

IAEG Commission 16 – UNESCO World Heritage

Bulgaria

Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari

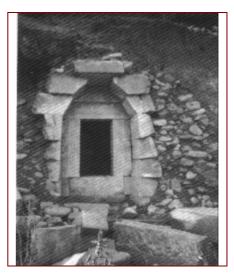
A complex of Thracian Tomb hills is situated in a section of the Moesian Platform. The relief is plain and cut by dry valleys. The rocks are represented by Lower Cretaceous fractured and karstified limestone, that lies below the Quaternary loess. The Thracian Tomb hills include stone-masonry constructions covered by terrestrial embankment. The Tomb basements are on the loess deposits. The rocks from the basement of the Thracian Tombs consist of layers with contrast density and wave resistance. The local conditions are unfavorable for the seismic safety of the monuments. Now the stone funeral chambers, passages and entrances are fractured, displaced, deformed in different degrees. Locally they are totally destroyed. The damages may be as a result as of local or regional earthquakes.

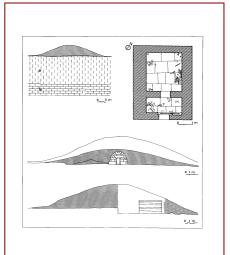
Main geological risks: seismicity of VII degree (MSK-64), land subsidence.

Archaeological and engineering geological investigations of the monuments with proposals for their protection are made.

Seismological and engineering geological research for the causes of the damages in the monuments are performed. They show a considerable probability of seismic origin of the deformations in the monuments.

Foreign expert (V.Rizzo – Italia) was included in the both studies for the locality of Sveshtari.





The Tomb of Sveshtari (5th century BC) testifies the high Thracian culture where the influence of the Greek civilization could be also detected.

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Gergova, D., Iliev, I., Rizzo, V. 1995. Evidence of a seismic event on Thracian tombs dated to the Hellenistic period, Sveshtari, NE Bulgaria.- Annali di Geofizica (Italia), XXXVIII, 5-6, p. 919-926.

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