

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS IN THE LAND OF LĂPUȘ

**Abstract:** Over time many lands emerged across the Romanian territories where undeniable cultural characteristics stood the test of time. To some extent, the specific or general culture, habits and traditions which complete the Romanian cultural heritage were set apart by the various geographical areas and landforms. It is absolutely vital and imperative to unearth, preserve and promote the cultural values of each land, in particular of the Land of Lăpuș. Their diversity calls for more and unabated attention to how they have become an integral part of the dynamics of rural development and highlights the importance of such an environment and of its conservation against any changes which might erode the very cultural fabric of the areas.

**Keywords:** *the land of Lăpuș, archaeological site, findings, historical cultural landscape, building materials.*

## INTRODUCTION

The need of an ongoing analysis into the details of the cultural landscapes in the Land of Lăpuș led us to take actions which are intent to expose the unique way in which these places, traditions and values showcase our past, teach us who we currently are, and predict above all else the manner in which they are due to evolve and introduce our identity to every new generation. Our role is to permanently reveal and highlight our values, how they have shaped our present and how they should be observed, promoted and nurtured in the future. For this reason, research papers should focus on relentlessly capturing the dynamics and progression of culture.

In 1972, the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* thought to define cultural heritage as follows: “cultural heritage”: monuments, architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science; groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science. And sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view<sup>1</sup>.

Many definitions and theories emerged over time regarding the features of historical landscapes, but they generally refer to the space and time elements which suggest human intervention aimed at “making the place favourable” so that it meets the basic human needs of security and protection. They fall into seven subtypes, of which **archaeological sites** is the most

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<sup>1</sup> For more details see UNESCO, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>

important. They represent “the mirror of past habitats” and are of a genuine historical interest precisely because finding and examining them involves “digging them out from under the ground”. **Citadels** are the second subtype, as they are the first constructions erected by man for defence purposes, with curtain walls, bastions or towers and access gates as their main features<sup>2</sup>.

Another element of the historical cultural landscape is represented by **Roman camps** used as defence and fortification structures specific to the former Roman provinces. **Castles**, meant to defend the lord’s family, could be summer or winter retreats, exhibiting lush architecture, with a keep and adorned with towers, turrets, battlements, etc. The **forts**, are yet another component of the historical landscape typical of the colonial period, more commonly met as larger and larger parts of native lands were being conquered, and **fortifications** consisting of moats and ramparts erected for defence purposes. **Palaces** are stately works, massive and sophisticated exhibiting associated and subordinate features (gardens, fountains, walls, etc.)<sup>3</sup>.

## STUDY AREA

Romania is home to many elements of this historical cultural landscape, from archaeological sites scattered across the country, to citadels, Roman camps or castles. They serve a functional purpose and are only to be interpreted in relation to the time of construction, as the time dimension is the one which gives a landscape its historical value. Despite the classifications of historical landscapes based on the historical periods from which the landscape components originate, the intrinsic symbolism and meaning of the cultural remains prevail. I wish to present below one of the specific elements found in the Land of Lăpuș, namely the large archaeological site of Suci de Sus.

Without insisting further on details around the historical components in the Land of Lăpuș mentioned above, I must note that what could be one of the most

important sites, a Late Bronze Age cemetery, was discovered in the area. The digs started in the 1960s in the area called *Podanc*. The rituals performed at the site involved cremations and offerings, and resulted in carbonised wood constructions and some ceramic objects. The wood constructions included both structural poles and decorative elements. The potsherds came from ritual vessels with offerings to honour the deceased. The ditches at the site, the variations in the surface, the ledges, the layers of fragments, the ash, and the wall cover a span between Culmea Preluca towards Șatra Pintii, Minghet, Hudin, Țibleș and prove that the sacred place was used by several generations. Initially 80 tumuli scattered over one kilometre were discovered<sup>4</sup>. The area of the archaeological site proved to be considerable so the digs continued to reach a significant scale. That resulted in several finds being discovered, the area being divided into several sites based on the new archaeological elements, besides the burial ground, found, such as dwellings and occupations, etc.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This written article addressed several types of materials and combined several types of methodologies. Thus, the materials employed were diverse. Articles on both historical constructions and geographical were taken into consideration. The research, required a thorough analysis of all documents in order to produce solid and useful conclusions.

The methodology employed proposed a search of the literature both offline and online from January 2018 until the current date. Articles, books and different papers on the required fields were very useful in our research.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Channelled pottery ware has been found at **Suci de Sus**, in the *Obreja Valley*, in the *Grădina Floarei Zesuchii*, and a few Bronze Age ceramic objects have been identified in *Vârful Dâmbului*, south of the *Mărioarei lui Daneliuc*. The hilly area of Țibleș, the place called *Tăușor* has revealed other ceramic artefacts. A deposit of bronzes has been discovered in both *Coțofeni* and *Lăpuș*. An ancient human settlement has been found in *Ograde*, dated after the second phase of the *Lăpuș necropolis*. *Botul Troianului*, on the northern extremity of *Troian*, has unveiled a deposit of bronzes, consisting of 10-15 complete belts, decorated with lines, and also a tumulus cemetery from the Bronze Age, identical to the ones discovered at *Valea Groșilor* and *Șesu*. A few small mounds have been discovered in *Paltin*, near the *Minghet Valley* thought to be burial barrows. At the *Ponorul Jitelor Cave* with a large number of tunnels, most likely used by humans, and at the border crossings of *Arșița*, *La Gruimane*, *Obcina Lespezilor*, *Poderei*, *Pusta* there may be “a plateau with the remains of a

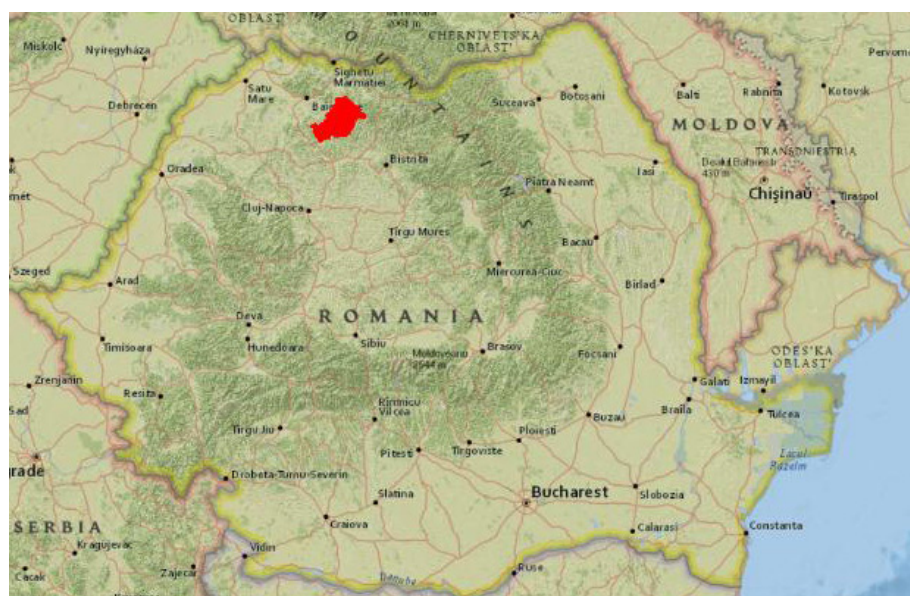


Fig. 1. Land of Lăpuș Framing area

<sup>2</sup> COCEAN/DAVID 2014, 118-123.

<sup>3</sup> COCEAN/DAVID 2014, 124-129.

