RECREATION IN THE CABINS IN CZECHIA AND ITS TYPOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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Abstract: Analysed form of recreation – (Czech) recreation in the cabins – can be defined as family (* - with exceptions) and non-commercial (*) form of recreation, which takes place in an individual weekend cabin and its surroundings. Cabins are minor, individual (*), family-owned (*) and relatively new recreational residential facilities, since the beginning constructed for recreation in the cabins (*) and eventually for other activities (e.g. gardening). Architectonic-constructional diversity of cabins is determined by the period of the cabin construction, specific function of it within recreation in the cabins (sub-forms of recreation in the cabins) and other factors. From the point of functional and architectonic-constructional form we can distinguish e.g. family weekend cabin, garden cabin, small brick-built garden cabin, family weekend cabin-house in a village etc. Also cabin settlements (groups and lines of cabins) bear typological diversity according to the types of cabins they contain, their spatial layout and dependence on the landscape character. Character of the landscape is the main factor that determines the character of the accumulation of cabin settlements and the cabin landscape areas defined as collections of cabin settlements in regions.

1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this article is the recognition of typological diversity of Czech recreation in the cabins. First we have to explicitly define the hierarchy of individual elements of recreation in the cabins in the landscape (cabin, cabin settlement, accumulation of cabin settlements, cabin landscape area). Consequently we can create typologies of these elements from different points of view.

The above mentioned typology hardly appears in Czech or Slovak literature. Borovička (1994) specifies basic types of object for individual recreation (OIR) in Czechia from the legislative, architectonic-constructional and urban aspects on the background of social circumstances of the time of their raising. Fialová (2001a) generalises the data from the field survey of cabin settlements with family weekend cabins in the southern hinterland of Prague and develops their geographical typology. She loosely follows the works of renowned Polish geographer of recreation A. Kowalczyk (e.g. Kowalczyk, 1994), who carried out similar field survey in the hinterland of Warsaw. In a different article Fialová (2001b) describes, likewise Kučera (2001), the characteristics of available statistics of OIR in Czechia. The existence of valuable data from National Census 1991 enabled a setting-up of commuting regions for OIR (e.g. Procházka, 2001). The works of I. Bičík (e.g. Bičík, 2001) are important for the recognition of changes that have been going on, especially after 1989, and which have also broadened functional-typological range of cabins and cabin settlements. The sphere on the boundary of recreation in the cabins and other forms of recreation, mainly from behavioural attitude, is mapped in the publication by J. Vágner (2003), who draws on works of R. Jaakson (1986). The volume under preparation (Vágner et al., 2004) contains number of articles describing typological diversity of recreation in the cabins in different regions of Czechia.

During an extensive and detailed field study of cabin settlements in „České Budějovice hinterland“ (an area roughly bounded by towns Týn nad Vltavou, Lišov, Trhové Sviny, Velesín, Český Krumlov and Zliv, whereas only Lišov and Zliv lie within this area) and during further studies of cabin settlements in the area of Lipno dam reservoir, Novohradské hory mountains and its foothills, Chlum u Třeboně, and in other regions of Southern Bohemia and Czechia, we had an outstanding opportunity to learn of different forms of recreation in the cabins, types of cabins and cabin settlements. Such findings and discoveries constitute the basis of the following text and the prepared monograph (Kubeš, 2004-5).
2. RECREATION IN THE CABINS, CABIN AND TYPOLOGY OF THE CABINS

RECREATION IN THE CABINS

Recreation in the cabins is a form of recreation which takes place in the cabin and its surroundings, above all consisting of recreational staying (with possible overnight stay), which is often connected with leisure time activities such as fishing, forest fruit picking (incl. mushrooms), swimming or gardening. Some other social activities are also associated with recreation in the cabins, like tramping activities, meeting of relatives, friends and cabin owners. Recreation in the cabins is a non-commercial (*) with exceptions in functional typology of the cabins), individual-familiar (*) and predominantly summer weekend and summer holiday form of recreation, though winter stay, all-the-year-round weekend and holiday usage, primary living (together with secondary winter home in the town) or temporarily the permanent residence is also possible.

