

The work of Vauban (France)

C 1283

Official name as proposed

by the State Party: The work of Vauban

Location:

Arras (Pas-de-Calais), Bazoches (Nièvre), Besançon (Doubs), Blaye and Cussac-Fort-Médoc (Gironde), Briançon and Mont-Dauphin (Hautes-Alpes), Camaret-sur-Mer (Finistère), Le Palais (Morbihan), Longwy (Meurthe-et-Moselle), Mont-Louis and Villefranche-de-Conflent (Pyrénées orientales), Neuf-Brisach (Haut-Rhin), Saint-Martin-de-Ré (Charente-Maritime) and Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue (Manche).

Brief description:

The series of 14 properties represent the finest examples of Vauban's work between 1667 and 1707, reflecting his style of fortifications built on plains, mountainous regions and coastlines, as well as the range of military buildings (barracks, governor's residence, military hospital, guardroom, sentry box, water storage tank, well, arsenal, powder magazine, cannon ball smelter, chapel, church, town hall and monumental gate) for which he defined the standards. The materials were sourced locally: various types of stone, brick and earth.

This series includes four towns built from scratch (Longwy, Mont-Dauphin, Mont-Louis and Neuf-Brisach), six citadels on various plains (Arras, Besançon, Blaye, Le Palais, Mont-Louis and Saint-Martin-de-Ré), urban bastion walls (Besançon, Longwy, Mont-Dauphin, Mont-Louis, Saint-Martin-de-Ré and Villefranche-de-Conflent), with bastion towers (Besançon and Neuf-Brisach) and atypical (Briançon), the Vauban residence (Château de Bazoches), six mountain forts (Besançon, Briançon, Villefranche-de-Conflent), six sea forts (Briançon, Camaret-sur-Mer, Cussac-fort-Médoc and Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue), a mountain battery (Villefranche-de-Conflent), and two mountain communication structures (Briançon).

Category of property:

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a serial nomination of 14 *groups of buildings and sites*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 31 January 2006

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the nomination: No

Date received by the World Heritage Centre:

24 January 2007

Background: This is a new nomination.

Consultations: ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committee on the fortifications and military heritage.

Literature consulted (selection):

Barros M., Salat N., Sarmant T., *Vauban, l'intelligence du territoire*, Paris, Service Historique de la Défense, 2006.

Faucherre N., *La place de Mont-Dauphin, l'héritage de Vauban*, Arles, Actes Sud / Aristeas, 2007.

Faucherre N., *L'œuvre de Vauban au château de Bazoches*, paper presented at the Vauban Association Conference in Avallon, June 2007.

Vauban à Belle-Île. Trois cents ans de fortification côtière en Morbihan. Vauban Association Conference, 5, 6 and 7 May 1989, Le Palais, Gondi, 1990.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 23, 25, 27, 28 and 30 August 2007; 3 to 5, 7 to 8, 10 to 15, 17 to 21 and 23 September 2007.

Additional information requested and received from the State Party: The State Party submitted in September 2007 the management plans for the fourteen Vauban sites, and on 28 February 2008 a progress report on the stages completed since September 2007, three amended management plans and an inventory of the fortified work of Vauban outside France.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report: 11 March 2008

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

ARRAS (47 ha): The citadel forms an elongated and symmetrical pentagon along a southwest-northeast axis, built on the crest of a rise between the Crinçon River and Hautes-Fontaines Stream. The military buildings are set around a vast rectangular square. One wing of the barracks was rebuilt in 1994 in accordance with the original materials (brick and white stone) and dimensions. The two remaining brick-faced bastioned fronts have straight-sided bastions. The Royale and Dauphine gates are open. The outside is well conserved on the east and south sides. They have counterguards and a covert way, which is doubled on the southwest side. A monument commemorating the Second World War is installed on the external wall of the Dauphin bastion and the counterguard.

BAZOCHES (18 ha): The Château de Bazoches is an irregular trapeze with four round towers, built at the start of the 17th century around the existing 15th century rectangular tower residence. The premises are built on two levels around a central courtyard. The west wing houses a grand gallery, which was used as a workspace by Vauban's engineers. A farm to the south forms a farmyard. The dry moat is crossed via a bridge from the farmyard and through an east gate opened in the 19th century. A French-style garden flanks the castle to the

west. A paved avenue connects it to the village church. The furnishings date from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, with an archival collection relating to Vauban and early editions of his works.

BESANÇON (195 ha): In a meander of the Doubs River, the town has three fortified zones:

- The citadel, on the rocky spur to the east, and its two opposing bastioned fronts enclosing the barracks (the one on the town side is doubled), well, chapel, guardroom and powder magazine;

- The town wall and its pentagonal bastioned towers connected by a relatively low curtain wall along the river, an excellent example of what is referred to as Vauban's "second system". The doubled flank front facing the Battant quarter is included;

- The bastioned fortification of the Battant quarter, on the west bank of the Doubs River with Griffon Fort forming a reduit facing the citadel.

Within the town, the 19th century barracks and contemporary developments on the southern rampart reflect the gradual adaptation of the defence's forms.

BLAYE (161 ha): The citadel created by Vauban surrounds the Medieval castle of which it uses certain elements. Four orillon bastions and three ravelins form a regular semi-circular wall.

CUSSAC-FORT-MÉDOC (surface area within Blaye): Fort Pâté, built on an island in the middle of the river, is a compact oval tower, entirely in stone, with a lower annular casemate and upper terrace with central guardroom.

Fort Médoc is a bastioned square in earth, surrounded by a water moat and housing a guardroom, chapel and powder magazine. The bastions are casemated.

BRIANÇON (129 ha): The stronghold includes a town wall, four forts, a fortified communication and a bridge over the Durance River, in the mountainous environment of the French Alps.

The irregular polygon town wall unfolds along a 300-meter gradient. Two powder magazines and a collegiate church overlooking a bastion are of note.

The forts are irregular constructions, at times bastioned, adapted to the mountainous terrain. They are separated from the town and built on the mountainsides overlooking the town at an altitude of between 1200 and 1600 metres. They house a wide range of military buildings.

The Y communication is a covered and fortified link with a bastioned design.

The Asfeld Bridge is a single, semi-circular arch spanning 38.60 metres, in dressed stone. It provides a link between the lower town and the Randouillet and Les Trois Têtes forts.

CAMARET-SUR-MER (0.16 ha): The Gilded Tower, located on the spit protecting the port, forms with the Chapel of Notre-Dame de Rocamadour one of the most recognised images of France. It represents the prototype of the second type of sea fort, with a low semi-circular battery and a five-level gorge tower with a square plan and two cut corners. It includes a guardroom with a drawbridge and a cannon ball smelter.

The pink render highlights the arrow slits and the cornerstones. The tower bears the traces of an attack in 1694.

Damaged by fire in 1944, it was later restored.

LE PALAIS (10 ha): The Belle-Île citadel is an irregular trapeze flanked by four bastions located at the extremity of a schist plateau overlooking the town and sea. A low

encasing, a covert way, a ravelin and a counterguard form the outer sections separated by two dry moats.

LONGWY (188 ha): Longwy, located on a plateau overlooking the Chiers valley, is a hexagonal new town flanked by orillon bastions with a rustic undressed facing. The town plan has a regular layout around a square parade ground with a casemated well. With respect to the fortifications, there remain four original bastions and three ravelins, with the France Gate. The parapets are grassed slopes.

Saint-Dagobert church with its watchtower bell tower and the town hall (1731) were in part rebuilt after the First World War.

Two bastions are equipped with a two-level, cross-shaped casemate, that are unique in terms of their typology.

The powder magazines were covered and adapted in the 19th century for defensive purposes. One has perforated wrought iron air vent covers.

