Abbey Church of Saint–Savin sur Gartempe (France)

No 230

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: France

Name of property: Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe

Location: Département of Vienne, Poitou-Charentes Region

Inscription: 1983

Brief Description:

Known as the 'Romanesque Sistine Chapel', the Abbey-Church of Saint-Savin contains many beautiful 11th and 12th century murals which are still in a remarkable state of preservation.

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

As part of the Periodic Reporting process for Europe, the State Party identified the need to put in place appropriate buffer zones for eight inscribed properties, of which this is one.

At the time of inscription there was no buffer zone. Only the Abbey Church, which sits in the centre of Saint-Savin-les-Loges was included in the boundary.

Modification

The State Party is now proposing a buffer zone of 149 ha which will encompass the whole of St-Savin les Loges and the neighbouring settlement of St-Germain. This is approximately a radius of 500m from the centre of the Abbey Church and thus equates to the protection zone for historic monuments. Within this and encompassing approximately 30% is a further zone of protection, ZPPAUP (Zone de protection du patrimoine architectural, urbain et paysager), relating to zones of protection for urban and rural architectural heritage.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the buffer zone for the Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe (France) be approved.
Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone