



A warming hut for forest workers on the Senyánszki Meadow: the traditional infrastructure signs of the former land management are present today in the landscape.

The nature trail starts from the Senyánszki Sod Hut, then crosses the landing established on the former meadow area and continues on the existing forestry road which is shown as a nature trail track on the layout: profiled dirt road around the Szántó Hill and Ór (Guard Hill). Amazing landscapes are revealed from many locations. The varieties of terrain are exposed, therefore there are many forest and other plant associations: acidophilous sessile oak forest, Carpathian beech forest and forest clearings. From the Köles Meadow, there is a way to reach the top of Ór Hill, where the character of the bird observation tower represents the history of the place.



Hypno-Polypodium, cypress moss (*Hypnum cupressiforme*) and polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*) stock. The microhabitat is situated in the valley side of the profiled dirt road: on a dry stacked stone wall.



European nuthatch

The nature trail joins the Csata Meadow Road at the "Szakadás" location. From here this planned horse drawn carriage and cycling route leads to the Parking Area of Füzér Castle, but before reaching the castle, the route makes a sharp left turn to the Castle Spring and arrives at the last locations designated by ancient beech remnants as a "Beech Hall".



Larch admixture group



Invasive plants: black elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and European dwarf elder (*Sambucus ebulus*) appearances at the road junction near Szántó Hill and Ór (Guard Hill).



Legenda:

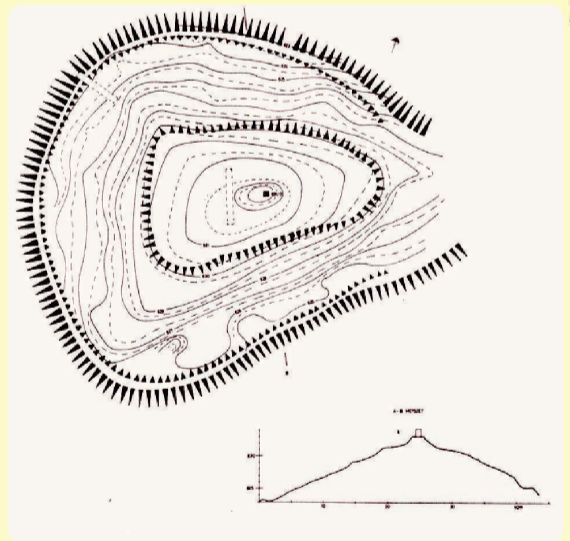
- rest place
- nature trail
- Strictly protected areas in Hungary and the national nature reserves in Slovakia
- asphalt road
- stabilized road, dirt road
- State boundary (Hungary-Slovakia)
- Nature trail and hiking route network in Great Milic Nature Park



Stacked stone wall of the Szakadás Spring



Cowslip



Survey layout of the mountain fortification of the Guard Hill.



ÓR (GUARD) HILL NATURE TRAIL

Length: 2.840 m
Greatest change in elevation: 173,2 m

The basis of the ecotourism development program is the creation plan (2004) of the Great Milic Nature Park founded in 2003.



The Castle Hill of Füzér, the Kopaszka side to the right and thereafter the Ór Hill Peak: the watch tower toward the NE.

Description of the nature trail:

Lumberjack Sod Hut on the Senyánszki Meadow: existing, renovated building of the former forestry infrastructure. The forest sod huts were designed according to the terrain: half dug below the surface of the land and the excavated soil was sometimes used for the roof. Roofing felt was laid on the the closed-slatted base and then a thin layer of soil was spread on the roof. The stones were used for building the side walls of the cabin.

The landing of Senyánszki Meadow is situated at the intersection of three forestry roads: (1) unpaved forestry road of Csata Meadow, (2) profiled dirt road arriving from the Szántó Hill, (3) dirt road arriving from the Percse-Bükk Meadow and the Senyánszki Meadow. The landing has stone wall construction on one side – typical of the Zemplén region. It is sometimes used for timber handling, preparation and stock-holding. The stone wall construction on one side simplifies the loading of logs. Nowadays weeds grow on its surface due to the less frequent use. The grade of the profiled dirt road rises steadily around the Szántó Hill and Ór (Guard) Hill. The track was initially marked out as a hunter scouting route, ie. A footpath 70-90 cm wide was created. The owner Károlyis was persuaded to develop these hunting routes also for the forest opening up.