Cabin (CHA) is a constructional object established for recreation in the cabins, equipped for sleeping, staying and eventually for other leisure time activities connected with recreation in the cabins. It is usually intended for summer recreation (although the heating is not necessary, some kind of it is common). Sometimes the constructional and technical features enable winter or all-the-year-round use of the cabin. The cabin is a personal (family) property (*) and it is not connected with the commercial recreation (*). From the respect of architecture and construction, the cabin is minor, individual (double-cabins are acceptable), closed and lockable object. They are relatively new facilities (1920+), since the beginning intended for recreation. Ground area of the cabin oscillates between 16 and 50 m². The cabin can have one, maximally two raised floors. Electricity supply is a commonplace as well as dual-track access road. The cabin is usually registered at the land office and building authority (exceptions are tramping log or shed).

Approximately 6328 cabins were found in České Budějovice hinterland (approx. 1111 km²) between 2002-2003 during the field survey, which makes average 5,70 cabins per km²).

FUNCTIONAL TYPOLOGY OF CABINS

Even before the field study of the concerned area, it had been obvious that recreation in the cabins is not only recreation in the family weekend cabins. There are other sub-forms of recreation in the cabins, which are not so quantitatively significant, but are important for their position on the boundary between recreation in the cabins and other forms of recreation and tourism. The field study proved the above-mentioned hypothesis. These findings are reflected in functional typology of the cabins (CHAFA) – see box, and completed with following text.

Family Weekend Cabin (CHAFR) represents the majority in the monitored area, and certainly in the whole Czech Republic. Its functions are connected with leisure time activities like recreation, swimming, fishing, forest fruit picking etc. thus with activities that take place in environmentally valuable landscape, above all near water reservoirs, watercourses and woodland areas.

Potentially Mobile Family Weekend Cabin (CHAFMR) has similar function as family weekend cabin but it is possibly relocatable although the relocation is rare (long-term „parked“ objects).

Family Weekend Cabin-House in a Village (CHAFRD) is habitable all year round and thus it is exploited for winter recreation and as primary living or temporarily as permanent residence. It is usually situated in the country settlements, often in highland border areas and upon the foundations of former village houses.

