

Landslide and its complex investigation

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Geophysical survey methods bring information on the rock environment in real time, i.e. already during the geophysical survey. A geologist or a geotechnician provides such obtained information to a designer for the purpose of designing and implementation work at construction sites. Also, information on the effect of the rock environment or its properties (changing with time) on stabilization work are very significant. Repeated geophysical measurements (gravimetric, magnetometric, seismic, geoelectrical, radiometric and logging) provide necessary information on the rock environment from the moment of making measurements either periodically or continuously. The paper presents some of our experience gained during repeated measurements.

Key words: *geophysical methods, slope deformations, landslides, monitoring*

Introduction

The assessment of damages due to the slope movements on the left slope of the Olše River included a landslide map concerning a zone about 2 km long. Its width ensured coverage of not only the concerned slide slopes but also the inherent areas within the foreland and behind the slope crest. The map at Fig. 1 shows all types of slope deformations. The interpretation contains degree of activity for each slope deformation and the potential risks of conceivable movement.

The upper part of the geologic structure is built of Miocene sediments, having thickness up to 700 m. They are mostly claystones and clays with the abundant content of silt and sandy components. The calcareous substance in clay is frequent so that calcareous clays locally turn into marls and marlstones. The Neogene sediments that build the slope itself are covered at the top by a complex of glacial sediments and loess. Mostly slope loams of various thicknesses cover the hillside. Quaternary sediments of the alluvium are represented by terrace gravel, sand and alluvial soil.

The aim of the engineering geological mapping was to delineate areas afflicted not only by recent landslides, threatening directly buildings and facilities, but also by fossil deformations now inactive or dormant. Such structures may pose certain risks as the ancient movements impaired the contexture of ground formations, shear strength which, despite of the long period of consolidation, do not attain the strength of solid or intact materials. Because we expect an effect of underground workings in the future, it is highly probable that some parts of the fossil deformations may become active. Fig. 1 shows a special engineering geological map of the area of concern (Bláha et al, 2000 a). The field investigation discovered 26 partial slope deformations.

Geophysical and engineering geological investigation

Following the preliminary engineering geological mapping, the most dangerous landslide (red color) - was subjected to further investigation (Fig. 2). The first stage was based on geoelectrical methods. Graphically presented results of measurements on the PA profile show three partial diagrams. The middle one (Fig. 2b) is a graph of results of measurements of resistivity profiling. The lower picture (Fig 2c) represents results of quantitative interpretation of resistivity sounding (RS) and the overall geological interpretation of investigative activities. Moreover, the top part displays the course of the geophysical profile (Bláha et al, 2000 a). After the primary geophysical interpretation we made a geophysical model of the slope. The further step – geological interpretation – was based on general geological principles along with our geological understanding of the region. The profile was subdivided into eight physical units. Then the physical model of the slope was examined in more detail. The complex of geophysical methods was extended by shallow refraction seismic (SRS), seismic tomography, and logging survey. Besides these methods, we installed boreholes for standard documentation of drilling core and logging. The boreholes were consequently used as monitoring boreholes and as boreholes for precise inclinometer survey.

The logging results in one borehole are given in Fig 3. The methods used: gamma log (GL), gamma gamma log (GGL), neutron neutron log (NNL), resistivity log (Rap 0.11, Rap 0.41), calliper log (CL),

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photometry, thermometry, and sonic logging (ATT + Vp). A standard task of logging is to specify the lithological profile. The base of Quaternary cover was detected at a depth of 5 m. Neogene sediments, described geologically as claystones with capsules of fine sand up to 5 cm or sandy limestone, were indicated by gamma log and neutron neutron log as claystone and sandy claystone, indicating the total strata thickness up to 2 meters or more (Lukeš, 2000).