MONT-DAUPHIN (200 ha): is a new town built on an orthogonal plan, located at the head of a plateau at an altitude of 1050 metres, defended on the plateau side by two orillon bastioned fronts and an overhanging lunette with a so-called "d'Arçon" defensive redoubt. There are notable remains of the irregular wall. It includes a series of various military buildings dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, barracks, powder magazines, an arsenal, water storage tanks, including casemated barracks covered with a Philibert de l'Orme frame and including a reinforcement arch-buttress staircase in one corner.

The unfinished parish church only has the choir, part of the transept and the base of the tower. The homogeneous two-level houses often have a shop on the ground floor.

Near the d'Arçon lunette, a full-scale model of the approach trenches (or saps) and gabions evoke the Vauban style of siege.

MONT-LOUIS (37 ha): At an altitude of 1600 metres, this stronghold includes a square citadel and a fortified town, with orillon bastions. The citadel houses a variety of military buildings. Its bastions are set back behind a thick wall.

The top of the wall houses 25 sentry boxes.

The external facing is made of mixed grade material with buttered joints and perhaps originally limed. The citadel building walls are rendered.

The city layout is regular. The houses have various typologies.

NEUF-BRISACH (136 ha): The Alsatian plain stronghold, a new octagonal town, is the sole example of Vauban's "third fortified system" the front of which is comprised of a so-called safety wall – with bastioned towers – and a combat wall with split ravelins. The town has a rational layout with 48 square blocks of houses around a central parade ground framed by four barracks.

The church and governor's house stand on the square including with the entrance to the arsenal and the officers' barracks.

The main material used is Vosges red sandstone. Four monumental gates, two of which survive, provide access to the city.

SAINT-MARTIN-DE-RÉ (132 ha) is a large town wall with six orillon bastions and a quadrangular citadel with bastions of the same type and an underground magazine, and dry moats.

The citadel is accessed via a single gate facing the town. A barrack building, chapel, arsenal, guardroom and original collective latrines are accompanied by four more

recent buildings that replace barracks. A port in a ravelin is connected to the citadel, flanked by two dressed stone jetties.

The wall retains all its external structures, that is, five ravelins, the covert way with traverses and parade grounds, and denuded glacis.

A powder magazine and various military buildings form the stronghold's internal infrastructure, most of which are built near the ramparts. A parade ground half way between the port and the two gates is surrounded by a guardroom, the military hospital and barracks; it is planted with two rows of elms.

SAINT-VAAST-LA-HOUGUE (223 ha): Two truncated-conical towers with embedded stair turrets and artillery batteries on the terrace face each other on either side of Saint-Vaast Bay. Each is surrounded by a bastioned fort housing a chapel, barracks and powder magazine. The two-level one in Tatihou, in a retrenched farm, is on a fortified island on which a quarantine camp was based in the 19th century. On the islet, a square redoubt with a keep completes the defences.

The La Hougue Peninsula is covered by a simple bastioned front on the landward side. Inside, the 18th century barracks converted to a powder magazine (1890) still remain. The three level tower is located on the upper part.

The towers are examples of the third type of sea tower, after the compact fort - Fort Pâté – and the low battery tower as in Camaret.

VILLEFRANCHE-DE-CONFLENT (6 ha): The structures include the city wall, the so-called Libéria Fort and an artillery battery fortified cavern, the Cova Bastera. The town wall is marked by arrow slits that pierce the medieval scarp gallery; four medieval towers have been integrated in 18th century ramparts flanked by six irregular bastions. A *fausse-braye* protects half the north curtain. The wall walk and the bastion terrace are covered by *lauze* stone roofs. There are seven watchtowers on the bastions. On the left bank of the Têt River, a *reduit* is accessed via a bridge with crenellated parapets. Two barracks have been converted into social housing.

Villefranche (or Libéria) Fort stands 180 metres above the river. Its irregular layout with three sections standing one above the other espouses the terrain. Three casemated bastions provide reinforcement at the gorge and to the west. A 734-step stairway links the *reduit* to the fort head.

Cova Bastera is a casemated battery dissimulated in a grotto that happens to be decorated with Palaeolithic paintings.

History and development

ARRAS: The citadel was built by Vauban and the engineer d'Aspremont between 1668 and 1672, at the same time as the Lille citadel. The citadel was part of the second line of Vauban's "Duelling Field", a network of strongholds closing the northwest French border. Separated by an esplanade from the town of Arras, the citadel was built to watch over it. The military buildings were erected between 1673 and 1678, one of the barracks was destroyed and rebuilt in 1994. The ramparts were refaced with brick in the 19th century and modified (earth parapet instead of brick). The surround underwent several transformations post-1850, notably along the southwest side.

BAZOUCHES: The castle, purchased by Vauban in 1675 and fitted out by him to house his family and work with his engineers, is owned by his descendants. In particular, Vauban built the west wing with the grand gallery and the commons. After 1830, major restoration and transformation work was undertaken: opening of the grand gate, construction of the footbath and complete refurbishing; in the 20th century, the gardens were recreated based on Lenôtre's projects conserved in the château.

BESANÇON: The relatively specific topography of Besançon, located in a meander of the Doubs River, was a major challenge for Vauban. The construction along with its 19th century fortifications form a first-rate ensemble.

The citadel, located on the rocky spur enclosing the Doubs River's meander, was built between 1668 and 1683. Bought by the city in 1959, it is the only Vauban citadel open to the public; it houses museums, exhibitions and a zoo.

Fort Griffon was built by Vauban between 1680 and 1684 on the Battant wall. It houses the Institut Universitaire de Formation des Maîtres (IUFM).

The wall along the Doubs loop and its bastioned towers were built in 1687. The towers were given their current cover in the 19th century.

The entire town wall was built between 1677 and 1695.

The town barracks were built between 1680 and 1848.

Five "d'Arçon" style overhanging lunettes were built after 1791, three of which remain. In the 19th century, detached forts surrounded the fortified town

BLAYE: The citadel and the two forts in the neighbouring municipality of Cussac-Fort-Médoc form a triptych: their cross fire blocked the passage along the Gironde.

The citadel is a hybrid monumental grouping in which the omnipresence of Vauban's work, carried out between 1686 and 1689, dominates the pre-existing structures (from the Medieval castle to the 1630 fortress surrounding the upper town).

The artillery batteries on the terrace are 19th century adaptations.

CUSSAC-FORT-MÉDOC: Fort Pâté located on an island that appeared in 1670 dates from 1689-1693. Fort Médoc was built from 1690 to 1700. Excluding a water storage tank in 1823, there have been no notable modifications.

BRIANÇON: The original Roman town flanked by a castle from the Middle Ages, was surrounded by a new wall in 1690, to protect it from attack. After a fire in 1692, it was fortified in accordance with Vauban's plans, implemented between 1692 and 1700 and after his death through to 1734.

The forts were built from 1709 to 1732.

Asfeld Bridge was built in 1729-1731.

The Y communication was built between 1724 and 1734.

Later, a Haxo casemate was added to Les Salettes Fort in 1847 and in 1892, an overhead cable car was installed between Les Trois Têtes Fort and the town wall.

Additionally, eight Séré de Rivières type forts were built between 1876 and 1900 along with six structures for the Maginot Line between 1936 and 1939, forming the 2nd and 3rd fortified circles around the town.

CAMARET-SUR-MER: The tower is part of the defences of the Brest Narrows, built by Vauban starting in 1683. Planned by Vauban in 1689, it was built from 1693 to 1695.

The cannon ball smelter replaced a second guardroom around 1765.

The tower has been owned by the municipality since 1904.

LE PALAIS: The citadel has had a very lively history: from the installation of a priory to the construction of a fort in the Renaissance, only to become a strategic position in the island with its wealth of fresh water and suitable for landing.

From 1658 to 1661, Superintendent of Finance Nicolas Fouquet made it a formidable fortress, with barracks and a powder magazine.

