
Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (Republic of Korea) No 1319bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Republic of Korea

Name of property

Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty

Location

Seoul Metropolitan City; Gyeonggi-do; Gangwon-do

Inscription

2009

Brief description

The Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty form a collection of 40 tombs scattered over 18 locations. Built over five centuries, from 1408 to 1966, the tombs honoured the memory of ancestors, showed respect for their achievements, asserted royal authority, protected ancestral spirits from evil and provided protection from vandalism. Spots of outstanding natural beauty were chosen for the tombs which typically have their back protected by a hill as they face south toward water and, ideally, layers of mountain ridges in the distance. Alongside the burial area, the royal tombs feature a ceremonial area and an entrance. In addition to the burial mounds, associated buildings that are an integral part of the tombs include a T-shaped wooden shrine, a shed for stele, a royal kitchen and a guards' house, a red-spiked gate and the tomb keeper's house. The grounds are adorned on the outside with a range of stone objects including figures of people and animals. The Joseon Tombs completes the 5,000 year history of royal tombs architecture in the Korean peninsula.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

6 March 2013

2 Issues raised

Background

This serial property comprises 18 tomb clusters located in three districts. The boundaries of the tomb clusters were delineated following existing State-designated property boundaries with buffer zones extending 100 metres in all directions from the property boundary. The boundary modification proposal concerns the property and buffer zone boundary of one tomb cluster, Jeongneung Cluster (designated M4 in the ICOMOS

evaluation), located at Jeongneung-dong, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Modification

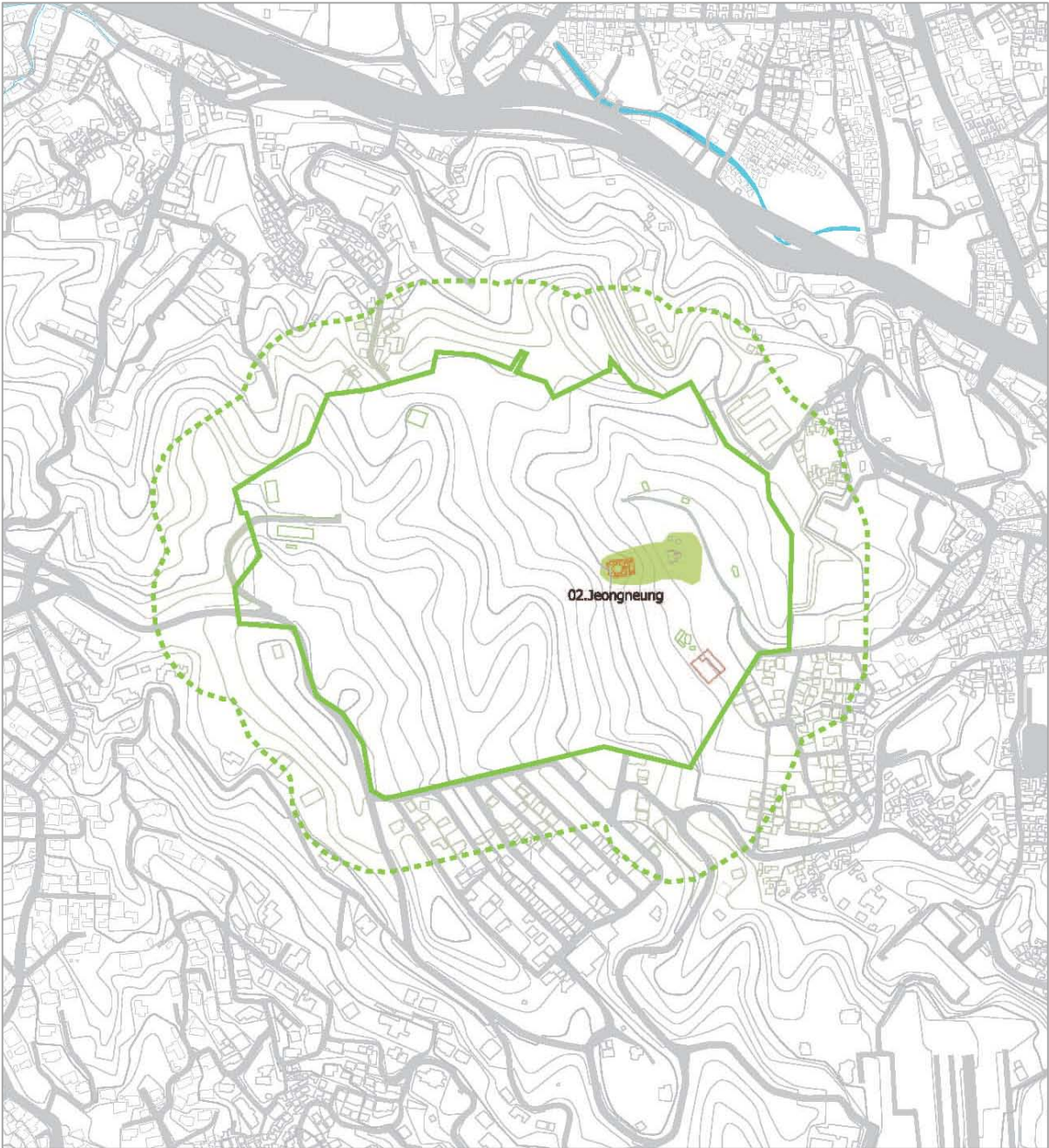
Minor modifications are proposed to both the property and buffer zone boundaries as shown on the inscription maps of the Jeongneung tomb cluster (which in fact includes only one tomb) in order to correct a cartographic error made when the inscription maps were drawn. The proposal does not alter the inscribed property area of the Jeongneung Cluster, which remains at 29.7ha, nor does it alter the buffer zone area, which remains at 27.5ha. The State Party states that the property area of Jeongneung Cluster was calculated correctly to exclude a housing area at the south-east of the property, and the buffer zone extending 100 metres from the property boundary was likewise calculated correctly. However in drawing the map, the cartographer included the housing area within the property boundary, and consequently extended the buffer zone 100 metres beyond this. The State Party has provided adequate maps showing the inscribed and proposed property and buffer zone boundaries, and has also provided an aerial photograph showing that the housing did exist prior to nomination and is outside the property's entrance area. The State Party also points out that the nomination document clearly noted that only Donggureung and Taerueng tomb clusters had residents in the property area. The property boundary shown on the modified map excludes the housing while incorporating it within the modified buffer zone boundary.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the component of Jeongneung area, Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty, Republic of Korea, be **approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the component of Jeongneung area, Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty, Republic of Korea, be **approved**.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the Jeongneung area