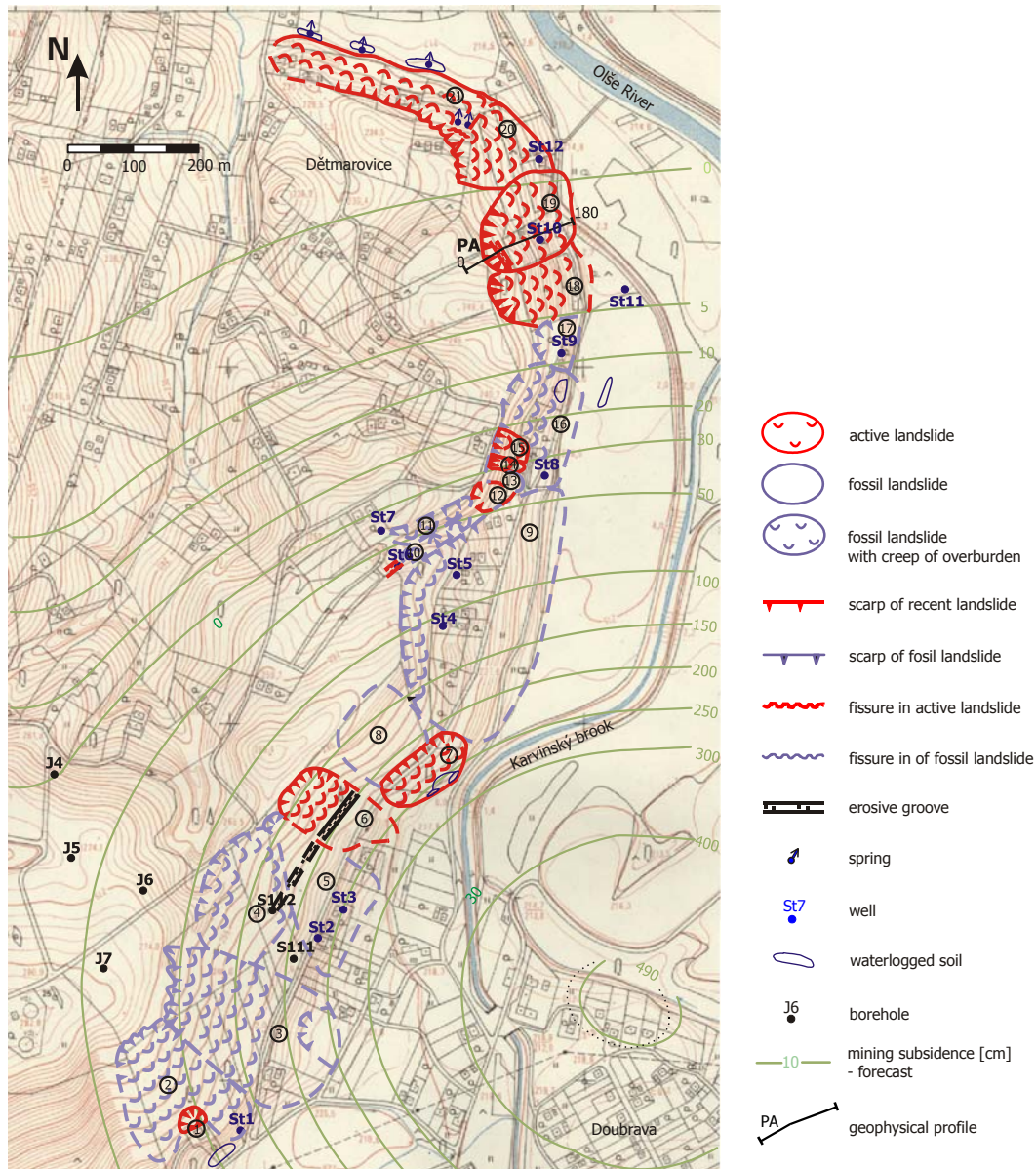


Fig. 1. Landslide inventory map.

The curves of gamma gamma log and sonic log characterize two blocks of different physical properties and one anomaly defined by depth. The first block reaches to a depth of about 5.3 meters. It mostly coincides lithologically with Quaternary sediments, including by the top layer of weathered Neogene claystone. The lower block is built up from Neogene sediments and it contains the anomaly. According the features of physical properties, we can say that the physical properties become better with depth. Therefore, according to the geophysical survey, the slipping plane can be expected anywhere within this layer; thus the logging survey is not capable to delineate the location where the slipping plane could be expected. Such statement is very important for the geotechnical engineer who makes appropriate stability solution. The check measurements of the precise inclinometry confirmed movements in this borehole at a depth of 5.1 m in the spring of 2001 (Novosad L., 2003). These findings are consistent with the results of the logging survey, and are not against the statements deduced from the distribution of physical properties around the borehole.

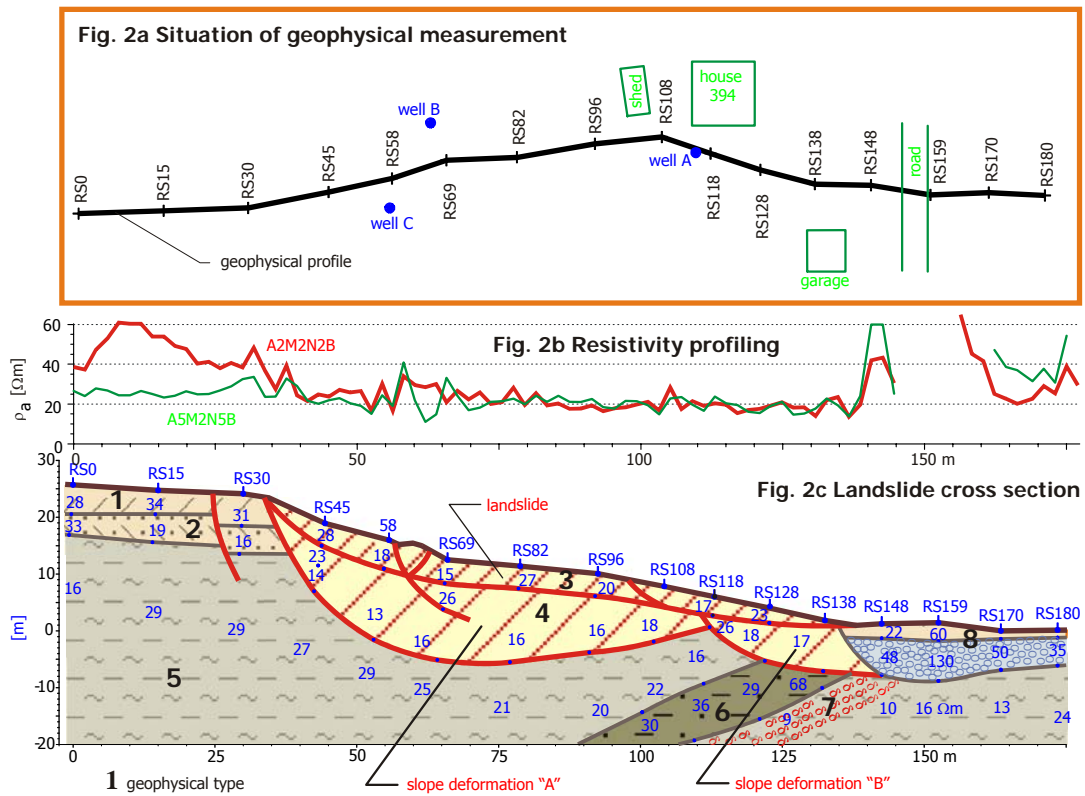


Fig. 2. Cross section (after geoelectrical measurements).

The anomaly characterized by the changed physical properties occurs from 7.0 m to 7.7 m. The biggest deviation from the normal field is obvious on the curves of density logging and the arrival time of ultrasonic wave to the first sensor. Another deterioration can also be found on the curve of attenuation. All these changes of physical parameters of the layer indicate that the layer can be described as a layer of plastic clays. According to this characteristic we can establish a hypothesis that the layer represents the lower slipping zone. This corresponds with the interpretation of the shallow geophysical measurements. In this case, the condition when the slipping zone goes through the layer is very important for the stability calculation.

