

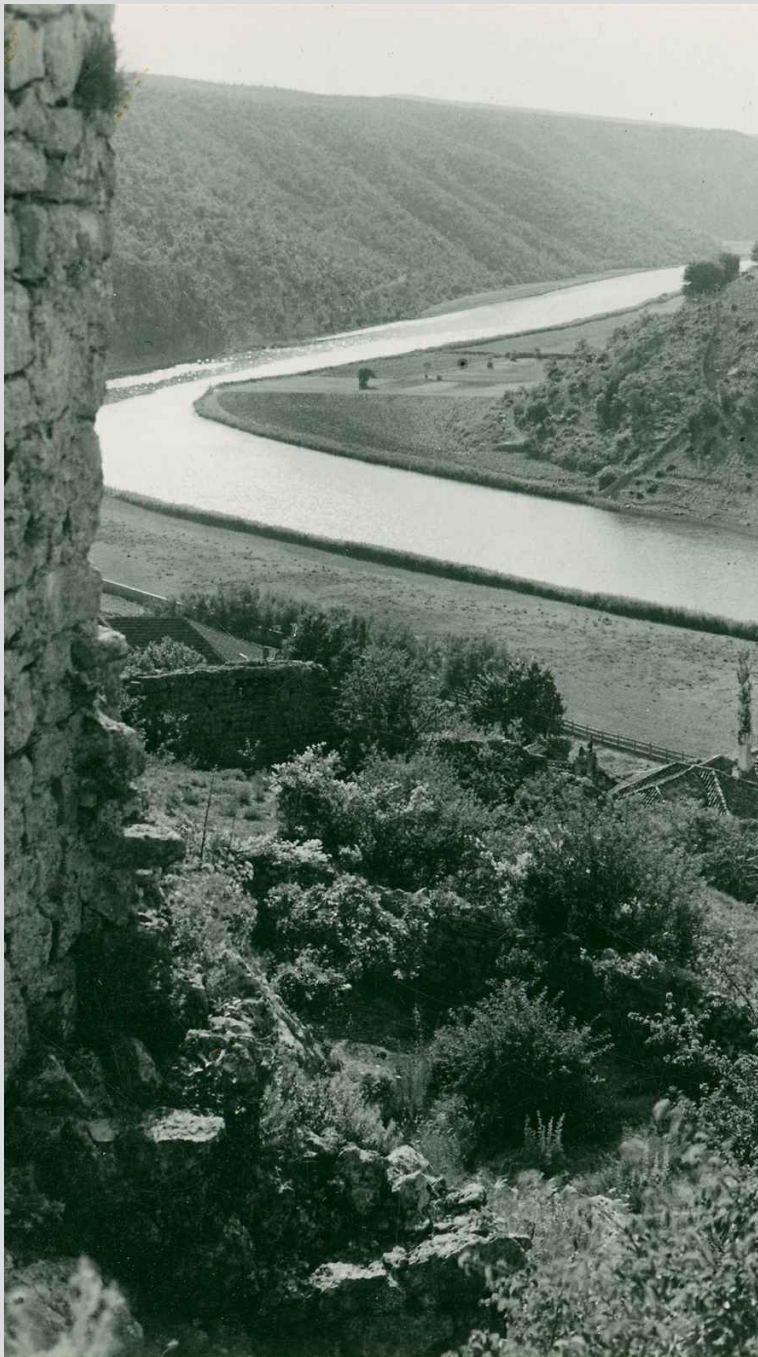
SPATIAL MODELS OF PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF MEDIEVAL CASTLES

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INTRODUCTION : HISTORICAL SETTING OF MEDIEVAL CASTLES

Medieval castles, the fortified seats of feudal lords, represent significant elements of cultural heritage in Croatia. There are more than 200 protected medieval castles in Croatia, the majority of which face serious challenges related to preservation and sustainable revitalization. This research focuses on the importance of a **spatial-planning perspective in envisioning the future of medieval castles**, recognizing that previous conservation efforts have often been oriented towards mere restoration of architectural structures, **without deeper consideration of their integration into the broader community life**. Furthermore, emphasis is placed on the **settings of these castles**, given the frequent neglect of this aspect. Examples presented on the poster underscore the urgency and necessity of **comprehensive spatial planning that takes into account the historical and cultural landscape of these locations**.

The primary objective of this doctoral research is to **identify spatial models of preservation and enhancement of medieval castles**. Through the selection of several case study examples of protected medieval castles, this research will focus on analysing their current state, identifying the challenges they face, and developing recommendations for spatial planning and revitalization. This analysis aims to contribute to a better understanding of issues related to the preservation of cultural heritage in Croatia and to promote the **sustainable management of medieval castles as an integral part of the national identity and cultural tourism development**.



