

History and Development

The oldest history

The Landscape offers more than 500 years of experience of how the people who bred horses in individual historical periods considered the sustainable use of landscape, and of natural resources and their cultivation. The terrain, soil, climate, water and vegetation were used and also cultivated to the extent the then farming customs and degree of knowledge allowed for breeding horses for an important European Imperial Court. The landscape still bears the authentic traces of this development since the oldest days. In the same way the horse breeding and training know-how that became the main source of income for local population was developing. Hand in hand with this development these people were also taking care of the landscape.

With the time the “mere” farming cultivation of natural countryside turned into the work of architecture while the art plan did not overrule the farming purpose. The aesthetics were always considered the natural quality of work. Since horses and particularly coach and carriage horses owned by the Emperor evoke noble feelings in men, the Landscape is naturally also refined.

Numerous archive and historical documents bear evidence of centuries’ long continuous and rich development of architectural heritage in the Landscape. The buildings that were raised, pulled down and refurbished there in the course of times complement the landscape and they are only a part of its memory and current appearance.

The history of horse breeding in Kladruby is probably as old as the history of the local settlement. The Elbe river alluvial plain, the location of the Landscape, had been settled since medieval times⁴⁰, later than the neighbouring fertile flatlands further away from the river. The meandering stream was lined with badly accessible riparian forests with numerous wetlands, marshlands and lakes that were often flooded. The settlement of the areas along the river was the result of the exploitation of the high quality oaks.

The first woodcutters obviously brought the horses with them to do the hard work. The cleared areas of the riparian forest were not suitable as arable land because of the high level of ground water and regular floods but they were ideal as pastures for horses. The neighbouring already settled fertile areas served as stable markets for horse breeders. It seems obvious that horse breeding was the main trade of local inhabitants already in pre-Hussite⁴¹ times judging by the coat of arms with a horseshoe that belonged to Kladruby nad Labem squires who were also obliged to breed the horses for the court of Přemyslid princes.

River Elbe, one of the important European rivers, played the key role in the farming cultivation of Kladruby nad Labem landscape. The woody foundations of the alluvial plain vegetation formed in less wet areas known as hard meads, that is summer and winter oaks (*Quercus robur*, *Quercus petraea*) and elms (*Ulmus laevis*, *Ulmus carpinifolia*). The wet and regularly flooded soft areas were the home of central European lowlands willows (*Salix alba*, *Salix caprea*, probably *Salix viminalis* and others), black and white poplars (*Populus nigra*, *Populus alba*) and also alder trees (*Alnus glutinosa*). On the first river terrace grew pine forests (*Pinus sylvestris*) probably with some lime trees (*Tilia cordata*, *Tilia platyphyllos*) and maple trees (*Acer platanoides*, *Acer campestre*).

The name of Kladruby nad Labem village (Kladruby = hew the logs) located on the territory of the Property indicates the first settlers were woodcutters. Kladruby nad Labem is mentioned in the year 1295 as a part of Cistercian Monastery property in Sedlec near Kutná

Hora. The neighbouring village of Selmice located also on the territory of the Property is mentioned in the year 1142, the date the monastery was founded.

After 1491 Kladruby nad Labem, a part of Pardubice domain, came under the rule of Oberstlandhofmeister (in German, English equivalent of the Master of the Household) Wilhelm II of Pernstein (1435–1521), a member of one of the most important noble families in Kingdom of Bohemia. Wilhelm II of Pernstein began to build in Eastern Bohemia a system of lakes fed by an artificial Opatovický Canal. The system of lakes was later more or less destroyed as a result of the 30 years war and Emperor Josef II's reforms but Opatovický Canal affected the Landscape as it is until today the source of irrigation water that the canal feeds into the Landscape by Kladrubský náhon (raceway - see below) which is part of the Landscape.

The preserved Pernstein urbaries indicate that before 1522 the Pernstein family founded a game park in Kladruby nad Labem to breed the game as well as horses.⁴⁴ This was the real beginning of history of the Property as purposefully created cultural landscape.

The additional entry in the urbaries possibly from the second half of 1520s of 1530s mentions cancellation of Meierhof (German term – administered farmstead with tenants) and the takeover of the land plots by Pernsteins, i.e. extension of the game park at the time of the rule of childless Vojtech of Pernstein (+1534) or possibly his brother John (+1548).

At the time of game park extension the Pernsteins built their favourite early renaissance official seat mentioned in preserved correspondence. Terracotta reveal findings⁴⁵ in the farm yard of Kladruby nad Labem stud farm, the same as those found in Pardubice, date its origin to the 1530s.

Horse breeding activities were part of the game park yet there is no information about closer relations between the care for game and for horse breeding. The Pernstein game park in Kladruby belonged among the oldest noble families' game parks in Bohemia (the oldest ones were royal game parks led by the game park in Prague called Oveňecká). In the north the territory of the park was bordered by a forest, in the south by Elbe River, and inside the park there was an open pasture forest, single trees in grass, pastures.