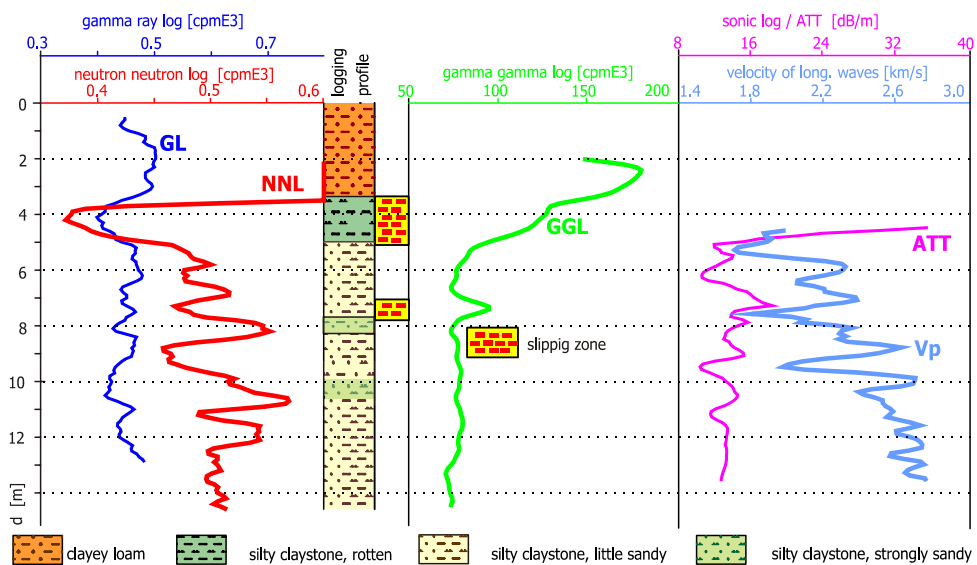


Fig. 3. Well logging on landslide.

The graphical display of the results of the examination of the landslide (Fig. 4) shows four partial diagrams. The upper diagram represents the graph of the results of the measurements of the resistivity profiling and velocities of longitudinal waves on the main refraction horizon. The two middle pictures (Fig. 4b, 4c) – represent the velocity fields from seismic tomography and from shallow refraction seismic (velocities underneath the main refraction horizon). The lower picture shows the results of the quantitative interpretation of RS, SRS, logging and the complex geological interpretation (Bláha et al, 2000 b).

The landslide was subdivided into eight different geological units. Outside the landslide there are various soils. At RS30 there is an obvious block subsidence. To the North, on the plateau, there is a crack with a 20 cm subsidence of the terrain. Underneath the loess soil, above the landslide, there is a layer consisting probably of loamy glacial sediments. We cannot exclude, however, that RS15 and RS30 – are under influence of the water table and capillary fringe. The block subsidence straight behind the scarp is also documented in the results of SRS. The depth to the base of the layer gained from RS and SRS is practically the same. Low velocities of the layer, also obvious from the velocity contour lines, speak rather for glacial sediments than weathered Neogene.

Underneath the rivet flat loam, there is a layer of fluvial sediments, sands and gravel. According to the rate of resistivity, the rocks are very variable, composed of loamy sands to relatively fine sands to gravel. Locations with high levels of resistivity can exhibit significant groundwater flow. The total thickness of the terrace of the Olše River, defined through geophysics, is in conformity with archive data of drilling works. What is interesting is the higher thickness of the terrace at the toe of the slope. It could be caused by powerful erosive activity of Olše River within the postglacial period or by small strength of the bedrock. This may be given by tectonic deterioration of Neogene claystones (Fig. 4).

