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# The Landscape of Grand Pré (Canada) No 1404

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## Official name as proposed by the State Party

The Landscape of Grand Pré

## Location

Nova Scotia Province  
Kings County  
Canada

## Brief description

The Grand Pré 'marshland' and archaeological sites in the old villages associated with Grand Pré and Hortonville constitute a cultural landscape bearing testimony to a remarkable effort, over many centuries, using the polder technique to develop agricultural farmland, in a maritime location with extreme tides. In particular, it demonstrates the permanency of its hydraulic drainage system using dykes and *aboiteaux* and its agricultural use through a community-based management system established by the Acadians and then taken over by the Planters and their contemporary successors. Grand Pré is also testimony to the history of the Acadians in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and their deportation (1755), constituting their main place of remembrance and the iconic 'symbolic landscape' of their past.

## Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*.

In terms of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (January 2008), it is also a *cultural landscape*.

## 1 Basic data

### Included in the Tentative List

1 October 2004

### International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination

None

### Date received by the World Heritage Centre

31 January 2011

## Background

This is a new nomination.

## Consultations

ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes and several independent experts.

IUCN also provided comments on the revised nomination on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012. The information was carefully considered by ICOMOS in reaching the final decision and recommendation in March 2012, and IUCN has also reviewed the presentation of its comments as included in this report by ICOMOS.

## Literature consulted (selection)

Bleakney, S., *Sods, Soils and Spades*, Montréal, 2004.

Dunn, B., *The Acadians of Minas*, Ottawa, 1990.

Johnston, A.J.B., Kerr, W.P., *Grand Pré, Heart of Acadie*, Halifax, 2004.

Landry, N., Lang, N., *Histoire de l'Acadie*, Québec, 2001.

Longfellow, H.W., *Evangeline, a Romance of Acadia*, 1847, Springfield, 1922.

## Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the property from 25 to 29 September 2011.

## Additional information requested and received from the State Party

ICOMOS requested additional information from the State Party on 14 December 2011 to:

- Strengthen the comparative analysis notably with comparison to other deportation sites,
- Provide additional information about how the property's landscape and maritime environment is taken into account and, if necessary, to review the buffer zone,
- Clarify the property's overarching management and its structural organization.

The State Party's 28 February 2012 reply has been incorporated into the present assessment report.

## Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

14 March 2012

## 2 The property

### Description

The nominated property is located in the southern section of Minas Basin, which extends the Bay of Fundy towards the hinterland of Nova Scotia. The Bay of Fundy separates Nova Scotia from the American continent. It is one of the places where the most extreme tidal ranges in the world are observed, with an average range of 11.6 m.

The property is essentially formed of a large expanse of farmland resulting from the polderisation of a flooded zone, locally referred to as 'marshlands'. It connects in the north with Long Island and in the south with the mainland coast. It is here that the towns of Grand Pré and then Hortonville were built, the first by the Acadians, the second by their British successors (see history). The

remains of these two human settlements and an area of coastal farmland form the southern part of the property. The ensemble presents a living cultural landscape bearing testimony to a remarkable and lasting system of polderisation and to the Acadian memory.

#### 1) The marshland

The marshland was originally shifting coastal land with specific vegetation but which was regularly flooded by high tides and storms. Despite tidal ranges that are difficult to control, the wealth of the alluvial deposits left by the currents immediately attracted the attention of the first Acadian colonists. Once protected from the sea and suitably drained and desalinated, this land was exceptionally fertile and was used for crops, arboriculture, dairy cows and pasturing.

The marshland corresponds to a little over 1,300 hectares of farmland that is still in use. Its overall shape is more or less rectangular, measuring roughly 5 km from east to west and around 2.5 km at its widest north-south point. It is today protected by 13 km of dykes of which several still follow the historic lines; other more recent ones have been adapted to the conditions caused by coastal erosion. The traditional dykes are built from clay soil extracted from the marshland (see history).

Three main discharge arteries drain the water from the heart of the marshland into the bay. Their outline dates back to the origins of the polder, created at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A network of smaller creeks drains into these arteries.

Right from the start, the drainage system included an ingenious device called an '*aboiteau*', that is a 'slab' or rectangular wooden sluice buried under the dyke fitted with a hinged anti-return clapper valve. The *aboiteaux* allowed the water to be drained from the marsh into the bay at low tide, but automatically closed as the tide came in. In addition to keeping the land permanently dry, this hydraulic system also desalinated the land.

