
Kladruby nad Labem (Czechia) No 1589

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Landscape for Breeding and Training of Ceremonial Carriage Horses at Kladruby nad Labem

Location

Pardubický Region
Czechia

Brief description

The Landscape for Breeding and Training of Ceremonial Carriage Horses at Kladruby nad Labem is located in the Elbe Lowland, in the Střední Polabí area. The nominated property features a flat landscape, with sandy soils and includes fields, meadows, fenced pastures, a landscaped park, a forested area as well as buildings and farmsteads, all designed with the main objective of breeding and training the Kladruher horses, which were used in ceremonies by the Habsburg imperial court. The Imperial Stud Farm was established in 1579 and since then it has been dedicated to this task.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*.

In terms of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (July 2017) paragraph 47, it has also been nominated as a *cultural landscape*.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

29 May 2007

Background

This is a new nomination.

Consultations and Technical Evaluation Mission

Desk reviews have been provided by ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, members and independent experts.

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the property from 29 August to 1 September 2018.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

A letter was sent to the State Party on 12 October 2018 requesting further information about: the Mošnice Park and its historic and functional relationship with Kladruby nad Labem; clarifications about the size of the property and its

buffer zone; the updating of the management plan; and the nature of conservation and other projects. Additional information was received from the State Party on 9 November 2018.

An Interim Report was submitted to the State Party on 21 December 2018 summarising the issues identified by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel. Further information was requested in the Interim Report including: the historic cultural thematic framework of the nominated property; the boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone and related protective measures; development projects; and visitor management strategy.

Additional information was received from the State Party on 22 February 2019 and has been incorporated into the relevant sections of this evaluation report.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

13 March 2019

2 Description of the property

Note: The nomination dossier and additional information contain detailed descriptions of this property, its history and its state of conservation. Due to limitations on the length of evaluation reports, this report only provides a short summary of the most relevant aspects.

Description and history

The Kladruby nad Labem stud farm occupies a flat terrain, still preserving the remains of oxbow lakes, in the loamy and sandy alluvial plain (around 200m a.s.l.) on the northern bank of the Elbe River.

The nominated property forms a roughly elongated stretch of land exhibiting different features, which have been used to progressively shape the landscape. The remains of floodplain forest adjacent to the river meanders became the core of the Mošnice Park; to the North, treed meadows were turned into regular grazing areas for the horses, delimited by tree-lines; further north, on a slightly elevated sand terrace, a forest mostly of coniferous and of some deciduous trees forms the backdrop of the designed farming scenery.

The current tripartite design results from progressive adaptation of natural conditions and responds to both functional needs, linked to the operations of the stud farm, and aesthetic aspirations, justified by the imperial status of the farm.

Two main avenues – Řečanská Avenue and Selmická Avenue, oriented respectively along the northeast-southwest and east-west directions – act as the generating elements of the landscape layout. An additional avenue, mirroring that of Řečanská, has left only a few traces in the landscape, due to the construction of the Paddock stable. Both the meadows and the forest to the north follow a squared pattern, generated by the Selmická Avenue: the pastures are delimited by tall trees and

crossed by several water-streams and artificial irrigation canals as well as by other, minor, tree-lined avenues. The hierarchy of the avenues is reflected in the plants and vegetation used (e.g. lime or apple trees). The size and shape of the pastures and of the lining vegetation responds to both functional needs - larger pastures were used by cohorts of horses of the same age and mares, whilst stallions were kept separate, in smaller paddocks with higher fences - and aesthetic aspirations, following the design principles of the *ferme ornée*.

The Mošnice Park lies in the southern part of the nominated landscape and differs completely from the rest of the estate. In the late 19th century, the riparian forest and oxbow lakes were turned into a landscaped park. Inspired by Průhonice Park, Mošnice was, however, designed to be integrated into the stud farm, e.g., its only lane was realised purposely for riding horse-pulled carriages.

The estate entered into the possession of the Habsburgs in 1563 and obtained from 1579 onwards the status of Imperial Court Stud Farm. From then on it was progressively expanded, by acquiring lands from the nearby villages, transformed and repeatedly repaired and modernised.

Until the late 17th century, Kladruby nad Labem stud bred Spanish horses. During the reign of Leopold I, Neapolitan and other Italian heavier, larger and stronger studhorses were imported and crossbred with Spanish mares to develop a breed capable of pulling heavy ceremonial carriages, or *gala-carrossas*. Already at the beginning of the 18th century, a new breed of larger and stronger horses was bred and stabilised: the Kladruher *gala-carrossiers*.

At the end of the 18th century, the system of the Habsburg Imperial Stud Farms included Kopčany (in present-day Slovakia), Lipice (present-day Slovenia) and Kladruby nad Labem.

A destructive fire in 1757 necessitated the removal of horses from Kladruby to other imperial stud farms and it was only in the first half of the 19th century that the nominated landscape and farm were renovated, also due to the closure of Kopčany Stud Farm (in 1826), attaining their present layout and appearance.

The 19th century reorganisation of the farm was carried out jointly by the director of the Imperial Equerry Office in Vienna, Ignaz Grill of Warimfeld, and by Mauritz Jahn.

Their work did not affect the area or the proportions of grasslands, forests and fields, but the organisation of the landscape was radically modified. The design followed 17th century principles of 'classicist' garden and landscape architecture. The stud farm was equipped with three farmsteads (Kladruby nad Labem, Josefov and Františkov), which were designed in a moderate Classicist language and connected by straight tree-lined avenues. Between 1820 and 1830 new stables, sheds,

granaries, residential and service buildings were erected at Kladruby, the main communication axes - Selmická Avenue and Řečanská Avenue - laid down, and the Františkov farmstead along Selmická Avenue (1828-1831) and the Josefov farmstead (1854-1855) were built.

The three farmsteads responded to horse breeding and training needs: Kladruby nad Labem was used for horse and mare breeding as well as looking after young foals up to six months old; Františkov hosted colts and fillies from 6 months to 3 years old, whilst Josefov responded to operational needs and for horse training. In the same period, the rectangular grid of pastures was gradually developed, planted with one group of trees, separated by tree-lined alleyways and fenced.