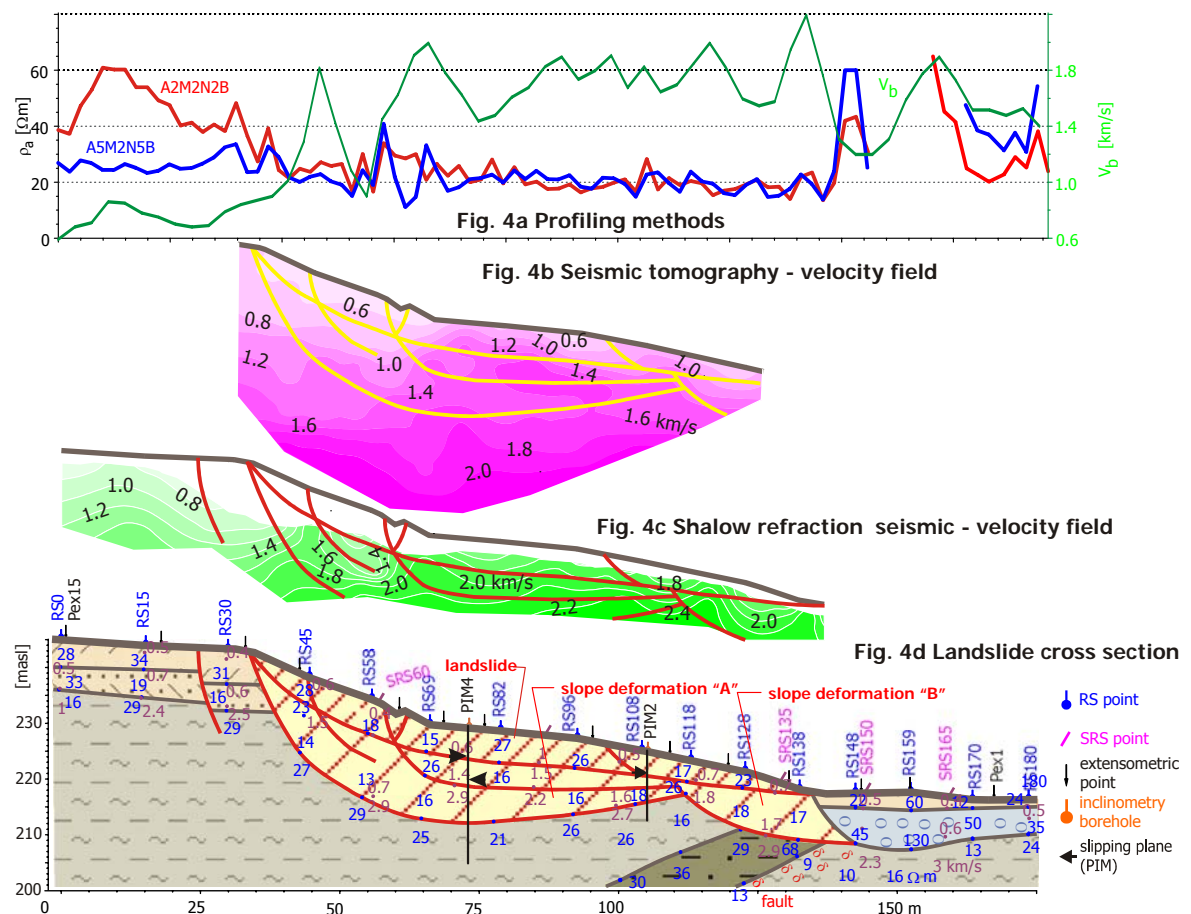


Fig. 4. Cross section after comprehensive landslide investigation.

The most geodynamically active structure is a shallow slope deformation – a landslide. The landslide material consists of a mixture of all types of Quaternary sediments and the bedrock material – Neogene clays. All sediments are kneaded and they physically form one layer. In the longitudinal direction, from geophysical measurements, we can appoint two partial landslides. From curves of the resistivity profiling and from

the seismic measurements, it is clear that the rock massif is in the subsurface under tensile strain from the slope edge to SRS75. According to the seismic tomography, the active landslide is quite released, especially at the top. Up to 70 m from the face edge, the rates of longitudinal wave velocity drop below 0.6 km/s, which is the evidence of their low bulk density and extensive mechanical disturbances.

Underneath the shallow landslide we can encounter two other storeys of slope failure by a deep slope deformation. With regard to an expressive minimum of velocities near 50 m stationing, it is obvious that there is significant tension zone. We can deduce that the central storey of the slope deformation is in active, nevertheless slight, movement. Only the lower storey is considered as a stabilized structure. The central and lower storeys are marked by thin hatch. The central storey of the slope deformation cannot be distinguished within the profile by resistivity (RS82, 96, 108). The bottom of the second storey was detectable both by seismic measurements and logging. The lower slipping plane was detected geoelectrically, and within the lower part of the landslide also by the method SRS and logging curves. Tension disturbances of deep deformations near the slope toe are visible not only in the field of velocities but also on the quantitatively determined low rates on SRS60 the velocity is 0.7 km/s up to the depth of about 17 m.

In the field of velocities from the seismic tomography results we see interesting distribution of velocities. In the upper part of the landslide, with 70 meters spacing, we can find low velocities of longitudinal waves. Within the central storey of the landslide the velocities drop below 0.8 km/s; the low storey shows maximum velocities reaching 1.2 km/s. Such low velocities at depths up to 15 meters are utmost anomalous, confirming significant tension stress of all storeys of the slope deformation. On contrary, the lower part of the slope exercises growth of velocities up to 1.6 km/s. The velocity contour lines show inversion in the section of 80 – 100 meters. The anomaly of the increased velocities occurs at the central slipping plane. The increased velocities can result from higher rock stress through friction on the slipping plane or by compaction of material within the central and low storeys of the slope deformation. The changes in velocities from the seismic tomography correspond with the logging results. We can assume possible explanation that the decline in velocities is not caused only by disturbances of rocks but it is also given by transition from the range of increased strains into the range of normal strains.

There is a discrepancy between the velocities gained from the seismic tomography and the shallow refraction seismic survey. The values from the plus-minus method are higher than allowable inaccuracy of measurement or errors. The explanation must be based on the principles of the methods. The penetration method deals mostly with rays parallel to the earth surface. On contrary, velocities by seismic tomography represent the average value of velocities in all directions. Therefore, if Fig. 4 shows higher values gained from the transmission method, we must seek for the reason why the velocity is higher in this direction. The only explanation is the horizontal tension. If the ratio of the velocities is less than 0.8, the horizontal velocities are 1.5 times higher than the vertical velocities. Here, we must repeat that the seismic measurements examine conditions that cannot be resolved by conventional engineering geological investigation. The stability calculations must be expanded by a variable of horizontal tension.

In the post glacial period, the Olše River eroded down to the current altitude of the recent terrace, which resulted in undercutting of the slope and formation of slope deformation "B" (Fig. 4). Due to the landslide, the river was forced away from the slope toe. Further erosion gradually denuded the material of the slope deformation and the slope toe got loose again. A new slope movement gave rise to slope deformation "A". The materials of the deep deformations (Neogene clays) are disturbed in two ways. After deglaciation, the top layer of clays was relieved and subhorizontal fractures evolved. When the side erosion and the first slope movement got close, the clays were horizontally transformed with evolution of vertical fractures. These processes led to increase in water content in the clays, which, together with the failure caused by slope movement, resulted in decrease of the resistivities of the deep deformations. These were also enhanced by loosening of the sand formations, which consequently play a role of water influent beneath the slope deformation or straight to the slipping planes. Therefore, the resistivities of the deep deformations are lower than the resistivities of the shallow landslides where the landslide material is more disturbed. The increased resistivities of the shallow slope deformations are also due to inclusions of glacial sandy sediments, as well as air fissures. Similarly, the resistivities of the deep landslides are lower than the resistivities of the relatively less disturbed clays of the underlying bedrock. And there are not vertical fractures or failure by slope movement.