Obrovac, 1932, Većeslav Henneberg



Voćin, 1913, Gjuro Szabo



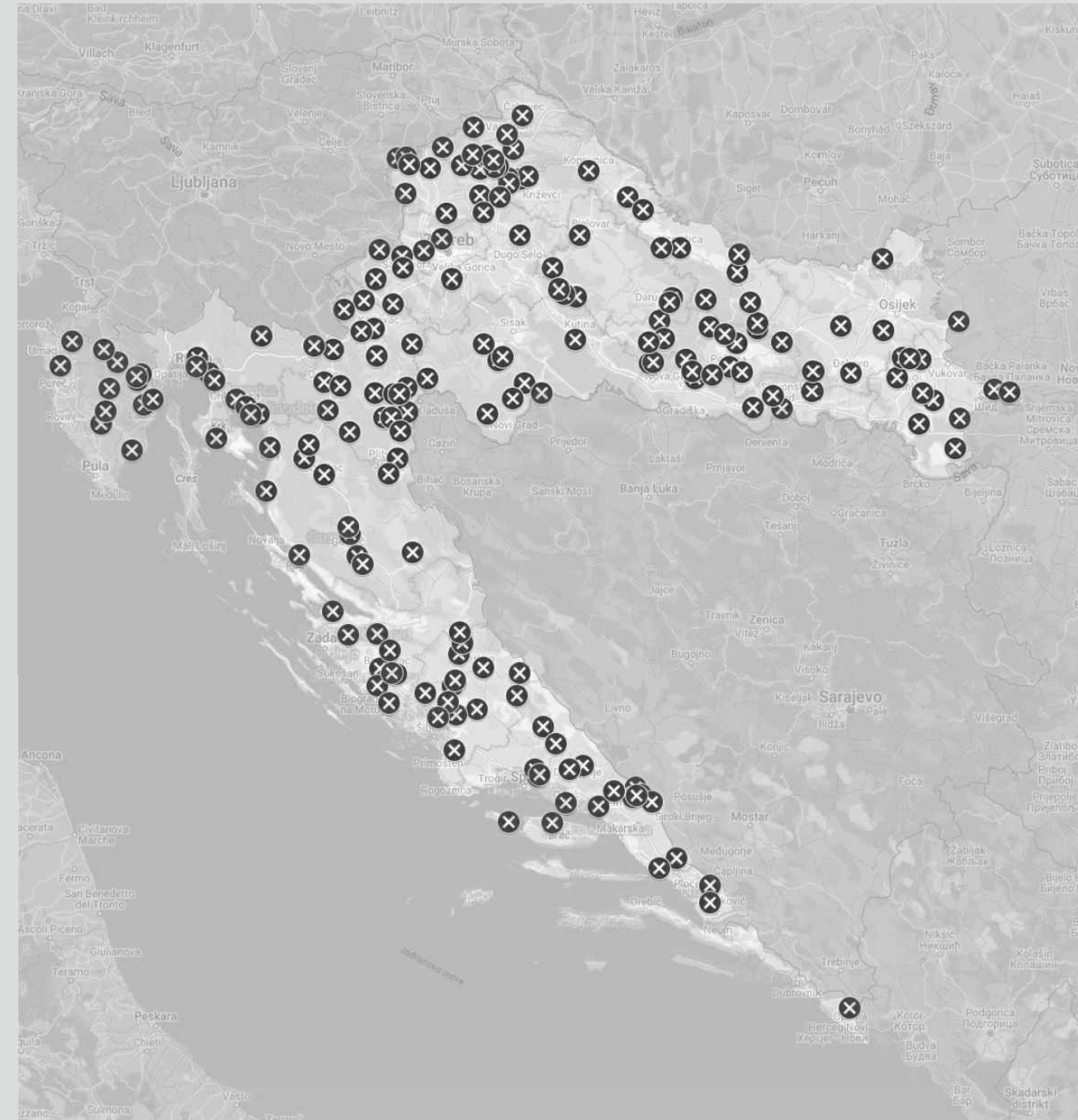
Cesargrad, 1908, Emil Laszowski

Historical setting of medieval castles
unbuilt / natural environment, proximity to water (source or communication), agriculture, preserved views, settlement development, historic communications, etc.

The setting of a heritage structure, site or area is defined as the immediate and extended environment that is part of, or contributes to, its significance and distinctive character. Beyond the physical and visual aspects, the setting includes interaction with the natural environment: past or present social or spiritual practices, customs, traditional knowledge, use or activities and other forms of intangible cultural heritage aspects that created and form the space as well as the current and dynamic cultural, social and economic context.
Xi' an Declaration: on Conservation of the Settings of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas, ICOMOS, 2005



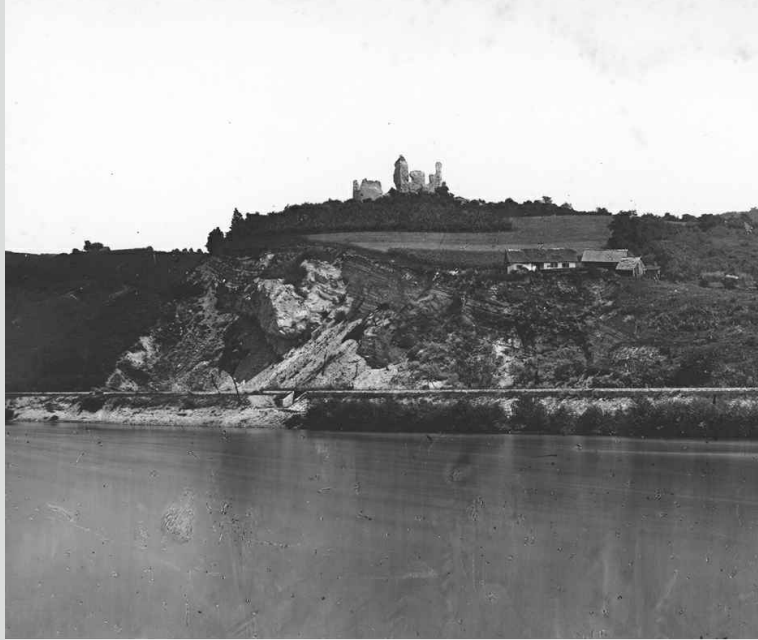
Počitelj (BIH), early 20th c, V. Henneberg