Vratislav II of Pernstein (1530–1582), Bohemian kingdom Chancellor, whose costly life style led to high debts, was forced to sell the Pardubice Estate to the Bohemian Chamber. The Bohemian Chamber bought the Pardubice Estate on March 21st, 1560. The Emperor Maximilian II Habsburg founded a stud farm there in 1563. The reason why the House of Habsburg (they got control over the Lands of the Bohemian Crown in 1526) as well as the Czech Estates were interested in the Pardubice Estate was their systematic effort to establish a base for Prague Habsburg Court. Hence the Chamber was acquiring manors in the fertile river Elbe region (Poděbrady 1492, Brandýs nad Labem, Přerov nad Labem 1547, Kolín 1547 and definitely in 1591). The intrinsic part of the manors was game parks important for representation and the owners' past time. The Prague court thus got hold of a complex of game parks (New game park Hvězda and Royal Game Park in Prague, game parks in Králův Dvůr u Berouna, Kostelec nad Labem, Brandýs nad Labem and Poděbrady) and other items (Kladruby nad Labem and Kunětická hora).

The urbaries of Pardubice manor estate mention in 1563 Kladruby nad Labem: *“Farmstead in Kladruby nad Labem game park. Fields belonging to the farmstead are regularly sown. There are two categories of mares bred there – for ploughing, sowing and carting the grain and the herd mares, altogether 30 horses. They keep 40 cows. There are also special pastures for grazing cows and mares. In the garden plants are sown for labourers and fruit grown to be consumed and dried if the harvest is rich.”* The inventory from 1561 states 30 mares, 3

breeding stallions, 11 two years old mares, 5 one year old mares, a two years old fowl and 5 one year old fowls in the “Large game park” (i.e. Kladruby nad Labem).

The description of Pardubice manor estate from 1570–1571 include a section about the Kladruby nad Labem game park: there was a brick and stone manor house and a farmstead to serve the needs of labourers and cattle. The fields were sown with barley (44%), oats (24%), and wheat (28%) and to lesser extent peas (3%). There was also a well organised vegetable garden used by the labourers’ kitchen. The orchard served also as a meadow providing some 80 cartloads of hay. The meadow by the Elbe river called “Zemanství” provided 30 cartloads of hay a year, the meadow called “Za oborou” next to Elbe stretching to Selmice village yielded 150 cartloads of hay a year. Besides deer, hogs and feathered game the game park also served as a breeding ground for mares and horses in general. A large number of deer, pheasants, partridges and black grouses are reported in the game park. By both gates to the game park there were two small lodges whose tenants were obliged to open and close the gates (known as Selmická and Semínská “Vrata”).

On 6 March 1579 the Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II issued a decree promoting the stud farm to the imperial court stud farm. Soon after this promotion, between 1579 and 1582, the manor house was refurbished and the new stables were built by Italian bricklayers who worked under the supervision of the Imperial Court Architect Ulrico Aostalliss.⁴⁶ The Kladruby game park land soon became inadequate. In 1584, the stud farm and the game park were enlarged by the plots that belonged to Semín village and Selmice village (after 1588). The documents from 1588 state that “there is a big building in the game park built mostly of bricks with many bedrooms, rooms, basements and closets. Adjacent are two proper vaulted kitchens with larders and various other areas ready for the occasional visits of His Imperial Highness. The stables are also newly built of bricks and their capacity is 130 horses. And there are also other good wooden stables. In that game park His Imperial Highness condescends to breed his horse herd and also scores of deer. The game park includes many meadows such as a big meadow called Závodí, a second one Skříňka and a third one Zemanství. There used to be a manorial farmstead with land but his Imperial Majesty had it closed because of the needs of the horses.”

The stud farm history was critically affected by the Turkish threat after 1593. The farm stud in Mönchhof (on the territory of Austria) with 440 horses was threatened and the easiest solution was the transfer of horses to Kladruby nad Labem. In 1594, the idea was to extend the horse breeding in Pardubický Region with the centre in Kladruby nad Labem up to 1000 horses. At that time the herd in Kladruby nad Labem had 300 horses and it was considered to close down the game breeding and enlarge the herd of horses by 150 animals. The Kladruby game park was extending towards west to the detriment of Selmice village. In 1595, this village lost approximately 122 hectares and Chlumec manor lost approximately 331 hectares that is altogether 453 hectares of land to be turned to pastures. Thanks to that the capacity increased to 900 horses. The fowls should have been divided between Přestavlky farmstead and Kunětická hora and Poděbrady game parks. Yet, even that was not sufficient and the horses were placed also in other farmsteads of Imperial Manors. The fodder should have been obtained from the drained Bohdanec lakes. The first herd of mares was driven from Mönchhof to Kladruby nad Labem already on the turn of 1594–1595. The local older barns should have been used for the horses and the construction of the complex of stables in Selmice started in 1595.

Thirty years war led to destruction. In 1639, the Kladruby herd had to be driven to Mönchhof to escape the approaching Swedish army and in 1645, the stud farm construction site in Kladruby nad Labem perished in fire.

In 1650, the process of gradual reconstruction was launched. In 1651, and 1652 stables for stud and three years old horses with the capacity of 101 boxes were renovated. Selmice stable, for 120-130 mares, was repaired. In 1652, the capacity in Selmice was increased to 300 and in Kladruby nad Labem to 130 places. In 1652, the Kladruby herd could return from Mönchhof. In 1668 St. Wenceslas and Leopold church was built in Kladruby nad Labem as well as the graveyard chapel of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Kladruby nad Labem stud was based in the 17th century on Spanish horses. During the reign of Leopold I. Neapolitan and generally Italian heavier, larger and stronger studhorses were imported and crossbred with Spanish mares. The objective was a breed capable of pulling spectacular *carrossas* or *gala-carrossas*⁴⁷. Between 1681 and 1682, new brick stables called Starý Kštít (Alte Gestütt) were built for mares in Selmice. Illustrations attached to the Pardubice estate map drawn by Georg Mathäus Vischer in 1688 depict also the Imperial Court Stud Farm in Kladruby nad Labem while the map captures the local pastoral landscape – pastures with scattered trees.

Peak period of the Stud Farm

The breed of Kladruher *gala carrossiers* was bred and stabilised already at the beginning of 18th century thanks to the favourable natural conditions of the Landscape.⁴⁸ Hence the Emperor Karl VI.'s decree that launched in 1721 new construction development of the stud farm with the participation of Prague baroque architects František Maxmilián Kaňka a Kilián Ignác Dientzenhofer. In 1726 a new stable for sick horses was built, in 1727 the location for horse bathing was surveyed and later became an important element of the extensive irrigation and drainage system of the Landscape.

Between 1730 and 1731, living quarters for the stud farm parson, veterinary surgeon and scribe were built. In 1741, Selmice stud farm (built 1681–1682) burnt down and it was restored in 1725 under the supervision of architect F. M. Kaňka.

According to the period spirit of the approach to landscape, several baroque statues were situated in the significant locations of Kladruby nad Labem farmstead that the buildings were being restored. In 1720, the statue of the Guardian Angel was raised in the forest location called Na Jelenišťanech, in 1728 St. Donatus statue in Kladruby nad Labem, in 1729 the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows as well as St. Gotthard statue near Selmice by the road to Týnec and the statue of St. John Nepomucensis, protector from drowning, probably from the second half of the 18th century, when it was brought to Kladruby nad Labem from Vienna stables and placed symbolically by the Kladrubský náhon.

The stud farm area at that time reached the dimensions of the Landscape. The later period is marked by the search for more effected method of the operation to secure self-sufficiency in the production of products necessary for horse breeding so that the fodder and construction wood did not have to be imported. The proportions of pastures, meadows, hunting and pastoral forest were thus gradually changed and the so far unused meadows cultivated and fertilized. There were also attempts to regulate water regime. The landscape needed enough water for pastures and meadows in dry summers and also fast draining of surplus water in spring or after torrential rains and storms. In 1734 according to the historical records “a ditch for draining water”⁴⁹ should have been open, probably today's Kladrubský náhon.

The 1st military mapping map from 1764 to 1768⁵⁰ gives us quite a convincing picture of the landscape: the natural structure of the forest, meadows and pastures plots respecting the natural conditions. The roads were planned to be passable even in time of floods.

The historical pheasantries were situated somewhere else than the later pheasantry in The Mošnice (see below). In the 18th century, there were two pheasantries by Kladruby nad Labem. The small pheasantry was located in the immediate neighbourhood south of Kladruby. The big pheasantry was located in the present day Kladruby nad Labem territory east and south-east of the village, on both sides of the road between Kladruby and the secluded homestead by Semínská Vrata. The pheasantries came to an end at the latest in 1855–1856.

The wars for Austrian Heritage (1740–1748), especially the First Silesian war affected the stud farm's history. In October 1741, altogether 249 horses were transferred to Hungary, to Eneyed stud farm. In the 1740s, the Kladruby stud farm stagnated and several of the buildings (manor house, nine empty houses) were rented to a Dutch businessman Guillaume Joseph Bailloux for the production of Dutch cloth. On 10 July 1757 the Kladruby nad Labem farmstead burnt down. At the end of 1758, in connection with the return of horses from Hungary to Kladruby nad Labem, the stables in Selmice were speedily repaired. It was as late as 1770 that the Emperor Josef II decreed the renovation of Kladruby nad Labem stud farm and ordered all the breeding material to be brought back.