Small Brick-built Garden Cabin (CHAFZR) is typically found in suburban areas of large cities or towns, on the outskirts of villages and along the roads that proceed from towns.
<table>
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<th></th>
<th><strong>1 – CHAFR – Family Weekend Cabin</strong></th>
<th>/a cabin for family staying and leisure recreation, almost never together with gardening, non-relocatable, in individual ownership, does not take part in commercial tourism and it is usually located near watercourses and woodlands and away from the towns/</th>
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<td><strong>2 – CHAFMR – Potentially Mobile Family Weekend Cabin</strong></td>
<td>/a relocatable recreational object (cabin) in individual ownership, long-term placed in permanent location, mostly on hired land near major watercourses and dam reservoirs, often serves for recreational sport fishing; its main sub-types are: caravan or caravan car „a“ (building) trailer „b“, houseboat (incl. large residential yacht) afloat (in anchorage) „c“, houseboat ashore „d“, other CHAFMR (here exceptionally even construction site shelter) „e“/</td>
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<td><strong>3 – CHAFRD – Family Weekend Cabin-House in a Village</strong></td>
<td>/a house (cabin) built for family recreation, usually within the villages; fits into surrounding estates, is all-the-year-round used and is easy to transform into primary or permanent living; contacts with local permanent citizens and cottage dwellers, sometimes with gardening; sub-types: family weekend cabin-house in the mountains and foothills „a“, family weekend cabin-house in garden cabin settlements „b“, recreational objects in lowlands „c“, other recreational house „d“/</td>
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<td><strong>4 – CHAFZR – Small Brick-built Garden Cabin</strong></td>
<td>/a small (16m$^2$, room + attic), mostly brick-built cabin with varied grade of gardening; has a limited accommodation capacity, usually near permanent home, completed with small fenced plot (ca 3 ares), which serves for vegetable beds, lawns, minor fruit trees and shrubs; sub-types: small brick-built garden cabin with insignificant gardening function „a“, with significant gardening function „b“/</td>
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<td><strong>5 – CHAFZ – Garden Cabin</strong></td>
<td>/a cabin serving above all for gardening, unlike garden shed or arbour, enables passing the night and staying recreation, it is used even at weekdays because it is located in town or its near surroundings, its plot is usually occupied with flower and vegetable beds, lawns, fruit trees, greenhouses, sometimes garages./</td>
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<td><strong>6 – CHAFSZ – Specific Garden Cabin</strong></td>
<td>/often temporary, sometimes potentially mobile, with specific „plot“ function, gardening function of the cabin or the plot is variably significant; sub-types: plot cabin on the plot with supposed house building „a“, plot cabin on the enclave of (restituted) land in an open landscape „b“, brick-built garden-car shed cabin „c“, vineyard cabin with a wine cellar „d“, other specific garden cabin „e“/</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>7 – CHAFH – Hobby-rearing Cabin</strong></td>
<td>/a cabin in individual ownership, connected with hobby breeding in the countryside, e.g. cabin with bee-keeping, cabin with horse breeding, cabin – fishing base at the private pond, …/</td>
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<td><strong>8 – CHAFO – Cabin of an Association</strong></td>
<td>/a cabin in ownership of associations and organisations that present activities in an open countryside, which is regularly exploited during weekends and holidays by a fixed community – they are objects of youth movement, huntsman’s organisations, conservationists, anglers’ clubs, mountaineers, sport aviators or some sport organisations – especially of yachtsmen and canoeists /</td>
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<td><strong>9 – CHAFT – Tramping Log or Shed 1965+</strong></td>
<td>/an enclosed wooden log or shed (= cabin), intended for staying and overnight stay of the community of new (1965+) tramps, usually situated independently at hidden and remote locations along watercourses, usually without building approval/</td>
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<td><strong>10 – CHAFPR – Company-Family Weekend Cabin</strong></td>
<td>/a smaller object of cabin size in the ownership of a company, regularly used by the same employees and their families during weekends and holidays, often found in a company set of standardised cabins/</td>
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<td><strong>11 – CHAFDR – Long-term Rented Weekend Cabin</strong></td>
<td>/a recreational cabin, long-term rented to a single tenant, in recreationally attractive areas/</td>
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<td><strong>12 – CHAFCR – Family Weekend Cabin with Complementary Renting</strong></td>
<td>/utilised as CHAFR, CHAFRD, possibly CHAFZ, in addition occasional, short-term and casual renting within commercial tourism/</td>
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<td><strong>13 – CHAFT – Individual Weekend Cabin with Complementary Business Function</strong></td>
<td>/utilised as a cabin, in addition it has a function of warehouse, workshop or office creative workplace; limited sale of groceries or refreshments to other cabin owners or holidaymakers, can also accommodate a small hydro-plant, not CHAFDR or CHAFCR/</td>
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These cabins were constructed in the 80’s in uniform cabin settlements according to the government policy of providing the citizens with improved supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables and due to an effort to exploit agriculturally uncultivable areas.

**Garden Cabin (CHAFFZ)** serves as a backstage for gardening, chiefly in summer and it can be used for leisure stay with overnight stay (recreation in the cabins). The cabins occurs in garden cabin settlements on the town outskirts and only a part of the gardens accommodates a cabin in compliance with the mentioned definition, in the others there are only sheds or arbours (so called not-cabins).

**Specific Garden Cabin (CHAFZS)** – is a collective label for varied cabin-like objects that create a backstage for the maintenance of plots of specific functions.

**Hobby-rearing Cabin (CHAFF)** provides a base for specific individual breeding activities in an open landscape and at the same time has accommodation and stay function.

**Cabin of an Association (CHAFO)** belongs to associations and organisations that perform activities in an open countryside. In order to be regarded as a cabin it must be regularly used by a relatively fixed community (only a small part of associations’ objects).

**Tramping Log or Shed 1965+ (CHAFT)** is a relatively new, simply assembled wooden construction connected with an interesting phenomenon of the 70’s and 80’s – with the new Czech tramping.