The northern forested area was reduced and replanted based on a regular grid which still exists today. Additional hydraulic arrangements proved necessary to prevent flooding and to protect the regular supply of fodder. The church of St. Wenceslas and Leopold was reconstructed to match the new style of the Kladruby farmstead yard.

Around 1890, the forest in Mošnice was transformed into a landscaped park. The area formed a natural barrier against high water and ice, and it was reported to be marshy and challenging with regards to its complete drainage. Therefore, its landscaping needed to respect some principles: the groves were to be preserved and bound by straight lines, the trees on the meadow plots felled, and the soil ploughed and sown with grass. The works were supervised by the chief director of Imperial Gardens in Vienna.

Changes also affected other parts of the nominated landscape: tree species were replaced, and the Manor House and the common grounds at Kladruby nad Labem were landscaped.

Modernisation works went on into the early decades of the 20th century. However, after the fall of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy in 1918, the nominated property lost many horses and risked being closed-down but the new government turned the stud farm into a state-owned company.

In the 1930s traffic was diverted to avoid it going through the estate, Františkov and Kladruby farmsteads were fenced, whilst reconstruction projects began at two buildings at Kladruby.

After World War II the stud farm was incorporated into the State Breeding Farm and put under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture. In the mid-20th century a school for horse breeding was opened in the Manor House and this triggered some restorations and additions of new structures, e.g. accommodation for students and employees and a new racing course. The forest was absorbed by the State Forest Company and the Mošnice Park came to be used as a pheasantry.

After the educational spaces were moved to other facilities, in 1996 the restoration of the Manor House could begin, followed by other interventions.

Additional sources consulted by ICOMOS complement the information on the 20th century history of Kladruby nad Labem.

From 1918 to 1937 the survival of the Oldkladruby horse was seriously endangered, especially the black variety. In 1938 a project began for regenerating the black Kladruby horse in Průhonice. In 1945 the black herd was moved to the unoccupied stables of Slatiňany Palace. Additionally, a training unit for young horses was set up in the former racing and hunting stables of the Kinsky family in Hermanův Městec. In those two locations breeding and training of the black horses continues to this day, since 1992 as part of the National Stud Kladruby nad Labem.

Other breeds were introduced at Kladruby: the need for draft horses for agriculture increased and during the 1970s and 1980s the focus lay on the breeding of sport horses for export. The population of Oldkladruby horses was reduced. Soon only a few of them remained at the former court stud; however, their breeding has recovered over the last 25 years.

Boundaries

The nominated property has an area of 1,310 ha, and a buffer zone of 3,248 ha.

The boundaries of the nominated property are described in detail in the nomination dossier. The boundaries appear to have been delineated mainly according to the historic perimeter of the Kladruby nad Labem estate and this appears to be confirmed by the abundant cartographic documentation provided in the Annexes to the Nomination Dossier.

The boundaries of the buffer zone are not described in writing but are clearly delineated on the map.

The buffer zone almost coincides with Kladrubské Polabí conservation area, which was established in 2015 by the Czech Ministry of Culture (Provision of a General Nature No. 1/2015, ref. No. MK 72096/2015 OPP) pursuant Act No. 20/1987 Coll.

The buffer zone includes a larger area protected through different mechanisms; however, to the south a small stretch of the boundaries of the nominated property coincides with those of the buffer zone or are very close to them.

ICOMOS noted a discrepancy between the size of the nominated property and of the buffer zone as reported in the nomination dossier and in the 2012 Management Plan and requested additional information in October 2018.

The State Party responded that, following internal assessment, the size of the nominated property and of the buffer zone have been adjusted to the current size and perimeter.

The additional information provided in February 2019 further clarifies the reasons for excluding certain parts from the nominated property on the basis of historical reasons: namely the north-western portion of land was not part of the original estate; only in 1932 did it fall under state ownership. With regard to other small portions, these were excluded from the Conservation area and therefore not included in the nominated property.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property may be considered adequate.

On the other hand, the rationale for delineating the buffer zone remained unclear and ICOMOS requested further information in its Interim Report. The State Party in its response explains that the national Conservation area is meant to fulfil the role of buffer for the nominated property and, as such, the territory has to exhibit values that justify its inclusion in the Conservation area: the land adjacent to the stretches where the boundaries of the nominated property and of the buffer zone coincide lacks these values. The State Party explains that the land outside the nominated property and the buffer zone is covered by land-use plans including provisions which do not pose any risk to the nominated property.

ICOMOS first observes that the explanation about the land-use plans for Chvaletice and Trnávka municipalities is too general and has not been accompanied by maps or details of the planning provisions for the areas by the river.

Additionally, ICOMOS notes that, under the World Heritage Convention, the buffer zone is an area surrounding a property which is equipped with measures able to provide an additional layer of protection to the property and does not need to exhibit values in itself. This additional protection can be achieved through robust planning provisions and not exclusively through national legal protection.

ICOMOS underlines that there is a need for the buffer zone to be expanded to the south of the nominated property, in the areas where the two boundaries coincide and include further land across the River Elbe. This has to be covered by appropriate mechanisms (e.g. the land-use plans mentioned by the State Party) in order to guarantee the necessary added layer of protection to the property's immediate setting and views enjoyed from within the nominated property.

State of conservation

Based on the information provided by the State Party and the observations of the ICOMOS technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation is overall adequate and corresponds to the description in the nomination dossier. Extensive restoration projects were carried out at several buildings, structures and open spaces of Kladruby, Josefov and Františkov farmsteads between 2013-2015 within a large-scale restoration programme funded by the EU. Between 2006-2008 Mošnice Park also underwent a restoration project. The nomination dossier provides a synthetic but detailed account of the works; unfortunately, no visual documentation about the previous

conditions of the property and of the most recent interventions has been provided.

ICOMOS requested additional information in this regard and the State Party responded in November 2018 with further explanations on the planned projects.

Other restoration projects, also funded by the EU, are planned for immediate future implementation, namely at the English Stable (Paddock) and its surroundings, at Josefov, and at Mošnice Park. One project envisages adding an amenity centre at Kladruby nad Labem farmstead, envisaging the demolition of three 1970s buildings and the restoration of other ones still awaiting intervention. Other major projects are also planned for the restoration of the original water management system, and to continue with the restoration of the vegetation to match the original design.

