

SWEDEN

Engelsberg Ironworks

Brief description

Sweden's production of superior grades of iron made it a leader in this field in the 17th and 18th centuries. This site is the best-preserved and most complete example of this type of Swedish ironworks.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1993

Agency responsible for site management

- The County Administrative Board of Västmanland
Västra Ringvägen 1
721 86 Västerås
e-mail: Birgitta.cedenhag@u.lst.se
website: <http://www.u.lst.se>
- Nordstjernen AB
10375 Stockholm
e-mail: mats.hallerby@nordstjernen.se
- Fagersta Municipality
Norbergsvägen 19
73780 Fagersta
e-mail: sten.bernhardsson@fagersta.se
website: www.fagersta.se

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (iv)

Justification provided by the State Party

Criteria No. 4. The property is among the most characteristic examples of iron works representing an important cultural, technological and industrial development.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

Qualities: Engelsberg is the best preserved and most complete example of a Swedish iron-working estate (*järnbruk*), of the type which produced the superior grades of iron that made Sweden the economic leader in this field for two centuries.

Recommendation: That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion iv:

Criterion iv Engelsberg is an outstanding example of an influential European industrial complex of the 17th-19th centuries, with important technological remains and the associated administrative and residential buildings intact.

Committee Decision

Bureau (1991): The Bureau deferred the examination of this nomination pending the completion of a study by ICOMOS of the industrial heritage which had been requested by the Committee.

Session (1993): The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List under criterion (iv).

- Statement of Significance does not adequately reflect the outstanding universal value of the site
- Text proposed by the State Party

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: a buffer zone has been defined
- There is a proposal to make a buffer zone which corresponds with the area of national interest

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained
- According to the detailed comprehensive plan for Ängelsberg the developmental pressure is or rather runs a constant risk of becoming negative. Due to the structural changes of the traditional industries and closing down of factories the population of the municipality of Ängelsberg has decreased heavily in the 20th century. From 700 inhabitants to 150 in the 1990s. In a relatively short-term perspective this trend might also affect the management of the World Heritage site. If not counteracted, it may especially have a negative impact on the level of the service facilities for tourists. The number of tourists visiting the property is at present well within the limits of what can be handled. With a calculated low increase rate of the number of visitors in the coming years the numbers seems to be well within the carrying capacity of the site. It should be emphasized that this slowly increasing visitor's rate is of vital importance for keeping the specific qualities of the site unchanged. Although, the aim certainly is to make the site better known and to welcome visitors, it is also of vital importance not to lay any restrictions on the private ownership of the property

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- No agreements, laws mentioned
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- Establishing a management plan
- Timeframe: December 2006
- Action to be taken at national level

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction (entrance fee), dwellings, offices, archives, library

Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group: management council - coordination and information
- Formally constituted
- Management under protective legislation; management under traditional protective measures or customary law; consensual management
- No site manager
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local; private
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

5. Management Plan

- No management plan
- A management plan will be completed and adopted: December 2005
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: management council

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Nordstjernan AB, the County Administrative Board; Town of Fagersta
- Extra funding has not been drawn from World Heritage status
- Funding available for the adequate management of the site: insufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 4

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: conservation, management, visitor management
- Average: promotion
- Bad: interpretation, education

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Experts of the County Administrative Board and the County Museum

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 20,000 in 2004 - tendency stable
- Visitor facilities: kiosk, information center and toilets
- No tourism/visitor management plan

10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment, studies related to the value of the site, condition surveys, archaeological surveys, visitor management
- The results have been used for information purposes and to improve the care of the World Heritage site

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- Not enough signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities
- Need for awareness raising
- No special events/exhibitions concerning the site's World Heritage status
- No specific web site available
- Local participation

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- A parking lot and public facilities have been built in connection with the entrance of the property. Renewal works on the buildings and

structures of the property have been performed continuously as a “joint-venture” of the owner Nordstjernan AB and the County Administrative Board. Craftsmen from the company NCC have done the practical work and staff from the County Museum in Västerås performs the inspections. The NCC workmen have been specially trained for craft. One of the stone-built walls of Herrsmedjan has been reinforced together with the wooden roof of the blast furnace and the floodgates of the main dam. All buildings have been restored and some trees have been replanted. Renewal works has encompassed several buildings such as Inspektorsbostaden, the basement of Trädgårdsmästarbostaden, the f.d. Svinstian and Iskällaren

- Present state of conservation: very good

Threats and Risks to site

- Visitor/tourism pressure

13. Monitoring

- UNESCO's Periodic World Heritage State of Conservation Report

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social, economic, tourist attraction
- Strengths of management: all buildings have been restored and the site has been established as a tourist attraction
- Weaknesses of management: shortage of personal and economic resources
- Future actions: not provided