The text accompanying I. military mapping from 1764–1768 says that Selmice meadows by the river were mostly marshy and full of pools and from time to time flooded by the river. The forest was tall and dry. The Kladruby meadows along the river were vast and bushy, at times flooded by Labe so they never withered. The Obora (Game Park) forest was mostly dense, its subsoil was sandy, the passes were good as well as the hunting posts. The roads and paths running through the forest to Poděbrady and Chlumec were passable even for heavy carriages for the whole year. Labe could not be forded even when the river was low.

The artificial waterway branching off from Opatovický Canal called Kladrubský náhon is closely connected with pastures and water supply system in general. The raceway followed up the older water management works related to the defunct system of ponds north of Semín. The ditch is visible in all Kladruby nad Labem plans and maps from 1730. In 1796, the Kladrubský náhon was connected to Opatovický Canal by a duct above the Semín waterworks.

Since the 1910s the Imperial Court was contemplating a new concept of Imperial Stud Farms⁵¹ in Kopčany (present Slovakia), in Lipice (present Slovenia) and in Kladruby nad Labem. The Court decided to close the Kopčany Stud Farm (closed in 1826) as its operation was most costly and also because of the problematic health condition of the horses. Yet from the point of view of the landscape composition this stud farm was the most representative and later became a model for the composition of the Landscape for Breeding the gala-carrossier horses in Kladruby nad Labem. Following the closure of Kopčany stud farm, the chief Imperial stud farms should have been (according to the original plan from 1821) Kladruby nad Labem and Lipice. The carriage horses were to be bred at Kladruby nad Labem and saddle horses in Lipice.

Thus it was necessary to extend the area of pastures and meadows or increase the yields in Kladruby nad Labem and in Lipice. In Kladruby nad Labem new sowing and cultivation methods were tested for three years. Once the quality and quantity of the pastures and hay was improved, it was decided the number of breed mares in Kladruby nad Labem and Lipice could be increased. This would solve the problems with their stabling in Rief stud farm near Salzburg for the period of construction works and the Kopčany Imperial Stud Farm could be finally closed. Moreover, the increased number of horses on one hand and the improved quality and productivity of meadows and pastures on the other hand had a positive synergic effect as a result of quality fertilization.

In addition certain construction works had to be done. The merger of Kopčany and Kladruby herds should have increased the number of breeding mares and in future the number of horses in Kladruby was to increase by 250 – 260 animals. On 10th of December 1832, the imperial equerry Johann Count of Trautmannsdorf wrote a detailed report substantiating the importance and value of Kladruher horses. Trautmannsdorf in his report emphasised that Kladruher carriage horses are the biggest, best, the most genuine and perfect carriage breed, they prove to be the best of all horses, no imperial ceremonies could be held without them and they could be used to draw also big postal carriages. Therefore, it was decided that carriage horses would be bred mainly in Kladruby nad Labem and the saddle horses in Lipice. At the beginning of 1830s the number of horses in Kladruby and Lipice was just under 500 animals.

The decision on the imperial stud farm that was to serve the Imperial Court meant also principal changes in the stud farm organisation. Ignaz Grill of Warimfeld, the director of the Imperial Equerry Office in Vienna, set the professional requirements and Mauritz Jahn took over the project design works in 1821. The cooperation of Grill and Jahn determined the appearance of the Landscape that almost has not changed since then. Their work did not affect the area of the Landscape or the proportions of grass lands, forests and fields. But the organisation of the landscape changed radically. The property as a whole was to represent the Emperor and demonstrate the order ruling it. The principles selected for the reconstruction were already obsolete principles of garden and landscape architecture represented particularly by André le Nôtre; however they were handled in a creative manner and applied with regard to the breeding and training of carriage horses.

The principal changes to the landscape were carried out following the concept approved in the 1820s. The stud farm should have consisted of three farmsteads (Kladruby nad Labem, Josefov and Františkov) in moderate Classicist style connected by straight avenues lined by trees. Parallel to that the first extensive works were organised on meadows and pastures between 1819 and 1822. The first construction of the new and preserved concept was a newly built open shed designed at the end of 1822 and completed in 1823 that closes the yard of Kladruby nad Labem farmstead from the south. In 1836, the shed was extended above the main gate by a characteristic superstructure with a gable and a board to hold the imperial sign of eagle.

In 1823, Mauritz Jahn designed the main buildings of stables and a residential building with facilities for the workers, which was to be built first. The construction of main stables in Kladruby nad Labem was carried out gradually from west to east between 1824 and 1830. The first part, the eastern side of the stables was constructed between 1824 and 1826. The preserved plans document the original designed was in the end modified. The result was two practically identical open space stables, each for 42 horses, situated in the eastern part of the building. The western wing of the eastern section was reconstructed in 1826 to house 45 horses. The original peripheral walls were preserved.