Protected medieval castles in Croatia



Grebengrad, 1913, Gjuro Szabo



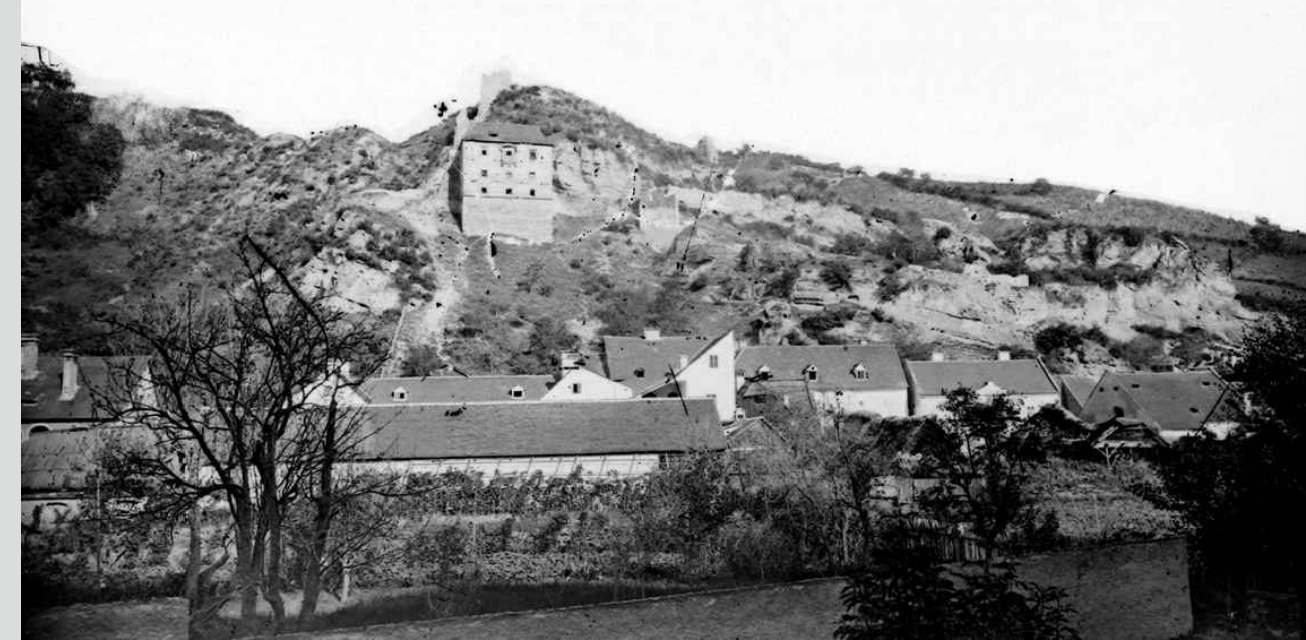
Susedgrad, 1870, Ivan Standl



Veliki Tabor, 1911, Gjuro Szabo



Zrin, early 20th c., Emil Laszowski



Krapina, 1869, Ivan Standl

INTRODUCTION : HISTORICAL SETTING OF MEDIEVAL CASTLES

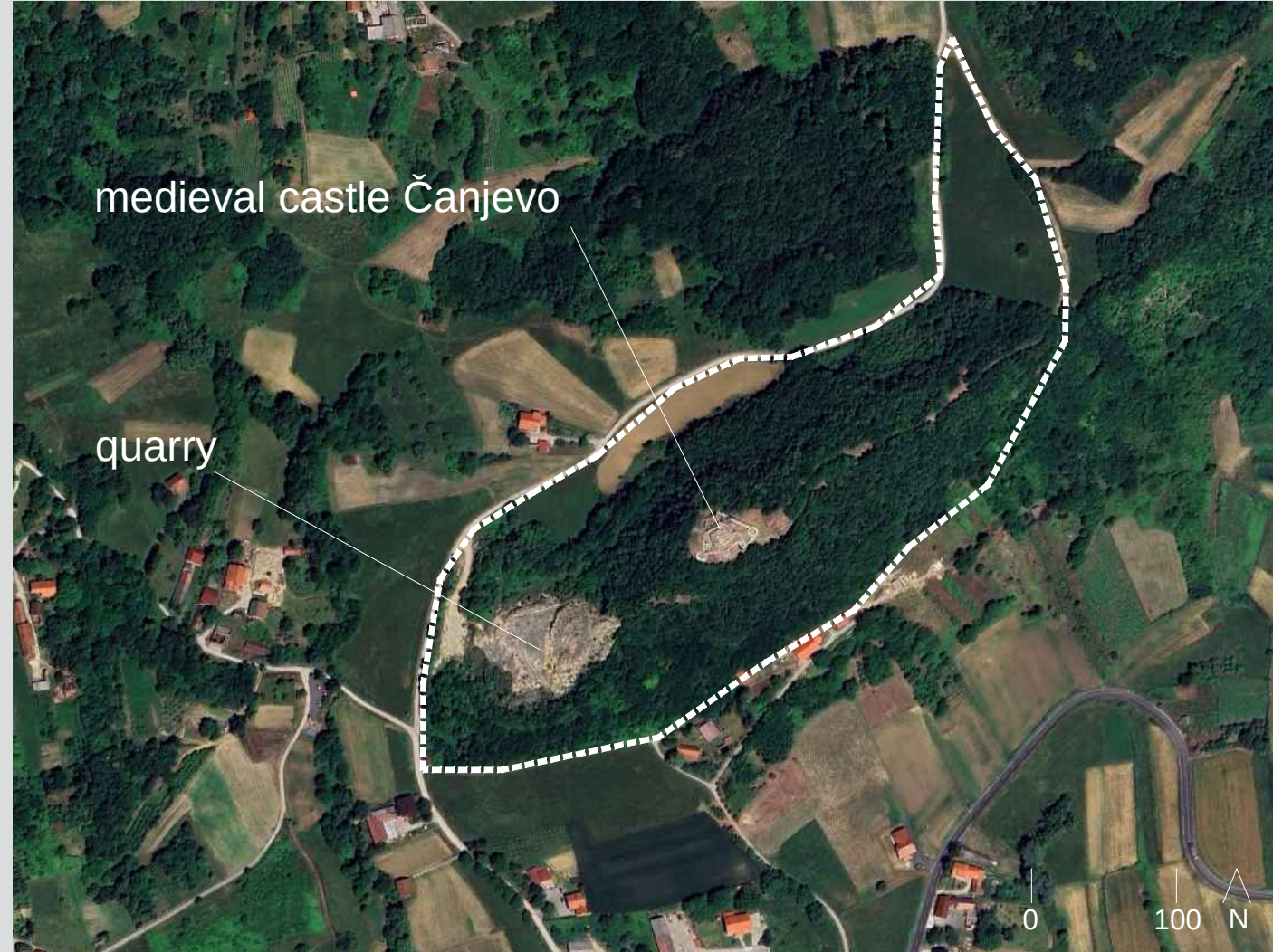
CASE STUDY OF PROTECTED MEDIEVAL CASTLES IN CROATIA : ENDANGERED SETTING

ČANJEVO

- Protected medieval castle (*Arheološko nalazište "Utvrdna Čanjevo"*), Z-2947
- Čanjevo, Visoko, Varaždinska županija
- quarring within the protection zone



