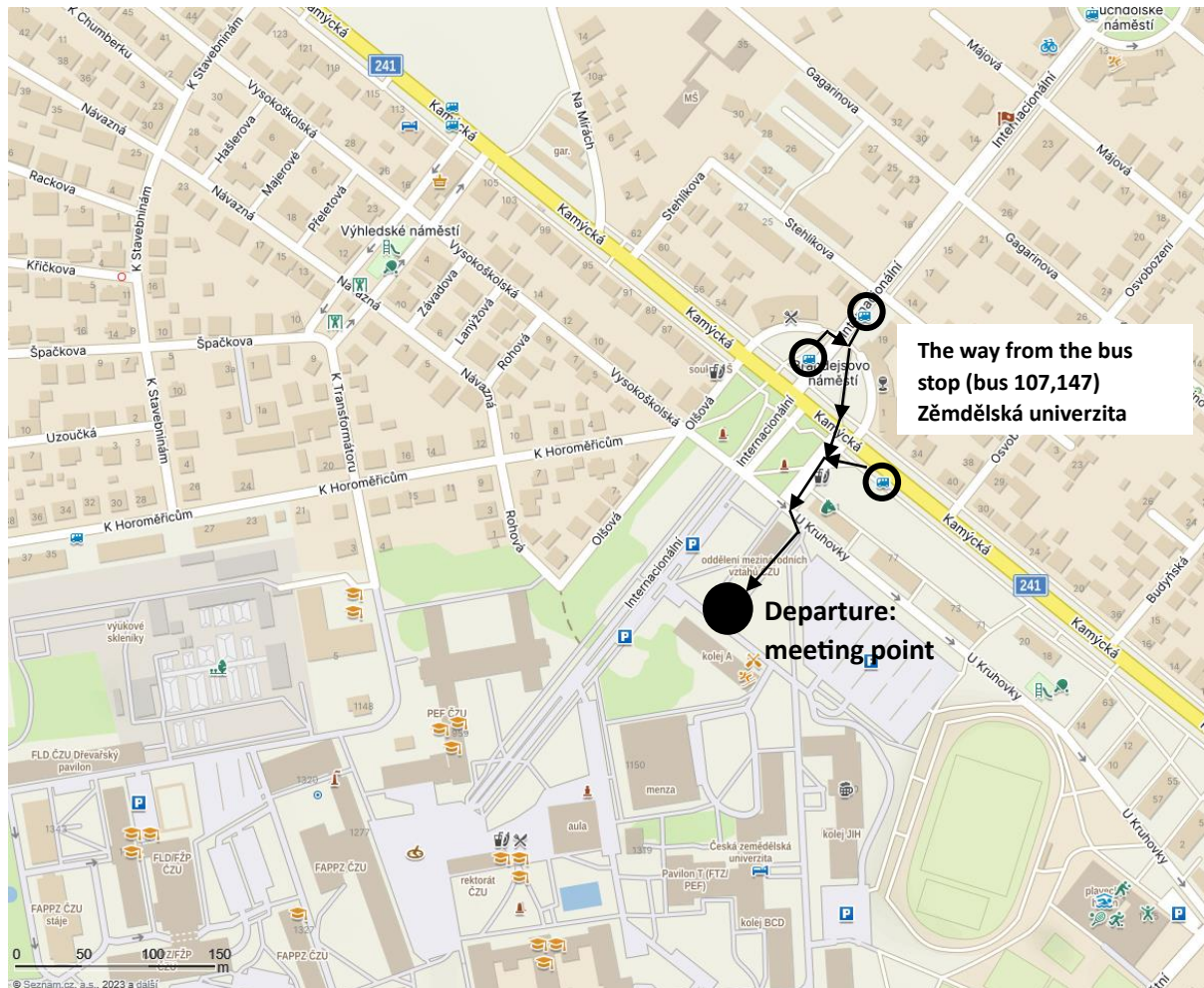


## **Fragmented biodiversity refuge: Species-rich grasslands in an agricultural region**

**Date:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Departure:** 8:00 a.m. from the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague,

GPS: 50.1316775N, 14.3759622E (black point on the map)



**Arrival:** about 4:00 p.m. to the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague

**What you will get:** packed lunch (sandwiches, sweet snack, fruit), basic water

**What you will need:** off-road shoes, additional beverages (especially if the summer temperatures will be forecasted), sunscreen/raincoat depending on the forecast.

