

ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE NADWIEPRZAŃSKI LANDSCAPE PARK

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Abstract

A landscape park is one of the legal forms of nature protection in Poland. It is a protected area due to its natural, historical, cultural and landscape values for preserving and popularising. The Nadwieprzański Landscape Park is located in southeastern Poland, on the middle section of the Wieprz River. The Park was established in 1990 and covers an area of over 6,000ha. The research aimed to identify resources, recognise threats and develop guidelines for protecting the cultural heritage elements of the Nadwieprzański Landscape Park. In the Park, there are monuments from various historical periods, e.g., former fortified settlements, castles, palaces and manor houses, churches, synagogues, war and religious cemeteries, granges, distilleries, mills, railway stations and small objects of sacral architecture, i.e., crosses and roadside shrines. In addition to immovable monuments, an essential part of the region's intangible cultural heritage is a tradition in the form of holiday customs and rituals, legends and traditional crafts. It is impossible not to mention people associated with the region, their knowledge of this subject and the need to document oral traditions. Protection and preservation of heritage for future generations and rational use of environmental resources significantly affect the constant and sustainable economic development and may improve the standard of living of the local population. Unfortunately, many changes occurred within the Park due to various reasons. These are both natural causes, resulting from the destructive impact of environmental and material changes resulting from the passage of time and reasons related mainly to the lack of proper supervision of the facilities by the legal user, e.g., historic palaces and park complexes. In summary, objectives of the so-called passive, i.e., formal and legal ones and goals of the nature of active – conservation activities and the nature of activities restoring the lost cultural values of the region's cultural heritage.

Keywords: *Nadwieprzański Landscape Park; Cultural heritage; Old monuments; Conservation*

Introduction

Cultural heritage consolidates regional cultural identity, enhances social capital and stimulates local communities. These functions make it an essential element of sustainable socioeconomic development [1-3]. Cultural heritage is a remarkable factor in human life and activity. It is a material and spiritual achievement of previous generations, as well as of our times. It means a value – material or intangible – handed down to us by our ancestors [4]. This term means tangible (residential buildings, palaces, mansions, public utility buildings, churches) and intangible (legends, dialect, texts, melodies, stories, rituals, customs) products. Cultural heritage assets should be treated as public property, to which all public members must have access and have the right to be fully and easily informed. They should have the right to use it differently and

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everyone is equally responsible [5]. The process of urbanisation has a massive impact on shaping the cultural landscape. The development of cities and suburbs affects the preservation of cultural heritage and landscapes in rural and suburban areas, often under solid development pressure due to their attractive location. Structural transformations in rural space cause irreversible changes. The preservation and protection of cultural heritage elements, including those related to the spatial structure of the area, can mitigate the negative impact of development pressure [6, 7].

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defines a protected area as “a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, demarcated and managed by legal or other effective means to achieve the long-term conservation of nature and associated ecosystem services and cultural values” [8, 9].

There is a growing interest in managing protected areas in Europe to ensure their more effective protection and because of their great potential to promote rural development [10]. Most protected areas in the world are open to some form of anthropogenic use [11]. The traditional conservation paradigm is increasingly associated with biodiversity, sustainable regional development, landscape enhancement and local and identity culture with an innovative approach and participatory planning [12]. Landscape parks often have a vibrant natural and cultural heritage, including agricultural and social heritage and can act as specific “laboratories” for policy evaluation for local, community-led sustainable development. As a result of adequately conducted transformations, they can become “living” and attractive landscapes where traditional agriculture can be supplemented with several types of economic activity (tourism, crafts, education, culture).

There are 125 landscape parks in Poland, with a total area of over 2.5 million hectares, which covers 8% of the country [13]. Nadwieprzański Landscape Park (NPK) was established in 1990 and was created to preserve the natural, landscape, cultural, historical and tourist values of the central part of the Lubelskie Voivodeship, located in the southeastern part of Poland. Its area is 6,228.66 ha and the ecosystem is supported by a buffer zone covering an additional area of 11,473.41 ha [14]. The largest city in its area is Łęczna, with 25,000 inhabitants. The area’s landscape is dominated by vast flat plains interspersed with gentle moraine hills. Their surface is covered with numerous groves. Polish landscape parks, including the Nadwieprzański Landscape Park, are part of the European system of protected areas NATURA 2000, connected by ecological corridors, enabling the migration of plants and animals. This makes it possible to increase the effectiveness of biodiversity protection on a continental scale. An essential element of the Park, determining its unique character, is the Wieprz River, whose valley forms the most important ecological corridor in this region. It flows in a strongly meandering channel. It is surrounded by lush vegetation consisting of trees, thick coastal thickets (Figs. 1 and 2) and wet meadows (Figs. 3 and 4).



Fig. 1. View of the spring flooding of the Wieprz River near Łęczna



Fig. 2. View of the bend of the Wieprz River near Łęczna



Fig. 3. View of meadows in the Wieprz river valley



Fig. 4. A vanishing tradition – grain arranged in sheaves

Experimental part

Materials and methods

Work on the cultural landscape assessment was carried out following the guidelines of the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment of 12 May 2005 on the preparation of a draft protection plan [15] and the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 11 January 2019 on the preparation of landscape audits [16]. Selected scientific studies on the methodology of landscape condition diagnosis and methods of its protection and harmonious shaping were also used, in particular the works of *T.J. Chmielewski* [8]; *T.J. Chmielewski et al.* [9], *R. Dylewski* [17], *D. Fanfani* [18]; *B. Fortuna-Antoszkiewicz and K. Kimic* [19]; *J. Górak* [20] and *M. Michalik-Sniezek et al.* 2019 [21].

The research consisted of the following stages:

- I. the initial stage, including the query of scientific literature, documentation and studies and planning documents.
- II. *in situ* research – field inventories (detailed and general) and dendrological inventories, historical analyses, including landscape evolution, valorisation of cultural elements of the NPK in the KL system (local landscape), identification of threats, assessment of ongoing changes and assessment of the effectiveness of existing protection methods,
- III. stage of the protection strategy, including defining protection objectives and defining the scope of work recommended to protect the analysed components.

Historical analysis

The historical outline of the objects was made based on a query of archival documents, including cartographic, iconographic and descriptive documents. The history of the objects, in particular parks and buildings, was acquainted. A survey of the area made it possible to determine the location, the degree of preservation of the spatial arrangement, the technical condition of architectural objects and the natural values of residential complexes.

Dendrological and architectural inventories

Detailed and general inventories of tree stand general architectural inventories of buildings and spatial complexes and photographic documentation of the inventoried heritage were made.

Designation of basic landscape units

Within the area of the Park and its immediate surroundings, the boundaries of the system of basic landscape units have been marked. Neighbouring landscape units with the same type of relief and the same or similar subtype of the current landscape, forming distinct territorial complexes (zones or bands), were aggregated into local landscapes (KL), additionally also considering the coherence of the functional and spatial structure of the area and the possibility of efficient management of the protection of a given local landscape. A single basic landscape unit may also be considered a local landscape if it stands out from other surrounding units (e.g., a complex of ponds, a town etc).