The middle part of the face with the passageway that on the eastern side used to house the birthing stable and in the western side the stable for horses in training was preserved and left to serve the original purpose. In 1829, this stable was re-vaulted, on the eastern side with six compartments of birthing stables, on the western side with 18 compartments for horses in training.

From 1829 till 1830 two granary floors were added to store the grain.

The western wing with analogical disposition mirroring the eastern wing in the eastern section was completely newly built in 1829 for 16 horses in training. The furnishing and finishing

works were still under way in 1830. The Emperor Ferdinand I personally laid the foundation stone of the breeding stallions' stable on 25 August 1836. The breeding stallions' stable and the adjacent building of the roofed riding school were built between 1836 and 1838. The manor house was also reconstructed.

The main communications were built between 1822 and 1830. The plan worked with two main axes: "Selmická Avenue" running from Kladruby nad Labem towards Týnec nad Labem and "Řečanská Avenue" running in the direction of the Elbe river. The two intersect in the entrance to the stables for mares and stallions at the Kladruby nad Labem farmstead. The architecture of the yard viewed from the entrance to stables creates the impression of *patte d'oie* but today the left axis does not continue into the landscape. Between 1828 and 1831 the Františkov farmstead was built on the axis running to Týnec nad Labem.

Complying with the French garden principles, the axis runs through the symmetrical building and continues to the "infinity" for the total length of 4.5 kilometres. In 1830, the Selmická Avenue was planted with Italian poplars (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*), also the favourites of French gardens. Following the construction of Kladruby nad Labem – Františkov axis, the rectangular grid of pastures was gradually developed and they were being cultivated. The pastures were usually planted with one group of trees fenced against damage caused by grazing horses (clumps). In addition to wooden fencing the pastures were also separated by alleyways. The newly constructed direct connection between Kladruby nad Labem and Františkov and newly founded pastures affected the area of forests. The southern border of Obora forest in the section "Pod sklepy" and further westwards retreated towards north to today's border. It was lined by conker alleyway (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) called Kaštánka. The forests that are the former game park and the pheasantry, were administered by the Pardubice estate until 1859 and then they were transferred under the administration of the Imperial Court. Then they were replanted in the regular grid of vegetation captured in the map from 1876.

The Řečanská Avenue was emphasized by the main gate with a shield and a board to hold the Imperial Eagle.

The main problem related to the supply of sufficient amount of fodder was frequent floods and the damage they were causing on one hand and the lack of water on the other hand. In 1875, Boleslav Trojan prepared the project of amelioration of meadows surrounding the Kladruby farmstead. The first group of plots should have been even in future irrigated through the Kladrubský náhon that was connected to the Opatovický Canal and could draw water from the Elbe River. The second group of plots was to be irrigated directly by pumping water from the Elbe with a steam engine. The later calculations state the estimated 103 litres/second. In addition, the permit to draw water from the Elbe with a steam pump delivering 130 litres/second was issued.

In 1875, amelioration of 102 hectares of plots neighbouring the Josefov farmstead were launched. The terrain was intersected by gutters dug in August 1875 and within two months they already proved their effectiveness. The works continued also in 1876 on 294.5 hectares of land.

In 1905, the regional authorities approved of the Kladrubský náhon extension project that increased its flow from 103 litres/second to 400 litres/second. Additional 139 litres/second could be drawn from the Elbe by a steam pump.

In 1854–1855, the Josefov farmstead was build in place of an older building.

The biggest construction project in the second half of the 19th century was that of St. Wenceslas and Leopold church, a part of the stud farm farmstead and manor house in Kladruby nad Labem village, in style corresponding to the style of Kladruby farmstead yard. The church framework was built in 1858, the construction was completed in 1859 and the church was consecrated in June 1860. The church or its tower did not affect the landscape they just dominate the Kladruby farmstead square.

In 1865, Josef Wollenik built stables for English thoroughbreds called Paddock. The romanticising brick structure interrupted the axis leading to Josefov and it was later complemented with decorative wooden plants. It should have probably evoked the English countryside atmosphere in accord with the above mentioned application of picturesque groups of trees (clumps) in pastures and fully corresponding with the character of landscape serving primarily for horse breeding and training. Josef Wollenik also supervised the reconstruction of the burnt left (south) wing in Františkov stables in 1873. A significant building project was the reconstruction of the vicarage and school in Kladruby nad Labem village square. The project prepared by architect Josef Martinin switched the function of the two buildings – the new vicarage was in the south and the northern building was occupied by the school.

The construction activities of imperial era culminated by the extension of granary above the stallions' stable designed by F. Hofbauer in 1895.

A new Neo-gothic St. Lawrence church designed by architect Jan Hrádek from Prague, a local dominant feature, was built in 1903–1905. It also did not affect the composition of the landscape.

An independent chapter that effected the development of the network was its coexistence with the river Elbe. Prior to the first military mapping (1764–1768) the Elbe in the immediate neighbourhood of Kladruby nad Labem was partially straightened.

