

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONTENTS

COUNTRY	3
STATE, PROVINCE OR REGION	3
NAME OF PROPERTY	3
GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES TO THE NEAREST SECOND	3
TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY	4
CRITERIA UNDER WHICH PROPERTY IS NOMINATED	5
MAPS OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY, SHOWING BOUNDARIES AND BUFFER ZONE	6
DRAFT STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE	8
NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF OFFICIAL LOCAL INSTITUTION / AGENCY	12



Title page:

The Lone Valley in wintertime.

Country	Federal Republic of Germany
State, province or region	State of Baden-Württemberg (BW) Alb-Donau District (UL) District of Heidenheim (HDH)
Name of property	Caves with the oldest Ice Age art
Geographical coordinates to the nearest second	<p><u>Component part Id N°1: Ach Valley (Fig. 1)</u> Central point: N 48° 23' 16" / E 009° 45' 56" Area of property: 271.7 ha Area of buffer zone: 766.8 ha</p> <p><u>Component part Id N°2: Lone Valley (Fig. 2)</u> Central point: N 48° 23' 18" / E 010° 10' 32" Area of property: 190.4 ha Area of buffer zone: 391.9 ha</p> <p><u>Total area</u> Area of property: 462.1 ha Area of buffer zone: 1158.7 ha</p> <p>Both component parts comprise three archaeological cave sites each.</p> <p><u>Component part Id N°1: Ach Valley (Fig. 1)</u> Geißenklösterle: N 48° 23' 53" / E 009° 46' 17" (Id N° 1-1) Sirgenstein Cave: N 48° 23' 13" / E 009° 45' 40" (Id N° 1-2) Hohle Fels: N 48° 22' 44" / E 009° 45' 16" (Id N° 1-3)</p> <p><u>Component part Id N°2: Lone Valley (Fig. 2)</u> Vogelherd Cave: N 48° 33' 31" / E 010° 11' 38" (Id N° 2-1) Hohlenstein Stadel Cave: N 48° 32' 57" / E 010° 10' 21" (Id N° 2-2) Bockstein Cave / Bocksteintörle: N 48° 33' 14" / E 010° 09' 17" (Id N° 2-3)</p>

Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated property

Hitherto, in the Swabian Jura Palaeolithic cave sites have only been discovered in the valley slope areas. For this reason, the delimitations of the component parts being nominated, the “Ach Valley” and the “Lone Valley” have been proposed in such a way that in each respective valley they extend from the valley floor up to the beginning of the uplands of the Swabian Jura. Both component parts of the property comprise a buffer zone.

Component part Ach Valley (Id N°1)

The Ach Valley is located about 20 km to the west of Ulm. It runs approximately parallel to the south-eastern cliff line of the Swabian Jura. This in turn follows approximately the course of what is today the valley of the Danube between Ehingen and Ulm. The nominated area of this valley section runs over a length of about 3 km, with a maximum floor width of about 500 m in an SW-NO direction between Schelklingen and Blaubeuren-Weiler in the Alb-Donau District. The overall area extends along the River Ach, which flows through the valley region and a little later opens into the River Blau. The valley floor in this area was scoured out some 200 m deep by the original course of the Danube, and at a later date again aggradated in part by its tributaries. The uplands of the plateau of the Swabian Jura nowadays rise up to 700 m above standard sea level. They enclose the nominated part of the valley, which is about 530 m above sea level, in the south-east and north-west.

The boundaries of the Ach Valley component part are therefore, in the SE and NW, located precisely at the transition from the valley slope to the upland. Only in the slope regions are there caves to be found with Ice Age sediments and archaeological finds. The delineation of the component part is defined by the location of the archaeological sites of the Geißenklösterle in the NE and the Hohle Fels in the SW. In this area, the property is somewhat widened in the direction of the localities of Schelklingen and Blaubeuren-Weiler, since experience has shown that further associated open-air sites are to be expected in the immediate vicinity of the caves. The

possibility to discover preserved archaeological sites in immediate connection with the “Caves with the oldest Ice Age art”, however, recedes perceptibly as the distance from the caves increases.

Component part Lone Valley (Id N°2)

The Lone Valley is a typical wide valley of the Jura uplands with a floor width of less than 200 m, the shoulder area of which rarely rises more than 50 m above the valley floor. The valley section nominated here comprises the area located between the K3022 district road from Öllingen (Alb-Donau District) to Bissingen ob Lontal (District of Heidenheim) and the Archäopark Vogelherd near the locality of Niederstotzingen-Stetten (District of Heidenheim). The overall area of the nominated part region more or less follows in its course the east-west axis of the valley, and has a length of about 3 km.

The northern and southern boundaries of the nominated area run along the transition from the slope area to the wooded upland areas of the Swabian Jura. The eastern and western boundaries have been determined on the basis of the archaeological sites of the Vogelherd Cave and Bockstein Cave. As in the Ach Valley, the property has been somewhat widened in the valley region, since experience has shown that further open-air sites are to be expected in the immediate vicinity of the caves. The possibility of preserved archaeological sites in immediate connection with the “Caves with the oldest Ice Age art”, however, recedes perceptibly as the distance from the caves increases.

Buffer zone

The respective buffer zones surround the component parts of the Lone Valley and Ach Valley. These are areas in which further archaeological sites are to be reckoned on, which have an indirect connection with the “Caves with the oldest Ice Age art”.

(i)
(iii)