The boundaries of landscape interiors and their local complexes were determined following the methodology developed by *J. Bogdanowski* [3, 4], with modifications by *T.J. Chmielewski* [8], based on an orthophotomap from 2019 and field studies carried out in 2020. Spatial ranges of individual components included in the delimitation were saved in vector form in a GIS database.

Characteristics of cultural features of distinguished local landscapes (KL)

According to the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 11 January 2019 [11] on the preparation of landscape audits, the characteristics of identified local landscapes are prepared by specifying their features: analytical (natural and cultural) and synthetic (immeasurable, such as tradition, familiarity, or functions of landscape). The list of the analysed features of local landscapes concerning the cultural landscape is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. List of the analysed features of local landscapes (according to the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 11 January 2019 on the preparation of landscape audits, adapted to the needs of the landscape protection survey of the landscape park protection plan)

A group of features	No. in the group	List of features covered by inventory and valorisation	Indicator, converted into points 1-3	Data source
AND	1.	(A1a) Protected areas and species protection – total area of Natura 2000 sites and nature reserves	% of area within a given local landscape	RDOŚ data
AND	2.	(A1b) Protected areas and species protection – total number of natural monuments, ecological lands, documentation sites, nature and landscape complexes	Number of areas/features within a given local landscape	RDOŚ data
AND	3.	(A1c) Protected areas and species protection – rare species of plants and fungi	Number of rare species within a given local landscape	Data from the report on the protection of natural habitats, vegetation and fungi
AND	4.	(A1d) Protected areas and species protection – rare animal species	Number of rare species within a given local landscape	Data from the animal protection survey
AND	5.	(A2a) Other valuable natural objects – geomorphological forms that stand out in the landscape (edges, escarpments, monadnocks, dunes, naturally meandering sections of riverbeds, oxbow lakes etc.)	Number/area (ha) within a given local landscape, natural rank	Data from the inanimate nature conservation survey
AND	6.	(A2b) Other valuable natural objects – springs and small water reservoirs (natural and artificial) not included in the Natura 2000 network	Number of objects/area (ha) within a given local landscape, natural rank	BDOT
AND	7.	(A2c) Other valuable natural objects – local swamps, peat bogs, sedges and rushes not included in the Natura 2000 network	Number of objects/area (ha) within a given local landscape, natural rank	BDOT
AND	8.	(A3) Tree stands	% share of stands >60 years old within a given local landscape	Data from the report on the protection of natural habitats, vegetation and fungi
AND	9.	(A4) Ecological corridors – areas necessary for ecological corridors on a national, regional and local scale	% of area within a given local landscape, natural rank	Own ecological and landscape study
AND	10.	(A5) Tree stands and thicket communities	% share within a given local landscape	Orthophotomap
AND	11.	(A6) Surface fragmentation – erosion ravines	Density of the network of erosion cuts km/km ²	Orthophotomap
b	1.	(B1) Archaeological objects	number/occupied area (ha), cultural rank	Local vision
b	2.	(B2a) Village – historic rural layouts and objects of traditional rural development	number/occupied area (ha), cultural rank	Local vision
b	3.	(B2b) Countryside – landscape elements related to the specificity of crops – chequerboard or multi-ribbon field layouts; crops characteristic of the region (hop fields, orchards, herbs etc.)	% of area within a given landscape, clarity of form	Orthophotomap, field assessment
b	4.	(B2c) Countryside – historic manor farm buildings (palaces, manor houses, manor farms, parks, ponds, taverns etc.)	number/occupied area (ha), cultural rank	Site inspection, field assessment

A group of features	No. in the group	List of features covered by inventory and valorisation	Indicator, converted into points 1-3	Data source
b	5.	(B3) Historic objects of defensive, fortified and military architecture	number/occupied area (ha), cultural rank	Site inspection, field assessment
b	6.	(B4) Religious complexes and cult objects (churches, monasteries, calvaries, cemeteries, chapels, shrines etc.)	number/occupied area (ha), cultural rank	Site inspection, field assessment
b	7.	(B5a) City – Historic urban layouts	occupied area (ha), cultural rank	Site inspection, field assessment
b	8.	(B5b) City – Historic objects of bourgeois and residential architecture (palaces, tenement houses, villas etc.) and historic public and commercial buildings (town halls, granaries, butcheries etc.)	number/occupied area (ha), cultural rank	Site inspection, field assessment
b	9.	(B6) Old mining facilities (quarries) and historic industrial and craft facilities (sugar factories, breweries, brickyards, mills etc.)	number/occupied area (ha), cultural rank	Site inspection, field assessment
b	10.	(B7) Memorial sites	number/occupied area (ha), cultural rank	Site inspection, field assessment
c	1.	(C1) Identity	occurrence (0-absence, 1-3 – presence and clarity of the feature)	Analysis of source materials, evaluation in the field
c	2.	(C2) Tradition	occurrence (0-absence, 1-3 – presence and clarity of the feature)	Analysis of source materials, evaluation in the field
c	3.	(C3) Homeliness	occurrence (0-absence, 1-3 – presence and clarity of the feature)	Analysis of source materials, evaluation in the field
c	4.	(C4) Uniqueness	occurrence (0-absence, 1-3 – presence and clarity of the feature)	Analysis of source materials, evaluation in the field

Each of the 25 features of a given local landscape included in the abovementioned table was assessed on a scale of 0–3 points and then the obtained indicators were summed up. The scale of values is as follows: 0 – no value, 1 – common values, 2 – outstanding values and 3 outstanding values. A set of summary indicators of landscape values of individual local landscapes was proportionally converted to a 12-point scale and then maps of natural, cultural and synthetic values of the Park's landscape were prepared.

Results and discussion

The Nadwieprzański Landscape Park area has monuments from various historical periods in its buffer zone and the vicinity. There remain in the form of fortified settlements, castles, fortalices, palaces and mansions, churches, chapels, organist's rooms, vicar's houses, synagogues, war and religious cemeteries, municipal buildings (offices, schools), folk buildings, granges (barns, stables, granaries), distilleries, mills, railway stations and small architectural objects, i.e., crosses, roadside shrines, border posts and monuments. Undoubtedly, the buildings of residential architecture are among the most valuable in terms of natural and historical values. In addition to immovable monuments, a vital part of the region's cultural heritage is a tradition in the form of holiday customs and rituals, legends and traditional crafts. As already mentioned, the great value of the place is the people associated with it, promoting it and having historical knowledge that should be preserved (documented).

General characteristics of the Park's cultural resources

Against the background of Poland, the area of the Park is distinguished by an open landscape with historic villages and towns. Towns with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants account for 3/4 of all urban centres of the Lubelskie Voivodeship. A compact and regular spatial layout and legible remains of the original layout of streets usually characterise small towns. The city centre is typically a single market square, the centre of social life and the connected road network. The essential landscape dominants are sacral buildings with accompanying objects, i.e., belfries and rectories. Churches are often dominants in the panoramas of the described systems, being a distinguishing and characteristic element. Until World War II, the residential buildings here were

almost entirely wooden. With the development of a given town, there were increasingly more municipal buildings, i.e., schools, hospitals, town halls and stations [23].