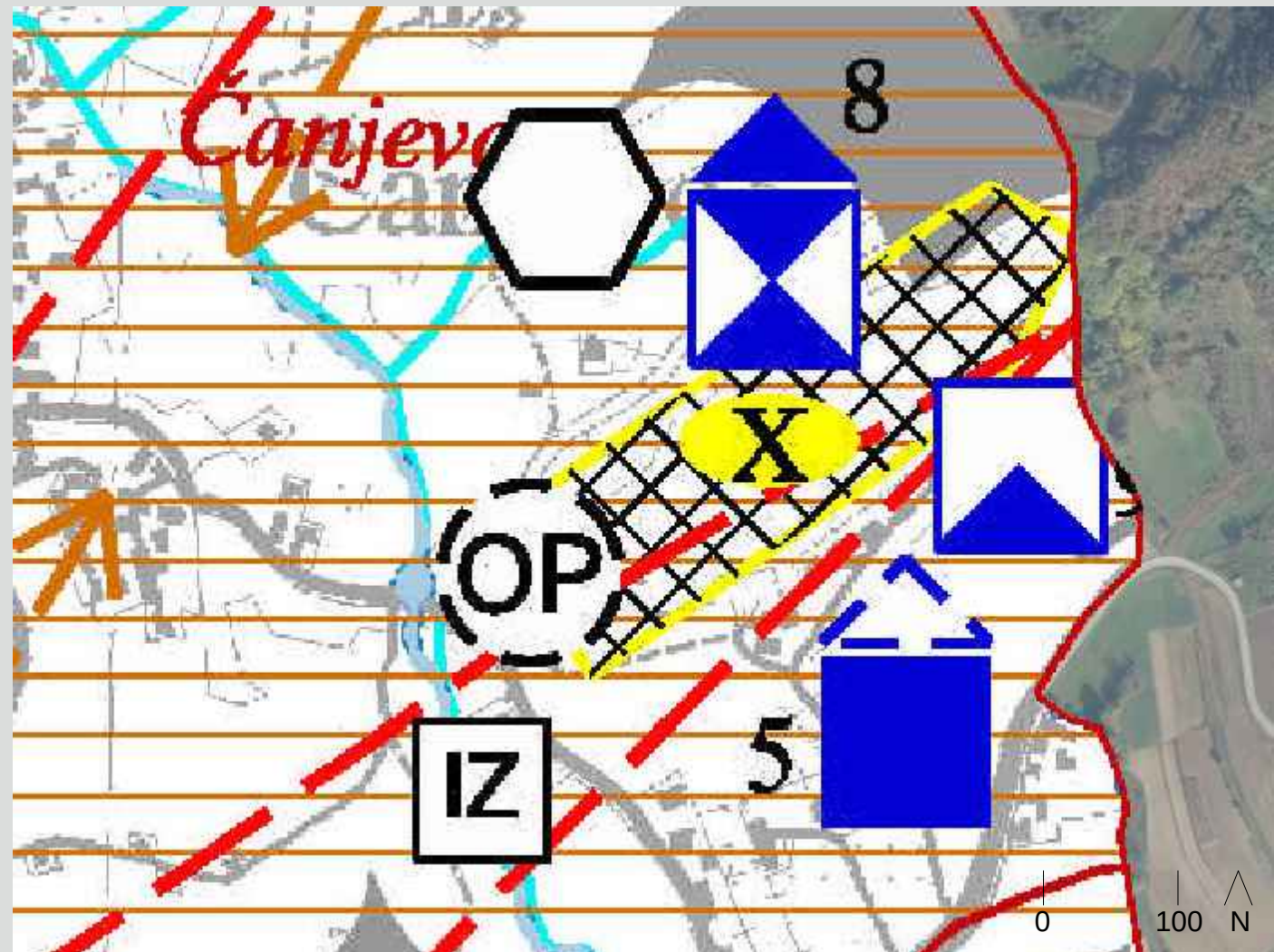
Medieval castle Čanjevo



Čanjevo endangered setting: ortophoto, 2022; Google Earth; Dashed line - protection zone



Čanjevo setting without quarry in 1968; ortophoto; ispu.mgipu.hr



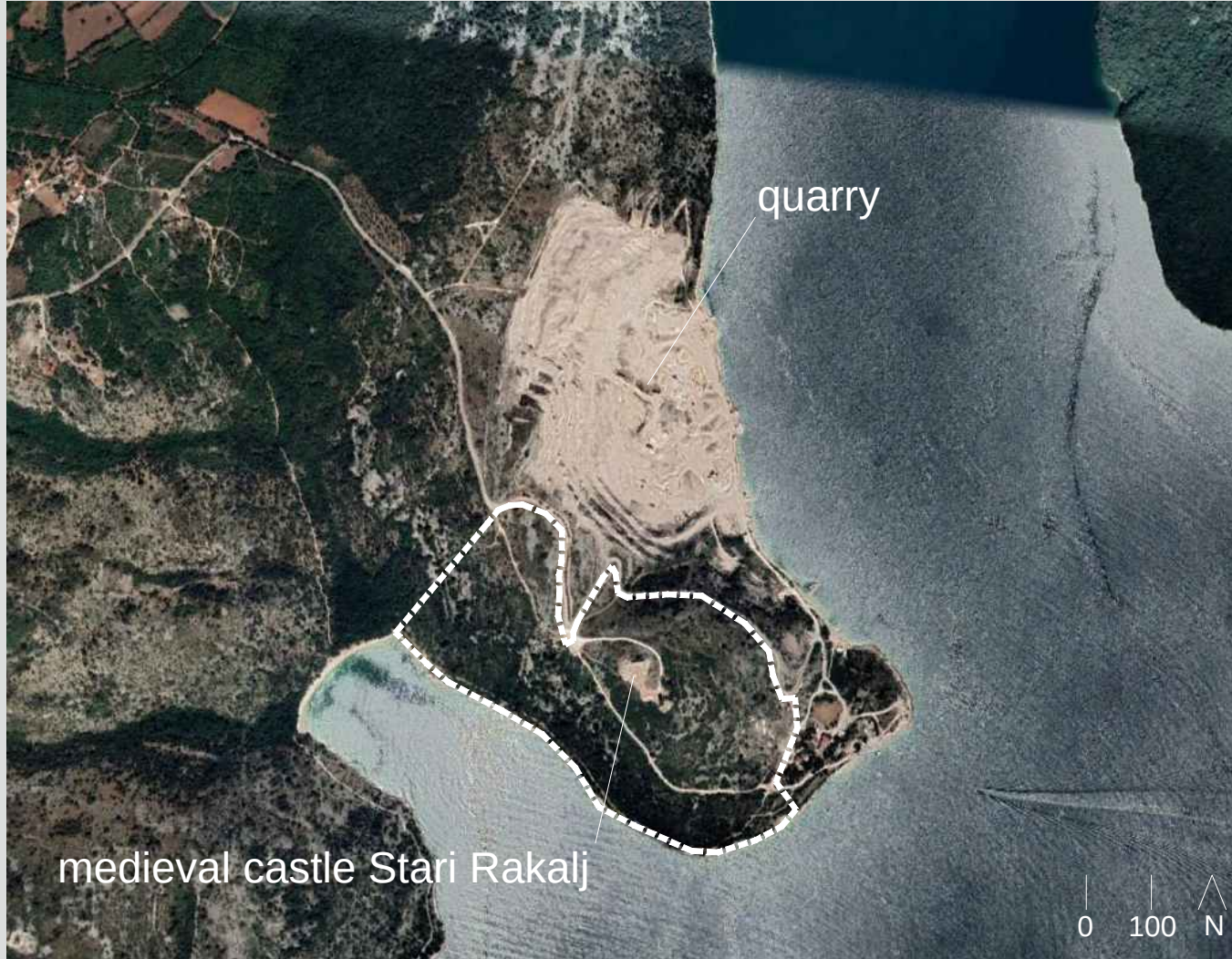
Spatial plan - PPUO Visoko, 2009; Map "3. Uvjeti korištenja, uređenja i zaštite prostora"
"OP" - damaged natural landscape