Criteria under
which property is
nominated

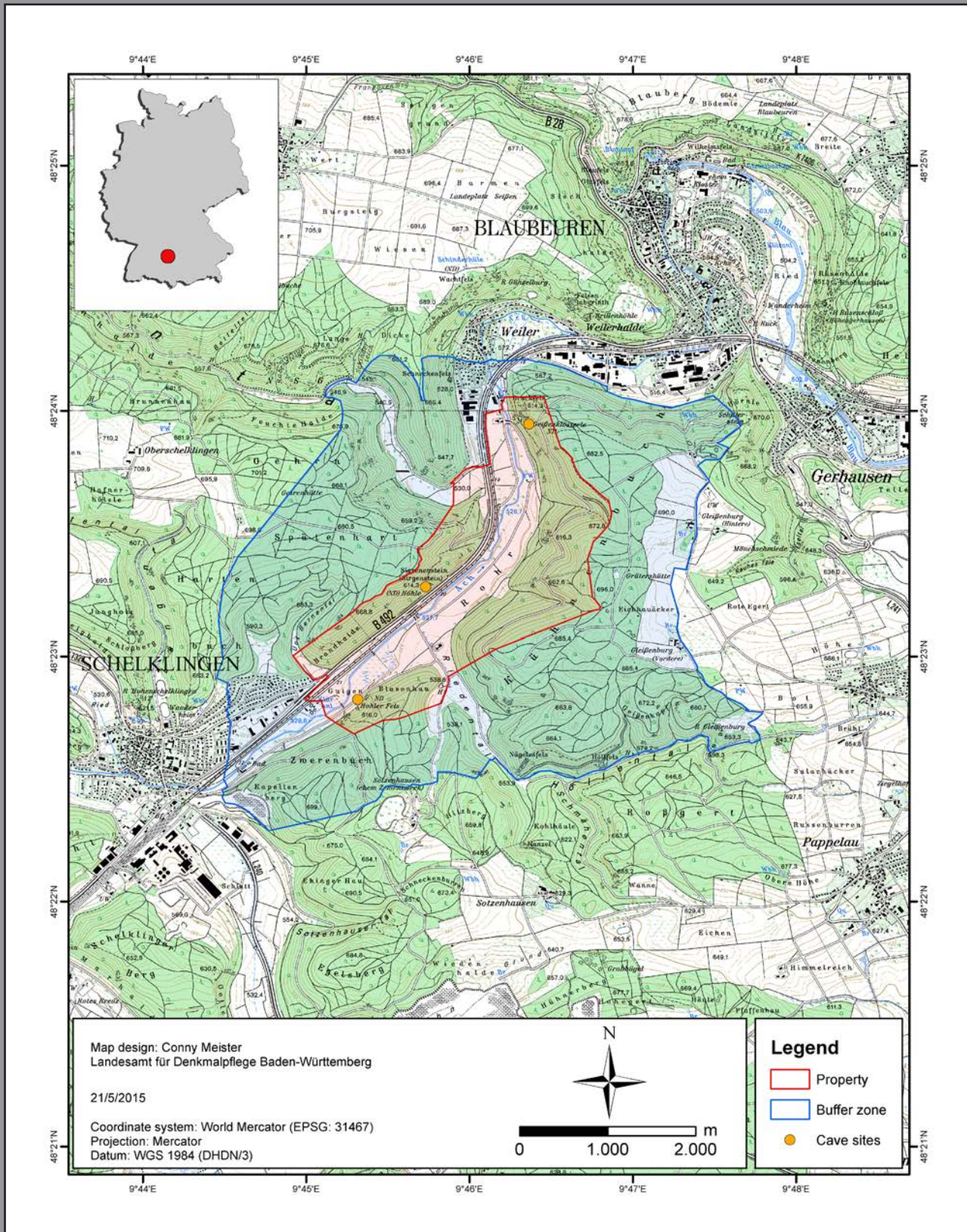


Fig. 1 Map of the Ach Valley (component part Id N° 1), showing boundaries of the property and the buffer zone.