The residential architecture was associated with the rural landscape. In the described region, small noble manors prevailed and magnate residences were relatively few. The first objects were of a defensive character (the so-called defensive manors, which survived until the Renaissance). Manor houses and palaces from the second half of the 19th century have survived to the present day in the most significant number [24]. Many require thorough renovation of buildings and maintenance work in the stand. It is true that after World War II, most of them found their users in the form of rural schools or state farm offices. However, such a way of using the buildings significantly differed from their original purpose and exploiting the complexes led to their technical devastation (often leading to the devastation of the original interior design) and landscape, including damage to the tree stand and the entire park composition [25].

Granges accompanied mansions and palaces. Manor farms dominated the estates of the middle nobility with an area of 30 to 50 ha and the most prominent estates were approximately 150 ha. Most farms were focused on the production and sale of grain. After all the crops had been used, approximately 20-40% of the production could be sold. Other branches of farm production include, for example, the sale of fish, hay, fruit and honey. Properties with larger forest complexes earned significant income from the sale of wood. After 1945, due to the takeover of landed estates by the state, there were significant changes in their management and use. At that time, 751 estates with an area of more than 50 ha were parcelled out in the Lublin region. Subsequent management of the farm buildings took over, negligence in renovations, improper use of the facilities, numerous reconstructions and demolition, in numerous instances, led to the liquidation of many of them. Throughout socialist rule in Poland, granges were the basis for the state form of farms (PGR). Only after 1989, the forms of state farms collapsed after the market economy's introduction. Most of them fell. The manor buildings, however, remained, but their condition, in most cases, is alarming [26].

An important place in folk material culture is occupied by rural wooden architecture, i.e., cottages – gradually disappearing due to civilisation progress, a transformation of villages and new agricultural production methods. Initially, the huts were covered with hip thatched roofs, which were replaced in the 19th century with gable roofs, which replaced gable roofs with vertical gable boarding in the 20th century. The main entrance sometimes had a modest porch or porch. Occasionally, houses are made of limestone, with details highlighted with red brick.

Water mills (the so-called technical monuments) belong to rural construction. The first watermills in Poland were built in the Middle Ages. Traditional mills were driven solely by waterpower and as a result of improvements and reconstruction, mills began to be powered by steam, gas, diesel and electric engines. Due to the country's electrification, energy availability and ease of use, the latter dominated the last mill operation period and almost wholly replaced the last water turbines. On Wieprz, for example, in Jaszczów, mobile water mills were attached to the shore with chains and floating on the river at a certain distance from the quay.

Field layouts are an important cultural landscape element in and around the NPK. Formerly, according to the Magdeburg law, a field measurement system was in force here, dating back to the 14th century. Thus, the Park is dominated by characteristic narrow strips of land, running perpendicularly to the river, containing access to the river, meadow, garden, habitat and land based on usually thickets or forest – intended for clearing. As a result, the line of development in the entire village was generally even. The layout of the villages in the Park, although it has undergone various transformations, is not very diversified. The basic layout is one-way, with one-sided or two-sided, relaxed buildings. Due to changes in the course of transportation routes or post enfranchisement colonisation, this arrangement was transformed into a two- or three-way system with parallel roads. Almost throughout the Park are detached residential buildings around a rectangular courtyard. In the villages, houses are positioned in relation to the road with a predominance of the ridge setting and the buildings are moved closer to the road. Livestock buildings often consist of several farm buildings set around a yard, often with a barn on the back short side of the plot. There are no complete homesteads with historic wooden buildings under thatched roofs. In the past, farms were surrounded by rail fences, which

are now being replaced with brick fences. Recent years have brought the old traditional folk architecture to be replaced by styleless, brick single-family houses.

An outline of the history of the Nadwieprzański Landscape Park

After World War II, the landscape of the Wieprz Valley was gradually degraded by the liquidation of landed estates, the devastation of manor houses, parcelling and enfranchisement of manor lands, conversion of meadows into arable fields, the multiplication of scattered buildings in open areas and the development of industrial investments [27].

The Nadwieprzański Landscape Park was established in 1990 to protect natural and cultural values, as well as valuable landscapes of the gorge section of the Wieprz River valley. At that time, the “Plan for the Protection of the Nadwieprzański Landscape Park” of 1996 indicated, among others, the need to protect the slopes of the Wieprz River valley from development (limitation of urbanisation in the edge zone of the valley), recreational use of the Wieprz River (swimming areas, beaches, water trail) and access to the scenic values of the Park along the walking routes [28].

Currently, the landscape of the Wieprz River is a mosaic of fields and meadows diversified by forests and clumps of trees, baulks and picturesque dirt roads. The Wieprz River meanders among them. On the escarpments towering over it, there are villages that, together with palaces and mansions, are a material testimony to the old times. We often find roadside crosses and shrines among rural buildings and sometimes in fields and meadows.

Review of monuments – Material heritage

According to the analysis of the cultural resources of the NPK area, the preserved immovable monuments are as follows:

- palace and park complexes and manors – Zawieprzyce, Kijany, Łęczna, Milejów, Jaszczów, Łysołaje, Trawniki,
- residential buildings – inn houses in the Old Town of Łęczna, Kijany, Spiczyn,
- municipal facilities (public utility) – town hall and municipal office in Łęczna, former post office in Spiczyn, kindergarten in Nowogród,
- technical facilities – water mills (Łęczna, Siostrzytów, Dorohucza), distilleries (Milejów, Łysołaje),
- sacral buildings – churches in Kijany, Łęczna, Milejów, Łańcuchów, Dorohucza and Biskupice,
- cemeteries – Kijany, Łęczna, Milejów,
- archaeological site – 1 hillfort entered the register of monuments and several dozen archaeological sites not exposed in the field, remaining in the GEZ.

Noble mansions and palaces surrounded by parks are located on the slopes of the Wieprz River valley. Historic greenery complexes are a valuable element of the cultural heritage of the Lublin region. The surroundings created the character of the former landowner’s residences, relief, vegetation, architectural objects and most importantly, *genius loci* – the spirit of the place – understood as a set of properties that give individual objects – houses and gardens – an individual quality. Many historical parks have rich collections of ornamental trees and shrubs, often of foreign origin or considerable size [29]. Palace and park complexes are sanctuaries of vanishing environments and landscapes, which is why they may prove helpful in rebuilding the damaged landscape of the Polish countryside.