Since the so called first military mapping till turn of 1920s and 1930 the Elbe riverbed did not change its course. Only later, in following 90 years the bed was continuously straightened. The next changes in the river course are connected with the construction of a bridge by Kladruby nad Labem. The records mention the first wooden bridge crossing the Elbe by 1828. The road from Kladruby nad Labem to Řečany nad Labem as a continuation of the main axis of the reconstructed farmstead is recorded first in 1830 on Louis Montoyer's map. The reconstruction of the bridge was done in two stages: The stone bridge-head was built in 1852 and the new main wooden bridge in 1854–1855 following the plans of the already mentioned builder Jakub Tallirz, which was complemented by small bridges on the Řečany nad Labem side of the river.

At the beginning of the 20th century the situation around the Elbe got worse due to the incomplete regulation – the meadows surrounding Semín got flooded even by moderate rains especially due to the high weir in Týnec nad Labem. The project works on making the Elbe navigable started around the year 1910. The complicated works were interrupted by the Second World War. They commenced shortly before the war but really got going only after the war. The new reinforced concrete bridge across the Elbe was built in 1925–1926 to replace the old wooden one parallel to the ongoing Elbe regulation.

An outstanding element of the Landscape absent in other landscapes used for the breeding of horses is The Mošnice Landscaped Park. It consists of two zones of historically different origins – the “old” original Mošnice (western zone) and the added eastern zone that was called “Strž” (gorge) and that was still in the beginning of the second half of 19th century part of Zdechovice estate owned by Paar dukes. The former “Strž” was merged with Mošnice most probably at the beginning of 1890s.

The situation prior to the landscape modifications is rendered in the plan of Franz Hofbauer, the farm administrator, from 1893. The considerations concerning the modifications take into account the favourite hunting grounds and the related game protection. The gamekeeper Heinrich Herran mentioned in his report (from April 16th, 1893) the transformation into an “English park” and said that from hydrological point of view the Mošnice zone with the oxbow lake was marshy and the complete draining was thus almost impossible or extremely costly. The forest in Mošnice formed a natural barrier against high water and ice. According to the report from December 1893 the groves (groups of trees), marked in the plan, that should have been preserved from Mošnice forest were to be bound by direct lines, the trees on the meadow plots should be felled, the damp wood and roots cleared away, the soil ploughed up and sown with grass. The modifications should apply provisionally to the area of 25 hectares. The groves should be artificially landscaped and, if need be, additionally planted. Garden architects should participate in the park arrangements. The overall forested area of Mošnice and Strž that was to be subject to park arrangements or grassed park landscaping was to take up 59.84 hectares. Out of this area 35.15 hectares that have been so far afforested should have been transformed to meadows.

After the garden inspection from Schönbrunn presented the situation plan, a small amendment was made: only 25 hectares of the forest would be transformed to meadows and the remaining 10 hectares of the forest should have been left as scattered groups of trees (groves). Mošnice location was transformed into a landscaped park with landscape sceneries composed of the older growth of oaks and lime trees complemented by wood species corresponding with those in Průhonice Park. The works were supervised by Anton Umlauf, the chief director of Imperial Gardens in Vienna. The Mošnice Park modifications were reflected also in other parts of the Landscape:

- Apple tree avenues were planted in the neighbourhood of Josefov farmstead in regular structure, one apple tree alleyway was located in the western part of the farmstead and bordered the park;
- Italian poplars in The Selmická and Řečanská Avenues were replaced by lime trees (*Tilia cordata*)
- The manor house garden was landscaped, the modifications included foundation of an alpinium and new plantings of mainly newly introduced conifers. Similarly the common grounds of Kladruby nad Labem were improved;
- The image of English countryside incited plantation of hedgerows and ivy by the buildings. Kladruby nad Labem village common grounds were improved in similar manner.

The Property in the 20th century

At the beginning of 20th century no more reconstructions of the stud farm stables were conducted but only partial functional modifications of the dispositions were made.

At the turn of the 20th century, several pillar haylofts were built in the Landscape, this time usually without direct link to the classicist urban plan. In the northern outskirts of Kladruby nad Labem village, behind the forester's lounge, a new stud farm farmstead was founded on the grounds of an older wood processing yard. At the beginning of the First World War, due to the economic situation, a new farm was founded east of Kladruby nad Labem in the area of Borek.

At this time, the need to reduce the repeated floods that were seriously limiting the production of hay and fodder for carriage horses became more and more obvious. Therefore, the plans for

Elbe river regulation were started and the project was applied after the First World War (more on the Elbe regulation in the following text).

In 1913, most of the buildings in the Landscape were connected to the electric grid. Additionally, generous reconstructions of the stables were launched including also the lighting of the premises and use of electricity for other purposes. However, the works were interrupted by the First World War and completed only after the end of the war in the first half of 1920s. Most of the stables interior modifications were also made, following the project of architect Alois Dlabač. And there were also several technical projects:

The water duct in Kladruby nad Labem farmstead, new water pump station in the manor house park and the water tank by the riding school, yet another local vertical dominant.

