rather poorly depicted on it. In addition to those described, three bronze situlas with unadorned coats, two bronze cauldrons, three bronze helmets, rich horse equipment, a multitude of weapons, jewellery and ceramic vessels were found in this cemetery.

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