STARI RAKALJ

- Protected medieval castle (*Arheološko nalazište kaštel Stari Rakalj*), Z-1764
- Rakalj, Marčana, Istarska županija
- quarring in close proximity of the protection zone



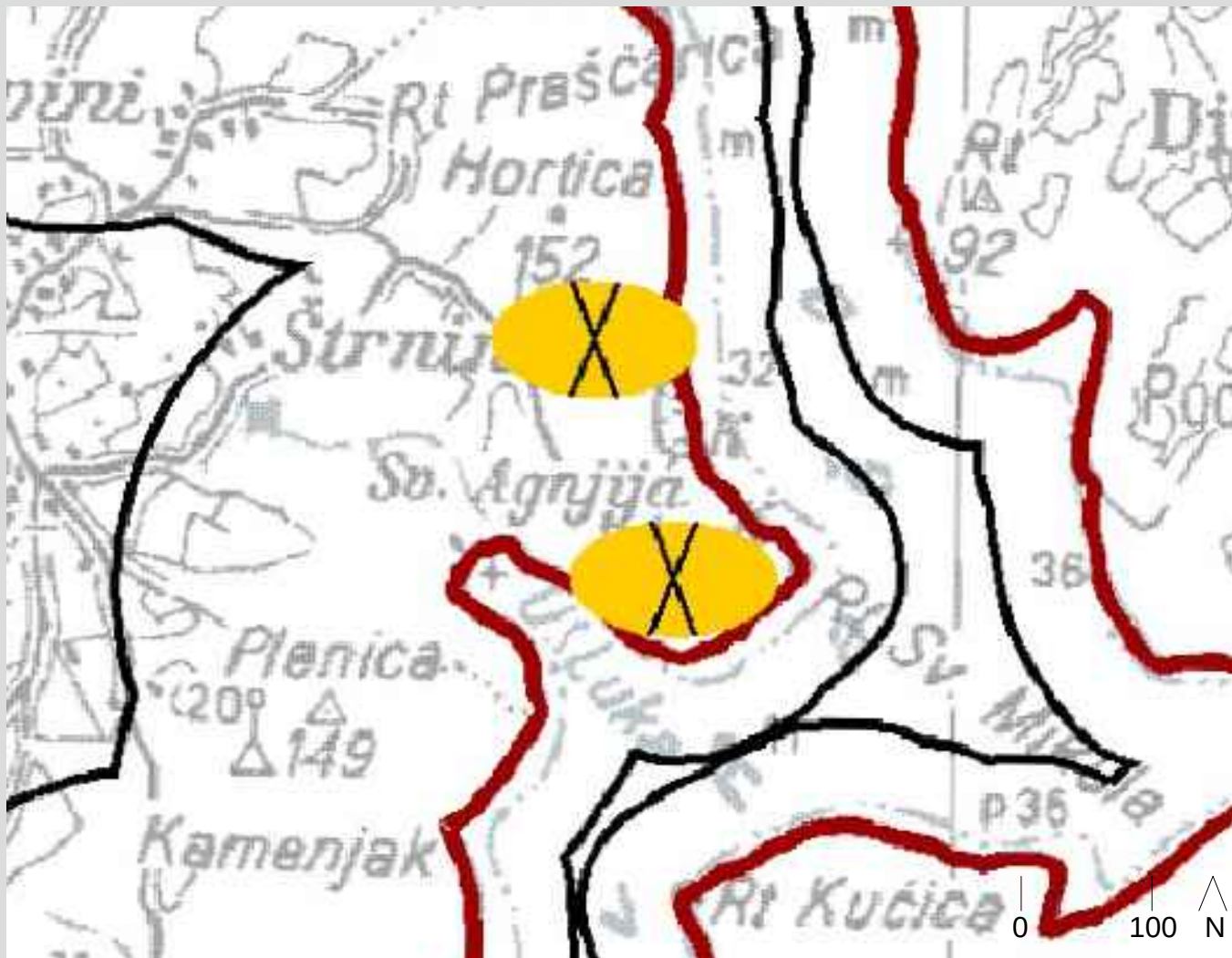
Medieval castle Stari Rakalj



Stari Rakalj endangered setting: ortophoto, 2022; Google Earth; Dashed line - protection zone