The marshland retains several visible vestiges of old, abandoned dykes, but most of the historic hydraulic testimonies are now buried, including the Acadian *aboiteaux*. Recent archaeological excavations have uncovered several.

There were never any dwellings on the marshland. The division of farmland has overall continued to be dictated by the water drainage network. Almost one third of the current farmland boundaries date back to the 1760 allocations to the British 'Planters'. The marshland is still crossed through its centre by Grand Pré Road to Long Island. It has been restored and widened several times, notably in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Harvests and farming techniques have changed little. The extreme fertility of the marshland has maintained both the types of crops and their yields almost continuously. There has been very little mechanization of the marshland farming practices because of the clay nature of the soil.

#### 2) The coastal strip

As the human population density was always fairly low, the land division along the western coastal section has remained stable. It is formed of long parallel strips angled towards the hill, in accordance with the French colonial method. This part of the property contains archaeological remains of the Acadian village of Grand Pré and the memorial components erected in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It includes the coastal road originally laid out by the Acadians.

The eastern coastal strip includes clearly visible remains of the Planters' square-shaped plots. It bears testimony to their roads, such as 'Old Post', and their village of Hortonville. The latter, with its chequerboard layout, is typical of British rural colonisation. The south-eastern end of the property's coastal strip is the old landing stage of Horton Landing, at the mouth of the Gaspereau River.

Archaeological excavations have above all revealed structural elements of the two successive villages, the interpretation of which can be made from relatively extensive archival sources. Nonetheless, the latter indicate large constructions that have not yet been fully identified in the field.

Since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Grand Pré site has remained the major symbolic place of remembrance for the Acadians, following their deportation by the British (see history). In material terms, this is demonstrated by Herbin Cross, situated where the old cemetery once stood, Memorial Church, commemorative gardens with ancient willows, the bust of the poet Longfellow and the statue of his now mythological Acadian heroine Evangeline, etc. The entire former village is now the *Grand Pré National Historic Site of Canada*. There is also an Acadian Deportation Cross at Horton Landing, the place from where the Acadian's were deported.

A railway was also built along the coastal zone (1869), close to Old French Road. It was in use up until 2008 and the track is still in place.

#### History and development

During the millennium preceding the arrival of the French colonists, Grand Pré was a maritime marsh with thick layers of alluvia that slowly deposited and built up. The bay supports a rich fauna of several types of fish and shellfish, and more broadly a wide biological diversity. At that time, most of the Grand Pré marsh was only covered in water at the highest tides and its flora was adapted to the wet and salty conditions. The region was occupied by the native Mi'kmaq people who were hunters, fishers and gatherers, especially around Minas Basin. Mi'kmaq remains dating back 4,000 years have been found at Horton Landing. The bay was an important site for Mi'kmaq legends and spirituality.

The first attempts at colonization by the French, in this maritime region of North America, date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in the Bay of Fundy, on Saint Croix Island (1604) then in Port-Royal (1605). The region's

colonisation developed throughout the first half of the century, in an atmosphere of fairly good relations with the Mi'kmaqs. However, the region was wide open in maritime terms, located halfway between New England and New France. Called Acadia by the French, it gradually became the subject of rivalry between the two great colonial powers of the time.

The situation became permanently unstable due to military conflicts and changes of political power, encouraging an independent attitude among the colonists and strengthening the attitude of neutrality typified by their trading relations with both sides. The Acadians also developed a unique lifestyle, notably through their cooperative relations with the Mi'kmaqs and their projects specific to the region, such as Grand Pré, where the creation of polders was started in 1680. These elements concern both lifestyle and mentality and led to the establishment of a specific Acadian culture. However, Grand Pré was ravaged in 1704 by British troops from New England.

The Grand Pré farming settlement corresponds to a French style of settlement of the *Ancien Régime*, under the authority of the *Seigneur* of Sainte Croix. It led to a dispersed form of habitation along the coastal strip, with a classic division of the land in strips for the higher areas, and a collective construction and exploitation system in the marshes. The success of the marshland polders led to prosperity and exports of farm produce. The population of Grand Pré was one of the largest Acadian colonies in the 17<sup>th</sup> century with a population of around 2,000.

