REVITALISING HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT: CASE STUDY OF CESKY KRUMLOV (CZECH REPUBLIC)

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ABSTRACT

Historical landscapes represent an intersection of cultural heritage, ecological value, and social identity. This study focuses on the proposed restoration of Kvitkuv Dvur, a historic manor farm and its adjacent gardens, located near the UNESCO World Heritage site of Český Krumlov (South Bohemia, Czech Republic). Once an important productive area connected to the castle complex, the site is currently neglected and overgrown by invasive vegetation. The research objective was to design restoration strategies combining heritage conservation, ecological functions, and sustainable community use.

The methodology included historical analysis, cartographic documentation, SWOT evaluation, and the development of alternative restoration concepts. Two main approaches were proposed: restoration of the manor complex to its 19th-century form, emphasising authenticity and historical values; and development of a multifunctional park garden in the style of a landscape park, integrating recreation, ecosystem services, and the potential relocation of the revolving auditorium.

Results indicate both opportunities and challenges. Key benefits include improved cultural tourism, ecosystem services, and community well-being. Major obstacles, however, concern fragmented property ownership and financial costs. The findings demonstrate that sustainable restoration of historic landscapes requires integrated planning across ecological, cultural, and socio-economic dimensions.

Keywords: historical landscape, restoration, cultural heritage, multifunctional use, sustainable management, Cesky Krumlov

1. INTRODUCTION

Historical landscapes represent the intricate interplay between natural systems and human culture. They reflect centuries of agricultural practices, settlement structures, and design traditions, while today facing pressures from urbanisation, neglect, and climate change [1,2]. Restoration of such sites not only preserves cultural identity but also enhances ecological resilience and provides recreational and educational functions [3–5].

European policies, including the European Landscape Convention, emphasise the need for integrative management approaches that combine heritage, ecology, and local communities [6,7]. Restoration of neglected historical areas often faces legal, ownership,