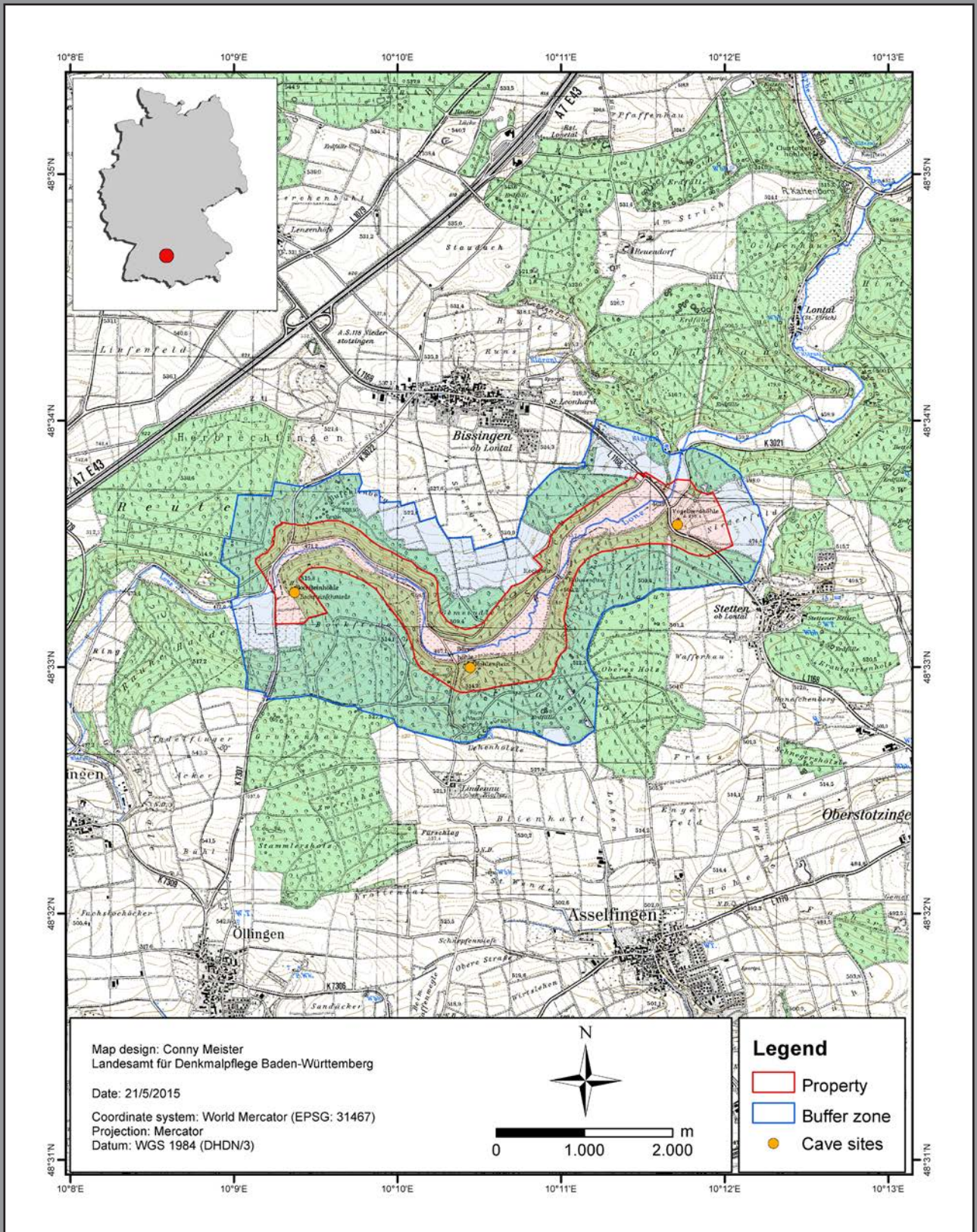


Fig. 2 Map of the Lone Valley (component part Id N° 2), showing boundaries of the property and the buffer zone.

Draft statement of outstanding universal value

a) Brief synthesis

Some 43,000 years ago, anatomically modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) reached Europe. As far as is known at present, art began to develop after these people had spread into Europe. In this context, the representations of art which are the earliest known at the present time are associated with what is known as the Aurignacian. The Aurignacian was one of the earliest cultural stages of the Upper Palaeolithic period, and in Europe dates to between some 33,000 and 43,000 years ago.

Located in valley sections of the rivers Ach and Lone (Baden-Württemberg, South-west Germany) are six caves, the Vogelherd Cave, Hohlenstein Stadel Cave, Bockstein Cave / Bocksteintörle, Geißenklösterle, Sirgenstein Cave, and Hohle Fels. Beside others, archaeological layers belonging to the Aurignacian were discovered. These layers, dating back 35,000 to 43,000 years, contained hundreds of items of personal ornament, at least eight musical instruments (flutes made of ivory and bird bone), and more than 50 figurines carved from mammoth ivory. Among these are three therianthropes (composite beings that are half human, half animal), as well as the statuette of a woman and figurines depicting various animals from the Ice Age. Therefore the respective valley sections of the Lone and Ach Rivers have yielded a unique concentration of archaeological sites with some of the oldest figurative art and some of the oldest musical instruments worldwide. The caves are located only a few kilometres away from each other within the two separate valleys. Together with the artifacts and the surrounding landscape they form an outstanding early cultural ensemble that helps to illuminate the origins of human artistic development. Both component parts of the property are, from historical, aesthetic as well as anthropological perspectives, of outstanding universal value (Article 1 of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 16 November 1972). Moreover, the “Caves with the oldest Ice Age art” fulfil a number of

the criteria for the definition of a site of human evolution in the meaning of the “HEADS Action Plan”. These relate in particular to the development of art, music, and religion.

Since the 19th century, archaeological excavations have repeatedly been conducted in the caves. This long and highly productive tradition of research has had a significant influence on the exploration of the Upper Palaeolithic in Central Europe.

b) Justification for criteria

Criterion (i): The nominated property represents a masterpiece of human creative genius.