Given the high number and scale of implemented and planned projects, in its Interim Report, ICOMOS asked whether a comprehensive conservation plan exists for the nominated property and recommended the State Party to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of these projects on the nominated property and its features.

The State Party responded in February 2019, explaining that a management strategy has been set up that includes several projects for the restoration of the property and for its touristic promotion. It then lists several projects but does not address the recommendation for a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment.

ICOMOS considers that such an assessment should be carried out in order to verify whether potential cumulative negative impacts may derive from these projects.

Factors affecting the property

Based on the information provided by the State Party and the observations of the ICOMOS technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS considers that the main factors that may affect the property include potential windstorms, flooding, pollution from the Chvaletice power station located south of the nominated property, potential increase of tourism, and related development pressures.

However, the nomination dossier explains that measures have been put in place to avoid or reduce negative impacts on the property: flood hazard has been addressed by continuous management of the water system and a Flood Control Strategy has been elaborated since major floods occurred (in 1997 and 2002); the power station has been upgraded so as to reduce sulphur emissions and the quality of the air is monitored; development pressures from urbanisation is controlled via the protection designations, the continuation of agricultural use of the nominated property, and urban planning instruments.

ICOMOS notices that a possible threat may derive from a weak long-term sustainability of the nominated property, as it relies mostly on public funds (state and EU), only

30% the operation costs being covered by the farm's revenue.

The nominated property suffers from localised visual intrusions due to high-voltage power lines crossing the landscape and to the Chvaletice power station in the buffer zone.

In the short to medium-term, measures to minimise the visual impact of the Chvaletice facility need to be planned. In the long-term, the power lines need to be removed from inside the nominated property.

Further potential impacting factors on the hydraulic system of the nominated property may derive from general plans for the Danube–Elbe basin and the construction of new canals within the nominated property as well as an increase in touristic navigation. An assessment of these impacts is needed.

ICOMOS considers that it would be desirable that the State Party consider the integration of a Heritage Impact Assessment approach into the management system, so as to ensure that any programme or project regarding the property be assessed in relation to its impacts on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value and its supporting features.

3 Proposed justification for inscription

Proposed justification

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- it is a rare synthesis of an evolving landscape supporting its original function and of a designed landscape intentionally created to breed and train special horses for ceremonial carriages;
- it is a unique living testimony of a very late but inventive application of Le Notre's composition principles to shape a landscape with a specific purpose;
- the picturesque landscaping of Mošnice Park was employed inventively to create a landscape scenery combining native and ornamental trees and applying principles of manipulative painting perspective;
- this combination of 'classicist' and 'romantic' design principles would be a unique example of preserved traces of landscape design style development;
- it represents a unique and comprehensive example of an equestrian cultural development in Europe, which achieved the breeding and training of a special horse breed - the *gala – carrossier* - which has since the 17th century been acknowledged in the professional literature.

The centrality of the function of the nominated landscape is demonstrated by many features, for instance the simple, unobtrusive vernacular character of the buildings, the

emphasis on the functional buildings, e.g., the orientation of the main axes to focus on the stable at Kladruby nad Labem rather than on the Manor House, the size of meadows to respond to feeding needs, the distribution of trees to offer shade, the size and shape of the avenues and roads, and the collection of decorative elements referring mainly to the function of the farm.

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis has been developed in three stages. The first framework identified designed landscapes for horse husbandry, and it was further narrowed down to consider landscapes associated with stud farms dedicated to breeding and training special horse breeds. In the second phase, properties eligible for comparison were shortlisted. The parameters used for the comparison include: length of existence, historic continuity of the landscape in relation to breeding and training horses, functional relationship between the landscape and horse breeding, intentional design applied to horse-breeding function, harmony between the landscape and the built environment, architectural value of the designed landscape, impact of the size of the landscape on the wider area, degree of interaction among landscape, people and horses, and economic significance of the stud farm function. 18 properties have been selected for comparison, mostly located in central Europe.

ICOMOS notes that, whilst the comparison has been extensive, some relevant properties are missing, e.g. the State Stud "Haupt- und Landgestüt" Schwaiganger in Germany, where horse-breeding can be traced back to medieval times, or the State Stud Redefin, founded by the Dukes of Mecklenburg in north-east Germany, with its highly elaborate stud premises in classical style, are not mentioned. In France, the National Studs of Pompadour and Rosières-aux-Salines could also have been considered, instead of the national Stud of Saint-Lô, which was relocated once in its history and therefore its premises are more recent than those of other French National Studs.

ICOMOS observes that the nomination dossier does not address adequately the natural setting of the different analysed studs. Horses used to be bred to fulfil different purposes and different landscapes turned out to be suitable for producing certain types of horses depending on climate, soil and geography. For instance, Marbach State Stud is located in the Swabian Alps, in the south-west of Germany. Karst regions were considered to provide perfect conditions to produce durable, strong and healthy horses. In hilly regions it would have been impossible to create long straight avenues or a strictly rectangular pattern of pastures: the landscape was shaped differently but not less intensively for horse breeding. At Lipica (Slovenian Karst) soil additions from elsewhere are reported to have improved the pastures; an intensive tree-planting programme took place and one of the famous characteristics of the fully walled-in estate is its avenues. At the one leading towards Vienna, for every young stallion that was transferred from the stud to the capital, a tree used to be planted. The application of the most elaborate classical French architecture and landscape design to a

horse breeding institution can be found at the State Stud of Le Pin; its avenues and vistas are the longest of their kind and they meet in the *Cour d'Honneur* between the stables and the palace.

In the ICOMOS Interim Report, an historic – cultural framework was requested from the State Party in order to better place the nominated property in its proper wider perspective and context in relation to other properties closely related to horse-breeding.

The State Party responded in February 2019 by providing an expanded account of the areas of human–equine interaction throughout the millennia and an analysis of the key parameters for places dedicated to horse-breeding and training, relevant for a sound comparative analysis.

The comparative analysis and the additional arguments provided have succeeded in demonstrating the relevance of Kladruby nad Labem for the World Heritage List, basically on the grounds of the completeness of this cultural landscape, the long-lasting continuity of its original function, clearly recognisable traces of landscape design, the continuing and still-living tradition of horse-breeding, and training of a rare and ancient horse breed.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iv) and (v).