The walked distance will be ~11 km (medium difficulty)

**Excursion guide and the main excursion organiser:** **Tomáš Jor**, Faculty of Science, Charles University (Cell phone: (+420)731897275), *accompanied by a colleague from the regional conservation office*

**Main conference organisers:** **Dr. Robert Tropek**, Faculty of Science, Charles University (Cell phone (+420)777755785); **Dr. Tomáš Kadlec**, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences (Cell phone: (+420)739312295)

### Plan for the Raná Reserve:

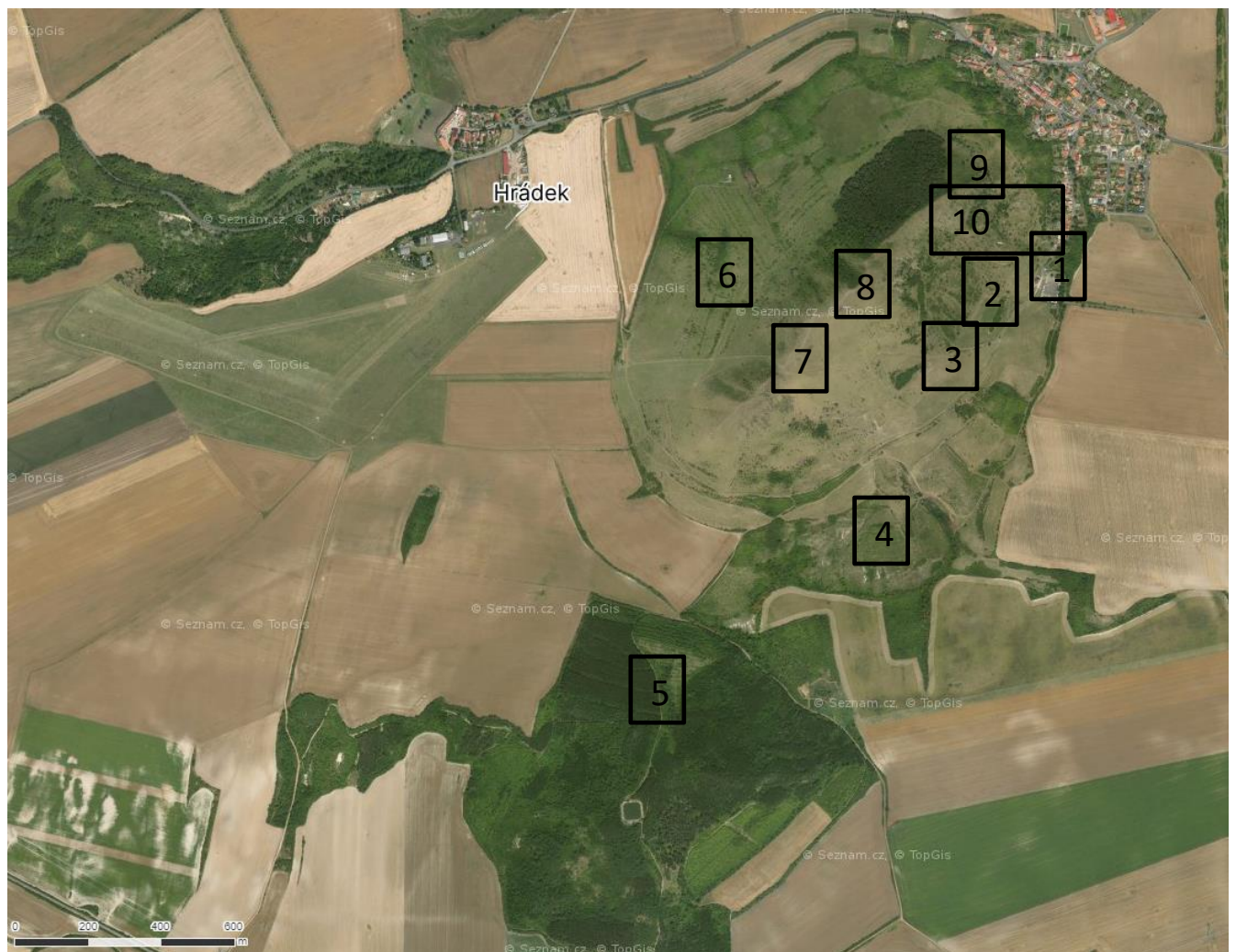
8:00 a.m. – Departure from the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague

9:15 a.m. – Arrival at the Raná reserve

– Places to see:

1. Start (bus)
2. European sousliks (*if we will be quite and lucky*)
3. Steppe, xeric grasslands, *Pseudophilotes vicrama*
4. Last Czech population of *Polyommatus damon* (if still present...)
5. Steppe – „White slopes“
6. Steppe grasslands, *Polyommatus coridon*
7. Nice views of the surrounding landscape (if the weather allows)
8. Hilltop, paragliding, last Czech population of *Chazara briseis*
9. Small quarry, *Hipparchia semele* and *Thymelicus acteon*
10. Orchard

Transfer to Blšanský chlum

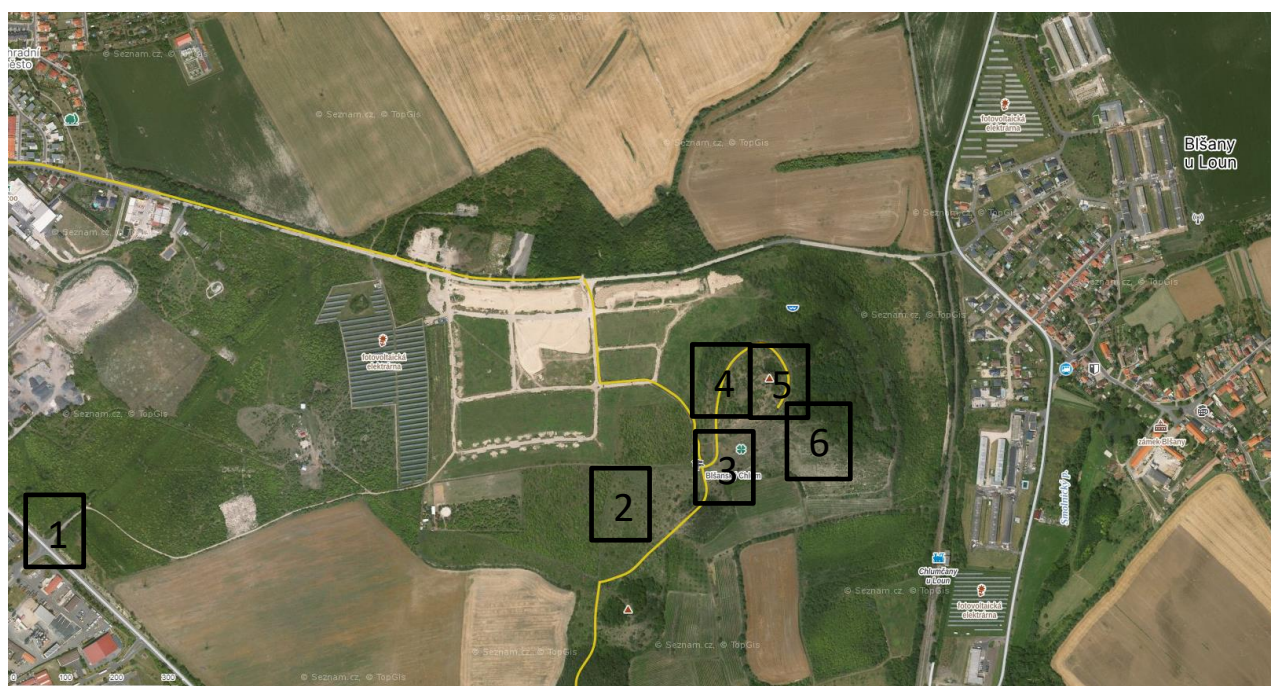


## Plan for the Blšanský chlum, an abandoned military training area:

Places to see:

1. Start (bus)
2. Sheep and goat grazing
3. Steppe, *Glaucopsyche alexis*, *Zygaena laeta*
4. Quarry, *Spialia sertorius*
5. Hilltop (optional), *Iphiclides podalirius* and *Papilio machaon*
6. Shrubs and trees removing

~2:45 p.m. (14:45) Departure to Prague and return to the venue at ~4 p.m. (16:00)



## Butterfly species possible to meet during the excursion:

Part of the Raná hill is strictly protected and collecting of insect specimen is prohibited there, please always follow instructions of the excursion guides. Additionally, the protected species (§) are not allowed to be sampled without a specific permit. During the excursion, please do not collect the red-list species (CR, EN, VU, NT) even if met outside the protected areas.