**Company-Family Weekend Cabin (CHAFPR)** has the same function, sometimes even the same appearance, as a family weekend cabin, but the owner is a company, not the family. The employee’s family exploits it regularly. It involves only a small part of company recreational objects.

**Long-term Rented Weekend Cabin (CHAFDR)** has a similar function as family weekend cabin but it is not owned by the cabin dweller – long-term tenant, but by the holder.

**Cabin with Complementary Renting (CHAFCR)** is a family weekend cabin, which is rented, mainly in summer, by the owner and for a short period as a part of commercial tourism.

**Cabin with Complementary Business Function (CHAFP)** apart from its recreational function (recreation in the cabin) it has complementary business function.

**ARCHITECTONIC-CONSTRUCTIONAL TYPES OF CABINS**

The function and the appearance of the cabin usually match but not in all cases. Cabins of specific function (in smaller font in the box) have unsteady form. There are also cabins with changed function („mismatch“ of appearance and function). Particularly family weekend cabins and garden cabins have developed several varieties within a single function during their architectonic-constructional development. There are also architectonic-constructionally unique cabins. The diversity of cabin appearance is transferred into architectonic-constructional typology. In the concerned area we observed the types of cabin from the point of architecture and construction.

**Family Weekend Cabin (CHAAR)** represented approx. 72.5% in 2003, in which architectonic-constructional sub-type from the 70’s and 80’s dominated. Considerable proportion was constituted by cabins from the 50’s (sub-type brick-built cabin with glass paned veranda), or by those from the 30’s. **Family Weekend Cabin-House in a Village (CHAARD)** represented only 1.2% (but they are more plentiful in Novohradské Mountains’ foothills and at Lipno Dam reservoir). **Small Brick-built Garden Cabins (CHAAR)** were relatively numerous – 14.6%, absolutely dominated by small white brick-built cabins (with a room and a small attic) and with a sloping roof in accordance with the standard project. Only 9.2% of **Garden Cabins (CHAAZ)** were found in the researched area and they constituted many different architectonic-constructional sub-types. There are also a lot of garden constructions that do not comply with the definition of the cabin. **Architectonic-specific Cabins (CHAAS)** represented about 2.5% (above all construction site shelter, modified lorry box bodies, wagon bodies, tramping logs or sheds, ...).
3. CABIN SETTLEMENT AND ITS TYPOLOGY

Cabin Settlement (CHS) is a group or line of at least five cabins close to one another that are situated in characteristic landscape. Homogeneity of functions or architectonic-constructional forms in a single cabin settlement is common but it is not a rule (combined types of cabin settlements). Cabin owners and local permanent inhabitants regard cabin settlement as a basic unit of recreation in the cabins in the landscape.

According to the field study, in 197 cabin settlements in Č. Budějovice hinterland (Map 1.) there are 5701 cabins (avg. 28.9 cabins per cabin settlement). Some 119 cabin settlements are located away from towns and villages. Another approx. 627 cabins belong to a group – cabins apart from cabin settlements.

Functional (CHSF) and architectonic-structural (urban) typology of cabin settlements (CHSA) have their analogical main types defined. It is for prevailing occurrence of cabins with a “concord” of function and appearance in a single cabin settlement and for scarce occurrence of functionally and architectonically specific cabins, which, but for exceptions, also do not make typologically homogeneous cabin settlements. If there is considerable amount of different types of cabins in a cabin settlement we specify it as cabin settlement with combination of different cabin types (CHSFK, CHSAK). Since we observed the representation of architectonic-constructional types of cabins in the concerned area, we can also quantify the representation of architectonic-urban types of cabin settlements (See also Map 1.).

Cabin Settlements with family weekend cabins (CHSAR) are the most common in Č. Budějovice hinterland, 55.4% of cabin settlements represent 68.6% of cabins in cabin settlements. Totally, 12.7% of cabin settlements can be classified as typical Cabin Settlement with Small Brick-built Garden Cabin (CHSAZR) /11.6%/ . Only 8.1% of cabin settlements belong to Cabin Settlement with Garden Cabins (CHSAZ) /7.5%/ . More than a fifth of the settlements - 21.3% - is constituted by Cabin Settlement with Combination of Different Cabin Types (CHSAK) but they are smaller /11.6% of cabins in cabin settlements/.