Vauban came here three times in 1685 and 1689. He developed a complete defence system for the town and the island of which only the work on the citadel was carried out: straightening the sea front, the surround and the covert way.

The internal buildings were erected before 1680; the parade ground was laid out following damage during the siege of 1761. From the Vauban era, there remain the Officers Pavilion, built around 1680 and the Grand Quartier Barracks, construction of which started in 1689.

A powder magazine was added in 1856. The top of the ramparts was modified by major earthworks.

At the end of the 19th century, the stronghold gradually lost its importance. Abandoned, it was sold in 1960. The exemplary restoration started in 1960 is the work of Mr and Mrs A. Larquetoux. Since 31 March 2005, the current owner, a member of the "Les Hôtels Particuliers" group, has taken over and is continuing to manage the property in the same spirit.

LONGWY: is a new town built from scratch by Vauban and the engineer Choisy starting in 1679 facing the town of Luxembourg.

The church, town hall and storehouse were built in the 1730s.

Despite destruction – the stronghold was besieged in 1792, 1815, 1871 and completely destroyed in 1914 – the town has retained certain elements of its military infrastructure.

The low town developed at the end of the 19th century and in the 20th century thanks to its spa activity, and steel and ceramics industries.

The high town was abandoned by the military in 1923. half the wall was then pulled down to allow for urban growth.

MONT-DAUPHIN: is a new town built from scratch by Vauban in 1692, on a spur overlooking the confluence of the Durance and Le Guil rivers. The urban development was never completed; only four blocks were built (20 houses in 1700).

An arsenal, two powder magazines, barracks and guardrooms were built in Vauban's lifetime. Rochambeau Barracks, casemated and with tenaille trace, dates from 1765 to 1821.

At the end of the 18th century, General Le Michaud d'Arçon built a lunette with réduit where a 1728 structure had once stood.

Overhang structures in front of the entrance were built post-1830. After 1870, minor changes were made.

The old wing of the arsenal was destroyed by bombing in 1940.

Ownership transfer of the military buildings was finalised in 1983.

MONT-LOUIS: The fortified new town was to house a trans-border passage from Spain. The 1679 project was

implemented and the fortifications were completed in 1681.

The plan for the town's layout was drawn up in 1722. Most of the houses were built then.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the stronghold was no longer updated, but simply maintained, except for the modification to the parapets. In 1887-1889, separate structures were built at some distance, at an altitude of over 2000 metres.

The citadel is still occupied by the Army.

NEUF-BRISACH: is a new town created from scratch between 1698 and 1703 on the Alsatian plain after the loss of Vieux-Brisach – now Breisach am Rhein – following the Treaty of Ryswick (1697).

A lack of money was the main cause for the stronghold's relative incompleteness: no sentry boxes, gate sculptures not done, and lesser quality materials in some exterior structures.

The church, governor's residence and town hall date from the 18th century, but were built on the sites laid down by Vauban and in the recommended style.

In 1870, Neuf-Brisach became a Prussian bridgehead until 1918 (Festung Neubreisach) with numerous modifications and adaptations, such as the reinforcement of the bastioned towers and the construction of traverse-shelters, a hospital-barracks and powder magazines. Inside, the Suzonni Barracks were modified and a Protestant church was built. The route of the railway line altered the line of the fortifications in the northeast sector.

On 5 February 1945, the inside of the town was destroyed by a US attack.

For the past 30 years or so, Belfort Gate has been used a museum, and the former Governor's Residence houses the Tourist Bureau.

SAINT-MARTIN-DE-RÉ: Vauban drew up the plans in 1681 and 1685. The Vauban citadel stands where the previous short-lived (1626-1628) one stood; it was built in forty days.

In 1875, the seafront and the town were reinforced with traverse-shelters. Other than that, the fortifications have not been modernised.

The citadel became a State prison in 1873.

SAINT-VAAST-LA-HOUGUE: In 1692, Saint-Vaast Bay was the theatre of the La Hougue naval battle. Starting in 1694 Vauban built two observation towers and planned the creation of a war port. Finally, it was the port of Cherbourg that was built.

In the north of the island, remains of a bastioned earth wall dating from 1689 are still visible.

The other side of the island was occupied by a quarantine camp (1723), but today houses the Tatihou Maritime Museum and two gardens.

L'Îlet Fort dates from the 19th century.

In the 19th century, various works were undertaken to modernise the fortifications with a series of additions: guardroom, artillery batteries, shelter-cave for powder.

During the Second World War, an attempt was made to modernise the defences with bunkers.

VILLEFRANCHE-DE-CONFLENT: Locking a point of passage, the town wall was extensively altered by Vauban starting in 1669 and has barely changed appearance since.

Villefranche Fort, called Libéria Fort in the 20th century, was built after 1679. The three bastions were added in the 19th century. The underground stairway dates from 1850-

1856. Sold in 1927, the fort is privately owned but open to the public.

Cova Bastera was installed in 1707, after Vauban's death. Sold into private hands in 1727, it is now a dinosaur museum.

As of the end of the 1990s, Villefranche received 500,000 visitors a year.

Values of Vauban's work

The sites included in the proposal for inscription combine several typological criteria:

- The evolution in Vauban's defensive designs, arranged by him into three systems;
- Complete geographic coverage (plain, sea and mountain);
- The type of structure (fort, town wall and citadel);
- The association with defensive flooding system or determined urbanism;
- The transformation of existing structures or the creation of new fortresses.

Thus, Arras is a new plain citadel of the first system, part of the "archer's field"; the Château de Bazoches is Vauban's family residence and design office, where he wrote the major texts that compile his work as a thinker (*La Dime royale, Traité de la défense des places* etc.). Besançon is the adaptation to a dominating meander site, the second system of bastioned towers; Blaye and Cussac-Fort-Médoc are the locking of an estuary, an adaptation, an oval tower and hydraulic defences. Briançon bears witness to the complete adaptation of the site and the absence of any system. Landscape fortified with stepped forts in mountain sites; Camaret-sur-Mer is a sea fort with low battery and gorge tower. Le Palais is an insular reduit reworked by Vauban. Longwy is one of the nine new towns preserved in its plateau environment. Mont-Dauphin is an example of a stronghold of the first system in a mountain location, and an uncompleted new town. Mont-Louis is a fortification of the first system adapted to a mountain site, with a fine series of military buildings. Neuf-Brisach is a synthesis in terms of its urbanism and for being the sole example of the third system. Saint-Martin-de-Ré has a citadel and a town wall, the finest example of the insular reduit. Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue shows the third type of sea tower. Villefranche-de-Conflent is the pragmatic adaptation of a medieval wall in a mountain location with an advanced fort.

3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

In general, the properties presented have sufficient integrity in terms of their representativeness of Vauban's work, notwithstanding the following observations:

ARRAS: The citadel has lost three of its bastioned fronts. Most of the internal military buildings are still those created by Vauban and they are of excellent quality.

BAZOCHES: At present, most of the castle and the

commons are still as Vauban acquired and arranged them. In the island to the west of the castle, added by Vauban, the gallery where his engineers worked had been converted into four rooms, but these were subsequently demolished by the current owner to return the gallery to its original form.

BESANÇON: The bastioned Saint-Pierre Tower was destroyed in 1897, Charmont and Notre-Dame gates around 1894, Arènes Gate in 1933 and Battant Gate in 1956.

In the citadel, the chapel lost its painted ceiling in 1940-1944; some underground passages have been blocked or filled in.

CUSSAC-FORT-MÉDOC: Of the barracks built by Vauban on the fort's terreplein, only vestiges remain at ground level. Documents enabling its identical reconstruction were not presented during the expertise survey, but they are not essential to a good understanding of the fort; it is easy to imagine the barracks presence from the remains. There are no plans to undertake their reconstruction.