Pine admixture: only small patches of conifer plantings or admixtures are typical of the Milic group and its surroundings. The small pine forests are scattered over the landscape, and are ecologically favorable, because they increase the diversity of landscape vegetation although they are aliens. There is a mixed planting with larch and spruce species. The spruce have started to die.

I. lookout: The panorama opens toward the Great Milic massif. (From west to east: Hermanház Plateau, Remete Hill (884 m) Great Milic (896 m)).

Spread of invasive plants: disturbances indicating nitrofil plant species (Black Elderberry *Sambucus nigra*/ and European dwarf elder *Sambucus ebulus*) which are on a little saddle between the Szántó Hill and Ór Hill. The pine mixture (larch, spruce) plantation is also typical here.

Change of forest zones: the view to the north shows a minor gorge. The acidophilous dry sessile oak forest changes into a nudum or bare beech

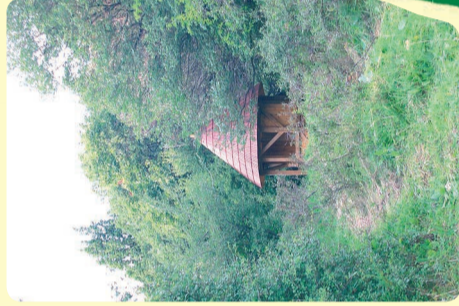
forest within approximately 10 m. A beech forest indicates always balanced, more humid conditions. There is a moss-bracken micro-community at the same place, on the outside of the profiled dirt road path – built by dry stacked stone wall.

II. lookout: opening panorama toward the Great Milic massif Solyom (Hawk) Crag and the valley of Pusztatfalu.

III. lookout: panorama to the Hegyköz Basin. The view is similar to the eastern panorama from the Füzér Castle. A basin landscape surrounded with numerous sub-volcanic formations opens in front of our eyes. There some landscape wounds are plainly recognizable as the pearlite mine in Pálháza and the communication tower of Füzérkajata. Near the lookout point, traces of a World War II military observatory place are visible.

Köles Meadow: a meadow formerly used by the local forester as a “fringe benefit”. The lack of mowing and grazing of the cleared woodland area are visible due of the succession progresses: the dominance of the shrub vegetation become visible, with species of blackthorn, whitethorn, and dogrose.

From the Köles Meadow there is a path to reach the top of Ór Hill. We can see leftovers of the former double ringed mountain fortification: the configuration indicates the base of a regular building. The archaeological excavation of 1992 found Neolithic pottery fragments among the medieval artifacts. The Ór-hegy area has been used since ancient times. It got its name Guard Hill in medieval times because of its function for observing. The Ór Hill fortress of the Füzér



Köles Meadow Rest Place



Fruits of wild service tree

Bird observation tower of Guard Hill (Ór-hegy)

Castle was built to discover and warn of threats arriving in the region from the north-east and east.

Szakadás Spring: situated in the upper part of the valley, the spring emerges on dry-stacked stones into a middle-aged mountain beech forest. A small cistern was also built for the leaking water.

Castle Spring: an artificial spring emergence among ancient beech remnants. The facility is named “Füzér Spring” in the national forest public record. The spring comes out in three places and were joined with the stone wall and pipes by the Borsodi State Forestry for the benefit of the public at the end of the 1970s. The stone wall was built about 20 m long. The area behind the wall was backfilled. The emerging water was collected by seepage pipes and a drain pipe was placed in the wall. The filled part above the stone wall is a habitat for white helleborine (*Cephalanthera damasonium*). The area is a resting place for a number of nature trails and hiking routes. The protection of springs and their surroundings was important after a forest management plan of 1937 in the Milic region: “for nature protection reason the old seed bearing trees should have been left around the springs.” The old beech stand is 204 years old in the 0.5 ha forest compartment “Füzér 70 A.” Further preservation is given by the management plan, which designates “999” years as the age of regeneration or rotation age.