In 1920s the functional and operational organisation was completed by the transfer of breeding mares to the central position in the axial building, that is opposite the breeding stallions stable on the northern side of stables premises of Kladruby nad Labem farmstead. The functional centre of the Stud Farm was thus harmonised with its composition centre.

The break-up of Austro-Hungarian monarchy in 1918 at first posed threat to Kladruby stud farm owned by the Imperial family for 339 years. The Kladruber horse was traditionally connected with the pageantry of Imperial Court that new Czechoslovak Republic was so critical about. That is why in October 1918, immediately after the foundation of the independent Czechoslovak Republic, the Imperial coat of arms was removed from the southern facade of Řečany nad Labem Vrata Gate. The number of stud farm horses was dramatically reduced in 1918 and 1919.

Yet, soon it came out the Kladruber horses were needed for ceremonial purposes even in the new Czechoslovak Republic and the former Imperial Court Stud Farm was under the new political set up maintained as a state company (State Stud Farm Kladruby nad Labem) under the Ministry of Tillage. The Kladruber horse became a part of the first Czechoslovak President Tomáš G. Masaryk's ceremonies: the coach drawn by Kladruber horses accompanied the audiences of new ambassadors, inauguration of the President and other official events such as for example the frequent state visits to the newly established republic.

Since the beginning of the century the need to prevent radically the repeated floods limiting significantly production of hay and fodder for carriage horses became more and more obvious. The general regulation of the Elbe river took place in 1913–1931. The projected (northern) course of the new Elbe riverbed dividing the stretches of the right bank riparian forest from a wide floodplain with preserved meanders and oxbow lakes on the left bank, suggested not only a new straighter course of the Elbe riverbed but also more extensive changes in floodplains on the left, southern, river bank. The character of riparian forest on right (northern) bank of the Elbe (i.e. in the territory of Landscape) remained practically preserved while the left bank (southern) area (i.e. outside the Landscape for Breeding Carriage Horses and its buffer zone) was during the following decades changing its appearance faster particularly due to the decreasing level of groundwater caused by faster deforestation.

The new Elbe riverbed was accompanied by a long anti flood barrier running along the river from Semín to Selmice, i.e. the southern border of the Landscape. Parallel to the regulation of the river, a new reinforced concrete bridge replacing the old wooden one was built on the road to Řečany nad Labem in 1925–1926 and a new gate house was built at Řečanská Vrata.

In 1930, the Kladruby nad Labem farmstead was newly fenced and thus could not be passable anymore. In addition, as the traffic volume was growing, it was unacceptable to allow the district roads keep passing through the main stable yards. Thus at the beginning of 1930s a

bypass was constructed along the western side of the stables in Kladruby nad Labem and in Selmice the traffic passed along the eastern perimeter of Františkov farmstead to the northern boundary of the village.

In 1930s the two farmsteads (in the villages of Kladruby nad Labem and Františkov) were totally enclosed by paling with bedding and columns made of lime-sand bricks.

Even in the new political and social set up the high standard of care for aesthetic appearance of the Landscape continued. The stable yards, villages and the landscape were thoroughly maintained. The stud farm stables and their neighbourhood, open for public sightseeing tours of the breeding of rare horses, became more and more attractive destination for tourist excursions.

In the second half of the 1930s, the reconstruction of Kladruby nad Labem farmstead south front barns into a coach house was launched. Before the Second World War Two only the western part of the house was completed. The coach house building with its traditionalist and architecturally neutral style well suited the Classicist context of the historical premises.

After the Second World War, the stud farm became part of the State Breeding Farm. In about the middle of 20th century an agricultural training school specialized in horse breeding was opened in the manor house premises. The farming forests in the northern part of the property that were always an intrinsic part of the landscape were incorporated in State Forests Company.

Long distance views from the Property to the surroundings were in some directions slightly disturbed by the construction of Chvaletice power station stack in 1980s (construction started in 1973), which was however situated beyond the historical border as well as beyond the outer border of its buffer zone. The composition and skyline of the property at the Mošnice Landscaped Park was in the least not affected by the power station.

The restoration of the southern front of the farmstead premises was completed in the same period. Instead of the planned second coach house a two-storey residence hall for students was built on the eastern side of Řečanská Vrata. The premises of livestock production at Borek location were reconstructed and extended and new residential buildings for employees were built in the Landscape. The use of the Mošnice Landscaped Park was strengthened for purposes of a pheasantry. Besides the breeding pheasantry a new gamekeeper's lodge and a hunters' lodge (a log cabin) were built as continuation of the secondary but still traditional hunting function in this part of the Landscape. In the 1960s a modest racing course was built in the pasture west of the crossroads with St. John Nepomuciensis statue which has not visually affected the Landscape. New stands were raised along the grass course with fences as well as a steel construction of a tower for umpires. No other equipment for occasional activities or events was raised in the Landscape.

