ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

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Charenton-le-Pont, 16 January 2017

Mr Maxim Polya-Vitry
Permanent Delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

World Heritage List 2017
The English Lake District (United Kingdom) – Interim report

Dear Sir,

As prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have been requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2017. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to "The English Lake District" was carried out by Mrs. Brenda Barrett (United States) and Mrs. Monica Luengo (Spain) from 3 to 8 October 2016. The mission experts highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organisation and implementation of the mission.

On 17 October 2016, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information on the following issues: the development of energetic infrastructure projects. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 11 November 2016 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2016, the ICOMOS World Heritage ICOMOS Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2017. The additional information, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the ICOMOS Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2017.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on 26 November 2016 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. During its last part meeting, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed. Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

Justification for inscription
The ICOMOS Panel agreed that the Lake District deserves to be represented on the World Heritage List and found that the selected criteria are appropriate. However, the way in which criterion (ii) has been justified did not appear completely convincing to the ICOMOS Panel.

Therefore, ICOMOS suggests that the State Party may wish to further elaborate the justification for criterion (ii) considering that the pastoral-landscape type embodied in the English Lake District was part of a broader movement based on the pastoral ideal that was embraced by the park movements in North America. For instance, Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. wrote about and advocated for a particular bucolic aesthetic that was curative for the urban dweller and inspired his work. It was seen to be a replacement for the farming experience the urban dwellers left as they moved into the cities to work during the 19th century. When one uses the word 'park' now in North America one automatically thinks of a landscape type such as the Lake District – rolling terrain, sinuous river course, groups of trees and a pastoral character: these types of landscape were also embodied in the country estate that also draw their identity from the 16th century landscape painters and images of these kinds of pastoral landscapes were also emulated in subsequent schools of painting such as the Hudson river Valley.

In the justification for criterion (vi), the reference to the development of the cultural landscape category within the World Heritage realm has not been found fully appropriate to the ICOMOS Panel: the debate on the cultural landscape category was fed by a wide variety of contributions. The statement that the idea of legally protecting cultural landscapes originated in response to the Lake District may hold true for English speaking countries but not necessarily for other countries based on different languages, cultural and right traditions and therefore, ICOMOS would be pleased if this part of the justification be slightly reformulated.

Management
ICOMOS would be grateful if the State Party could provide further information on whether the Lake District National Park Partnership has already taken over the management responsibilities for the property.

Potential impact of development projects
The ICOMOS Panel also discussed in length a few issues related to large-scale energetic infrastructures and resource extraction.

The Moorside new nuclear power station, that is being planned since 2014, (when the project for the World Heritage was surely already in place) located at the East of the Lake District along the Eastern coast of Cumbria – not far from a nuclear power station scheduled for decommissioning - and the associated energy transportation infrastructure related to this new facility. In this regard, the ICOMOS Panel asked how the Heritage Impact Assessment process of the nuclear power plant was carried out, if already and how the issue of the English Lake District being nominated for the World Heritage List has been addressed by the Heritage Impact Assessment process.

With regard the electricity connection line from Moorside to the electricity grid, it was understood that the National Grid seems to have agreed to put the line underground, in order not to impact negatively on the Lake District and its landscape values, however ICOMOS would need confirmation of this.
ICOMOS was also informed that existing pylons belonging to Electricity North West are planned to be replaced with less and taller ones: the ICOMOS Panel would be interested to know whether a Heritage Impact Assessment has been envisaged and/or carried out for the new and higher pylons and which are the results.

Mining
The ICOMOS Panel was also concerned by the state of the art of mining and quarrying activities in the nominated property. ICOMOS has understood that these activities although still present are shrinking but it would be helpful to have a clear picture of the current state of this activity.
Therefore, ICOMOS would be grateful if the State Party could provide a map of the still valid concessions, the size of the mines/ quarries, the timeframe of their exploitation, the type of materials extracted, the arrangements in place for the post – exercise reclamation.

Buffer zone
The State Party has informed that there is no need for a buffer zone because according to the law in force, the municipality confining with a National Park need to integrate into their plans considerations of the values

of the park, therefore this will apply also for the World Heritage property. In this regard it would be very important to understand how the territory of the surrounding municipalities form a buffer around the property and which type of planning provisions are envisaged to provide the required additional layer of protection.

Tourism management
The nomination dossier informs about a sheer number of tourists in the property (some 15- 17 million per year).
It would be important to know whether a carrying capacity study has been prepared, at least for the most frequented sites, and strategies developed to decongest these places and to spread tourists in an effective manner in other locations.

Local communities' involvement
The ICOMOS Panel would also be interested in knowing whether there are policies and programmes in place that recognize, support and compensate the farmers for their heritage services in the care of the cultural landscape and how the intensified agricultural activity and expected increased tourism will be managed to ensure both the improvement of the local economy and welfare of the resident populations while protecting the integrity of the resources.

Finally, ICOMOS would like to have more information on how the local population has been involved in the nomination process and how it will be in the management of the property.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information by **28 February 2017 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines for supplementary information on nominations to be received. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while ICOMOS will carefully consider any supplementary information submitted, it cannot properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or large amounts of new information submitted at the last minute. Therefore, we would be grateful if the State Party could keep their response concise and respond only to the above requests.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and the evaluation process.

Yours faithfully,

Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to Lake District National Park Authority
UNESCO World Heritage Centre