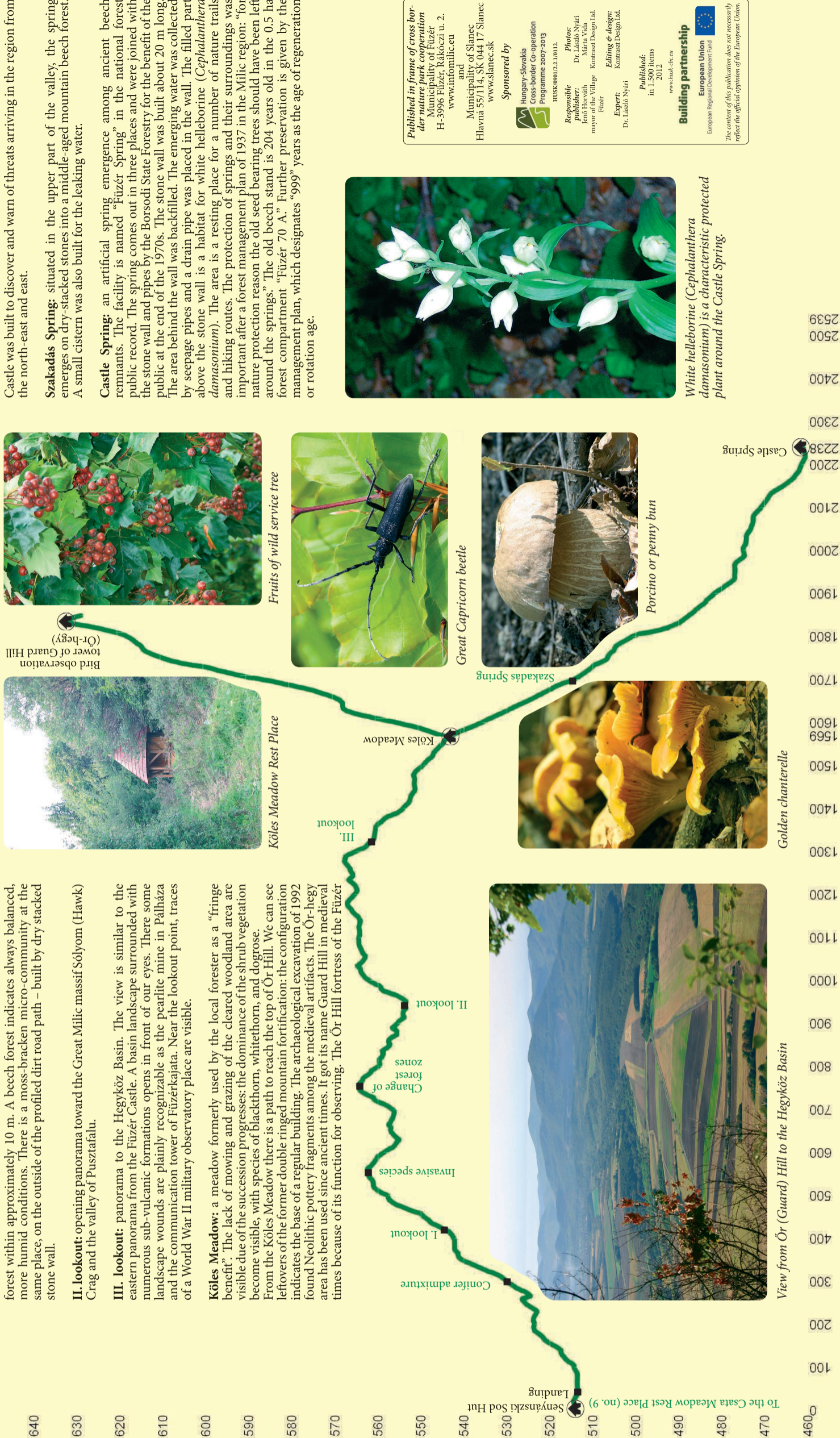
Great Capricorn beetle



Porcino or penny bun



White helleborine (*Cephalanthera damasonium*) is a characteristic protected plant around the Castle Spring.



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