One of the oldest noble residences is the palace and park complex in Zawieprzyce, situated on a rectangular promontory bounded to the west by the Wieprz River. The park within the complex covers an area of 5 ha. The dominant features of the building are the ruins of the castle (Figs. 5 and 6), which, together with the chapel and the palace outbuilding, as well as the storage building and the stable, are located around the central courtyard. At the eastern end of the Park, there are the ruins of an orangery (Fig. 7). The entrance to the Park is from the west and leads through a baroque entrance gate (Fig. 8). In front of the entrance, there is a mound with a column and a Greek cross. The northern border of the Park is an arcaded brick wall. The palace park was

compositionally related to neighbouring meadows, fields and forests. It has been included in the village's landscape as a vantage point and a dominant feature. It was founded in the most picturesque place in the area and was difficult to access during an invasion. Historically, the complex also included meadows on the Wieprz River with fishponds. In 2010, 381 trees belonging to 25 species were inventoried in Zawieprzyce Park. In terms of numbers, the following predominate: small-leaved linden (*Tilia cordata* Mill.) (116 pcs.), common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* L.) (101 pcs.), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides* L.) (34 pcs.) and common hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* L.) (33 pcs.). Currently, there is a library, school and museum here. Since the structure has thus far been included only in the buffer zone of the NPK, it was suggested that it should be included in the NPK area due to its historical value.



Fig. 5. Aerial view of the palace and park complex in Zawieprzyce



Fig. 6. View of the ruins of the palace in Zawieprzyce



Fig. 7. View of the ruins of the orangery in Zawieprzyce



Fig. 8. View of the entrance gate to the palace and park complex in Zawieprzyce

Another valuable object and an example of a well-conducted revalorisation is the palace and park complex in Łęczna. This 12-hectare park composition combines an 18th-century Italian garden with a 19th-century landscape park. In 2017, the area was subject to revitalisation activities. Farm buildings erected on the initiative of Jan Gottlieb Bloch – a nineteenth-century banker and entrepreneur – after the postwar nationalisation, until the end of the 1990s, functioned as a state farm and a gardening plant. As a result of political changes, buildings without care after successive fires turned into roofless, dangerous rubble, gradually appropriated by wild-growing greenery. Due to the impossibility of reconstructing the destroyed objects, the farm remains have been developed as a permanent ruin, secured and open to the public. For example, the hop drying

room was adapted into an observation tower. The ruins are surrounded by benches, litter bins, signposts and information boards presenting the history of Podzamcze and the whole area is attractively illuminated. The idea behind the project was to preserve the natural values and the diversity of fauna and flora of this place. The Wieprz Valley's view was revealed thanks to the trees' thinning and a canoe harbour was created. The skeleton of the stand consists of species such as small-leaved linden, Norway maple, common ash, common hornbeam and black locust. The juxtaposed photographs taken in the same places in 2009 and 2020 show the conservation works. The first photos show the past and present state of the plot garden surrounded by rows of 200-year-old lime trees (Figs. 9 and 10) and the subsequent photos show a barn building adapted into a gallery (Figs. 11 and 12) and the descent into the river valley, formerly overgrown with self-sown trees (Figs. 13 and 14). However, the condition of the palace and park complex in Łysolaje is worrying. The park's composition uses the natural conditions of the terrain – the presence of ponds and the remains of the former regular layout, with an old linden alley leading to the manor house. The building of the palace is in an eclectic, fairy-tale style, reminiscent of a Disney palace (Fig. 15).



Fig. 9. View of the former Italian garden marked out with old lime trees



Fig. 10. View of the renovated Italian garden – new boxwood plantings, alleys, benches and lighting



Fig. 11. View of the ruins of the former cowshed



Fig. 12. The roof of the former barn was changed into a pergola. Currently, the building serves as a garden-art gallery

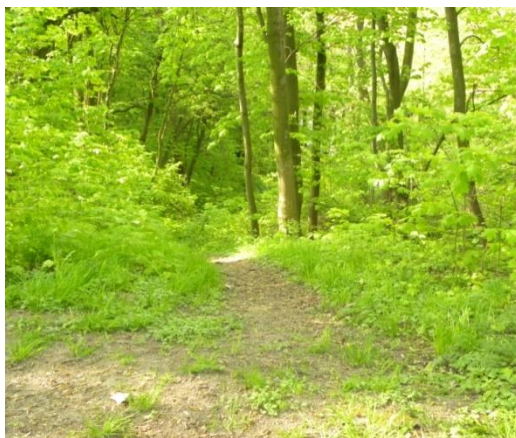


Fig. 13. Descent from the park to the Wieprz River



Fig. 14. Granite alleys lead to the canoe harbour

Before World War II, its interiors housed a library with old prints, Gdańsk furniture, paintings by Dutch and Flemish masters and valuable porcelain. Unfortunately, taken to Warsaw, they burned down during the Warsaw Uprising. The former owners were passionate about collecting exotic trees. Rare species of foreign origin found in the park include Burgundy oak (*Quercus cerris* L.), American linden (*Tilia americana* L.), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* L.) and bird cherry (*Prunus serotina* L. Picturesque 150-year-old willows grow over the drying ponds (Fig. 16). The park's tree stand has approximately 800 trees represented by 44 species. Unfortunately, for many years, the building has been abandoned and put up for sale. The place seems ideal for adaptation to hotel purposes.



Fig. 15. View of the palace in Lysotaje, 2011



Fig. 16. View of ponds and picturesque willows

Smaller but more precious and charming buildings include the Jaszczów Manor, renovated in 2020 (Figs. 17 and 18). The building was erected in the second half of the 19th century. Its owner, General Ludwik Kicki, was the adjutant of Prince Józef Poniatowski. This manor provided support to the insurgents during the independence fights. Artists were willingly hosted and supported in its interiors, a perfect example of which is the visit of Fryderyk Chopin in 1828 [30].



Fig. 17. The disastrous condition of the manor house in Jaszczów in 2011



Fig. 18. The manor house after renovation, 2020

In Łęczna, the wooden inn houses from the 19th century are attractive – associated with the fairs that took place here. The number of wooden houses is systematically decreasing and only a few have been preserved at Plac Kanałowy St.18 (Fig. 19) and 26 and 3 Maja St. 26 and 37. These were houses-hotels with unique 19th-century architecture. The buildings had a drive-in hall, constituting approximately 40% of the building's area. Additionally, unique buildings were houses with arcades, e.g., at Krasnystawska St. 4 (Fig. 20). The building in the photograph was erected around the mid-nineteenth century. Along the front elevation is a characteristic arcade, supported initially on wooden columns, currently on brick columns. Inside, there is a ceiling for a Polish plant. The roof is gabled and covered with sheet metal.



Fig. 19. Wooden inn at Plac Kanałowy St. 18



Fig. 20. A house with arcades at Krasnystawska St. in Łęczna

Unfortunately, none of the former water mills has adapted to a new role. However, there was a chance for the mill in Dorohuczka (Figs. 21 and 22), located in a highly picturesque area by ponds with shores covered with willow and alder. The building is limestone, with the mill wheel foundations preserved from the pond. Inside, the original equipment has been preserved. Currently, it is private property – the seat of the Landscapes Foundation. It is planned to create a Center for Research on Technologies in Landscape Architecture in the mill.