<sup>4</sup> GOJA 2014.



wall, weapons and bronze implements". A human settlement lies in *Izvorâște*, *Gura Boii*, *Muncei*, *Suciu de Sus* or *Lăpuș*, and *Grădina Curții* is home to bronze objects. Atypical pottery ware has been discovered in *Pleșa*, and also a stone axe, and channelled pottery ware has been found at the *Poduri* site. A cemetery has been discovered in *Poduri pe Coastă*, flanked by burnt slate tiles. The cemetery belongs to the second phase of the *Suciu de Sus* culture, at the beginning of the Bronze Age. Pottery ware, pots, cups, etc. have been unearthed in *La Șes*<sup>5</sup>.

Stone objects (axe), and also pottery has been uncovered in the **Târgu Lăpuș** area, and in the *Valea Mănăstirii* region there are rumours that an old monastery existed. The site currently features a mound and a stone cross. In the same region the remains of a stone church, from the 18<sup>th</sup> century have been discovered, and the border crossings of *Obreja Văii Tâlharului* and *Obreja Văii Rusului*, *Lutărie*, *Pusta*, *Guruiete*, *La Gruimane*, *La Temeteu*, the *Podinog* plateau, *Blidul lui Pinte*, *Pârâul Hârbului* and the location known as *Bliduț* may be of archaeological interest. Pottery has been found in *La Poderei* and *Porgolat*, there are records of a *Varteto* (*Vârful Cetății* [the Citadel Peak]) location, and a few atypical pottery objects have been identified in *Mormânturi*. Rounded channelled pottery has been found at *Șesurile Rogozului* which belongs to the Late Bronze Age *Lăpuș* settlement. The old location of the settlement would have been at *Poiana Popii* which is home to archaeological sites alongside *La Ciurgău*, *Poduri* and *Pusta Ienășoaiei*. To the right of the *Stadium* street, in *Întorsura* or *Torkolat* numerous atypical channelled potsherds have been collected. Channelled pottery has also been found in *Augustin Farcaș's* garden, but also in the neighbouring gardens, between *Valea Ursului* and *Valea Cuculbet*, along the *Mireș* stream, belonging to the *Lăpuș* deposit. Two fired clay weights and a decorated cup have been found in *Eghereș*. A note from 1895 stated that weapons, pottery and jewellery have been found around the *Târgu Lăpuș* borough, without any details as to the whereabouts of the site where they had been discovered. They are most likely part of the *Floth* collection, and may be split into the *Târgu Lăpuș I* deposit and *Târgu Lăpuș II* deposit<sup>6</sup>.

Around the village of **Coroieni** near *Cheile Babei* there are remains of kilns used for burning lime dated to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the *Guruiete*, *Podul Forauălor*, *Poduț Comorăța*, *În Podereiaș*, *Măgura*, *Podereiul*, *Podul Lacului*, *Bliduț*, *În Pietrar* sites may be of archaeological interest. A Neolithic axe and a Drachm have also been found, and the ancient location of the village of *Coroieni* is thought to be *Între Vâlcele*, under the name *Satul Bătrân* [the Old Village] or *Valea Satului celui Bătrân* [The Old Village Valley], with the *La Pod*, *Pe Pod*, *Pe Poduri*, *În Pietrar* sites on the border line to be investigated for archaeological purposes. In the village of **Cupșeni**, at *Handal* and *Poderei*, as well as the cairns at *Ciurgău*, *Arșița*, *În Podereiul lui Leșa*, *La Ponderee*, *La Temeteu*, *Pusta*, *Pusta Nucului*, *În Poliță* may be significant archaeological sites. A perforated Neolithic axe has been unearthed in *Locul lui Idreiu lui Dămicu*, and many ceramic objects, slate tiles have been found in *Dâmbu Cruci*, and *Libotin* revealed works reminiscent of a burial site. A deposit of bronzes has been



**Fig. 2.** The Casa Pinte Cave, courtesy of the Tourist Information Centre, Tîrgu Lăpuș

discovered in *Poienile Budii* (axe, chain links, buttons, phalera, etc). The ancient location of the village of *Cupșeni* is known as *Bârdoceni*, and a church which has left no trace had been erected in *Valea Bisericii* [the Church Valley]. The border crossings *Dâmbul Morților*, *La Podine*, *Măgura*, *Măgura cea Mare*, *Măgura de Sus*, *Măgura Mică*, *Podereia lui Istrate*, *Podereia Mare*, *Podurelele Mari*, *Vârful Bârlogului* may also be of archaeological interest<sup>7</sup>.