| Species                   | Family      | Conservation status (§ or Red list) |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Erynnis tages</i>      | Hesperiidae |                                     |
| <i>Hesperia comma</i>     | Hesperiidae | VU                                  |
| <i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i> | Hesperiidae | EN                                  |
| <i>Pyrgus carthami</i>    | Hesperiidae | EN                                  |
| <i>Pyrgus malvae</i>      | Hesperiidae |                                     |
| <i>Spialia sertorius</i>  | Hesperiidae | VU                                  |

|                                   |              |       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| <i>Thymelicus acteon</i>          | Hesperiidae  | EN    |
| <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>         | Hesperiidae  |       |
| <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>      | Hesperiidae  |       |
| <i>Aricia agestis</i>             | Lycaenidae   |       |
| <i>Cupido minimus</i>             | Lycaenidae   | VU    |
| <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>        | Lycaenidae   | VU    |
| <i>Lycaena alciphron</i>          | Lycaenidae   | VU    |
| <i>Lycaena dispar</i>             | Lycaenidae   | §     |
| <i>Lycaena tityrus</i>            | Lycaenidae   |       |
| <i>Lycana phlaes</i>              | Lycaenidae   |       |
| <i>Plebejus argus</i>             | Lycaenidae   | NT    |
| <i>Plebejus argyrognomon</i>      | Lycaenidae   |       |
| <i>Polyommatus amandus</i>        | Lycaenidae   | NT    |
| <i>Polyommatus coridon</i>        | Lycaenidae   | VU    |
| <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>         | Lycaenidae   |       |
| <i>Polyommatus thersites</i>      | Lycaenidae   | VU    |
| <i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>     | Lycaenidae   | CR    |
| <i>Satyrium acaciae</i>           | Lycaenidae   |       |
| <i>Satyrium pruni</i>             | Lycaenidae   | NT    |
| <i>Satyrium spini</i>             | Lycaenidae   | VU    |
| <i>Thecla betulae</i>             | Lycaenidae   |       |
| <i>Aglaia urticae</i>             | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Aphantopus hyperanthus</i>     | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Argynnis adippe</i>            | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Argynnis paphia</i>            | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Boloria dia</i>                | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Coenonympha arcania</i>        | Nymphalidae  | NT    |
| <i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>      | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>      | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Hipparchia semele</i>          | Nymphalidae  | CR    |
| <i>Chazara briseis</i>            | Nymphalidae  | §, CR |
| <i>Inachis io</i>                 | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Issoria lathonia</i>           | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Lasiommata megera</i>          | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Maniola jurtina</i>            | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Melanargia galathea</i>        | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Pararge aegeria</i>            | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>           | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Vanessa cardui</i>             | Nymphalidae  |       |
| <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>      | Papilionidae | §     |
| <i>Papilio machaon</i>            | Papilionidae | §     |
| <i>Colias alfacariensis/hyale</i> | Pieridae     |       |
| <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>          | Pieridae     |       |
| <i>Leptidea juvernica/sinapis</i> | Pieridae     |       |
| <i>Pieris brassicae</i>           | Pieridae     |       |
| <i>Pieris napi</i>                | Pieridae     |       |

|                             |            |    |
|-----------------------------|------------|----|
| <i>Pieris rapae</i>         | Pieridae   |    |
| <i>Pontia edusa</i>         | Pieridae   |    |
| <hr/>                       |            |    |
| <i>Adscita statices</i>     | Zygaenidae |    |
| <i>Zygaena carniolica</i>   | Zygaenidae | NT |
| <i>Zygaena ephialtes</i>    | Zygaenidae | NT |
| <i>Zygaena filipendulae</i> | Zygaenidae |    |
| <i>Zygaena laeta</i>        | Zygaenidae | CR |
| <i>Zygaena viciae</i>       | Zygaenidae |    |
| <hr/>                       |            |    |
| ...and more...              |            |    |

### Description:

České Středohoří is a charming landscape of ancient volcanic hills surrounded by agricultural landscapes. The hill sides are often covered by natural habitats, ranging from dry steppe grasslands to shrubs and forests, representing important refuges of biodiversity in the otherwise intensive agricultural area. Therefore, some of these hills have been actively managed to maintain regionally important populations of endangered butterflies and other insects, plants, and other organisms. Besides the nice viewpoints, the hilltops also attract many insect species for mating and other activities.

We will visit a few sites in the Raná reserve and its surroundings to see results of successful conservation projects specifically focused on populations of endangered *Chazara briseis* (the last autochthonous population in the Czech Republic), *Iphiclides podalirius*, *Polyommatus thersites*, *Spialia sertorius* and others. We will also see many other insect and plant species, with a bit of luck including European sousliks. If there is enough time, we will visit also a small abandoned military training area with mesic shrublands and grasslands on the way back to see diverse habitats of butterflies and other organisms. Although not high, climbing the steep hill slopes can be physically demanding, especially in the hot summer weather as some of them offer virtually no shadow. Parts of the visited localities are protected with no possibility to collect biological samples.