Fig. 21. The mill in Dorohuczka from 1870



Fig. 22. Mill in Dorohuczka - original equipment has been preserved inside

A characteristic feature of the landscape of the Nadwieprzański Landscape Park is numerous roadside shrines and crosses. These are works of folk art built of wood, stone and brick. At the chapels, people gathered in moments of fear; they expressed their requests, thanked for being received favours, sang devotional songs and recited litanies. On May evenings, prayers were offered to the Blessed Virgin; people knelt and made the cross sign. Shrines on the borders of villages greeted and said goodbye to travellers and those at crossroads served as specific signposts. Until now, these objects remain a testimony to the spatial divisions that functioned in the past, facilitating orientation and movement in a given area. Displayed near essential buildings, they were allowed to find them quickly. The inhabitants also accompanied everyone leaving the village to the border shrine in the village. In these places, those leaving for war to earn money, to school, conscripts going to the army and going on a pilgrimage were bid farewell. It was a common practice to place them at the border of villages and road intersections [31].

Initially, the chapels were made of wood and later they were made of bricks and lime. Small sacral objects were given a careful plant setting. Roadside shrines were often placed near trees already growing or planted with new trees. The most frequently planted species was linden. This tree was considered the seat of miraculous power, bringing good luck and a protective and sacred tree. In addition, the shrines were planted with compositions of flowering plants and shrubs, usually lilacs, roses and less often, jasmine trees [32].

Shrines blended into the landscape of Łęczna villages with sculptures of thoughtful, Pensive, expressive figures of St. John of Nepomuk, or the subtle figures of the Mother of God, take us into the atmosphere of the past centuries and are its picturesque element. These saints in earthly life had a strictly defined mission to fulfil: the Mother of God interceded in all human matters for her almighty Son, St. John of Nepomuk was supposed to protect the village from flooding, St. Florian was supposed to prevent fires, St. Agata defended houses against thieves etc. There are many examples of small architecture in the landscape of Łęczna villages: e.g., a chapel with a figure of Pensive in Zakrzów (Łęczna commune) – an example of a baroque representation (Jesus is sitting on a throne in a royal cloak, holding a sceptre), or a chapel in Łęczna with a figure of this saint, which is the work of a local sculptor – Bogumił Brodzisz. The sculpture gallery is created by the already mentioned St. John of Nepomuk (St. Jan Nepomucen - patron of floods and death by drowning), among others, in a chapel in Zawieprzycze (Spiczyn commune) – he is depicted in a priest's clothes with a crucifix in his left hand. In Łęczna, on the outskirts of the city, near the Catholic cemetery, there is a house-type chapel, built in the mid-nineteenth century of stone and brick, with the figure of St. Maria Magdalena (Fig. 23) and in Jaszczów you can see the baroque chapel of St. John of Nepomuk from the 18th century (Fig. 24).



Fig. 23. House chapel from the 19th century in Łęczna



Fig. 24. Baroque chapel of St. John of Nepomuk in Jaszczów

Around today's park, there are also so-called Tuscan columns. This form of a column with a cross became popular in Poland at that time as a monument commemorating various events or as a votive figure. The late Baroque building in Łysołaje dates back to the first half of the 18th century (Fig. 25). According to the inhabitants, the column was next to the formerly existing cemetery. Currently, the 5m high building stands on a small mound next to the last farm buildings of the village. The finial has an iron openwork across, one meter high. On the cross is the inscription "AVE O CRUX SPES UNICA", which translates to "Hail, Cross, Only Hope".



Fig. 25. Late Baroque Tuscan column in Łysołaje – general view and detail

Even small forms of nature protection, such as monument trees, contribute to the preservation and promotion of the natural heritage of the National Park. There are 11 natural

monuments IN the NPK area and 10 of them are in the buffer zone of the NPK. The prerequisite for protecting a tree is usually a significant circumference at the breast height and good health condition. The dimensions that qualify a tree or shrub for recognition as a natural monument vary and depend on the species – smaller in the case of shrubs and short-lived trees and larger concerning naturally long-lived trees. Outside the species' natural range, the tree can obtain the status of a natural monument with less impressive dimensions. The most significant number of old trees can be found in mid-field and roadside plantings, in the greenery of households, farmyards, urban greenery and the historic areas of palace parks and manor gardens. In ancient times, palace and manor parks served as a shield for buildings against the wind and increased the aesthetic value of the surroundings. Trees were also planted on field roads, often horse trails, for property managers.

Particularly valuable specimens include the one growing in Szpica in the commune of Common white elm (*Ulmus glabra* Huds.) with a trunk circumference of 812 cm and a height of 20 m. The tree grows on private property (Figs. 26) and is characterised by an impressive, evenly developed crown with a lowered top and few dead branches. Inside the trunk is a formerly bricked-up filling (a trace of the so-called tree sealing practices that have long been abandoned, but this proves the need to protect the tree and act in the past). According to the measurement from 1977, the trunk circumference was 745 cm, so for 40 years, the tree grew in circumference by 150 cm, circumference of 887 cm and height of 18 m [33].



Fig. 26. Pedunculate elm natural monument in Szpica

Characteristics of natural, cultural and synthetic features of distinguished local landscapes

Forty-one different types of local landscapes (KL) have been designated in the NPK area. As a result of a 12-point multicriteria **assessment of the natural values** of the National Park, the most valuable and the most naturally poor local landscapes were selected. The maximum number of points was obtained only in one area: Wieprz River valley Ciechanka (343.16-01) and three KLs were lower by only one point: Las 845.31-14c). Out of 41 HCs, almost half (20 HCs) received a score of 6 points and above and 7 KL a grade equal to or higher than 10 points. It proves the relatively high natural wealth and diversity of the Park.

The least rich in natural values are typical settlement units. The lowest score was awarded to KL: Stara Wieś (343.16-14) and Łęczna West (343.16-16). All low-rated units are characterised by a high degree of urbanisation or are typically agricultural (Fig. 27).