Remains of undated melting kilns have been uncovered between **Băiuț** and **Botiza**. An Alexander the Great gold Stater and a Drachm have been found in the *Butuzas's* garden, on the left side of the *Băiuț* stream. The *Băiuț* deposit has two main veins: *Băiuț* and *Robu*, both mining sites dating as far back as prehistoric or Roman times given the very old objects manufactured and found in the Land of *Lăpuș*. The most important mining activities carried over time were at *Providența Divină*, *Borcut* (the *Anton*, *Petru* and *Pavel* mines) *Zaharia*, *Vărătic*, *Cizma* and *Coasta Ursului*. A well-known cave in the area is *Peștera Casa Pinte*, known as *Peștera lui Pinte* *Viteazul* [Pinte the Brave's Cave] or *Peștera din Piatra Pintii* [The Cave at the Pinte Stone], the *Bone Cave* at *Poiana Botizii*, home to a deposit of animal bones, which had not however, been used as shelter by humans. *Peștera de la Izbulul dintre Pietre* [the Karst Fenster between the Rocks], *Peștera Meduzei* [the Jellyfish Cave] at

<sup>5</sup> KACSO 2011, 514-517.

<sup>6</sup> KACSO 2011, 547-554.

<sup>7</sup> KACSO 2011, 518-525.

Piatra Mică, *Peștera tunelor suprapuse* [Cave of the Stacked tunnels] at Piatra Pintii, are right next door and have yet to be studied by archaeologists<sup>8</sup>. Large amounts of glassy and glossy obsidian indicative of smelting, but also stocks of bronzes and atypical ceramics have been found around the village of **Lăpuș**, in several locations, such as *Podanc*, *Tinoasa*, *Cioncaș*, *Sub cioncaș*, *La arini*, at the site called *Gruicul Târgului* (*Hoșporodic's Hill*), along the Iedera stream, in the Hertă Valley, but also along the Cerțiu Valley, on the Drumul Colbului [Dusty Road]. A slate axe and a stone axe, most likely part of the Wietenberg Culture have also been discovered. In *Podul Hotarului*, but channelled and grooved potsherds belonging to the Lăpuș group have also been found at the sites of *La arini*, *Răstoci*, *Tuliceasca*. Bronze Age settlements have been found in Valea Cerțiului. On *Mlaca* or *Mecra Peak*, at the site called *Sub Mlacă* Lăpuș potsherds have been discovered, with black coarsely made pottery at *Dumbrăvița*. Channelled pottery has been found at the site of *Tinoasa*, and 26 tumuli

*Mare and Podul Hotarului* which required extensive digging and led to valuable finds being unearthed. Several mounds, most likely of a burial character, have been found in *Vârful Fetii*, *Șurile Tomii* și *La piuă*, as well as a deposit of bronzes in *Secătura Savului* (bracelets, small statues, vessels, cups, etc). The ancient location of the Lăpuș village lies somewhere around the *Râoaia Valley* given the ditch in the area called *Pe poieni*, built by using river stones and most likely serving as a rampart, while the remains of a foundry lie in *Podoroi*. Archaeological artefacts may lie underground at *Comorâșe*, *Pe Gruî*, *Handal* and *Podinog*<sup>9</sup>.

I am presenting below the names of the sites, their category, the location where they have been identified and the period they date back to. The information is provided by the National Archaeological Repository<sup>10</sup> and has been supplemented by data taken from the works of the main archaeologist covering the area, Carol Kacso.