Most often, they are combinations of family weekend cabins and small brick-built garden cabins. The rest of cabin settlements - 2.5% /0.7%/ - belongs to Specific Types of Cabin Settlements. The dislocation of architectonic-structural (urban) types of cabin settlements is evident from the Map 1; in addition, cabin settlements with family weekend cabins are divided into basic landscape types cabin settlements.

The prepared monograph (Kubeš, 2004-5) pays more attention to further, above all individual, landscape typologies of cabin settlements. Ground plan typology of cabin settlements analyses relative position of cabins within a cabin settlement from the aerial view. In Č. Budějovice hinterland there are virtually only linear and accumulative cabin settlements, both of which make the same proportion. Most often, lines of cabins either follow watercourses (7.1% of all cabin settlements) or surround ponds or dam reservoirs (6.4%). The evaluation of cabin settlements by means of positional types of cabin settlements is very complicated, because of varied ground surface of cabin settlements. More than a third of this settlements in Č. Budějovice hinterland arose on levelled surfaces (South Bohemian basin plains and other levelled surfaces). Approx. 32.5% of cabin settlements is somehow related with watercourse valleys. The greenery of cabin settlements and their surroundings can be evaluated by means of vegetation types of cabin settlements. Only 4.1% of cabin settlements in inside a forest, nevertheless woodland environment is proper to recreation in the cabins because 41.1% of cabin settlements is adjacent to a forest. Almost 30% of cabin settlements are adjacent to a residential settlements, at least from one side (CHSAZR, CHSAZ, CHSAK, eventually CHSARD – village zones with family weekend cabin houses).

The more diverse and quality is the possibility of spending the leisure time of cabin owners in the cabin settlement and its surroundings (further possible typology), the more attractive is the area for cabin owners. This fact is mirrored in selling prices of cabins and goes together with the concern of establishing new cabins. More than a fifth of cabin settlements in Č. Budějovice lies near quality fisheries (such a position is highly appreciated, cabin settlement at pond-fronts usually has no possibility of sport fishing). Almost a half is not far from woodlands. Gardening takes place, in a different extend, in 45.2% of cabin settlements /32.3% of cabins/. A fifth of the cabin settlement in Č. Budějovice hinterland has suitable conditions for yachting and
windsurfing. A good-class “natural” bathing pool appears at only 21.3% of cabin settlements. It is for the fact,
that the eutrophised water of the most of South Bohemian basin ponds is unsuitable for bathing.

Map 1. Recreation in cabins in the České Budějovice hinterland –
architectonic-structural (urban) types of cabin settlements in the

cabin landscape areas

border of cabin
landscape areas
(CHO Město Č. Budějovice
a okoli lies in the centre)

rivers

CHO Třebušinská
panev - západo

CHO Třebušinská
panev - jihozápad

CHO Českobudějovická
panev - jihovýchod

CHO Blanský šles

CHO Vltava nad
Českými Budějovicemi

CHO Vltava pod
Českými Budějovicemi

CHO Souš
Maří a Strupice

Key:

Architectonic-structural
(urban) types of cabin settlements:
• cabin settlement with family weekend cabins – R F T I O O
• cabin settlement with potentially mobile family weekend cabins – S
• family weekend cabin-houses in village – V
• cabin settlement with small brick-built garden cabins – Z
• cabin settlement with garden cabins – Z
• cabin settlement with combination of different cabin types – K

Basic landscape types of cabin settlements with family weekend cabins:
• near the great or small ponds or near the dams – R F P
• near the rivers and brooks – T T
• on the forest edge apart from the watercourses and water bodies – L
• predominantly in open landscape, broken or flush relief apart from
watercourses and water bodies – Q O

Note:
Five different size of letter equals to
the number of cabins in cabin settlements
(5 – 9, 10 – 19, 20 – 49, 50 – 99 and
100 – 199 cabins).
4. ACCUMULATION OF CABIN SETTLEMENTS AND CABIN LANDSCAPE AREA

Cabin settlements are scattered unevenly in the landscape. Major part of cabin settlements makes local clusters and chains – **Accumulation of Cabin Settlements** (CHL). Accumulation of cabin settlements is a cluster or chain of closely located cabin settlements, which is situated in a characteristic, usually attractive, environment. Accumulation of cabin settlements contains at least 50 cabins, however, 100 cabins or more is a commonplace. The name “accumulation” is not quite exact but the most suitable found.