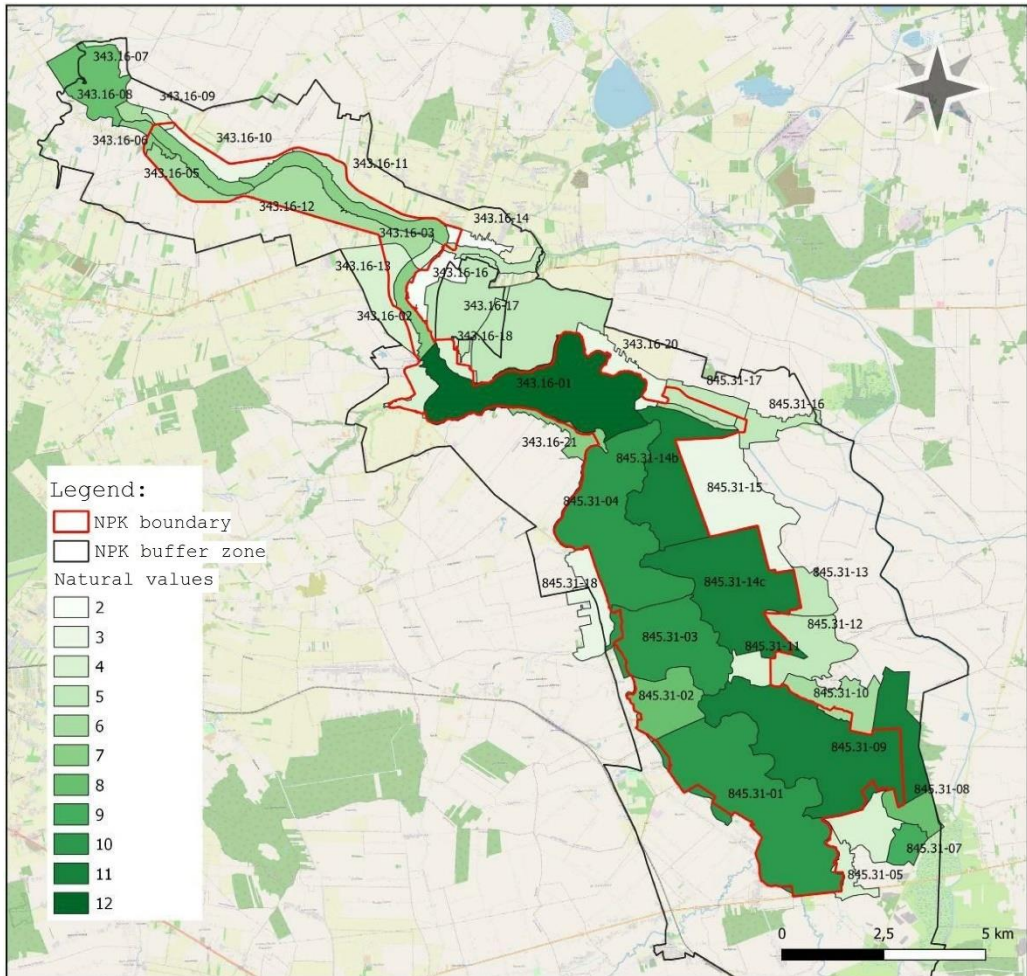


Fig. 27. Natural valorisation of NPK in the KL system (by A. Kułak, M. Dudkiewicz)

In the case of valorisation of cultural elements, three units with a high and medium degree of urbanisation received the highest score: Łęczna West (343.16-16), Wieprz River valley Spiczyn – Park Zawieprzyce (343.16-07) and Wieprz River valley Kijany (343.16-06). The lowest abundance is characterised by 5 KL, of which 4 are natural areas (see Table 6): Bobrowniki Forest (343.16-18), Bilsko Torfowisko (845.31-07), Uroczysko Wisielnica (845.31-08) and the highly urbanised contemporary part of Łęczna: Łęczna East (343.16-17). Generally, high cultural values (6 points and above) are characterised by 9 KL units and low ones by far more, as many as 32 KL units (Fig. 28).

Such assessment results may erroneously prove that the Nadwieprzański Landscape Park is moderately rich in cultural values, but this results from a somewhat uneven distribution of valuable elements and their accumulation in specific KL units rather than their absence.

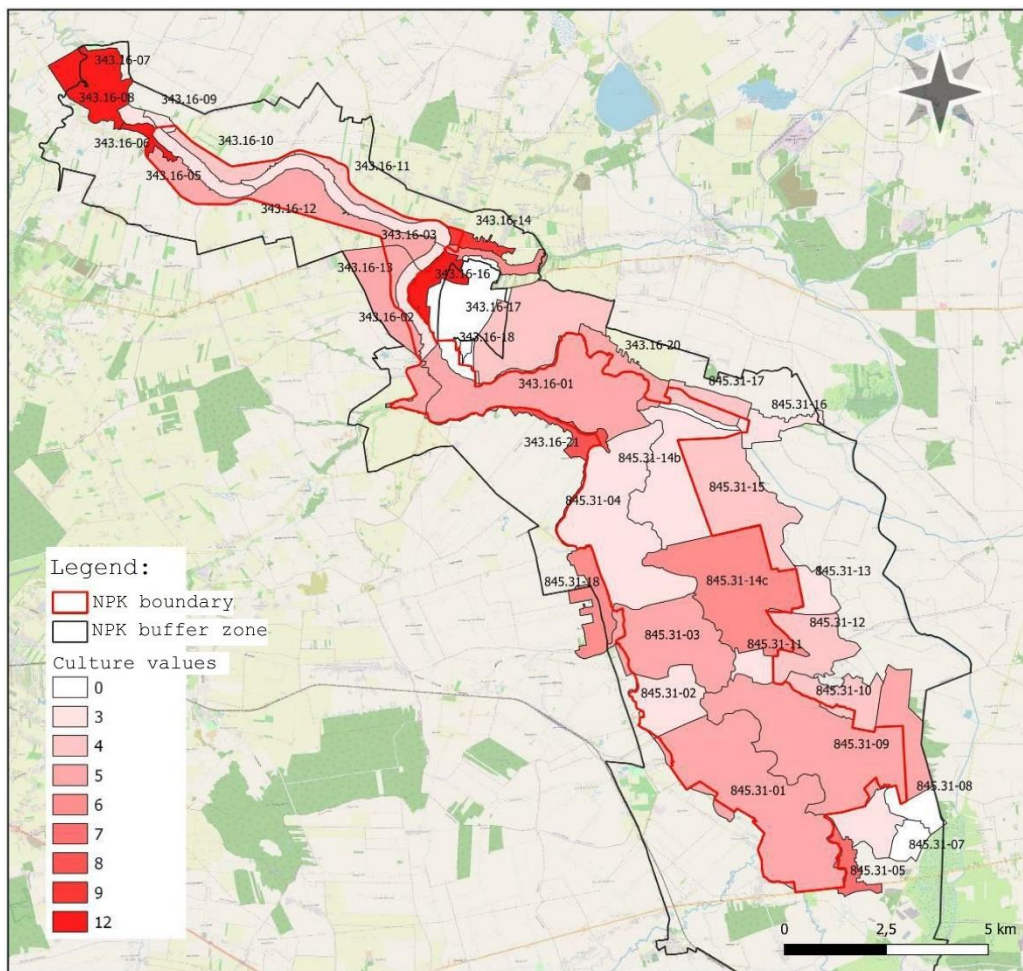


Fig. 28. Valorisation of electricity cultural NPK in the KL system (by A. Kułak, M. Dudkiewicz)

The highest result of the synthetic valorisation was achieved by Wieprz River valley Ciechanka (343.16-01), with 10 points, followed by Wieprz River valley Spiczyn - Park Zawieprzyce (343.16-07) and Wieprz River valley Kijany (343.16-06). The worst in this assessment were the settlement units: Kolonia Ostrówek (845.31-15) and Łęczna East (343.16-17) (Fig. 29).

Threats to the cultural values of the Park

Threats typical for the region and the Lubelskie Voivodeship predominate in the Park. The main threat to the spatial layout of the village is the obliteration of the original shape of the rural layout caused by the development of new buildings. Consequently, many one-way village layouts become multilane or dispersed with chaotically arranged plots. It is due to the lack of local development plans for the vast majority of the area, which also leads to the designation of new development areas and the issuance of building permits for objects of disharmonious form.

The threat concerns developments with regional characteristics. The use of old country cottages is discontinued, combined with the lack of their care, which may result in the

disappearance of most such facilities. This threat results from the lack of passive and active forms of protection and conservation supervision.