Criterion (ii): *exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the nominated property exhibits important cultural interchanges in landscape design in Europe between the 17th and 19th centuries, in the application of André Le Nôtre's landscape composition principles and English landscape design applied to a utilitarian landscape.

The functional layout results from exchange of information and experience on the needs for horse breeding and training.

ICOMOS considers that the nomination dossier has provided some arguments, based on the observation of the landscape changes throughout the centuries, for the first part of the justification, referring to the landscape design. However, they do not appear sufficient to support this claim. The second part of the justification, on the cultural exchanges underlying the functional aspect of landscape design choices, is not supported by evidence.

In the additional information provided in November 2018, the State Party expanded the explanation of the role played by horse breeding in determining the modifications to the landscape. ICOMOS however does not consider

that these arguments can contribute to supporting the justification of criterion (ii).

ICOMOS considers that criterion (ii) has not been justified.

Criterion (iv): be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the nominated landscape is an example of a meticulously cultivated landscape through the centuries by using the French Classicist garden and English landscaping principles to achieve an environment designed to serve ceremonial carriage-horse breeding and training. The nominated landscape illustrates an important stage in modern European history, when royal and princely courts valued and promoted horse-breeding activities for functional and ceremonial purposes. The nominated landscape represents a unique and well-preserved example of the development of equestrian culture in Europe. It is a unique example of landscape in which aesthetic principles of Classicist gardening and English landscaping are combined together, guided by functional exigencies: the creation of a 'patte d'oie' and of enclosed meadows forming 'bosquets' and 'cabinets de verdure', later added to with groups of trees, were used for horse pasture; at Mošnice Park the vegetation was used according to its colours to create visual effects, and this is an extremely rare application of the principle of perspective.

ICOMOS considers that the evocation of André Le Nôtre's design principles for a landscape shaped in the early 19th century according to geometric and regular patterns, does not seem to consider other subsequent cultural references, especially for utilitarian landscapes, that may be relevant for the nominated property. Additionally, compared to other properties, the application of classicist principles in landscape design in Kladruby appears late and not outstanding.

The reference to English gardens seems also to overlook that German courts developed from 1750 onwards their own aesthetics for landscape and gardens.

Additionally, ICOMOS does not consider unique the combination of "French" and "English" landscaping principles at the property, since in the 19th century several parks and gardens were inserting irregular landscape parts into a regular framework and it does not constitute in itself something extraordinary. Likewise, the use of the vegetation to create 'deceptive' perspectives in the landscape cannot be considered unique to Mošnice Park.

However, Kladruby nad Labem can be considered an exceptional example of a landscape which has been consistently and intentionally modified through the centuries to serve the purpose of horse-breeding and training of draft ceremonial horses, exceptionally

reflecting the development of the Habsburgs and their representational needs at a time when absolute monarchies were in the ascendance.

ICOMOS considers that criterion (iv) has been justified.

Criterion (v): be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the landscape would be the last unique example of a cultural landscape dedicated to a utilitarian function associated with a centuries-long history of breeding carriage-horses (*gala carrossier*). Down the centuries the nominated landscape has been expanded and designed to best respond to its function and ensure self-sustenance with regards to the resources needed for its operation. The natural conditions and features of the region – climate, hydrology, soil, vegetation – were suitably exploited and adapted to meet the needs of the stud farm. The flat terrain allowed for the application of André Le Nôtre's principles of garden design. The nominated landscape exhibits a whole set of interactions among humans, landscape and horses. The rural settlements within the nominated property have evolved with the stud farm and their inhabitants have been directly involved in the farm operations or related activities and still are, their lives having been intertwined with and influenced by the stud farm.

The nominated landscape is a remarkable synthesis between a continuously evolving utilitarian landscape and intentionally designed interventions responding to specific composition principles.

ICOMOS requested additional information on 12 October 2018. The State Party replied on 9 November 2018 providing details on horse breeding and training knowledge and methods developed at Kladruby, the reasons why meadows and pastures were given different sizes and fences, the integration of functions of the three farmsteads, as well as on other complementary activities at the Stud Farm, all supporting its main mission.

ICOMOS considers that Kladruby nad Labem reflects the use and purposefully adaptation of the geomorphological features and environmental resources of a fluvial area throughout the centuries for horse-breeding and training. The current organisation of the landscape, with its still-evident tripartite structure, with old meanders and oxbow lakes turned into a designed landscape, the fenced and tree-delimited pastures, the avenues, the network of irrigation canals, the stud architecture and the dependent village, along with the local knowledge and way of life dependent on stud operation and horse-breeding, represents an outstanding example of human interaction with the environment devoted to the breeding and training of the Kladruber horses.

ICOMOS considers that criterion (v) has been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (iv) and (v), whilst criterion (ii) has not been demonstrated.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

According to the State Party, the nominated property's integrity is expressed through: the retention of its historical delimitation, which corresponds to the farm size necessary to supply the horse herd set by the Imperial Court, the preserved utilitarian character manifested in its functional/aesthetical composition of pastures, grassland for hay, arable land for grain fodder, forests for timber used in construction and for fuel, hydraulic network for water supply, drives for training the horses, stables, buildings and structures for horse-breeding and training and related functions, that have been developed since the 19th century. Both the 'classicist' and the 'romantic picturesque' composition have been preserved, as well as the productive forest, with its network of straight forest roads created for rational forest exploitation. The rural settlements within the nominated landscape have retained their historic layout and the form of the residential houses.

ICOMOS considers that the property includes all physical features supporting the significance of the nominated landscape and the interrelationship among the supporting features is also perceivable and maintained. However, some key designed features expressing the 'classicist' aesthetics of the landscape – e.g. the *patte d'oie* – have not been fully preserved, as one of the axes is missing, and some of the vegetation species are reported to have been changed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to match the 'romantic picturesque' shift. The horse landscape features appear in good condition and do not seem to suffer from negative impacts. However, in the forest intensive farming and greenhouses have been introduced, thus undermining the visual and functional integrity of this part of the landscape. The built heritage has been the object of very recent extensive restoration works, which do not seem to have been carried out in all cases with the necessary quality and finesse. The main avenue has been asphalted and is more suited to vehicles rather than horse movement. Localised visual impacts over the landscape derive from the power station (in the buffer zone), the power lines across the property, and some inappropriate buildings in terms of scale and material, although views and vistas have been maintained.

However, studies are ongoing to assess the costs for minimising or reversing these impacts.

ICOMOS considers that interventions to mitigate the negative interventions on the nominated property and its features are important, particularly with regard to the electric power lines, but the impacts of the projects need to

be assessed as well, especially with regard to restoration/rehabilitation works.

ICOMOS finally considers that the buffer zone to the south of the property, in the stretch where their boundaries coincide, must be extended to include land across the River Elbe, so as to guarantee that views from the nominated property are adequately protected.

Authenticity

The nomination dossier states that the functional integrity of the nominated property has been preserved, as it is still used for the original function, the breeding and training of '*gala – carrossier*' carriage horses. The composition of the landscape has also been preserved over time as well as its features, both naturally evolved and designed, and they are evidence of the search for self-sufficiency in the stud farm operation. Farming methods, including horse breeding, are still carried out according to tradition, and innovative methods are integrated only after careful consideration for the values of the nominated property. The 'classicist' and 'romantic picturesque' design of the landscape can be traced back to their arrangements. The ensembles of the stud farm buildings exhibit a high degree of authenticity and have been carefully restored following the principles of good practice and the findings of a thorough study (2000). Linear planting, individual trees and groves have been preserved to date and, where replacement is needed, plants of identical *taxa* are used at the same place, to preserve the composition. Vegetation cover of the meadows is replanted through self-seeding, whilst the cultivated fields continue to be sowed with barley and oats.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated landscape credibly illustrates through its tangible and intangible features the continuous interaction among humans, horses and the environment. In particular, the natural tripartite structure of the landscape in marshland, agricultural landscape of meadows and pastures, and forest, integrated with its designed features, clearly reflects the needs of the exploitation programme for horse breeding and training.

The stud farm complexes and buildings underwent an extensive restoration campaign (2016–2018), but the quality of the results does not appear always satisfactory; any future intervention would therefore need careful control to avoid negative impacts on the authenticity of the nominated property.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the requirements of integrity will be met when the buffer zone is expanded further south to include land across the River Elbe, in the stretch where its boundaries are too tight or coinciding with those of the nominated property. On the other hand, the conditions of authenticity have been met in relation to the landscape and to the claims supporting criteria (iv) and (v).

Evaluation of the proposed justification for inscription

The nomination of Kladruby nad Labem has to be commended as it puts the focus on the role that horses have played in human history and development, an aspect of human culture which has so far been paid little attention. The property is one of the most valuable horse-breeding institutions in Europe, run for some three-hundred years by the Habsburgs, developed at a time when horses played vital roles in transport, agriculture, military support and representation of the aristocracy.

In its additional information the State Party has been able to expand the description of the key features of the nominated property in relation to comparative parameters and to other still surviving European stud-farms from the period so as to position it in its broader relevant context. In this way it has succeeded in demonstrating that Kladruby nad Labem justifies consideration for World Heritage listing because it is one of the few ancient stud farms that still pursues its historic breeding programme, has retained its landscape almost intact which continues to serve its function and still reflects the purposes for which it was designed.

ICOMOS considers that the requirements of integrity will be met when the buffer zone is expanded further south to include land across the River Elbe, in the stretch where its boundaries are too tight or coinciding with those of the nominated property.

Attributes/Features

The value of Kladruby nad Labem lies in the completeness of its cultural landscape, still reflecting the historical tripartite structure of this fluvial area, with its old meanders and oxbow lakes turned into a late 'romantic' designed landscape, the 'classical' regular fenced and tree-delimited pastures, the straight tree-lined avenues, the network of irrigation canals, fed by the Kladrubský náhon, the forest to the north, the different farms, all serving distinct functions, the stud architecture and the dependent village, along with the local knowledge and way of life, all centered around one function: horse-breeding and training the special Kladruber horses which can be seen as living monuments.

ICOMOS considers that the additional information and the augmented comparative analysis have contributed to demonstrating that Kladruby nad Labem justifies consideration for the World Heritage List under criteria (iv) and (v), whereas the justification for criterion (ii) is not supported by the surviving features of the nominated property.

4 Conservation measures and monitoring

Conservation measures

The nomination dossier provides an account of the conservation measures that were carried out in the past and of those planned, complemented by the additional information provided on 9 November 2018.

The landscape has been maintained thanks to its use, maintenance of the vegetation is carried out by taking into account the historical composition and layout of the tripartition of the landscape (Mošnice Park, pastures and meadows, forest), hedgerows are regularly cut, where replacement is needed, this respects the *taxa* of original trees and bushes. With groves of trees, when replacement is needed, this occurs progressively.

The water management system has been overall preserved, and repairs carried out where needed. However, a general intervention of Regeneration of the Water Management System of the nominated property is under consideration.

In 2001-2003 a detailed building survey was carried out which provided the basis for subsequent conservation/restoration interventions, many of which were completed between 2013-2015. Restoration of the water system at Mošnice Park was carried out in 2006-2008.

Other projects are currently being carried out – e.g. the car park at Kladruby nad Labem stud farm – or are scheduled for implementation soon and many other ones are being planned, according to the additional information transmitted by the State Party in November 2018.

The additional information provided by the State Party details the measures in place to guarantee the conservation of the Kladruber horse breed: genetic reserves are protected under the National Programme for the Preservation and Utilisation of Plant, Animal and Microorganism Genetic Reserves for Alimentation and Agriculture.

Details of the nature conservation measures are also contained in the Additional information received in November 2018, whilst the February 2019 additional information focuses on the process for designing, tendering and implementing conservation/restoration projects.

The dedication and commitment of the State Party to guarantee the conservation and restoration of the nominated property are to be commended. However, ICOMOS also observes that the outcomes of some of the recently carried out interventions do not seem to exhibit the quality that would be expected for a property nominated for World Heritage Listing. Therefore, it recommends that careful consideration is given to the assessment of the impacts of planned interventions, including conservation, on the features and qualities of the nominated property as a whole and of the relevant parts. A more prudent approach in the restoration of the built heritage is recommended by exercising the strictest control over the materials used.