**Table 1** Sites in the Land of Lăpuș– courtesy of the National Archaeological Repository and of C. Kacso.

No.	Name	Category	Type	Location	Period
1.	The Suci de Sus settlement in Libotin - Podoroiul Mare, some 2 km north of the village, on the left side of the road to Ungureni, on the relatively high terrace right of the Rotunda river	Civilian occupation	Settlement	Libotin, commune of Cupșeni	The Bronze Age
2.	The Suci de Sus settlement in Libotin - Dâmbu Crucii II, some 200 m north of the village, right next to the road which connects Rogoz și Cupșeni, on the high terrace right of the Rotunda river (Libotin), outside of the “Dâmbu Crucii I” complex	Civilian occupation	Settlement	Libotin, commune of Cupșeni	The Bronze Age
3.	The Lăpuș settlement in Libotin - Dâmbu Crucii I. Some 200 m north of the village, right next to the road which connects Rogoz și Cupșeni, on the high terrace to the right of the Rotunda river (Libotin).	Civilian occupation	Settlement and burial	Libotin, commune of Cupșeni	The Bronze Age
4.	Mound from unknown period in Lăpuș - La piuă, on the terrace to the right of the Lăpuș river, close to the western extremity of the village.	funeral finding	mound	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	Unstated
5.	Modern blacksmith workshop at Lăpuș - Podoroi, north of the village, on the top terrace to the left of Lăpuș	construction	workshop	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	Modern Era / 19 <sup>th</sup> century
6.	Fortification from unknown period at Lăpuș - Pe Poieni, some 2 km southeast of the Podanc terrace, in an area of relatively high hills.	fortification	rampart	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	Unstated
7.	Mounds from unknown period at Lăpuș - Vârful feții, right of the Lăpuș River, to the southwest of the village, near the top of a hill dominating the landscape	funeral find	mound	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	Unstated
8.	The Suci de Sus necropolis in Lăpuș - Gruicul Târgului, north of the Podanc terrace, on the right side of the Târgu Lăpuș - Băiuț road (DJ109F), some 300 m of the southwestern extremity of the village.	funeral find	necropolis	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age
9.	The Suci de Sus necropolis in Lăpuș - Podanc on the western slope of the Gura Tinoasei hill, south of the Podanc terrace, on its extension and right next to the Tinoasa Valley, as well as on the Pe Mlacă hill top	funeral find	tumulus necropolis	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age, Neolithic Period
10.	The Lăpuș settlement in Lăpuș - Cioncaș II on the slope of the Podanc terrace	occupation	Human settlement	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age
11.	The Lăpuș settlement in Lăpuș - Tinoasa on the southwestern edge of the Podanc terrace, right of the Tinoasa Valley	occupation	settlement	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age

have been discovered between Tinoasa and *Podanc*, *Podancul*

<sup>8</sup> KACSO 2011, 211-215.

<sup>9</sup> KACSO 2011, 311-316.

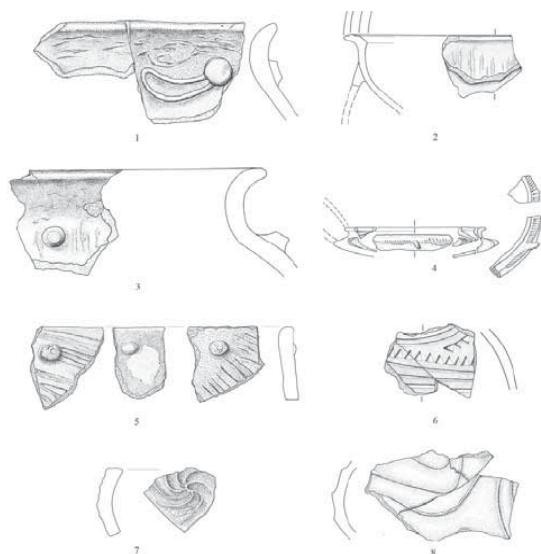
<sup>10</sup> For more details see The National Archaeological Repository, Archeological Sites in the Land of Lăpuș at <http://ran.cimec.ro/>