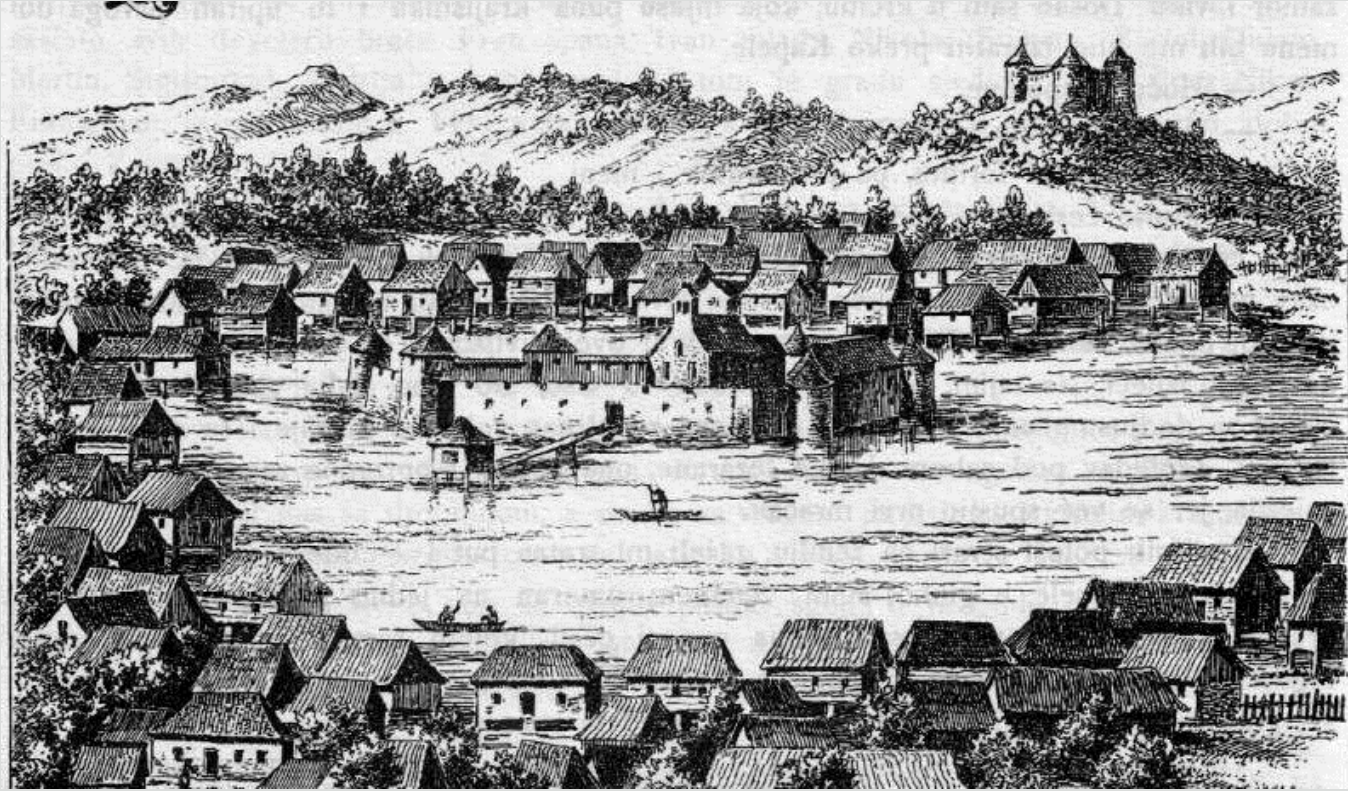
Stari Rakalj setting in 1968; ortophoto; ispu.mgipu.hr



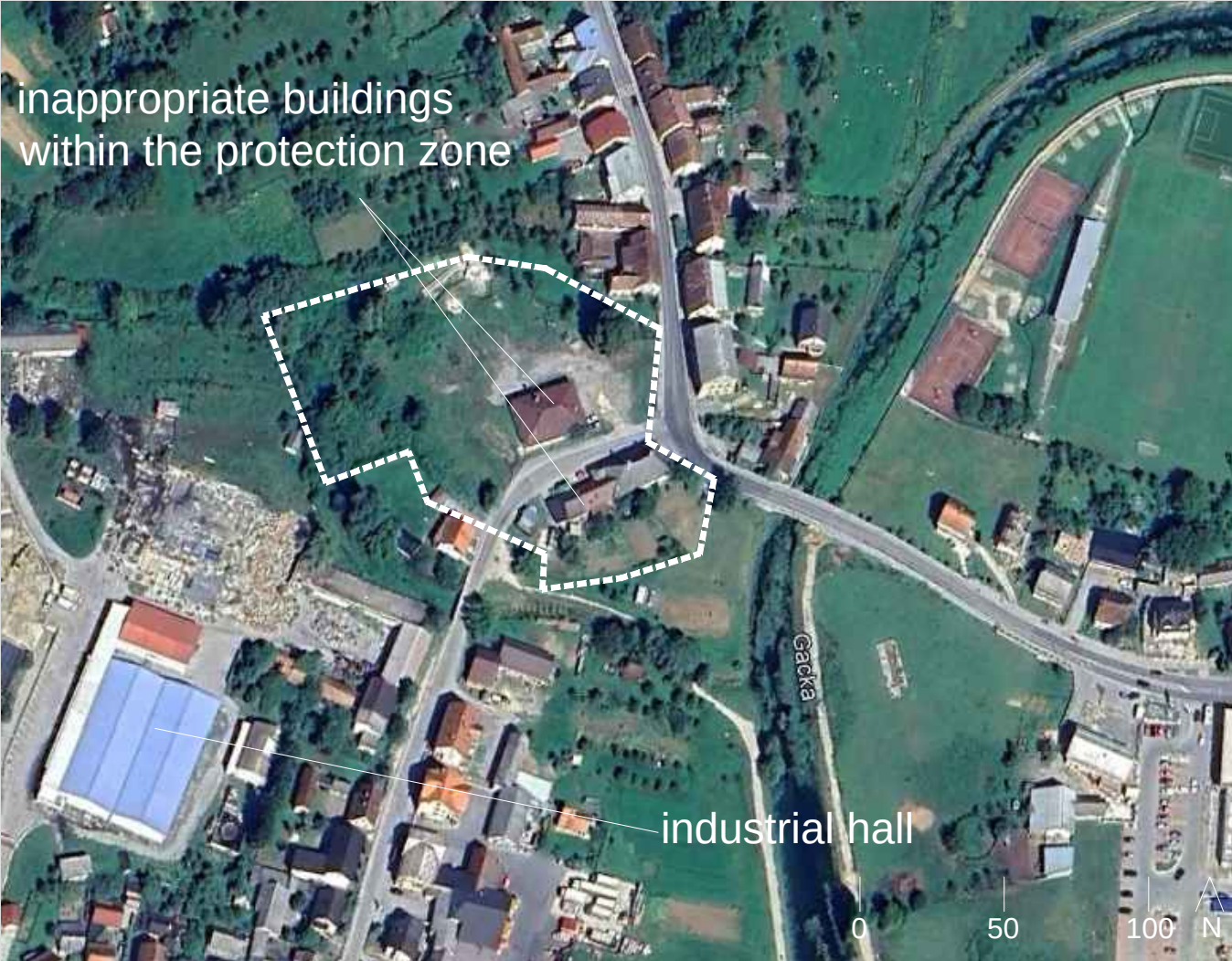
Spatial plan - PP Istarske županije, 2016; Map "3.3 Područja primjene posebnih mjera uređenja i zaštite"
"X" - recovery of abandoned exploitation field