Monitoring

A monitoring system for World Heritage properties exists in Czechia; it is based on annual reports and has been in use for 15 years. The property is protected under Act n. 20/1987 as amended, therefore it enjoys regular inspections by the national bodies responsible for cultural heritage. Three complex qualitative indicators are identified as the main references for monitoring, each of which are broken down into simpler descriptors. They are measured annually by the relevant bodies, either individually or jointly, depending on the nature of the indicator.

ICOMOS considers that the indicators mentioned in the nomination dossier provide qualitative information. Whilst they are very useful to develop a full picture of the situation and trends, quantitative indicators are also important as a support and confirmation of the qualitative assessment. It is therefore recommended to develop also quantitative indicators to complete the monitoring system.

Indicators to assess the effectiveness of the management system would also be useful as a basis for revising the management strategies.

ICOMOS considers that already undertaken conservation measures demonstrate strong commitment to the conservation of the nominated property. However, the high number of implemented and planned projects in a short space of time, may result in unexpected negative impacts. ICOMOS therefore recommends assessing in advance their impacts on the features of the nominated property, privileging conservation over restoration/reconstruction and ensuring the high quality of materials. The monitoring system is well established and carried out; however, ICOMOS recommends enriching it with quantitative indicators and with indicators for the effectiveness of the management system.

5 Protection and management

Documentation

The survey of historic buildings carried out in 2001-2003 – still ongoing – and the 2012 Management Plan provides comprehensive information about the different aspects of the property. The records of the lineage of the Kladruber horse breed have been preserved and the National Stud Farm of Kladruby nad Labem is responsible for keeping the Studbook of Kladruber horses.

Legal Protection

The nominated landscape is included in the Kladrubské Polabí Conservation area, designated with provision ref n. MK 72096/2015 pursuant Act n. 20/1987 as amended. It has been protected as a unique example of a landscape shaped for horse breeding and training. The Stud Farm itself is a National Heritage site as per Government Decree 132/2001 and other parts of the nominated landscape are included in Natura 2000 network as a Site of Community Importance as per Government Decree n. 73/2016 amending GD n. 318/2013. Other sites within the

nominated property are covered by heritage protection status.

The Kladruber horse breed also enjoys legal protection since 2002 as a living monument.

The basic protection instrument is the Heritage Act n. 20/1987, which stipulates obligations for the owner, user, public administrations, juridical and physical persons with regard to protected heritage.

Since January 2017, the implementation of provisions of the Heritage Act for the nominated property are under the responsibility of the Municipal Authority of Přelouč, which enjoys extended powers within the Czech administrative system. Protection and management of the nominated property as a national heritage site (NHS) is guided by the Agreement on general Principles of Restoration and further development of the Area of the NHS of the Stud Farm at Kladruby nad Labem (May 2017).

The nominated property and its buffer zone are subject to the provisions of Act. 114/1992 on nature conservation and landscape protection, which provides for general protection mechanisms for categories of natural elements and landscapes, but also through specific protection designations.

Several territorial plans complement legal protection for the nominated property. They include the land-use plans of municipalities (11 plans for 13 municipalities), all elaborated in agreement with the relevant State bodies including national heritage conservation ones; the Land Development Principles of Pardubický Region; the Concept supporting the implementation of the National Heritage Management Policy for Pardubický Region (2017-2020); the Cultural Heritage Conservation strategy for Pardubický Region (approved by the Regional Council in 2004), forming the basis for conservation works.

ICOMOS considers that legal protection appears overall satisfactory, although the recently delegated (2017) responsibilities for heritage protection implementation to the Municipality of Přelouč may need to be monitored by the State relevant bodies.

ICOMOS also recommends that Kladrubský náhon be explicitly protected under the Cultural Heritage Act n. 20/1987.

Management system

The overall governance/management system for the nominated property and its buffer zone relies on legal and planning instruments at the national, regional and local level. State and local entities guarantee the implementation of measures which they are responsible for and which contribute to the implementation of protection and management.

Most of the nominated property is owned by the State (90%) and is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, managed by the following entities: National

Stud Farm Kladruby nad Labem s.p.o. Forests of the Czech Republic s.p. (forest land), the River Elbe Authority and Czech Land-Use Authority. Only 5% of the property is privately owned.

The nominated property management entity is essentially state-funded both for operational and investment expenses, although the management body has financial entries for paid services that contribute to running the property.

A memorandum on the Establishment of a Steering group for the Heritage site of the Stud farm Cultural Landscape of Kladruby nad Labem was signed in June 2016 for coordination in the management of the property among relevant stakeholders.

The nominated property enjoys a Management Plan elaborated in 2010 and updated in 2012. In the additional information transmitted in November 2018, the State Party informs that in June 2018 a task force was entrusted to elaborate the new management plan. ICOMOS considers that the State Party should submit to ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre the updated Management Plan once it is finalised.

The forest is covered by a Forest Management Plan containing guidelines and recommendations, particularly for renewal. All forests included in the FMP are special purpose forests, as they perform landscape functions. The FMP is valid from 2016 through 2025.

Risk management instruments exist for flood fire hazards. Two key documents address flood threat: the Flood Control Strategy of Pardubický Region and the Flood Control Plan of the Administrative Territory of Přelouč Municipality. Following modifications to flow rate controls, the Elbe River is reported not to represent any longer a major risk factor for the nominated landscape. With regards to fire hazard, the National Stud Farm Kladruby nad Labem s.p.o. has fire protection rules and the staff is regularly trained for fire or other emergencies. Fire brigades are available for the nominated landscape thanks to volunteers operating at the farm and at the nearby villages, and there is a professional fire brigade at Přelouč, and a permanent fire unit at Chvaletice power plant.

A threat difficult to address is represented by windstorms, which are increasing in temperate climates and may need to be addressed in the near future.

ICOMOS considers that the management plan is a comprehensive document that provides useful information on the nominated property, its values and features, and on the management strategy and actions. It has been able to combine the strategic dimension of a management plan and its operational nature. The envisaged management objectives and actions appear still relevant for the nominated property and its buffer zone. It is hoped that the updated document will maintain the overall structure and approach of the existing plan.

From a risk management perspective, ICOMOS suggests that an assessment of the priority measures to be undertaken relating to the above-mentioned hazards needs to be developed, with a view to guaranteeing the safeguarding and long-term recovery of the nominated property's significance and of its key features in case of disaster.