The “Caves with the oldest Ice Age art” and their surrounding areas were part of the habitat of early modern *Homo sapiens*. They are therefore inseparably linked with the creators of this art. The sites represent the place of inspiration and origin of the oldest figurative art. Moreover, they document the specific locations where artists made, used and stored these finds. These caves served as the homes, ateliers and concert halls for the earliest artists. The components “landscape”, “caves” and “finds” are all to be considered within this ensemble. The remarkable figurative art objects and musical instruments found in the caves belong to the earliest masterpieces of human creativity in the world.

Criterion (iii): The nominated property bears a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.

In the archaeological layers of the “Caves with the oldest Ice Age art” the cultural remains of the Aurignacian are preserved in its entire complexity. Unique are the figurative artworks and musical instruments from which we can gain insights into the origins of art, music and religion. They were produced, used and ultimately deposited in the caves of the Ach and Lone valleys. Thus, the landscape, the caves and the finds as an ensemble represent a unique and exceptional example of an early cultural tradition and an extinct culture.

Draft statement of outstanding universal value

c) Statement of integrity

The serial property of the “Caves with the oldest Ice Age art” represents components of the same historico-cultural group (Aurignacian) and the same geographical region (Swabian Jura). It is of central importance for our knowledge concerning Palaeolithic settlement systems as well as the origins of figurative art, music and religious concepts of early modern humans. The nominated areas encompass all components of the property: from the objects themselves to the archaeological layers and the settlement structures of the cave sites to the immediate surrounding landscape. In addition to the internationally renowned sites, the property includes lesser known sites and as yet unstudied sites. As such we are able to maintain the integrity of the designated property permanently with the help of existing protective measures and safeguarding provisions.

d) Statement of authenticity

Geological deposits protected the prehistoric remains at the cave sites until the first palaeontological and archaeological excavations. Thanks to this favourable geological setting, areas within the nominated property retained their authenticity. Excavations and scientific research have verified the authenticity of the caves, the landscape and the archaeological layers. An important element here is the existing and ongoing documentation of the sites, finds and features, demonstrating the reliability and outstanding quality of the information.

e) Requirements for protection and management

The serial property, “Caves with the oldest Ice Age art”, is protected with force of law by internationally ratified conventions, and by the laws of Germany and Baden-Württemberg. Activities which have an effect on the archaeological sites and the surrounding landscape are regulated and limited by law. The area in which the property and the cave sites are located enjoy protection by way of laws, which

protect cultural and natural heritage sites alike.

The management system of the property is comprehensive and far-reaching. It integrates all levels of administration and the authorities concerned. Joint plans on the international, national, state-wide and regional levels are coordinated and implemented by way of action plans. The exchange of information for research and conservation purposes and sustainable tourism management is rendered possible and promoted by the use of existing international and national networks and the creation of new ones. The State Office for Cultural Heritage Baden-Württemberg ensures the upholding of the Cultural Heritage Protection Act, and supervises its implementation by way of an agreed monitoring programme. The Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Baden-Württemberg bear the financing of the nominated property. Further support is provided by the local districts and communities.

**Name and
contact
information of
official local
institution /
agency**

Organisation: Ministerium für Finanzen und
Wirtschaft Baden-Württemberg
(Ministry of Finance and
Economics Baden-Württemberg)

Address: Schlossplatz 4
Neues Schloss
D-70173 Stuttgart
Germany

Tel: +49 (0)711 123-0

Fax: +49 (0)711/123-4791

E-mail: poststelle@mfw.bwl.de

Web address: <https://mfw.baden-wuerttemberg.de>

Organisation: Landesamt für Denkmalpflege
Baden-Württemberg im
Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart
(State Office for Cultural Heritage
Baden-Württemberg)

Address: Berliner Straße 12
D-73728 Esslingen am Neckar
Germany

Tel: +49 (0) 711 904 45-109

Fax: +49 (0) 711 904 45-444

E-mail: abteilung8@rps.bwl.de

Web address: <http://www.denkmalpflege-bw.de>