**Cabin Landscape Area** (CHO) is hierarchically higher than accumulation of cabin settlements (See Map 1). Cabin landscape area is usually a physical-geographical region (geomorphologic unit, river basin of corresponding area) purposely delimited for analyses of recreation in the cabins. Physical-geographical dependence of cabin landscape area is an evidence of close relation between recreation in the cabins and the environment. A standard cabin landscape area should consist of at least 500 cabins and should occupy \(100 \, \text{km}^2\) at minimum. Cabin landscape area has its specific landscape pattern and character, different from surrounding cabin landscape areas (topographical division and characteristics, proportion and arrangement of vegetation, particularity of cultural landscape).

We can distinguish different types of cabin landscape areas - **plain, upland, highland, or mountain cabin landscape area**, or **pond basin, dam reservoir, river cabin landscape areas** etc, whereas the latter two types are far most common in the Czech Republic (Kubeš, 2004-5).

5. CONCLUSION

Rather **broader definition of the recreation in the cabins**, which includes classical and gardening staying in the cabins as well as other specific sub-forms or recreation in the cabins, allowed better mapping and typological classification of the border between commonly perceived recreation in the cabins and other forms of recreation and tourism. Such a definition is important for further predictions of the development of recreation, above all of recreation in the cabins.

Administrative-territorial units (cadastral units, municipal territories, districts, administrative regions) are quite unsuitable for analysis of recreation in the cabins for their boundaries often run through physical-geographical entities, in which core cabin settlements units often appears. For these reasons it is recommended to use **hierarchical system of elements of recreation in the cabins** in the area, parallel to such a system of residential settlement units. Elements of recreation in the cabins are cabin, cabin settlement, accumulation of cabin settlements, cabin landscape area (corresponding to house, seat, municipality, administrative region).

The question of **“geography of recreation in the cabins”** involves other subjects, too. Only broadly conceived and complex geographical approach and research of geography of recreation (together with geography of settlements and physical geography), supported by social sciences, history of 20th century, architecture and urbanism, brings sufficient information about recreation in the cabins as a form of recreation, about linkage of recreation in the cabins and the landscape and about a role of recreation in the cabins in the past and the present life-pattern of Czech citizens.

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References


Resume

České chataření a jeho typologická rozmanitost

Analyzovanou formu rekreace – (české) chataření – můžeme definovat jako rodinnou (*) - existují výjimky) a nekomerční (**) formu rekreace, odehrávající se na chatě a v jejím okolí. Chaty jsou menšími, solitérními (*), rodinou vlastněnými (*) a relativně novými rekreačními ubytovacími a pobytovými objekty vystavěnými od počátku pro chataření (*) a eventuálně i pro další aktivity (např. zahrádkářství). Architektonicko-stavební rozmanitost chat je dána obdobím vzniku chaty, specifickou funkcí chaty v rámci chataření (subformy chataření) a dalšími faktory. Z hlediska funkcího (víz rámeček) i architektonicko-stavebního můžeme vymezit například rekreační chatu, zahrádkářskou chatu, zahrádkářsko-rekreační chatu, rekreační domek, ... . Také chatové osady (shluky a linie chat v území) jsou typově rozmanité v závislosti na výskytu výše uvedených typů chat, jejich prostorovém uspořádání a v závislosti na charakteru krajiného prostředí (víz mapa). Charakter krajiné je hlavním činitelem, který určuje charakter chatových lokalit a chatových oblastí vymezených jako soubory chatových osad v regionech.