LE PALAIS: The citadel's glacis, the construction of which in 1683-85 led to the demolition of Haute-Boulogne village, was unfortunately erased by the construction of the penitentiary, and then in the 20th century by a housing estate. The Grand Quartier Barracks are currently used as a hotel that respects the basic structure and includes original elements, such as the prison cells.

LONGWY: Three of the bastioned fronts have disappeared and the original urban buildings were rebuilt after the two world wars, but respecting the original urban layout and dimensions.

MONT-LOUIS: The current military and civilian installations in the ditches, all reversible, do not detract from the appearance of the fortifications, except at three points:

- A tennis court in the citadel's south ditch, but its removal is planned;
- A car park for visitors in the ditch to the south of the town, which will be removed and replaced by a car park 1 km outside the town;
- A car park for residents in the town's east ditch, considered indispensable at present.

NEUF-BRISACH: Excluding two of the four gates, the fortifications have retained everything, right down to the glacis. The interior of the town was bombed in 1870 and in 1945. A few military and civilian buildings remain some of which date from when the town was created. They are:

- The arsenal, of which only the porch and façade remain;
- Serano, Berckheim and Suzonni barracks;
- Saint-Louis parish church, built between 1731 and 1772 on the place assigned by Vauban and rebuilt after 1945;
- The governor's residence, built in 1772, but planned by Vauban;
- The town hall built prior to 1707.
- The Saint-François powder magazine, rebuilt after 1870, and Sainte-Barbe powder magazine;
- Several officers' houses on the parade ground.

SAINT-MARTIN-DE-RÉ: Three of the citadel's barracks, burnt down in the 1960s, have been rebuilt to the same dimensions.

Authenticity

Generally speaking, the sites proposed for inscription in the series are authentically the work of Vauban, apart from several minor transformations carried out on the fortifications in the 18th and 19th centuries. Each reflects a characteristic part of the French engineer's creations; Le Palais, however, is of far lesser authenticity (mostly later constructions).

The materials, while not always original (constant repairs to the facings over the past three centuries), correspond to what was used initially.

When modifications to the fortifications have been made, in order to adapt them to changes in warfare and armaments, the work involves minor alterations that do not obliterate the original aspects of the structures or buildings. Restorations, when they have been made, respect the original parts; new military buildings reflect an excellent level of integration.

BAZOCHES: Two major elements are post-Vauban: the gate in the castle's east wing and its bridge over the ditch, and the footbath in the commons court. However, these subsequent changes when explained to visitors, in no way undermine the fact that this was definitely Vauban's castle. The furniture, which is a listed historic monument, is not Vauban's, except a part of the siege cuirass. The gardens are a free 20th century recreation.

BRIANÇON: Most of the building was carried out in the 18th century, but on the basis of Vauban's plans which have been almost entirely put into effect.

LE PALAIS: Vauban's contribution is far less at this site than elsewhere: the citadel existed prior to his involvement, as did many of the internal military buildings. It is a mere adaptation of an existing monument, as he did in most of the sites he fortified. He extended the perimeter of the wall by raising the ramparts and straightening the external structures. He only built the arsenal (re-built after 1761) and barracks that were the core of the Grande Quartier Barracks rebuilt in the 18th century, but not in accordance to the standard plan put forward by Vauban.

MONT-DAUPHIN: The 18th century d'Arçon lunette post-dates Vauban, but he had already thought of building a redoubt at this spot.

MONT-LOUIS: The town, the citadel, their fortifications and buildings have retained their original appearance, just as the stronghold was designed by Vauban.

NEUF-BRISACH: Only the town plan remains, the wall updated in places, and the external dimensions of the military and civilian buildings remain.

VILLEFRANCHE-DE-CONFLENT: The town has retained its original appearance over the centuries. In Cova Bastera, the grotto has been arranged with artistic lighting; in places, the authenticity as a work by Vauban might be contested, as the models of the triceratops and tyrannosaurus post-date Vauban while still attracting many tourists.

At Fort Libéria, only the small Neo-Romanesque bell tower, added alongside the chapel in 1928 by the owner, is an apocryphal element; viewed from a distance, it does little to undermine the authentic appearance of the fort and serves as a visual marker to attract visitors.

ICOMOS considers that the citadel of Belle-Île is distinctly less revealing of Vauban's work and that it may serve a dual purpose with Saint-Martin-de-Ré. The typological range would be complete with the Lille

citadel and a defensive flood site in the north, along with a site outside French borders. ICOMOS regrets that Lille and du Quesnoy have not participated.

The inventory of the fortified work of Vauban outside France submitted by the State Party in February 2008 can be used as a basis, and proposes an appropriate selection for a possible extension of the property.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity are on the whole met, but considers that the decision to include the Le Palais citadel rather than another site where Vauban adapted existing fortifications is not relevant.

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis takes into account fortified properties included in the World Heritage List, noting that within the inscriptions of classical era fortifications already made, the absence of Vauban fortresses is of importance.

As a series of fortified properties forming a defensive ring around France, Vauban's work completes other achievements of a similar type, continuous or discontinuous, such as Hadrian's Wall in the United Kingdom (included in the World Heritage List in 1987), the Great Wall of China (included in the World Heritage List in 1987), the Upper Germania-Raetian *Limes* (included in the World Heritage List in 2005), the Defence Line of Amsterdam (included in the World Heritage List in 1996).

Without constituting a fortified landscape, Vauban's work is indeed a "missing link" in the defensive organisation at the scale of an entire territory for a given period. In the history of the world's fortifications, it is an important historical milestone as witnessed by the majority of publications dealing with the subject, which accord it a leading role.

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

Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value

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

The complementarity between the sites as well as the typological diversities result in the series as such demonstrating the universal value of Vauban's work.

Via the efficiency of its fortification technique, Vauban's work conveys an aesthetic desire to "create beauty". His rationality and display of power personify the French 17th century spirit, the universality of which is reflected in the exportation of the "French" model abroad. Fortification vocabulary used in the 18th and 19th centuries in Russian, English, German and Turkish derives from words codified by Vauban. His fortification principles inspired several fortresses across the world, through the end of the

19th century: Fortress of SS Peter and Paul in Saint Petersburg (Russia), the English fortresses against Scotland in the 18th century, the Swedish Suomenlinna Fortress built after 1750, Fortress Josefov (Czech Republic) built after 1780, the hexagonal Bac Ninh Fortress (Vietnam) in the first half of the 19th century, and the Goryokaku pentagonal fortress (Japan), built from 1857 to 1864.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

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

Criterion (i): Represent a masterpiece of human creative genius

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that Vauban's work represents a masterpiece of human creative genius. His fortresses are the most rational example of military architecture and provide in this respect an eminent example of a type of construction illustrating a significant period of human history.

ICOMOS considers that Vauban's achievements bear witness to the peak of classical bastioned fortification, typical of Western military architecture of the modern era.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

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 Vauban's work, based on the teachings of his predecessors, bears witness to the evolution of military architecture in the 17th century. His reach is universal and his works, which transformed military architecture in Europe, were used as models the world over through to the mid-19th century.

ICOMOS considers that Vauban has played a major role in the history of fortification. The imitation of his standard models of military buildings in Europe and on the American continent, the dissemination in Russian and Turkish of his theoretical thinking and the use of his forms of fortification as a model for fortresses in the Far East, reflect the universality of his work.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has 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 Vauban's work illustrates a significant period of human history. It is a work of the human mind applied to military strategy, architecture and construction, civil engineering, and social and economic organisation.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (vi): Be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria.)

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the series of properties illustrates Vauban's thoughts in terms of their design and construction. Throughout his extensive travels, Vauban made observations that prompted him to write memoirs on a variety of topics, relative or not to his functions. His writings underscore his pragmatism and scientific approach to logistical, economic and social questions. His work is a harbinger of the Age of the Enlightenment.