No.	Name	Category	Type	Location	Period
12.	The Lăpuș settlement in Lăpuș - Dumbrăvița on the high terrace, left of the Lăpuș river	occupation	Human settlement	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age
13.	The Lăpuș settlement in Lăpuș - Sub Mlacă on the northern slope of the Pe Mlacă hill or Vârful Mecrii, situated southwest of the village, extending from the Podanc terrace.	occupation	settlement	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age
14.	The Lăpuș settlement in Lăpuș - Valea Cerțiului some 1.5 km southeast of the village, on the high terrace left of the Cerțiu Valley, on Gh. Tomai`s land, some 200 m south of P. Muțiu`s house	occupation	Human settlement	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age
15.	The Lăpuș settlement in Lăpuș - Tuliceasca northeast of the village	occupation	Human settlement	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age
16.	The Lăpuș settlement in Lăpuș - Răstoci on the second terrace left of the Lăpuș river, near the mouth of the Tinoasa stream	occupation	Human settlement	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age
17.	The Lăpuș - La Arini archaeological site, some 2 km west of the southwestern edge of the village, on the left side of the Târgu Lăpuș - Băiuț road, right next to where the Tinoasa stream empties into the Lăpuș river	occupation	Human settlement	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age, Hallstatt
18.	The Lăpuș settlement in Lăpuș - Podul Hotarului on the high terrace, to the left of the Lăpuș river	occupation	Human settlement	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age
19.	The Lăpuș settlement in Lăpuș - Sub Cioncaș, some 2 km of the southwestern edge of the village, extending northwards from the Podanc terrace, near the Cioncaș site	occupation	Human settlement	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age
20.	The Lăpuș settlement in Lăpuș - Cioncaș, some 2 km of the southwestern edge of the village, extending northwards from the Podanc terrace	occupation	Human settlement	Lăpuș, commune of Lăpuș	The Bronze Age
21.	Bronze Age settlement in Groșii Țibleșului - Tăușor, some 6 km northeast of the village, in the piedmont of Țibleș, east of the Minghet Valley, over 800 m high.	civilian occupation	Human settlement	Groșii Țibleșului, commune of Groșii Țibleșului	The Bronze Age
22.	Mounds from unknown period in Groșii Țibleșului - Paltin, near the Minghet Valley	funeral find	mounds	Groșii Țibleșului, commune of Groșii Țibleșului	Unstated
23.	Bronze Age settlement in Groșii Țibleșului - Ograde, some 200 m northeast of the southeastern extremity of the village, to the left of the Suci (Țibleș) river, where the slope of a hill rises	civilian occupation	Human settlement	Groșii Țibleșului, commune of Groșii Țibleșului	The Bronze Age
24.	Bronze Age settlement in Groșii Țibleșului - Vârful Dâmbului on the edge of an irrigation canal, slightly south of Daneliuc`s Mărioara place	occupation	Human settlement	Groșii Țibleșului, commune of Groșii Țibleșului	The Bronze Age
25.	Bronze Age settlement in Groșii Țibleșului - Valea Obrejei in Floarea Zesuchii`s garden	occupation	Human settlement	Groșii Țibleșului, commune of Groșii Țibleșului	The Bronze Age
26.	Prehistoric settlement in Dobricu Lăpușului	civilian occupation	Human settlement	Dobricu Lăpușului, commune of Târgu Lăpuș Town	Prehistory
27.	Hallstatt settlement in Dămăcușeni - Poderei, some 2 km northeast of the centre of the town, on the protruding ridge of the high terrace right of the Lăpuș river	occupation	Human settlement	Dămăcușeni, commune of Târgu Lăpuș Town	Hallstatt
28.	The Suci de Sus settlement in Dămăcușeni - Porgolat on the high terrace to the left of the Lăpuș river, west of the town, at two sites about 100 m apart.	occupation	Human settlement	Dămăcușeni, commune of Târgu Lăpuș Town	Unstated
29.	The Suci de Sus settlement in Dămăcușeni - La Obreja on the eastern edge of the town, on the high terrace right of the Suci (Țibleș) river	civilian occupation	Human settlement	Dămăcușeni, commune of Târgu Lăpuș Town	The Bronze Age
30.	The Suci de Sus settlement in Târgu Lăpuș - Eghereș, 500 m southeast of the town, on the terrace to the left of the Lăpuș river	civilian occupation	Human settlement	Târgu Lăpuș, commune of Târgu Lăpuș Town	The Bronze Age