The bedrock of the mentioned geological complexes is built up from Neogene sediments. The lowest resistivities can be detected at the slope toe on RS118 and RS148. It is highly probable that these Neogene sediments are tectonically weakened here. This is the reason why the side erosion advanced so far. Near the zone of weakness there is a zone with higher resistivities. Our assumption is that the layer consists of more compact sediments than Miocene claystones. It could be a sandy formation or a formation bearing more calcareous compartments. According to the results of tomography we can consider the decline in velocities at lower depths for the 70 meter stationing. The drop in velocities is also recorded on the logging

curves. It is probably caused by failure of Neogene sediments in the bedrock. That supports the assumption that the origin of the slope deformation in this place is bound to this failure of the Neogene claystones.

Stability calculation and stabilization

The information gained from the investigation and monitoring at the site was used in stability calculations. The inclinometer measurements confirmed as the most active shallow slipping plane (rotational in the upper part, – planar at the bottom). Therefore, the slope stability was evaluated by calculation of safety factors - against movement along this slipping plane considered in the calculation as broken.

Our own program “STABL0M2” made the calculation and the Pettersson’s and Bishop’s methods were adjusted for the calculation of safety factors for the irregular slipping plane (Pavlík, 2000). The slope geometry is shown in Fig. 5. The shape of the slipping plane was defined in the former investigation. We also determined the safety factor along circular slipping plane: value $s = 0.96$ (according to the results of reverse calculation along slipping plane for the lower part of the slope with the safety factor = 1, characterizing the indifferent state of equilibrium). New calculations have introduced parameters of shear strength, established by the previous reverse calculation as a weighted average of parameters of the materials through which the mentioned slipping plane runs. A series of calculations was initiated by determination of the safety factor along the broken slipping plane, under the condition of water table in 2000 year (it was used in calculations under the last investigation). Afterwards, the calculation for the decreased level of the water table that was characteristic for the situation before starting our stabilization activities (installation of drainage boreholes) was done. The last calculation simulated the situation after stabilization (significant fall of the water table). The calculated safety factors for the landslide movement along the defined slipping plane are given in the table 1.

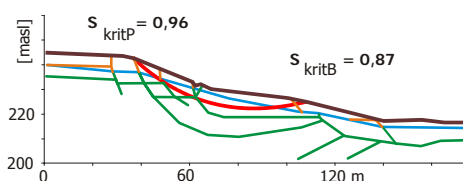


Fig. 5. Stability solution.

Tab. 1. Water table and safety factor.

Level of water table	Depth to water table below terrain surface [m]				Safety factor
	HV1	HV3	slope edge	10 m behind slope edge	
Initial - in 2000	3,64	3,60	5,63	6,20	1,11
Before dewatering	2,50	1,00	3,50	3,50	1,00
After dewatering	4,60	5,20	7,50	6,50	1,27

From the table, it is clear that the calculated values of the safety factors are highly dependent on the altitude of the water table. For a consideration of the stability calculations and confirmed monitoring we decided in the first step to stabilize the landslide through dewatering. This was carried out step-by-step: installation of long horizontal drainage boreholes, construction of surface drainage, installation of short horizontal drainage boreholes, and revival of dewatering of the house on the landslide (Fig. 6).

The long horizontal drainage boreholes were drilled from the front face of the landslide with a drilling set, by navigated drilling (both direction and inclination) along the shallow slipping plane. After 95 m, the boreholes were brought out on the surface in a plain above the landslide. The horizontal drainage borehole HOV2 was 132 meters long, and HOV3 135 m. The boreholes were not driven in straight lines; they were deflected to avoid the base of the house. The surface drainage, made of prefabricated troughs, had a shape of a horseshoe in the upper part of the landslide. From the upper part of the horseshoe there were installed the upper short horizontal drainage boreholes in order to dewater the plain above the landslide. The drilling technology was the same as for the long boreholes. The lengths are: 51 m for HOV5 and 54m for HOV4, drilling angle was 10° above horizontal. The purpose of the short horizontal boreholes (45 m long) in the lower part of the landslide was to dewater the borehole occurring in the lower accumulation part of the slope deformation.

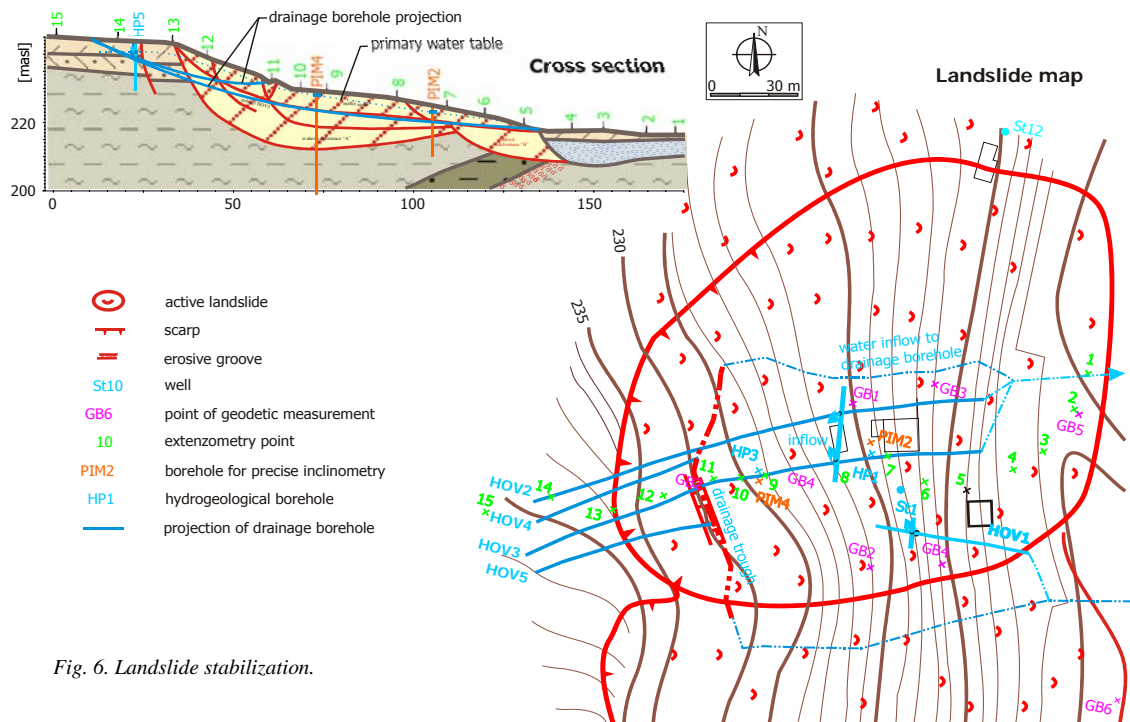


Fig. 6. Landslide stabilization.

