In 2014 Institute of Archaeology (Zagreb) started a project "Strategic use of landscape" founded by Croatian Science Foundation (IP-2013-07530). The goal of this project is to recognize of strategic points of settlements in prehistoric periods and reconstruction of way of communication in Natiso region situated between Pula and Vangum and northward from river (fig. 1). Special interest of this project are two ways of communication in north-south direc- tion from the southern part of central Croatia to its southern polarities. The first way of communication observed in the southern part of Croatia is "prehistoric coastal route" running from Niš to Trogir connecting port of Dubrovnik with port of Metapontum, passing through the area ofropolis Natiso, Poltorac, Drela and Kolpa. This area is recognized as a potential corridor of ways of communication of our interest.

Systematic field surveys conducted since 1997 in cooperation with Natiso County Historical Museum showed great potential of discovering new archaeological sites from periods Pliocenic, Quaternary and Postglacial (2014: 168-169, Marković and Pavlak 2012: 169-170, Marković, Pavlak and Jurković 2012: 111-114, Marković and Pavlak 2011: 102-107 Marković 2010: 34-38, Marković and Jurdović 2009: 129-147). This was used as a base for the project currently under way as a main source of information about Natiso region together with the larger research objectives on the middle Adriatic coast (2013). At the beginning of the projects in 2010 in Koliba municipality, area never surveyed before. The second survey took place in Spring of 2015. So, around 20 new sites were discovered, mostly from the Middle Ages.

It is presumed that strategic points changed their position over time but that the pattern of their distribution in certain periods was a constant. Data col- lected by field surveys and their documentation is used for making a map of communication and strategic use of landscape. Strategic distrib- ution of sites through history is visible as a river corridor but no apparent naturally formed passes are visible. Applying spatial distribution of sites from various time segments will allow the areas of larger impor- tance throughout the history. The project includes the study of use of landscape in modern times as well as observing natural resources such as woodland, arable land, geological and pedological base, satellite images etc.

However, data available for each site is not uniform and many sites are known only by old field surveys. Thus, for some sites it is even hard to determine their precise time sequence. For example, there is a site which could be only determined as for 5th century but it was impossible to determine its exact settlement period (fig. 2). Although data is not sufficient for precise determina- tion of these sites, their position is consistent with site posi- tions of known time determination.

For analysis, for each relevant time period (5th-6th cen- tury, late Natiso, Eneolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age) human period, early Roman period, early Roman period and Modern period maps were created (figs. 2 and 3). Then, this overlap zones where at least one human period maps were made. The time period of overlap could be distinguished. Site positions from historic periods were compared with modern transport and natural resources sites.

At the end of this project, all the main communication routes were marked (fig. 1).

Site distribution maps (fig. 2 and 3) combined with other sources of information, such as information about pedological, pedological-hydrological etc. con- ditions (Pavlak 2011; Novak 2011; Pavlak et al. 2005; Pavlak et al. 2006; Pavlak et al. 2007; Pavlak et al. 2008; Pavlak et al. 2009; Pavlak et al. 2014; Pavlak et al. 2015) and historical artefacts (Birnhardt 1894, Dinn 1930, John 1939, Stiban 2003, Stiban 2003; with communication with published Valantin and Papić 1993), the new understanding of landscape was formed.

Early Natiso period preferred towns near seashore or cities while late Natiso sites looked for somewhat higher ground but also near the larger water. Considering the fact that Papl and Froilandi mountains were possible sources of stone over the entire period, we see this as a factor and the fact that the plain between Natiso, Koliba and the area of Donji Mihodrija on Donji was probably already (novak 2011). It is not surprising that the Natiso settle- ments have southern-northern distribution with their axes outside this obvious communication way. The same could be said about Koliba. During the End of Natiso and in Eneolithic climate changed sufficiently to allow people to live larger in the areas in immediate vicinity of the sea (fig. 2). That occurs in the region of the island of Krk and Metapontum as well. The lack of suitable place was visible as a major place that the population increase was the reason for that. During the Bronze Age the site distribution is correlated with the sea but it was a great difference in cultural appearance and distribution between Early, Middle and Late Bronze Age (Marković 2000: 159-160). The sites near coastal zone have distribution maps (fig. 4). It is possible that it is determined to have no communication routes appeared during the Bronze and Iron Ages – one connecting Natiso (Koliba) to the northeast and the other through Froilandi and Babina further southwest. This second fact is natural with Donji Mihodrija situated some 30-60 km to the north on Donji river where a natural water passage was in use throughout all prehistoric and historic times (2). Roman period sites further confirm these two ways communications existing before and during the time of apartments.

We were not able to create similar map for the Late Middle Ages period and Modern period (fig. 5). The main reason for that was the fact that the amount of sites was not enough to make a map. It was possible to make maps of settlement in the areas Natiso and Koliba was possible in the area of Koliba which was not present in the maps (fig. 4).

Following the fortification of Mihodrija period, the early Middle Ages sites, by that distribution and number, show great change. A leap in the population was realized and it is visible as the main settlement became larger and more regulated. The new sites are known from Burneta, Ljubljevac, Kozara and other settlements. In the area of Poltorac, the settlement of Velika Vlaha near the river Drava was created. The other settlement was the new hilltop site in the area of the eastern part of the town on the south. When the late Roman patrician estate was closed down, the area of Poltorac was renewed.

Very rarely there is an opportunity to work on such complex subject such as landscapes dynamics over prehistoric and historic times. The results of the project could be used for creating an additional source about specific aspects of the region. It is also highly probable that excessive time past through the mountain terrains through communication was a new discovery. The site positions correlate sites to specific in question although it is first to suppose some strategi- cal communication routes that in the time past through the mountain terrains. These, however, only roughly corresponds to the historic routes possibility, due to the state of research. Natiso region consists of gentle saucer land in the lower area although it sometimes suffers from flooding, mountainous region of sedimentary rock with deep deposits and barren areas. Today survey the same communication routes are used. The north south route, connecting Pobla and region of Povisina to the south, also connects central Croatian region with northern Balkans. East-west communications along Donja river was specifically important over time as in today. The evolution of agriculture culture site over time determined the exploitation of wood.