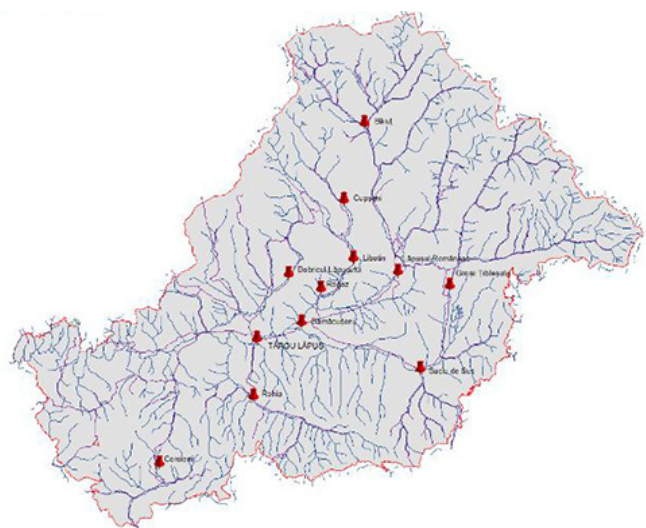


No.	Name	Category	Type	Location	Period
31.	Bronze Age settlement in Târgu Lăpuș - Întorsura. On the high terrace left of the Lăpuș river, on the eastern edge of the town, on the right side of the Stadium street	occupation	Human settlement	Târgu Lăpuș, commune of Târgu Lăpuș Town	The Bronze Age
32.	Târgu Lăpuș Chalcolithic tools	isolated find	isolated item	Târgu Lăpuș, commune of Târgu Lăpuș Town	Chalcolithic
33.	Bronze Age archaeological site in Suci de Sus - Poduri pe Coastă some 750 m west of the road bridge over Țibleș, exiting the village	occupation	occupation	Suci De Sus, commune of Suci De Sus	The Bronze Age
34.	Bronze Age necropolis in Suci de Sus - Troian on the high terrace, several kilometres long and several hundred meters wide, called Troian, to the left of the Suci (Țibleș) river, some 1.5 km northeast of the village	funeral find	cemetery	Suci De Sus, commune of Suci De Sus	The Bronze Age
35.	Bronze Age settlement in Suci de Jos - Pe Șes. 2 km north of the bridge over the Țibleș, some 500 m of the southeastern extremity of the village, on the raised plain to the left of the Suci (Țibleș) river, along both sides of the Suci de Jos - Groșii Țibleșului road	civilian occupation	Human settlement	Suci De Jos, commune of Suci De Jos	The Bronze Age
36.	Late Medieval settlement in Suci de Jos on the high terrace to the right of the Suci (Țibleș) river, near the church and the school	occupation	Human settlement	Suci De Jos, commune of Suci De Jos	Modern Era / 18-19th century
37.	Bronze Age settlement in Suci de Jos - Vârful Suciului, some 400 m west of the Vârful Carpănului site, on a hill top	occupation	open settlement	Suci De Jos, commune of Suci De Jos	The Bronze Age
38.	Bronze Age necropolis in Suci de Jos - Troian on the high terrace to the left of the Suci (Țibleș) river, some 1.5 km northeast of the village (Troian I)	funeral find	necropolis	Suci De Jos, commune of Suci De Jos	The Bronze Age
39.	Bronze Age settlement in Suci de Jos - La Șes. Some 500 m of the southeast extremity of the village, on the raised plain left of the Suci (Țibleș) river, along both sides of the Suci de Jos - Groșii Țibleșului road	occupation	Human settlement	Suci De Jos, commune of Suci De Jos	The Bronze Age
40.	Bronze Age settlement in Suci de Jos - Pe râț.	occupation	Human settlement	Suci De Jos, commune of Suci De Jos	The Bronze Age
41.	Bronze Age necropolis in Suci de Jos - Poduri pe Coastă, northeast of the village, to the right of the Suci (Țibleș) river	funeral find	necropolis	Suci De Jos, commune of Suci De Jos	The Bronze Age
42.	Bronze Age settlement in Suci de Jos - Poduri, near the old Jewish cemetery	occupation	Human settlement	Suci De Jos, commune of Suci De Jos	The Bronze Age
43.	Prehistoric settlement in Suci de Jos - Pleșa	occupation	Human settlement	Suci De Jos, commune of Suci De Jos	Prehistory