ICOMOS considers that it would be desirable that the State Party consider the integration of a Heritage Impact Assessment approach into the management system, so as to ensure that any programme or project regarding the property be assessed in relation to its impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value and its supporting attributes.

Visitor management

The Strategy for Tourism in Pardubický Region (2016–2020) divides the Region into five destination areas and identifies the tourism vocation of each area, an overall vision, and strategic objectives aimed at increasing visitation, overnight accommodation, optimisation of the offer, awareness about the attractiveness of the region and the offer of good quality products. Pardubický Region has also developed a strategy for bicycle and in-line skating routes.

The nominated property offers visitor tours and interpretation materials, but they focus mainly on the stud farm and on the Kladruber horse breed, whilst little is proposed to understand the landscape and its close linkages with horse breeding.

The Additional information submitted in February 2019 explains that in 2018 a Development Study for Kladrubské Polabí was adopted, and a task force on Tourism was established in October 2018 to address potential visitor pressures. The main accommodation centres are intended to be located at Pardubice and Přelouč, outside both the nominated property and the buffer zone. A car park has already been built for 92 cars and 5 buses at the edge of Kladruby village and can be enlarged if needed. Car parks are further planned at Řečany nad Labem, and, at Semín, the National Stud Farm plans the transportation of tourists in horse-drawn coaches. Only guided tours are planned within the nominated property, to ensure full control of visitation.

ICOMOS considers that access to the site by individual vehicles should not be encouraged: alternative, more sustainable means of transportation are to be encouraged, i.e. by bike or horse riding, as proposed by the State Party. Therefore, the car park in Kladruby should preferably not be expanded, to avoid increase of traffic.

In ICOMOS' view, the interpretation narrative of the nominated property should be improved and expanded to include the landscape. It is also equally important to contextualise the presentation of Kladruby nad Labem in relation to other stud farms that over time supported the continuation of horse-breeding and to distinguish what belongs to the Kladruby history and tradition from other cultural resources.

Community involvement

The State Party provided additional information in November 2018 concerning the involvement of local communities, explaining that the nomination process was triggered by grass-roots support, eventually brought to the attention of the State administration by the Region. The Mayors of municipalities included in the nominated property or in the buffer zone have been participating in the works of the Steering Group since June 2016 and in the preparation of the Nomination dossier.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the protection and management of the nominated property

The protection and management systems rely upon several instruments of a legal, regulatory and planning nature that appear to collaborate to guarantee an effective layer of protection to the nominated property and its buffer zone. Although overall the legal protection can be considered adequate, ICOMOS suggests completing it by providing an ad-hoc protective designation for Kladrubský náhon.

ICOMOS has noted that the southern boundaries of the buffer zone appear too tight to ensure an adequate buffer. In the additional information provided in November 2018 and February 2019, the State Party argued that there would be no need to enlarge the buffer zone because protection would anyway be provided via planning instruments.

However, ICOMOS notes that the explanation for the land-use plans for Chvaletice and Trnávka is too general and not complemented by maps or details of the planning provisions for the areas by the river. ICOMOS further considers that the buffer zone has to be enlarged to the south, to include further land across the River Elbe, and equipped with appropriate protective mechanisms (including through land-use planning regulations) to guarantee the necessary added layer of protection to the nominated property, due to the proximity of large facilities and open views.

The Management system is based mostly on state-driven bodies, which have elaborated management instruments to guarantee the management and implementation of their operational activities. A memorandum for establishing a Steering Group was signed in 2016 and was renewed in June 2018. It has coordination, overseeing and advisory tasks.

Overall, the management system seems to be based on a tested formula, which should be supported and confirmed by the stability in the management staff, much needed to guarantee management effectiveness in the medium and long term.

Local stakeholders and the community need to be prepared to face a probable increase in visitors, especially from abroad. Visitor experiences need to be improved by expanding the interpretation and presentation of the nominated property to include the landscape and its interconnection with horse breeding.

Risk management may be improved through the identification of priorities related to the heritage status of the nominated property, its values and supporting features.

ICOMOS considers that protection will be fully adequate when the buffer zone is expanded in the southern part and is equipped with mechanisms to avoid negative impacts on the landscape views from the outside. Kladrubský náhon should be protected through ad-hoc legal protection as a cultural heritage item.

The management system seems to be adequate but needs to enjoy stability. The updated Management Plan should be submitted when ready to ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. Prioritisation in risk management planning may improve the quality of the recovery response. ICOMOS considers that it would be desirable that the State Party consider the integration of a Heritage Impact Assessment approach into the management system, so as to ensure that any programme or project regarding the property be assessed in relation to its impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value and its supporting attributes.

6 Conclusion

The nomination of Kladruhy nad Labem has to be commended as it puts the focus on the role that horses have played in human history and development, an aspect of human culture which has so far been paid little attention within the World Heritage Convention.

The property is one of the most significant horse-breeding institutions in Europe, developed at a time when horses played a vital role in transport, agriculture, military support and representation of the aristocracy.

Kladruhy nad Labem had been part of the Habsburgs' imperial stud-farms since the late 16th century and over the centuries it has been consistently expanded, adapted and embellished to support the breeding and training of the Kladruher horses, a special type of draft horses used in formal ceremonies. This activity continues to this day.

The State Party has harnessed the evaluation process and has provided the necessary additional arguments to illustrate the relationship between the design of the landscape and its use, to build a framework for understanding the features of horse-breeding properties and to improve the comparative analysis, thus correctly and convincingly positioning the nominated property amongst its comparators.

Kladruhy nad Labem is one of the few ancient stud farms that still pursues its historic breeding programme, has retained its landscape almost intact which continues to serve its function, and still reflects the purposes for which it was designed.

On the basis of the nomination dossier and of the additional information, the property justifies consideration under criteria (iv) and (v). However, the justification for

criterion (ii) is not supported by the surviving features of the nominated property.

The protection and management systems rely upon several instruments of a legal, regulatory and planning nature that appear to collaborate to guarantee an effective layer of protection to the nominated property and its buffer zone. Although overall the legal protection can be considered adequate, ICOMOS considers that Kladrubský náhon should be covered by an ad-hoc designation as historical-cultural heritage, considering its primary role in the sustenance of the nominated property.

