

WETLANDS ON HISTORICAL MAPS

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This article presents easily accessible archive maps that provide an overview of the historical location of wetlands and they are also suitable for GIS analysis. The main research question is to find out the potential in use of historical maps for the identification of historical or restoring wetlands in the Czech Republic and the subsequent evaluation of driving forces that lead to extinction or restoration of wetlands. This article describes Map II. Military Mapping as the most suitable tool for estimating detection of historical wetlands. The map captures the true state of the landscape in the middle of the 19th century. It was, among other things, a landscape of unregulated watercourses. The Stable Cadastre provides more detailed description of the landscape from this period as the map was designated for mapping the country for tax purposes. It is available only as map sheets that need to be georeferenced for possible GIS use. Other suitable sources for the landscape analysis are historical orthophotomap from the 1950's, historical aerial photographs from 1937–2002 and archival orthophotomaps from 1998–2017. The paper also illustrates the successful wetland restoration on agricultural land on the basis of historical maps. This information can be used in landscape planning with regard on the restoration, protection and management of wetlands that have crucial role in water retention in the landscape. Unfortunately, the wetlands, with the exception of ponds, have almost completely disappeared from the ordinary landscape of the Czech Republic. The article also describes the causes of landscape changes that led to current state.