ICOMOS considers that Vauban's work exceeds the sole domain of military architecture, and that other military engineers also had an influence in this geographic space.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (i), (ii), and (iv) and that the Outstanding Universal Value has been demonstrated.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

Development pressures

The military presence in Arras, Mont-Louis and partially at La Hougue Fort ensures these properties are maintained. The military activities do not affect the buildings.

The development of tourism activities does not modify the constructions, but sometimes affects the aesthetic quality and may be a source of site pollution (facilities for safety, access – car parks – and those directly related to operations – ticket office, posters, signage, etc.). As all the sites are classified historic monuments, work and tourism development is strictly controlled. In some cases, tourists in fact ensure the monument's survival and conservation.

Other uses (e.g., prison, association premises, restaurants and a teaching institute) may lead to changes to the monuments for the purpose of their use, but all such changes at present are minor and reversible.

Also, for some extended and complex sites like Mont-Dauphin, Mont-Louis and, to a lesser extent, Neuf-Brisach, and Villefranche-de-Conflent, low population density and the corresponding limited resources of the municipality make the monument's management difficult. Nonetheless, subsidies from regional and national authorities, together with the creation of the permanent working group within the Network of Major Vauban Sites, represent a potential source of financial equilibrium.

Impact of climate change

Vegetation, which may affect the maintenance of uncovered structures, is a risk factor. All properties are addressing this problem.

Significant annual climate variations exist at mountain sites and result in frost splitting.

The effect of the marine environment has not been the subject of extensive research. Two studies on Blaye citadel may be of use to the Network.

Depending on its type, man-made atmospheric pollution is a source of various alterations to stone. This process is faster in urban environments than in rural zones. In the absence of any neighbouring industrial activity, this type of pollution at Vauban sites is attributable to vehicular traffic.

A global study would need to be carried out to identify the risks with details, even if the majority of sites are spared this problem.

Risk preparedness

There are no major risks affecting the series of properties.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are any uncontrolled development of tourism, the interaction between water infiltrations and uncontrolled vegetation and, for those sites in an urban environment, automobile pollution.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The boundaries of the nominated properties include the built areas (Briançon, Camaret, Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue and Villefranche-de-Conflent), and the fortifications' glacis (Arras, Blaye – Cussac-Fort-Médoc and Saint-Martin-de-Ré) or correspond to the boundaries of protected urban sectors (Besançon), or even the municipality boundaries (Mont-Dauphin and Neuf-Brisach), or listed site (Mont-Louis). In Longwy, the boundaries include the remains of the hornwork, the land on which it stood having been urbanised, and is bounded to the north and west by those of Vauban's urbanisation plan with the position of a bastion that has since disappeared.

Generally, the buffer zones of each property take into account the requirements of the external perception of the property and, in some cases (mountain and sea), extend to a sufficient distance to ensure their effective protection. They correspond, at a minimum, to the protection perimeter of the surrounds of historic monuments.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the core and buffer zone of the nominated properties are adequate.

Ownership

The fourteen properties are owned, sometimes jointly, by the municipalities in which they are located (Besançon, Blaye, Cussac-fort-Médoc, Briançon, Camaret-sur-Mer, Longwy, Mont-Dauphin, Mont-Louis, Neuf-Brisach, Saint-Martin-de-Ré and Villefranche-de-Conflent), by the Ministry of Defence (Arras and Mont-Louis citadels, Les Trois Têtes and Randouillet forts in Briançon, six buildings in Mont-Dauphin, La Hougue Fort), the Ministry of Justice (Saint-Martin-de-Ré citadel), Ministry of Town Planning and Housing (Rivotte bastioned tower in Besançon), Ministry of Culture and Communication (Rochambeau fortifications and barracks in Mont-Dauphin), the General Council of Doubs (Griffon Fort and part of the Besançon town wall), the Doubs Department Development (Saint-Paul Mill in Besançon), the Department of Coastal Conservation (Tatihou Island), Navigable Waterways of France (Bregille Tower in Besançon) and private owners (Château de Bazoches, Pâté Fort in Blaye, Le Palais citadel, Fort Libéria in Villefranche-de-Conflent and three guardrooms in Besançon).

Protection

Legal protection

The protection of the properties is ensured by:

- Classification or listing as a Historic Monument and the legal protection zone of 500 meters around the Monument;
- The fact that they are included in a Plan d'Occupation des Sols (Zoning Map) or a Plan Local d'Urbanisme (Local Plan);
- The fact that they are surrounded by a buffer zone, an Architectural, Urban and Landscape Heritage Protection Zone, (ZPPAUP) and/or a Natural Zone of Ecological, Wildlife and Flora Interest (ZNIEFF).

In addition, it should be noted:

BAZOCHES: A 331-hectare buffer zone is proposed for the world heritage listing. Further, the 500 metres and buffer zone are now entirely within the boundaries of the Morvan Natural Regional Park. Consequently, the castle's environs benefit from a triple protection. Up to a considerable distance from the castle (5 km), no construction undermines the features of the agricultural landscape. Only one white silo near Château-Vauban (south of the Château de Bazoches) in a buffer zone should preferably be painted a dark colour, for example, dark green or black.

BESANÇON: A multi-year management programme is drawn up by the town (Municipal Council Decision of 14 June 2007). It includes:

- The harmonisation and extension of protection under the Historic Monuments of the Vauban fortifications;
- The modification and extension of the buffer zone, as well as the creation of an Architectural, Urban and Landscape Heritage Protection Zone (trans-municipal ZPPAUP) extending as far as the crests of the surrounding hills, both on the eastern and western sides

of the town; and finally the creation of a buffer zone supervisory committee.

CUSSAC-FORT-MEDOC: The multi-year action programme notably includes the extension of the protection system to include an Architectural, Urban and Landscape Heritage Protection Zone (ZPPAUP), improvement to the buffer zone crossing the Gironde and including Blaye citadel, Pâté Island with Fort Pâté, the southern end of Île Nouvelle and Fort Médoc, thereby protecting and enhancing the “lock” aspect over the estuary as designed by Vauban.

CAMARET-SUR-MER: The buffer zone will be improved through the preparation for an Architectural, Urban and Landscape Heritage Protection Zone (ZPPAUP).

LE PALAIS: Given the link between the citadel, the town and the port of Le Palais, and the link between the town wall built in the 19th century, but already included by Vauban in his initial plan, it is recommended that these various elements be included in an Architectural, Urban and Landscape Heritage Protection Zone (ZPPAUP) in the years ahead.

LONGWY: An Architectural, Urban and Landscape Heritage Protection Zone (ZPPAUP) is currently being compiled for the municipality’s territory. ICOMOS recommends its boundaries be set at the stronghold’s perimeter and that it incorporate the land of the hornwork (destroyed in 1966), along with the fortification outworks on the northwest side.

MONT-LOUIS: Mont-Louis Citadel is not covered by either a Plan d’Occupation des Sols (Zoning Map) or a Plan Local d’Urbanisme (Local Plan); as the entire citadel is classified as a Historic Monument and provides no further room for any new construction, it was not considered necessary to draw up any such map or plan.

SAINT-MARTIN-DE-RÉ: The Plan Local d’Urbanisme (Local Plan) stipulates in detail the appearance of the old buildings and houses (for example, the colours of shutters, lanterns and roofs).

Effectiveness of protection measures

It would seem that the existing protection measures, and those under development, provide a good level of protection for the nominated properties.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is adequate.

Conservation

Inventories, archives, research

From the outset, the high quality of the inscription submission by the State Party should be noted, along with its excellent scientific backing. A critical inventory of the 160 Vauban sites is given as a preliminary, enabling a coherent selection.

All the sites have been the subject of scientific study and older and above all recent monographs, with the exception of the Arras citadel. The commemorative tricentennial anniversary of Vauban’s death was an opportunity for symposia where new research on a variety of aspects of his work (new town planning, an architectural analysis of Bazoches, etc.) was presented.

The elements of the properties submitted for inscription are listed for a variety of reasons.