Monitoring

All of the horizontal drainage boreholes were checked with a television camera, which gave us a detailed knowledge on their functioning and condition of perforation of polyethylene pipes. The television inspection revealed more complicated water circulation in the massif than supposed in general. The alternation of spots with water inflow to the borehole and dry spots also occurs in half a meter intervals, in extreme conditions more frequently. There are no positions where the water does not come to the borehole within the interval of five meters. At the boreholes we can distinguish intervals where water run down heavily or slightly along the casing, intervals where water ran along the casing under the higher level of groundwater, and intervals with no water at all.

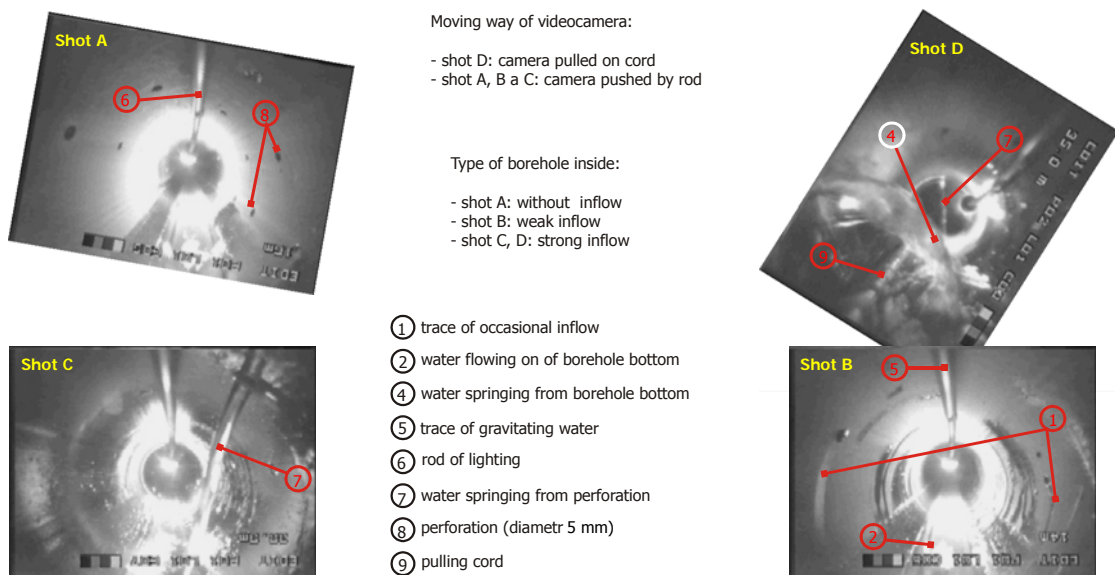


Fig. 7. TV logging of outflow from drainage hole.

Fig. 7 represents typical video documentation from horizontal drainage boreholes.

Shot A: 5 mm perforation slots in the casing of the drainage borehole (8) and a camera light rod (6). Shot B: an interval with slight inflow of water, water coming from the landslide along the bottom of the casing (2) and intervals of occasional draining of water to the borehole (1). These parts are covered by limonite. Other perforation slots (5) show heavier and active inflow of water at the time of our inspection. These intervals typically behave as a source of intensive reflection. Shot C, D: the best TV documentation of horizontal drainage boreholes. E: water running from the upper perforation. F: water flowing from a borehole at the bottom of the casing in foreground, and water running from a borehole at the top of the casing in background.

If we plot the intervals of intensive water inflows to drainage boreholes, they will fall on one line, where the biggest deformations of the landslide were detected (Fig. 6). We cannot exclude a hypothesis that the sand excavated during installation of the monitoring borehole is not a residue of the old slope deformation “B” (Fig. 4).

The essential part of the landslide monitoring before, during, and after the stabilization is observing of the groundwater regime. For this landslide we monitored the water table at three boreholes and the outflow from four horizontal drainage boreholes. The level of the water table across the landslide is measured at the HP1 and HP3 boreholes from the beginning of the monitoring. At the beginning of the stabilization, the HP5 borehole was installed on the plain above the landslide and then included into the monitoring system. At first, the water level was measured once a week; afterwards, from the beginning of the stabilization, it was measured on a daily basis. The results are shown in Fig. 8 (Bláha et al, 2003).

From the picture 8, it is obvious that before the beginning of dewatering the landslide the water table fluctuated significantly. Fluctuations reached 1.5 m and 2.5 m at HP1 and HP3, respectively.