44.	Bronze Age settlement in Suci de Jos - Muncei, some 500 m of the southern extremity of the village and 300 m of the Izvorâște site, on the high terrace to the right of the Suci (Țibleș) river	occupation	Human settlement	Suci De Jos, commune of Suci De Jos	The Bronze Age
45.	Bronze Age settlement in Suci de Jos - Gura Boii. in the centre of the village, near the left bank of the Suci (Țibleș) river, on the river-facing eastern slope of the hill called Gura Boii	civilian occupation	Human settlement	Suci De Jos, commune of Suci De Jos	The Bronze Age
46.	Bronze Age settlement in Suci de Jos - Izvorâște. On the southeastern edge of the village, on the relatively low terrace to the right of the Suci (Țibleș) river	civilian occupation	Human settlement	Suci De Jos, commune of Suci De Jos	The Bronze Age
47.	The Rohia - Poderei archaeological site on the northeastern edge of the village, on the higher ground of the Rohia Valley terrace, very close to the last households	occupation	Human settlement	Rohia, commune of Târgu Lăpuș Town	Roman Period, the Bronze Age/ 3rd - 4th century
48.	The Bronze Age settlement in Rogoz - Șesurile Rogozului, some 1.5 km of the eastern edge of the village, on the terrace to the left of the Lăpuș river and to the left of the Valea Hotarului stream	occupation	Human settlement	Rogoz, commune of Târgu Lăpuș Town	The Bronze Age

After conducting analyses and research, it was found that some of the objects discovered and identified predated the 13<sup>th</sup> century B.C.<sup>11</sup>



**Fig. 3.** Objects identified following archaeological digs, courtesy of C. Kacso



**Fig. 4.** Archaeological sites in the Land of Lăpuș

As previously shown, *tumuli and necropoles* have been found. They are part of old settlements, some of them pre-Christian and which have only been discovered following past and ongoing archaeological excavations. The barrows lie in areas where archaeological research is ongoing and contribute their ancient spiritual rites to complete the sacred landscape which proves once more the unique character and value of the Lăpus zone.

## CONCLUSIONS

It falls upon the inhabitants of the area first and foremost to promote history-rich regions, but also on their visitors. No action, however, to highlight and assess how they are developed and preserved can take place without researchers' support and capabilities. All these steps must observe applicable and statutory national and European

<sup>11</sup> KACSO/METZNER-NEBELSICK/NEBELSICK 2011.



**Fig. 5.** The Suci de Sus Archaeological Site – inside

standards, and above all they must be taken with caution so that the development of the areas is in full accordance with existing values and traditions. This means that all works to rehabilitate and adjust them to the infrastructure projects of rural and regional development must make their conservation a priority. It is only by preserving them that we can resurface the cultural history of areas full of potential.

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