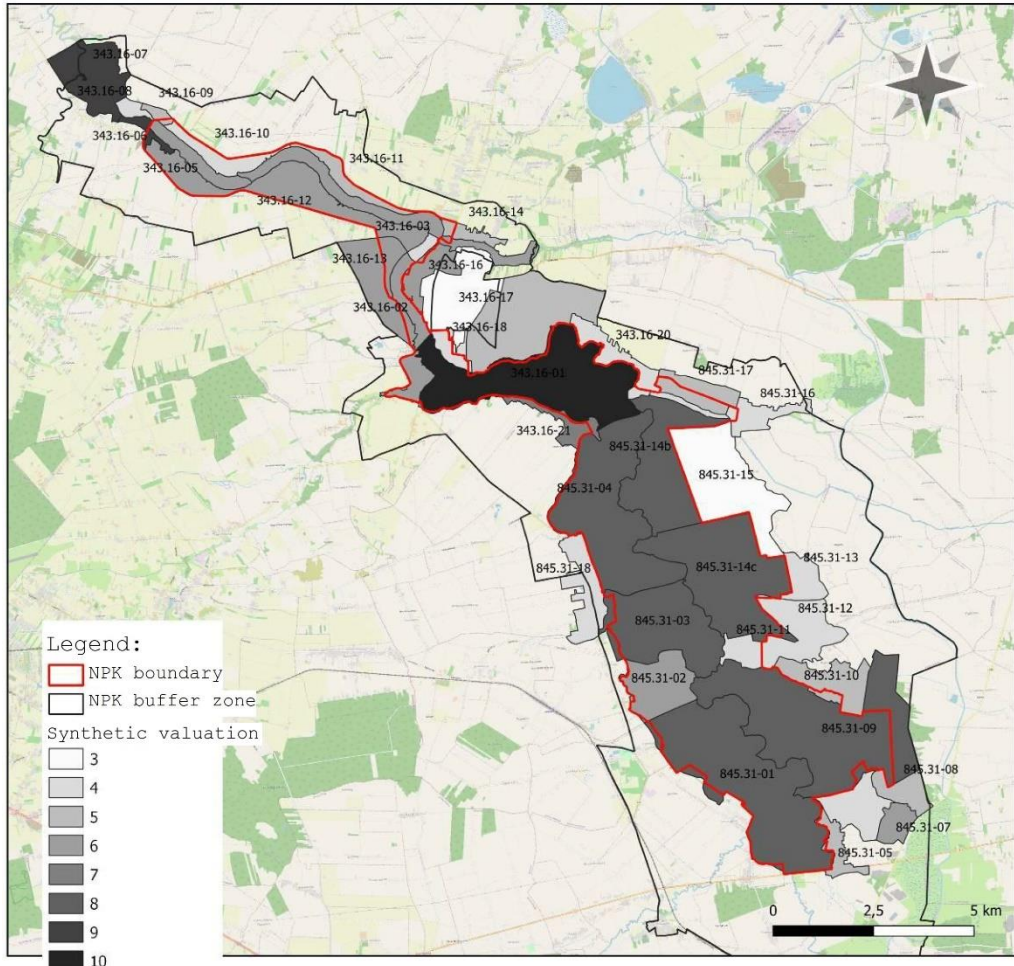


Fig. 29. Synthetic valorisation of NPK in the KL system (A. Kulak, M. Dudkiewicz)

In the case of churches, threats are only potential. They result from the possibility of deterioration of the technical condition of these facilities due to too infrequent repairs, which in turn may lead to the loss of their architectural, landscape values, or both. In the case of cemetery complexes, the threats concern some of the oldest tombstones preserved in fragmentary form and wooden crosses. A potential threat is their destruction due to a lack of maintenance and repairs.

A specific threat may be a change in the mentality of the native inhabitants of the NPK area. It is worth noting that in the preservation of intangible elements of cultural heritage, an important role is played by Communal Cultural Centres and Farmer's Housewife's Circles. Thanks to them, local traditions are cultivated, which results in maintaining tangible and partly intangible values. Educating the younger residents on respect for cultural heritage is also essential.

The threat to cultural values is outdated conservation documentation from the 1980s and 1990s. Such a state results in a lack of information on current protection needs, including rescue

operations. Lacking any documentation, destroying material traces of the object's existence may also cause the loss of awareness of its existence. In addition, the limited possibility of immediate and effective intervention of conservation services results in the lack of actual mechanisms for enforcing actions inconsistent with the applicable conservation guidelines.

As far as historical objects are concerned, the main unfavourable processes include interruption of the cultural continuity of the original functions (e.g., the synagogue in Łęczna or many manor buildings with changed functions), abandonment of use (e.g., mills, distilleries, or the post office in Spiczyn), neglect (most of the traditional residential and farm buildings), reconstruction (church and manor house) in Milejów), overgrowing (e.g., manor parks) and obliterating the above-ground traces of the existence of objects (e.g., archaeological objects and former mansions or mills). In the case of many objects, the problem is to match the new function to the historic character of the object. Cultural values are also reduced by improper development of the surroundings (blurring of axes and scenic connections, creation of new cubature buildings that are not adapted in terms of scale and form to the historical character, development of the foreground of the exhibition or even degradation of traditional landscape dominants (churches, palaces) by new buildings taking over their role (e.g., Kijany – school buildings, Jaszczów – new farms surrounded by a manor house) – the destruction of historical panoramas as landscape distinguishing features.

New objects included in the buffer zone of the NPK

Based on the field inspections carried out and on the collected materials, i.e., architectural and dendrological inventories and historical data, it is proposed to extend the boundaries of the Park buffer zone to include three more objects: the palace and park complex in Krzesimów, the Sławka River Valley (Mełgiewka) on the Krzesimów–Zakrzów section and the Ciechanki Łańcuchowskie manor complex. It was also proposed to include an object in the Park now located in the buffer zone – the palace and park complex in Zawieprzyce (described above).

The Park in Krzesimów is entered in *the register of monuments* under the number A/740 as a “*palace and park complex: a palace, an outbuilding, a landscape park with a water system*”. The complex of greenery and palace buildings covers an area of 25 hectares. The palace is located on a small hill in the central part of the Park by picturesque ponds. An eclectic building with classicist features (Fig. 30) was built on the site of a former fortified manor house. The property includes two manor farms. Since 1978, the palace and outbuilding have been used as adult nursing homes. The preserved rows of hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* L.) and bowers of specimen oaks (*Quercus robur* L.) (Fig. 31). To date, the Park has not undergone a comprehensive revaluation. The elements of individual landscape interiors have been partially erased and water and ownership relations have also changed, thus making it impossible to fully reconstruct the historical water system, which is an integral element of the layout. The Landscape Park in Krzesimów was created in the first half of the 19th century thanks to the Stamirowski family. From the north, it borders orchards; from the east, its border is marked by a line of hornbeam and linden alleys; and from the south and west, the Park and the island are surrounded by ponds. Currently, there are 37 species of trees in the Park, some of which have the status of natural monuments and their age is estimated at over 250 years. The dominant species in terms of numbers are small-leaved linden (*Tilia cordata* Mill.), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* L.), Norway spruce (*Picea abies* (L.) H. Karst), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides* L.), English oak (*Quercus robur* L.), black alder (*Alnus glutinosa* Gaertn.), sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus* L.) and black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia* L.) [34, 35].