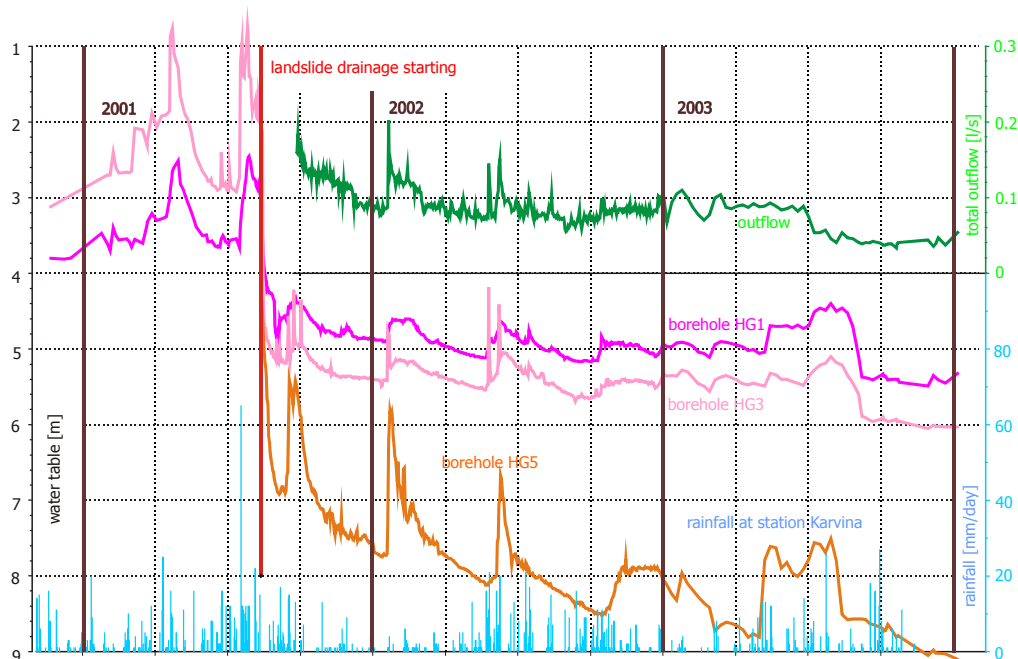


Fig. 8. Water table and outflow changes.

The picture shows data from two rainfall metering stations. Certain rain brought about nearly immediate increase of the water table; some were almost without any impact (9. 4. 2001). The rain of the season around April 22nd produced increase of the water table, resulting in the landslide movement (as we know from inclinometry and extensometry). Similar situation repeats around July 18th. The increase of the water table was more profound at HP3 borehole, where, in the tension zone of the landslide, the water percolation was easier and surface water came from the plain above the landslide.

The importance of the drainage boreholes in respect of the water level in the massif is clear from the rapid decrease of the water table after the beginning of the drainage activities. The decrease was 5 m, 3 m, and 4 m at HP3, HP1, and HP5 borehole, respectively. It is important that water table did not reach the original altitude any more. Moreover, the increment over the rain season is lower than before. Thus, the massif is under lower stress by the high levels of the water table, also the dynamic stress from groundwater fluctuation is decreased.

The 2001/2002 winter monitoring another decrease of the water table was watched. At the end of January 2002, during the thaw season, the water table slightly went up; nevertheless, it did not reach the level measured in the rainy season of August 2001. The time period when the landslide was exposed to higher levels of the water table was shorter than in August 2001. The daily monitoring of the water table shows that some events of rapid increase in water table happened at the HP3 borehole, and occasionally also at HP5 borehole. Moreover, for certain rapid changes we subsequently discovered typical gradient curves, which explains these anomalies. The system of the underground percolation in the landslide and its vicinity is very complicated, consisting of several interrelated subsystems. The monitoring of the water level and the landslide proves benefits from dewatering resulting in decreased stresses in the massif and its vicinity. In late January and early February of 2002, after another thaw season, the landslide body was saturated with water. Its dewatering will probably take certain time. The further water decreasing was noted in the second part of 2003. According our knowledge this effect was caused with the mining activity.

Since October 2001, when the hydrogeological boreholes were completed, we have also monitored the quantity of the water outflow. In Fig. 8, the outflow rates are marked in the graph of water level fluctuation. It is obvious that the fluctuations have the same character like the fluctuations of the water table at the respective boreholes. Little discrepancies are provided for certain inaccuracy in measurement. During the thaw season the outflow increased from 0.1 l/s to 0.2 l/s. Then the outflow fell rapidly. The recent quantities are about 0.04 l/s. The highest outflow is from HOV2 (the southern part of the landslide). According to the owner of the house, considerable surface deformations were recently observed in this part of the landslide. In late January, after the thaw season, the outflow was also increased at the short hydrogeological boreholes installed within the tension zone of the landslide. The boreholes meet the target as they take off the water from the massif above the landslide and from the tension zone of the landslide, enhancing the slope stability.

Another important component of the monitoring technique during observation of the slope deformations is inclinometry. Measurements were conducted in two boreholes (see the maps, Fig. 1, and Fig. 6 and cross section on Fig. 4). Results are given in Fig. 9. The inclinometry measurements indicated movements in two periods: between April 27th and May 9th, and between July 19th and August 15th of 2001 (before launching the stabilization). Movement was recorded at both boreholes. At the upper PIM4 borehole we detected a spring deformation of 60 mm at a depth of six meters. The lower borehole revealed 30 mm deformation at a depth of five meters. The size of these movements complies with the extensometry measurements.

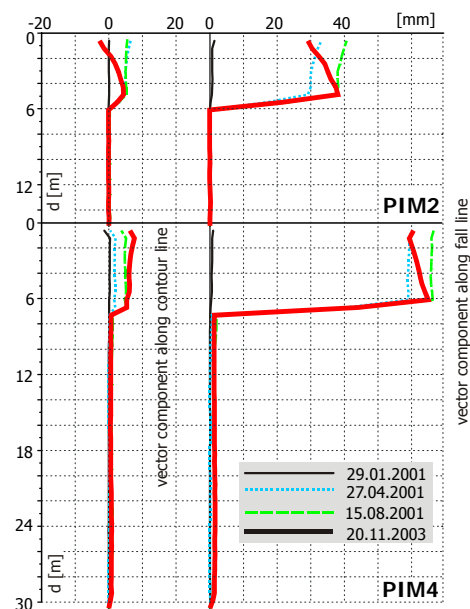


Fig. 9. Accuracy inclinometry results (adapted after Novosad 2003).

