

MONASTIC ISLAND OF REICHENAU

World Cultural Heritage since 2000

Engineering geological conditions and problems:

The island of Reichenau is situated in the Untersee, a part of Lake Constance. Its core consists of two Drumlin-like moraine mounds (Hohwart and Vögelinsberg) of the Würm ice age. The remainder of the island is covered by loamy gravel, some shallow channels contain younger peat sediments. The overall thickness of the Quarternary deposits reaches up to 200 m.

Three well known churches can be found on the island. In Mittelzell the Cathedral Saint Mary and Marcus was directly built at the bank hemline. The Cathedral is founded on gravels, subsoil-related damages are not known.

The collegiate church Saint Peter and Paul is located on a peninsula to the west at Niederzell. The Romanesque column basilica with two spires dates back to the 8th - 11th century, but was modified in the 18th century. The church was built on gravel with a shallow foundation.

The collegiate church Saint George in Oberzell, a three-nave construction with a short crossing tower, was built from the 9th to the 11th century and complemented by a vestibule in the 11th century. Famous are its early Romanesque character, the arched crypt and the Romanesque mural paintings. The church was built on glacial sediments with a shallow foundation. Due to a presumed lack in frost protection, damages occurred early on until the 20th century. In 1984 the church was restored. Since then no more damages have appeared.



Monastic Island Reichenau



Cathedral



Church St. Georg

Other information:

The cultural landscape of the island of Reichenau on Lake Constance bears outstanding witness to the religious and cultural role of a great Benedictine monastery in the Middle Ages.

References on studies already performed:

Source: Landesamt für Geologie, Rohstoffe und Bergbau Baden-Württemberg.