OTOČAC

- Protected medieval castle (*Arheološko nalazište Ostaci staroga grada Otočca*), Z-5926
- Otočac, Ličko-senjska županija
- endangered archeological zone, inappropriate new building



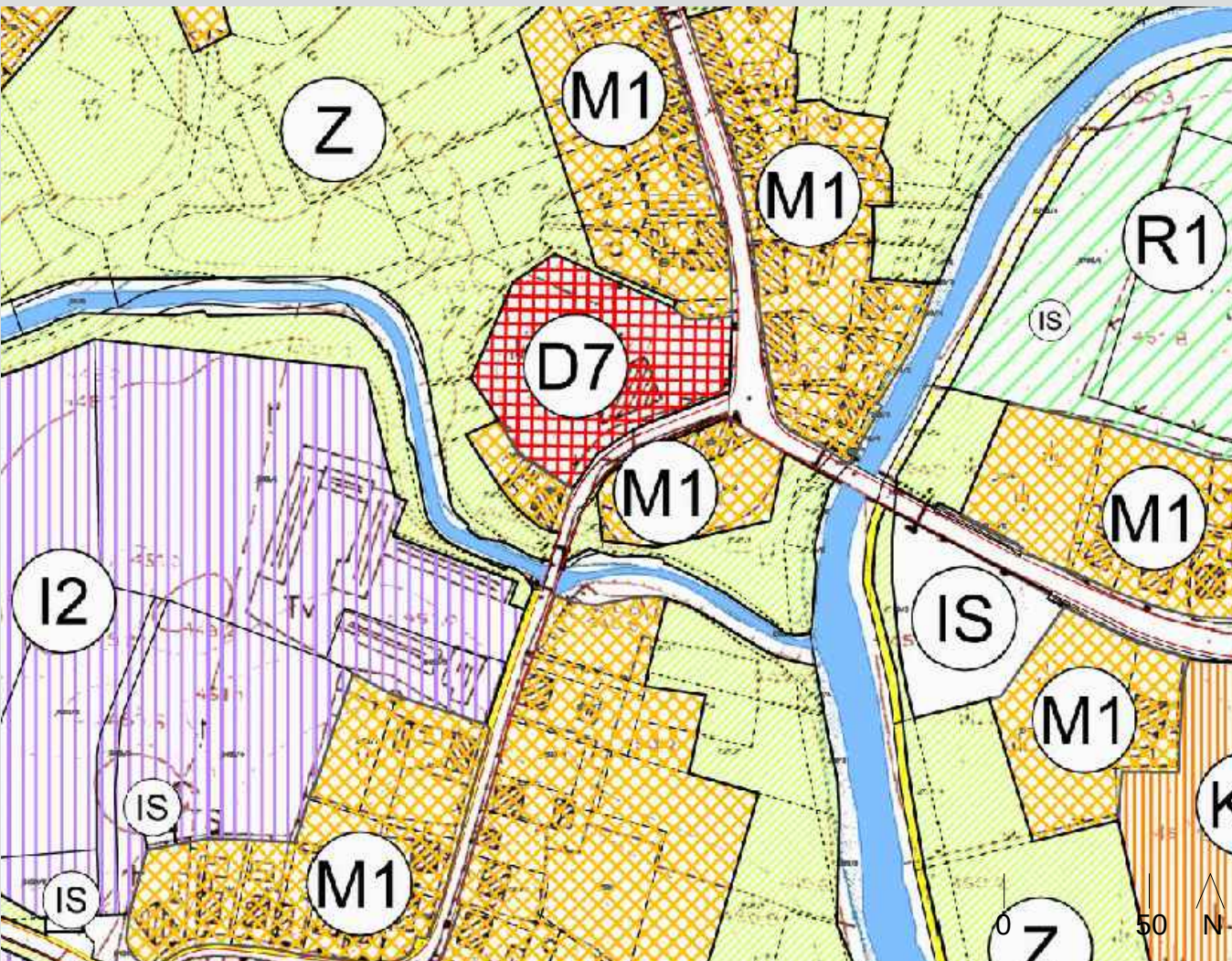
Medieval wasserburg Otočac, 17th century; today - archeological site



Otočac endangered setting: ortophoto, 2022; Google Earth; Dashed line - protection zone



Otočac setting in 1968; ortophoto; ispu.mgipu.hr



Spatial plan - UPU grada Otočca, 2017; Map "Korištenje i namjena površina"
"D7" - cultural zone; "M1" - mixed-residential zone; "I2" - industrial zone