Present state of conservation

The various fortified structures, glacis and military buildings are generally in a good state of conservation and have often undergone good restoration. Their maintenance is overall satisfactory.

The following should also be noted:

ARRAS: The right wing of the King’s lieutenant’s quarters, destroyed by fire, was rebuilt in 1994 using the same materials and respecting the same dimensions used for the existing buildings. The canteen building is in poor state and threatens to fall into ruin. Restoration is required.

Unfortunately, the ramparts are covered by overly dense plant cover preventing any overview. ICOMOS recommends working on this landscape aspect of the citadel’s surrounds in order to create more transparent plant cover.

BAZOCHE: Only the roofs of the tower, keep and one third of the commons still need to be restored.

BESANÇON: Since its purchase by the city in 1959, the citadel has undergone extensive restoration work. At this stage, ICOMOS recommends managing the citadel from a consolidation rather than a restoration point of view.

Fort Griffon is in a good state of conservation despite the somewhat aggressive urbanisation of the town at this point.

BLAYE: The moats and glacis are well maintained and free of construction, trees and shrubs, which contribute strongly to the perception of this work by Vauban as soon as it is approached.

Significant erosion of the soft stone rock along the bank of the Gironde is evident. The citadel walls, built on this rock, are therefore gradually being deprived of their footing. Work on stabilising and reinforcing the rock has begun. At present, measures to prevent the collapse of the walls above the most highly eroded sections of the rock have already been taken.

The state of the Château des Rudel towers requires they be restored, already underway for one of them; the restoration of the other is under preparation. Restoration work is also underway in the underground sections.

In the upper town, the restoration of the Minimes Cloister is in progress; that of the cloister chapel is completed.

CUSSAC-FORT-MÉDOC: In certain places, the profile of the earthen structures of Fort Médoc (firing steps) could be improved; the north bastions and curtain are covered with trees, making their form less identifiable than on the other fronts.

The guardroom over the Gironde is in a slightly poorer state. The bakery is undergoing restoration. Efforts by the “Friends of Fort Médoc” have and remain of considerable value.

The surrounds of Fort Pâté were cleared in 2005-2006, improving its visibility from both banks of the Gironde. The fort is entirely conserved, although the exterior of the wall is somewhat weatherworn. Ivy, plants and some bushes are growing in it. On the terrace, the main building has suffered somewhat from vandalism.

BRIANÇON: Several small sections of wall have fallen due to frost splitting. Sections of the bastion and curtain faces have been restored or are under restoration, by

improving the stormwater evacuation system and respecting the original differences in the stone form and format. The glacis is highly evocative for having maintained its barem state. In 1999, the municipal council decided to demolish a small 19th century building on the south front and create a terrace-lookout. The demolition was halted by the State Architect (Architecte des Bâtiments de France), to make an archaeological study of the original form of the firing step and the thickness of the rampart wall.

Fort des Salettes is in excellent condition because of the work by the young volunteers of the Club du Vieux Manoir, among others.

The three large barracks, the most visible components of Fort du Randouillet, are in a very poor state since the military abandoned them. A multi-year salvage and restoration programme is planned for 2009–2013.

Restoration work is in progress at Fort Dauphin, carried out by the municipality with the support of the Club du Vieux Manoir.

The exteriors of the Y communication and the water storage tank are in perfect condition; the interior is used as a kennel, the facilities (cages) of which are temporary.

CAMARET-SUR-MER: In December 2002, the municipal council undertook a multi-year restoration work programme. The restoration of the tower exterior was the subject of an extensive study of the composition and specific colour of the crushed pink brick render.

LE PALAIS: The citadel has undergone detailed and exemplary restoration in terms of both the infrastructure and the fortifications. This work is not yet complete. Restoration of the outworks is scheduled. Restoration of the earthen structures of Saint-Louis bastion is underway. Unfortunately, the glacis was removed by the construction of the penitentiary and then in the 20th century by a housing estate.

The Grand-Quartier barracks are now a luxury hotel.

LONGWY: Several public buildings have been put to good new use such as the siege well spared by the bombs, now the Tourist Bureau, the military bakery or the Storehouse (1753) with a water reservoir, now the Municipal Museum (enamel museum) and the two guardrooms of the France Gate, now the “Carré Vauban”, a contemporary art gallery. A shooting club uses the bastion’s underground structures.

The ramparts are undergoing restoration. The work will take several years and is difficult, given the poorer quality of the original construction (at times poor quality stone, shallow and poorly bonded facing).

The France Gate drawbridge mechanism still works. The ravelin guardhouse gate bridge is still awaiting restoration.

MONT-DAUPHIN: Considerable care is taken with the original composition of the mortar used in the ongoing restoration of the walls.

The exterior of the barracks, now used by the town hall, as workshops, apartments and youth accommodation, is intact. The Rochambeau Barracks are covered.

The arsenal and a powder magazine are now used as a museum.

The streets have regained their original paving. The fountain has been restored and repositioned to its original location off the street axis.

The stronghold surrounds are free of construction and cleared of parasitic vegetation.

MONT-LOUIS: For all the components of this monument ensemble, vast maintenance, consolidation

and restoration operations were carried out between 1997 and 2007; a few, in the north section of the citadel fortifications, are ongoing.

NEUF-BRISACH: The vegetation is more or less under control. Colmar Gate is awaiting restoration of its interior, but discussions are ongoing as to its future use; the upper level is currently used as a dwelling.

The area in front of Belfort Gate is a fine example of a successful compromise between vegetation and visibility. The vegetation is transparent making it possible to view the entire combat wall.

SAINT-MARTIN-DE-RÉ: On the sea side, the town walls are in places very damaged, restoration work is planned.

The military hospital is undergoing restoration.

SAINT-VAAST-LA-HOUGUE: On Tatihou Island, only ground level vestiges of the barracks remain. The state of conservation of the towers is almost perfect, despite a somewhat aggressive climate. In La Hougue Tower, the hooks to hold the cannons in place are still in place.

VILLEFRANCHE-DE-CONFLENT: The ramparts and the gates are in good condition as are the frames and slate roofs of the wall walk, all having been carefully restored. The technical components (chains, pulleys and counterweights) of the drawbridge (the deck of which has not been conserved) are still visible.

In Cova Bastara, the casemate is in good condition, well arranged and presented to the public. The exterior with its cannon embrasures is hidden by overly abundant vegetation.

Active conservation measures

At present, most of the conservation measures are carried out locally, as part of the work on Historic Monuments.

ARRAS: Since 2000, permanent works have been ongoing for the surround in order to restore the facing and the base course of the curtain to the right of Porte Royale gate as well as the west front. It involves insertion work. The material is supplied by the Ministry of Defence.

BESANÇON: The works programme for the Vauban citadel and the fortifications in Besançon for the years 2007-2013, for a total of 9.9 million euros, is broken down between the State, the Regional Council of Franche-Comté, the Doubs General Council, the Community of the Greater Besançon Agglomeration and the city of Besançon. In the first years, it is planned to restore/consolidate the ravelin of the Saint-Étienne Front and the arsenal (restoration of the roofing) at the citadel.

BLAYE and CUSSAC-FORT-MÉDOC: A vast programme of works spanning several years has been drawn up, including, among others:

- Restoration work on the citadel and the glacis (already partially completed and ongoing);
- Maintenance of the citadel heritage;
- Vegetation clearance on the ramparts of Fort Pâté (already partially completed).

BRIANÇON: The well in the centre of the square will be rebuilt. The municipality wants to remove the covered terrace of a restaurant that has encroached on the square.

CAMARET-SUR-MER: The battery space and the scarp and counterscarp walls, the guardroom and drawbridge are to be restored in the coming years.

LONGWY: The Le Bourg bastion’s basement, close to the other military buildings, is currently the subject of an archaeological study and is due to house the municipal

museum.