Another movement in the summer was not so distinctive. It reached 10 millimeters, which is confirmed by zone extensometer measurements. Very important observation is the backward move of the PIM2 mouth after August 15th (immediately after boring the horizontal drainage borehole). This is not a movement along a narrow slipping plane but the entire borehole becomes slant against the slope. Comparing the curves, it is clear that the biggest backward movement happened between September 15th and 19th. Gradual fading of the movements was also detectable at the PIM4 borehole. The amplitude at each borehole is individual. At PIM2 borehole in the centre of the landslide the size of the backward move is approximately

9.0 millimeters, at PIM4 borehole near the scarp it is 2.5 millimeters. As mentioned above, the extensometry measurements describe similar behaviour of the dewatered slope.

Another important component of the landslide monitoring is the tape extensometry. The example (Fig. 10) is from the Ujala landslide. Fig. 6 shows the layout of the extensometer posts. The extensometer points are mapped into the geological section (Fig. 4)

The results of the extensometry measurements are in Fig. 10. There are obvious two dislocations. The first is a landslide movement detected on 10 May. The most important movement occurred between the points E12-E13, E11-E12, E7-E8, and E5-E6. At E12-E13 we detected extension of the distance by about 70 mm. The extension gradually equalled between E11-E12 (20 mm), E7-E8 (20 mm). Between E6-E7 the distance extended by 10 mm. The contraction between E5 and E6 compensates the extension in the other part of the slope. After indication of the important movement of the slope, we involved a stage of activities of observing the end of the movement. Another movement happened in the summer following heavy rains. This movement was slighter; 10 mm deformation was found between E12 and E13. The extension was compensated between E7 and E8. Also this movement is classified from view of time as incidental; it was not identified in further measurements.

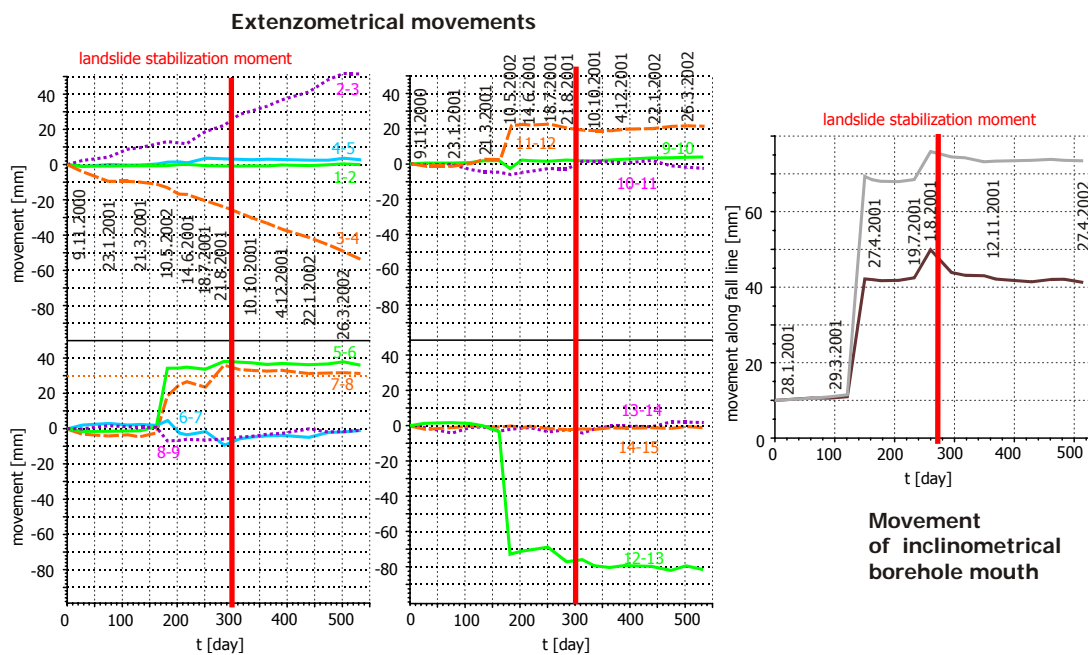


Fig. 10. Extensometry results.

The measurements carried out after the landslide stabilization confirms that there are no new movements within the slope deformation. The changes in distances between the points E3-E4 and E2-E3 have been currently progressing gradually, which means downward move of E3 within the road bank. The detailed study of the changes in the distances E7-E8 and E8-E9 has proved slight changes in these distances since August 2001. Point E8 has moved against the slope, according to extensometer measurements by about 5 mm. Points E4 to E9 have the same tendency. This effect is due to the slope dewatering as the backward movement started in August 2001. The changes fully correspond to the inclinometer measurements.

After comparison of the results of both measurement techniques, we plotted time changes of the movement of the borehole mouths of the inclinometry boreholes (Fig. 10). Comparison with the results of the zone extensometry brings the same conclusion.

Conclusion

In this paper I would like to show a system of the investigation of slope deformations and the investigation results on one selected landslide. These are the results of the landslide stabilization Pod Ujalou I. The landslide was stabilised by dewatering, respectively by both subsurface and surface dewatering. The subsurface dewatering was carried out through five horizontal drainage boreholes, installed using new technology – navigated drilling. The surface dewatering system consists of two elements. Troughs trapping

run off water from the scarp of the landslide lead to checking shafts at the side of the landslide. Then the water runs through plastic hosepipes outside the landslide.

The slope deformation was observed using eight independent methods: inclinometry, extensometry, levelling, measurements of water table and outflow from hydrogeological boreholes, geodetical survey, acoustic and electromagnetic emissions, and visual inspection.

The monitoring results confirm the effect of the landslide dewatering. What is important is the increase of the water table, both in the landslide and its vicinity. According to the stability calculations, the dewatering results in stability improvement at the edge of the long-time stability; therefore, the landslide will require further monitoring. The lowering of the water table results in the increase of the stability coefficient by 27 % to 1.27. We expected that the significant drop of the water table would exercise an effect on volume changes of soils. Certain special changes in behaviour of the massif were observable in the precise inclinometry and extensometry measurements.

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