BISAG

- Protected medieval castle (*Ostaci staroga grada Bisaga*), Z-6238
- Bisag, Breznica, Varaždinska županija
- inappropriate new buildings within the protection zone



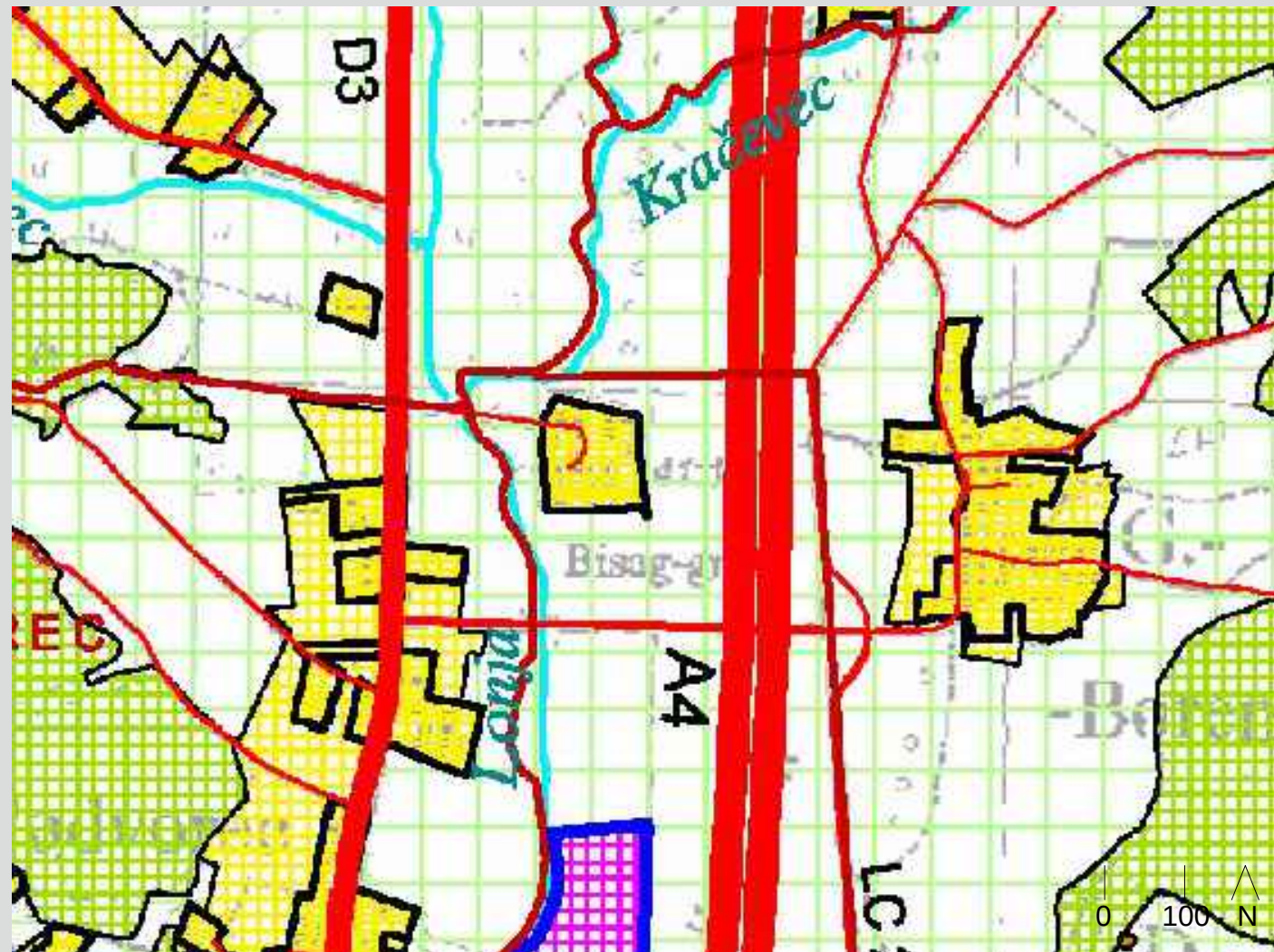
Medieval castle Bisag



Bisag endangered setting: ortophoto, 2022; Google Earth; Dashed line - protection zone



Bisag setting in 1968; ortophoto; ispu.mgipu.hr



Spatial plan - PPUO Breznica, 2020; Map "Korištenje i namjena površina"
yellow zone - construction area

CASE STUDY OF PROTECTED MEDIEVAL CASTLES IN CROATIA : ENDANGERED SETTING

Sources: ICOMOS - International Council on Monuments and Sites (2005) *Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas*; Dumbović Bilušić, B. (2015) *Krajolik kao kulturno naslijeđe : metode prepoznavanja, vrijednovanja i zaštite kulturnih krajolika Hrvatske*. Zagreb: Ministarstvo kulture Republike Hrvatske, Uprava za zaštitu kulturne baštine, Horvat, Z. (2014) *Burgologija : srednjovjekovni utvrđeni gradovi kontinentalne Hrvatske*. Zagreb: UPI-2M plus, Arhitektonski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu; Miletić, D. (2012) *Plemićki gradovi kontinentalne Hrvatske*. Zagreb: Društvo povjesničara umjetnosti Hrvatske, Obad Ščitarci, M. (ed.) (2015) *Prostorne i razvojne mogućnosti kulturnog naslijeđa*. Zagreb: Arhitektonski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu; Obad Ščitarci, M. (ed.) (2017) *Modeli revitalizacije i unapređenja kulturnog naslijeđa - multidisciplinarni dijalog*. Zagreb: Arhitektonski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu; Rukavina, M., Obad Ščitarci, M., Perić, K. (2013) *Prostorno-urbanistički aspekti zaštite nepokretnoga arheološkog naslijeđa : Međunarodni dokumenti o zaštiti i očuvanju kulturnog naslijeđa*. *Godišnjak zaštite spomenika kulture Hrvatske*, 45 (45), pp. 45-55; Google Earth; www.ispu.mgipu.hr; www.geoportalkulturnadobra.hr; www.registar.kulturnadobra.hr; www.fototeka.min-kulture.hr