Despite annual shrub clearing, the abundant vegetation poses problems both for visibility and the proper conservation of the curtain surrounds. A plant clearance project is being prepared jointly with the ecological services.

NEUF-BRISACH: In 1987, the city of Neuf-Brisach instituted a multi-year programme to salvage and maintain the moats and ramparts. Maintenance work is the responsibility of the Neuf-Brisach town authorities, but is financed by the State (40%), the General Council (25%) and the city (35%).

SAINT-MARTIN-DE-RÉ: The restoration of the east jetty head of the citadel port is under examination.

It is planned to move the water treatment plant from the citadel's east moat.

ICOMOS considers that the current conservation and measures implemented are good.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

To ensure coordination between towns and the properties submitted for inscription, to promote their management and cultural and sustainable development, a permanent association, called Network of Major Vauban Sites, was established on 30 March 2005. Its articles were modified on 4 April 2007; the most significant change was the association's aim, originally described as, "[...] of the major Vauban sites" but has been changed to, "[...] of Vauban's Work". The association has had a management unit since September.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

In general, ICOMOS noted, at all sites visited, through interviews and by studying local documents made available to the experts, strong willingness and significant efforts by the municipalities concerned to conserve, restore and maintain Vauban's works within their territory, and to implement or improve management plans, sustainable development and the Architectural, Urban and Landscape Heritage Protection Zones (ZPPAUP). This willingness and these efforts are supported by the communities of the surrounding municipalities, by the department, region and State.

The global management plan was presented by the State Party. At the local level, the various aspects are coordinated by the permanent secretariat of the Network of Major Vauban Sites. These plans meet the requirements of the World Heritage Convention and they guarantee the long-term viability of the exceptional universal value of the properties submitted for inscription.

The complementary documentation supplied by the State Party about the management of the property confirms the dynamism generated by the Network of Major Vauban Sites.

Additionally, the following should be noted:

BESANÇON: The city wants to enhance the bastioned towers with cultural activities.

Rivotte Tower is owned by the Ministry of Town Planning (managed by the Navigable Waterways Department). Negotiations are underway for a long-term lease.

As part of the conversion of the former Besançon port, located between the Bregille and Rivotte bastioned towers, the city plans to create an arts and cultural centre. The architectural project by architect Kengo Kuma was selected on 4 July 2007.

BLAYE and CUSSAC-FORT-MÉDOC: A master plan for public and landscaped spaces in the citadel is currently being drawn up.

Fort Pâté is privately owned, but the Gironde Council has taken steps (a right of resumption) to enable the Gironde Canton to buy and restore it if need be.

BLAYE: Two construction projects are located within the 500-metre buffer zone: one of the buildings houses a theatre and other facilities for cultural activities in a part of the public garden alongside the existing buildings and at the same scale; seen from the citadel, it will therefore be hidden by the park trees. The other is a small building on the port, used for tourism and by the harbour master; it is small, low, and of high-quality modern architecture which does not detract from the view over the citadel.

BRIANÇON: The vast management, conservation and sustainable development plan for the Vauban fortifications in Briançon was unanimously approved by the Municipal Council on 9 July 2007.

CAMARET-SUR-MER: With the Vauban Tower becoming part of the Network, the municipality has been prompted to carry out a landscape study of the Sillon de Camaret in order to define a development strategy the aims of which are to improve the site's aesthetic quality, access and enhancement of the protected monuments.

LONGWY: It is important to emphasise the social and cultural importance of the site for the development of the town of Longwy. The municipality recently decided to make a clean break with its past as a metal industry centre. The project for the stronghold is one of the cornerstones of this redevelopment.

MONT-LOUIS: The citadel, occupied by the military, is open to the public for guided tours run by civilians.

The responsibilities of the Catalan Pyrenees Natural Regional Park (PNR) cover the following areas: tourism, cultural heritage, UNESCO and sourcing European funding. The PNR manages the Mont-Louis and Villefranche-de-Conflent joint support committee for the proposal for World Heritage inscription.

SAINT-MARTIN-DE-RÉ: The interior of the citadel used as a prison is not open to the public, but its ramparts can be visited outside.

SAINT-VAAST-LA-HOUGUE: The general council recently ordered a heritage and ecological study of the management of the Tatihou fortified farm. The report recommends improved visibility of the 18th and 19th century elements and greater biodiversity.

The La Hougue site is managed by the Ministry of Defence (Navy). The tower is not open to the public. Visits are organised by the municipal tourist bureau.

Under the terms of an agreement, the French Navy and municipal services of Saint-Vaast-La Hougue maintain the wall walks open to the public. The general council recently began discussions with the French Navy

regarding the island's management and the tower's opening to the public. The tower will be made accessible via the Redan and Porte aux Dames gates (1794).

The municipality of Saint-Vaast-La-Hougue would like to develop consistency and complementarity between the two towers by improving the site's landscaping and ensuring a balance with economic development. To this end, they have launched an Architectural, Urban and Landscape Heritage Protection Zone (ZPPAUP) study.

VILLEFRANCHE-DE-CONFLENT: An Architectural, Urban and Landscape Heritage Protection Zone (ZPPAUP) is currently under examination.

After the expertise visit to Fort Libéria, its owner indicated the intention to join the Network of Major Vauban Sites.

Involvement of local communities

It was generally noted, on site and on seeing the many posters and brochures in hotels, restaurants and shops, that the local population supports the proposal for their site's inscription, and they are proud of this fact. This heritage is fully integrated at the local level.

Local historical associations, based around the fortifications or not, exist in almost all the properties, with close interest in their fortified heritage; they are actively involved in conservation and enhancement.

Each property has hosted one or more cultural and tourist events within the context of the tri-centenary of Vauban's death, widely attended by the local population.

Resources, including staffing levels, expertise and training

The Network of Major Vauban Sites association has two full-time employees.

At the properties:

ARRAS: 20 people for the infrastructure maintenance.

BAZOCHE: The castle and the domain, open to the public, are managed as a separate family company that employs nine people full-time; during the tourist season, an additional 5 five people are employed.

BESANÇON: The three citadel museums have 71 employees under a head curator. The semi-public company responsible for the site's management employs 29 people full-time and 41 seasonal workers.

Additionally, the town's technical services carry out maintenance and restoration work as required. The town's heritage department has six employees and six guides are employed as required.

Maintenance is carried out when needed by a vocational integration association.

BLAYE: A municipal workshop employing three people and two youth employees. Town technical services (21 people allocated to provide approximately 20,000 person-hours a year). Tourist bureau: 3 employees.

BRIANÇON: 2 people, 24 seasonal workers, and 16 employees in the tourist bureau.

LE PALAIS: The citadel, open to the public, is managed as a private company. Five full-time staff, 2 seasonal workers, 4 maintenance staff.

LONGWY: Five full-time employees, 1 temporary employee.

MONT-DAUPHIN: Seven full-time and two part-time employees; in summer, temporary staff is recruited.

MONT-LOUIS: Seven people employed by the town. Association members provide maintenance services for the fortifications several days a week.

NEUF-BRISACH: The town employs two people for maintenance, and two others on renewable fixed-term contracts.

The Forestry Department employs four people for scrub clearing.

The Rhine Banks Tourist Bureau has four employees and a temporary employee in summer.

SAINT-MARTIN-DE-RÉ: For maintenance, the town has access to six people providing 3,000 person-hours a year. Associations help with scrub clearing.

A vocational integration project provides maintenance for the ramparts.

The Heritage Department and Tourist Bureau have six employees and three seasonal workers.

SAINT-VAAST-LA-HOUGUE: The maritime museum has 26 employees. Fort de la Hougue has a manager-supervisor and the signal station has four employees.

The municipal services maintain the surrounds.

VILLEFRANCHE-DE-CONFLENT: The municipality employs nine people full-time and temporary employees in a heritage and environment initiation centre, the tourist bureau and technical services.

