

HISTORICAL ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH OF THE KURGANS OF HAJDÚNÁNÁS–ZAGOLYA-DŰLŐ

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Kurgans are man-made geomorphological elements of the Eurasian steppe zone. In the Carpathian Basin, their construction is linked to the burial customs of Bronze Age societies, however their importance is multifold and isn't limited to their archaeological significance only. These formations are also carriers of significant botanical, zoological, pedological and geomorphological values, and as key elements of the cultural heritage they represent unique aesthetic and culture historical significance within the landscapes of the Great Hungarian Plain. Within the vicinity of Hajdúnánás, the so called Zagolya-dűlő gives home to multiple burial mounds. The history of this territory arches over – at least – five millennia, starting with the construction of these burial mounds. The current study focuses on the historical ecology of Zagolya-dűlő by integrating various environmental and historical sources. Results of the paleopedological analysis of one of the kurgans reveal data on the contemporary environmental conditions, while the detailed landuse historical assessment helps to understand the significance of the territory and the role of the kurgans within the later ages. To complete the condition assessment of the kurgans basic soil and botanical survey were also performed and will be reported on.