The completion of new premises of agricultural vocational school in 1970s, hidden in the outskirts of a forest, helped to move the educational and training activities from the historical manor buildings. The preconditions for careful reconstruction of the manor house were thus fulfilled. It started in 1996 by the restoration of the former imperial rooms on the of the manor house upper floor. The historical exposition became part of the visitors' tour of the stud farm. In addition, the office of the stud farm director was returned to the manor house according to the historical tradition.

The new operational and economic requirements also triggered the extension of historical stud farm premises and thus new administration buildings and a coach house were built on the grounds of the former manor house garden. This inappropriate intervention at the former Manor House garden helped to vacate most of the Manor House rooms from administrative

functions and launch their restoration (in the foreseeable future these buildings in the area of the former Manor House garden should be demolished – see the text below).

The environmental values of the Landscape, especially that of the watercourses and air, required the construction of a communal waste water plant on the pasture west of Kladruby nad Labem village at the beginning 1990s as well as the installing gas pipeline to supply the village with gas.

In 2007 the Kladruby nad Labem Stud Farm was inscribed in the national indicative list for the future nomination for inscription in the World Heritage List. This act accelerated plans for the general restoration of stud farm premises as well as the work on materials necessary for the nomination. The first ever management plan was drafted in several stages and the international cooperation was reinforced.

An important instrument strengthening the preservation of Landscape was the declaration (2015) of conservation zone Kladrubske Polabi (Kladruby Elbeland) comprising extensive territory related to the Stud Farm. Since the care for Gala-carrossier Stud Farm on national level concerns several government departments, an inter-ministerial steering group was founded in 2015 and signed and an Agreement on general principles concerning restoration and further development of the National cultural monument Kladruby nad Labem Stud Farm was signed in order to balance multiple public interests in this exceptionally valuable landscape environment (see also Chapters 5.c and 7).

An intrinsic element of the Landscape and its values are local people who have made for centuries their living by working in the stud farm and in the landscape that provides material resources for horse breeding. Without their know-how in the field of breeding and training of Baroque *gala carrossier* horses, without their detailed knowledge of the environment and their ability to respond correctly and in time to the changing weather conditions or Elbe River fluctuations the Kladruber breed and training as well as the landscape values could not have been preserved. The Property is thus the last excellent example of the traditional existence of people in a landscape related to breeding and training of coach horses in the world. These activities have been preserved in the Landscape in full from targeted breeding, training of young horses to the presentation of adult horses' skills to the public. Besides that the locals have to care in the Landscape for grassed areas, harvest hay, maintain pasture fences, care for alleyways, water streams, Mošnice forest and park, maintain the stable premises in good technical condition, comply with the prescribed hygienic conditions, etc.

Summary of the landscape development

The Landscape still bears authentic traces of the past development:

- The original riparian forests left the oxbow lakes and skeletal species of trees (oaks, elms and lime trees) in the flood plain which in the north borders a low sand terrace vegetated mostly with indigenous pine trees.
- The roads from Kladruby nad Labem running towards Hlavečník and Selmice are the remnants the Medieval communications network.
- Renaissance period left its trace in the form of a part of the manor house hidden behind the later reconstructions.
- Baroque period left Kladrubske náhon providing the Landscape with water and drainage, the graveyard chapel of Exaltation of the Holy Cross and the sculptures of saints arranged in the landscape as well as the baroque breed of the Kladruber horses.

- The determining layer is formed by classist relics of the late Enlightenment spirit represented by austere architecture of all three farmsteads and by the rational arrangement of pastures, meadows and forest plots, system of avenues, alleys and clearings.
- The Romanticism period enriched the property with the church of St. Wenceslas and Leopold in Kladruby nad Labem, Neo-Gothic church of St. Lawrence in Selmice, Paddock building in Kladruby nad Labem farmstead, lime trees that replaced Italian poplars in The Selmická Avenue, apple tree alleyways, plantings of trees concealing classicist farmsteads architecture and especially with the foundation of Mošnice Landscaped Park that is an exceptionally creative application of the English landscaping school as we know it from Muskau.
- Functionalist style at the site of the Property was applied in the design of the water tower at the Kladruby nad Labem farmstead.

The above summarised development of the Property is interconnected with the stud herd of gala carrossier Kladruher horses as the Landscape was developing in harmony with the breeding and training of these horses that has been fully preserved here (see above). The Property development has been also for centuries intrinsically connected with local people, who have been making their living in the stables and in the landscape providing material resources for horse breeding and grounds for their training. These people through their work have used this landscape for its original purpose and preserved it as described in Chapter 2.b.

With regard to all the above the Property was nominated for the inscription as Cultural Landscape in 2018 and inscribed in 2019.