Fig. 30. Palace – southern elevation, view from the Park

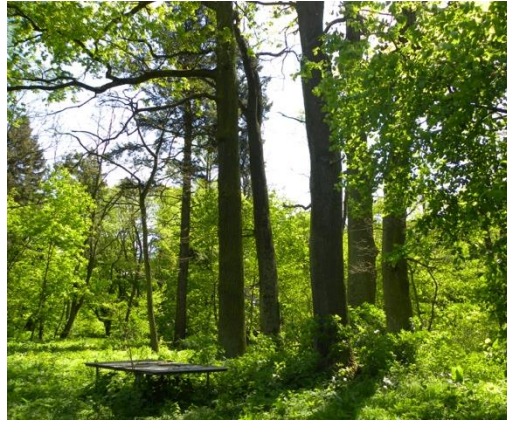


Fig. 31. View of the gazebo made of five 100-year-old oaks

The Sławka (Melgiewka) River, approximately 24 km long, is a left tributary of the Wieprz River. Its sources are in the village of Jadwisin. Flowing with the current, the river supplies a small water reservoir in Kawęczyn and then, flowing through Wierzchowiska next to the golf course, it replenishes the surrounding ponds with water. Further, flowing through Krępiec, it receives one of its tributaries. At this point, Sławka forms a large bend, changing its course from the north to the east. A few hundred meters further, it receives its next tributary. Then, the river flows to Minkowice, where it breaks under railway line No. 7 Warszawa Wschodnia-Dorohusk. Flowing further through Krzesimów, the river supplies a group of ponds and has passed a historic mill since 1934 and then, passing Lubieniec and Zakrzów (Fig. 32), it joins the waters of the Wieprz River in Ciechanki Łęczyńskie. The valley and banks of the river are covered with magnificent alders and willows (Fig. 33). A picturesque dirt road leads along it towards Krzesimów.



Fig. 32. A branch of the gorge in Zakrzów



Fig. 33. Sławka river valley (Melgiewka)

Ciechanki Łańcuchowskie manor complex

The building is entered in *the register of monuments* under the number A/732 as *a manor and park complex: a manor house, a park with a pond and a tree stands*. The landscape park with manor buildings covers an area of 6.5 ha. From 1908, the Ciechanka estate belonged to the

Lachert family. The manor house from the 19th century was rebuilt in 1924 by Lachert as the first realisation in the modernist style, simplifying the form of the Polish manor house [36, 37]. On the axis of the manor house on the eastern side, there was an oval driveway and on the axis of the garden façade, an original communication system was developed in the form of three long fan-shaped avenues. The main roads led to the pond, orchard and vegetable garden and grange. The manor complex in Ciechanki Łąncuchowskie belongs to parks in a modernist manner with calligraphic elements. In 2011, in the manor and park complex in Ciechanki Łąncuchowskie, 590 trees of 24 species were inventoried. In terms of numbers, the common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* L.) (157 pcs.), sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus* L.) (83 pcs.), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides* L.) (70 pcs.), common hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* L.) (61 pcs.) and small-leaved linden (*Tilia cordata* Mill.) (51 pcs.). Particularly valuable are *Fraxinus excelsior* L. (450 cm in circumference) and *Pinus nigra* JF Arnold (380 cm in circumference). The undergrowth consisted of 9 species of trees and shrubs, in which the following predominated quantitatively: *Acer platanoides* L., *Fraxinus excelsior* L. and *Sambucus nigra* L. Over the last thirty years, development has been largely neglected. The Park's tree stand is heavily densified by self-sown undergrowth. Lack of care, progressive overgrowing and destruction of plants resulted in a significant impoverishment of the dendroflora. In 2021, the building was renovated (Figs. 34 and 35) and the 10-hectare Park was fenced. A creative work and international youth meeting centre will be built here.



Fig. 34. Garden facade of the manor house in Ciechanki



Fig. 35. Garden facade of the manor house after renovation

Suggestions for activities to protect cultural values

In terms of the protection of cultural values, it is advisable to conduct various activities of the following types:

- Indication in the Study of conditions and directions of the spatial development of areas for which it is necessary to develop an LZP to protect historical resources and specify the type of protective zone (close, intermediate, scenic, landscape and archaeological zones conservation protection, objects entered the register of monuments and in the Municipal Register of Monuments).
- Development of local spatial development plans for the abovementioned towns, indicating potential areas excluded from new development, areas located within the boundaries of historical rural layouts and containing precise guidelines for shaping new

- development in their scenic vicinity. It is crucial to preserve the traditional spatial layouts of the village (continuation of the historical composition by making the buildings denser or developing new layouts regarding local spatial patterns).
- Designation in local spatial development plans of conservation protection zones around existing monuments, i.e., churches, manor houses, palaces and park complexes. Preserving the traditional surroundings of historical buildings allows for proper exposure to their values.
 - Updating or preparing conservation documentation for objects entered the register of monuments, as well as for valuable objects not covered by legal protection.
 - Conservation, renovation and restoration are recommended for the sacral objects of small architecture indicated in the survey, the wooden mill in Latyczyn, tombstones in the monastery cemetery in Radecznica and the Orthodox cemetery in Topólca.
 - An inventory of objects and, on this basis, a publication promoting a collection of roadside shrines, crosses, figures and preserved elements of regional buildings located throughout the Park.
 - Tourist promotion through the development and equipment of educational paths and walking and cycling routes and their implementation.
 - Education should primarily include the development of folders showing the possibility of adapting old cottages for tourist purposes and the creation of a template in the form of a catalogue of model solutions promoted for the forms of fencing and the method of development of habitat plots on which regional architecture objects and valuable old trees have been preserved.
 - Preservation of mid-field and roadside trees and bushes, ponds and near-water vegetation.
 - Protection of the Park area against invasive plants through constant monitoring and education of residents.

Conclusions

In the case of landscape parks, “classical nature protection” in the narrow sense must be extended towards an interdisciplinary approach, the aim of which is the sustainable coexistence of man and nature in the cultural landscape.

The values of the cultural heritage of the Nadwieprzański Landscape Park are strongly differentiated in terms of their rank and location in the spatial layout of the Park. The groups of monuments in the Nadwieprzański Landscape Park include sacral architecture, residential and garden architecture, rural wooden and brick architecture, municipal buildings, industrial and economic buildings, railway stations, religious and war cemeteries and small architecture buildings, particularly sacral buildings (shrines and roadside crosses), along with the surroundings in the form of composed vegetation systems.

Protection and preservation of heritage for future generations and rational use of environmental resources can ensure constant and sustainable economic development and increase the standard of living of the population of the Łęczna region.

The main objective of protecting the NPK’s cultural resources’ preservation of all components of the environmental resources of this area is to counteract the destruction and misuse of monuments and control their state of preservation as well as their intended use.

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