With regards to the buffer zone, ICOMOS has noticed that the southern boundaries appear too tight to ensure an adequate protection to the nominated property. It is therefore necessary to enlarge the buffer zone to the south by including further land across the River Elbe, and to provide it with protective mechanisms able to protect the nominated property, especially from visual impacts.

The Management system is based mostly on state-run bodies equipped with management instruments to guarantee the property's management. A memorandum establishing a Steering Group with coordination, overseeing and advisory tasks was signed in 2016 and renewed in June 2018.

Overall, the management system seems to be based on a tested formula, which should be supported and confirmed by the stability in the management staff. A robust visitor strategy extended to the territory beyond the nominated property and its buffer zone is necessary to prevent negative impacts from visitation; individual vehicular access needs to be discouraged, therefore it is recommended that the newly-built car park is not expanded in the future.

The visitor experience needs to be improved and expanded to include the landscape and its interconnection with horse-breeding, which is the core of the nomination.

Risk management may be improved through the identification of priorities related to the heritage status of the nominated property, its values and supporting features.

7 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the nomination of the Landscape for Breeding and Training of Ceremonial Carriage Horses at Kladruba nad Labem, Czechia, be **referred back** to the State Party to allow it to:

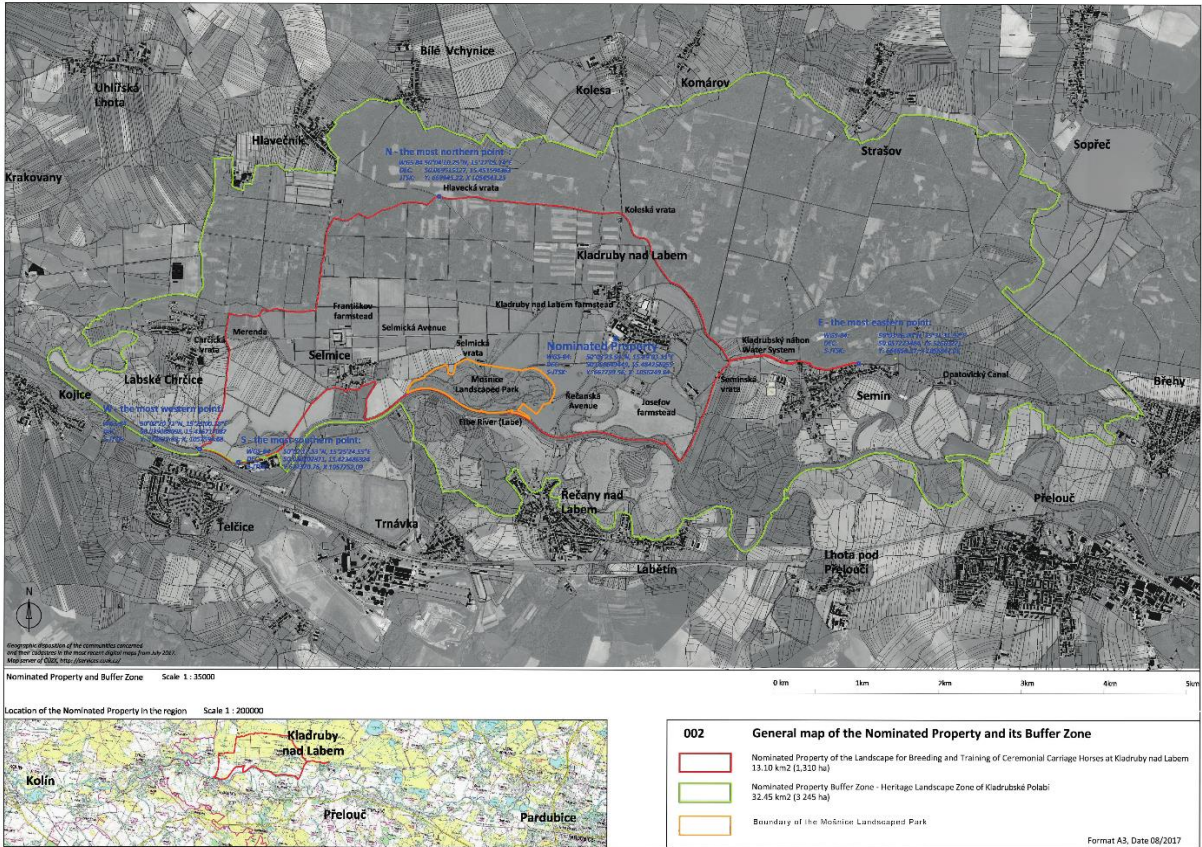
- Expand the buffer zone to the south by including further land across the River Elbe in the stretch where the boundaries are too tight or coinciding with those of the nominated property, in order to guarantee that it is equipped in its entirety with the necessary layer of additional protection;

- Provide ad-hoc legal protection to the Kladrubský náhon (canal system) as historical heritage, it having been the main water source for the property.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Finalising the revision of the management plan, whilst retaining the still-valid structure and approach of the 2012 document,
- b) Developing a robust visitor strategy that extends to the territory beyond the buffer zone and discouraging individual vehicular access to the nominated property,
- c) Improving risk management by carrying out a study on possible threats and effects that may be associated with climate change and prioritising the response to the most likely threats,
- d) Considering the integration of a Heritage Impact Assessment approach into the management system,
- e) Monitoring the potential interferences between the general plans for the Danube-Elbe, and the construction of new canals with the nominated landscape,
- f) Assessing the potential impact of the plans for touristic river transportation on the general historic hydraulic system and also considering possible impacts on the Natura 2000 community site,
- g) Removing the high-voltage power lines crossing the nominated landscape and implementing measures to minimise the visual impact of the Chvaletice power station,
- h) Carefully assessing the opportunity, pace and modalities of replanting the lines of trees of the avenues as well as hedges, taking into account species, distance, and size of the trees,
- i) Ensuring the correct interpretation of the site as a cultural landscape, where the horses, landscape features, buildings, and natural elements have produced long-lasting impacts on the environment and on the people,
- j) Establishing an archive and a digital register of primary source documents and setting up a central register of data at the National Stud Farm;



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property



The Kladruby nad Labem stud farm



Surrounding landscape (Mošnice Park)



Stud farm interior architecture



Kladruber Horses in the tree-lines