The fort has approximately six people, managed by long-term leaseholders.

Cova Bastera, privately owned, has one employee.

Each property therefore has a permanent team of varying size.

It is essential to boost contact between the properties through the Network of Major Vauban Sites to exchange experience about maintenance and restoration as well as cultural activities and training. The network that has been set in place will enable the sound development of the properties.

ICOMOS considers that special attention is needed for the overall coordination of the ensemble of properties, and to developing joint actions, notably in terms of maintenance and restoration practices, as well as the training of guides, in particular.

ICOMOS considers that the management system for the property is adequate and approves the management plan. Furthermore, ICOMOS recommends developing actions within the Network of Major Vauban Sites.

6. MONITORING

To date, the assessment of the state of conservation of the properties does not follow any pre-established method. The monitoring is under the charge of the institutions responsible for historic monuments, the Heritage Delegation of the Defence Department and, for environmental issues, the Ministry for the Ecology and Sustainable Development.

Furthermore, local associations participate in specific surveillance operations. At the national level, the Vauban Association participates in this role.

The properties have undertaken within the management plan to implement a periodical monitoring system.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring, sufficient at the level of each property, should be extended to include periodic coordinated operations, for example within the Network of Major Vauban Sites.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban (1633-1707) is the most famous military engineer of the 17th century, and even of the modern era. Employed by Louis XIV, he worked on almost 160 strongholds and forts in France but also in territories that are today part of Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy and, indirectly, Canada, between 1657 and 1707, the years covered by his activity as a fortifier. Without having disseminated his theoretical thinking, he was used as a model in 18th century France, and across Europe where his treatise on the attack of fortified strongholds was published through to the 19th century including in Russian and Turkish. His influence is evident in the so-called classical bastioned fortification in use up until 1850, in countries and regions as distant as Vietnam and South America.

His work is also remarkably illustrated by the series of hand-drawn plans conserved by the Ministry of Defence's Historical Service and above all the collection of relief plans split between the Hôtel des Invalides in Paris and the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lille, which is remarkable and unique of its kind.

ICOMOS points out that the Le Palais (Belle-Île citadel) site is the least revealing of Vauban's work, his having been only minimally involved in the monument's construction and transformation. Furthermore, the hotel activity today seems to take precedence and would use the heritage value as a selling point. ICOMOS recommends deleting this property from the list.

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that Vauban's work, with the exception of Le Palais, France, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (i), (ii), and (iv)*.

Recommended statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Criterion (i): Vauban's work bears witness to the peak of classic bastioned fortification, typical of western military architecture of modern times.

Criterion (ii): Vauban played a major role in the history of fortification. The imitation of his standard-models of military buildings in Europe and on the American continent, the dissemination in Russian and Turkish of his theoretical thinking along with the use of the forms of his fortification as a model for fortresses in the Far East, bear witness to the universality of his work.

Criterion (iv): Vauban's work illustrates a significant period of human history. It is a work of the mind applied to military strategy, architecture and construction, civil engineering, and economic and social organisation.

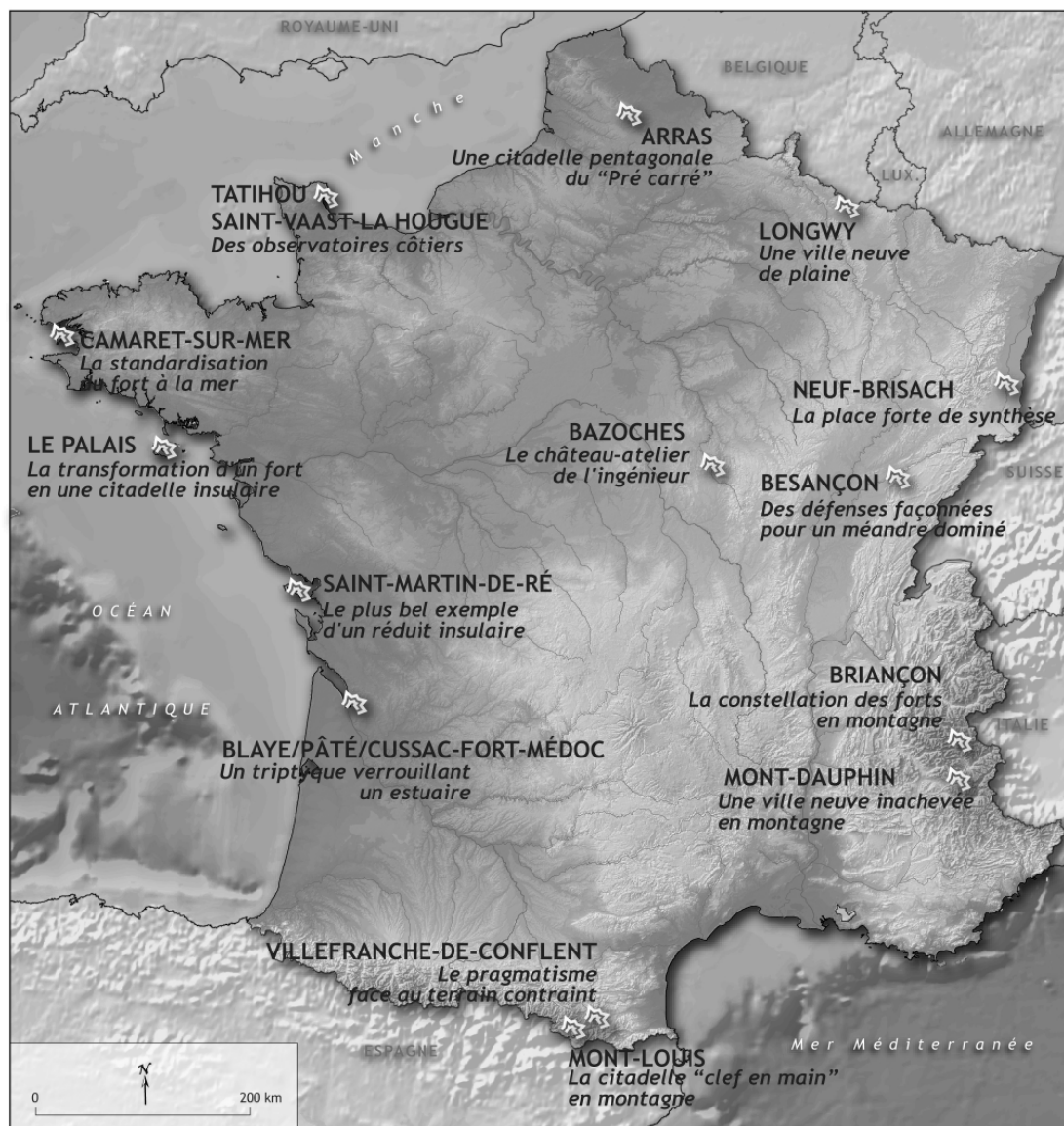
Thirteen of the fourteen proposed sites present guarantees of integrity and authenticity, and reflect the various facets of Vauban's work. Their legal protection is satisfactory; the administration by the State and the local authorities provides satisfactory guarantees and responses regarding the natural and tourism risks involved. Pooling experience in the areas of restoration and enhancement of the properties within the Network of Major Vauban Sites has already begun.

Furthermore, ICOMOS recommends that the State Party:

- Develop collaboration between the properties notably through the Network of Major Vauban Sites, by exchanging best practices in the areas of maintenance, restoration, use and conservation.

- Consider the possibility of extending the property to include sites such as:

- The Lille citadel, considered as the most representative of this type;
- A stronghold fully reflecting the reorganisation of an existing fortification and the use of water for defence, such as Le Quesnoy;
- A site outside France.



Map showing the location of the nominated properties



Citadel of Arras



Bazoche castle



Citadel of Besançon



Neuf-Brisach



Tower of the Hougue



Villefranche-de-Conflent