Remarkable drainage expertise was developed in Acadia, thanks to the experience of the French colonists, many of whom came from the drained marshlands of western France (Poitou, Aunis, Saintonge, etc.). The initial experience of creating polders had involved the use of Dutch technicians, who had been the great specialists in this field in Europe since the Middle Ages. However, the Acadians gradually developed a specific technique in a context of extreme tidal ranges, even though they only had access to simple tools: a row of deep posts, clay soil sods piled up, and earth cover reinforced by deep-rooted halophile plants, a system of wooden *aboiteaux* with non-return clapper valves, etc. Those parts most exposed to the tidal currents were given impressive reinforcements in the form of superimposed terraces of posts with log and clay fascines, as shown on the photographic documentation dating from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (2-27).

The Grand Pré project was the largest undertaken in the region by the Acadians, and it advanced in successive stages. When they were expelled, in 1755, they had completed twelve stages of polderisation out of the planned fifteen. In 75 years, around 1,000 hectares had been drained. The remaining area, in the northwest was completed by the Planters who succeeded them, who drained this area starting in the 1760s, using the same techniques.

The conflicts between the French and British started up again in 1744. Despite being located in the heart of the conflict, the Acadians wanted to remain neutral, annoying the French and worrying the British. In 1746, Grand Pré was occupied by the Anglo-Americans; but a surprise operation by pro-French Acadians and Mi'kmaqs led to the 'Battle of Grand Pré', in February 1747, and major losses for the occupying forces. The event was to be a decisive factor in the Acadians' expulsion from Grand Pré several years later.

As early as 1748, the British started to establish Protestant colonists in the eastern part of the coastal strip of Grand Pré that was to become the Hortonville project. More generally, a complex and tense situation grew up between the Acadians, suspected of helping the last French units, and their new masters who became more hard-line in their views. A systematic movement of expulsion of colonists of French origin was started in 1755 by the Nova Scotia Council, who replaced them with new Protestant colonists or 'Planters'. Over a period of seven years, this led to the massive deportation of Acadians, which has remained etched in their collective memory as the 'Grand Dérangement' or deportation. Its beginning was marked by the military occupation of Grand Pré, which organized the expropriation and then brutal expulsion of all the Acadian families from the region, that is over 2,000 people, and then the destruction of the village and farms. This event has become the very symbol of the 'Grand Dérangement'.

At the end of a complex military history, the French finally lost control of Acadia in 1758, and it became part of Nova Scotia, then the whole of New France came under the control of the British crown in 1763.

The first deportation movements took the Acadian exiles, including those from Grand Pré, to other British colonies along the Atlantic seaboard, with the aim of dispersing this population. Following the fall of Louisbourg (1758), the deportation movement picked up pace and the exiles were sent to France and England. Often rejected wherever they went, or even considered as prisoners of war, the families were dispersed and often separated. The history of the Acadians from this point on was unsettled and painful, seeing them wander between both sides of the Atlantic and, from the end of the 1760s, making their way back to the New World. They either opted to resettle in Nova Scotia, tolerated under strict conditions set out by the British authorities, or to head to new lands, such as Louisiana, Guyana or the Falklands, all of which were French colonies at the time.

The Acadians form a diaspora that retains the memory of its culture and its origins, whilst at the same time becoming diluted in the local population by which it is generally outnumbered. Only the settlement in south Louisiana allowed them an important role in the region for many years, at least until the War of Secession (1861), and then a more local and minority influence under the name of Cajun culture.

Thanks to its agricultural wealth, Grand Pré was rapidly re-settled by the Planters, in particular after the 1759 storm that broke through the old Acadian dykes. The new village of Horton was established and developed by the colonial authorities. The hydraulic and agricultural expertise was passed on to the Planters by the Acadian prisoners who had remained in Nova Scotia. The community-based management of the dykes and marshlands continued unchanged from the methods implemented in the time of French colonisation. The name of Grand Pré was retained for the polder and the location of the former Acadian village. Grand Pré was one of the largest and richest farming lands in Nova Scotia and remains so to this day.

A movement to recognize the Acadian culture appeared in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the memory of the events at Grand Pré became the major symbol of the territory. The epic poem by American author Henry W. Longfellow, *Evangeline, a Romance of Acadia*, 1847, became a popular and soon mythical tale within a broader intellectual movement of rediscovery of Acadian history. The strength of this movement towards recognition lies in its origin in the English-speaking culture which disseminated it well beyond just the Acadian descendants.

The gradual symbolic re-appropriation of Grand Pré by the Acadians dates from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was widely echoed in the intellectual movement referred to above, and in the Acadian cultural renaissance in Canada's Atlantic maritime provinces in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This re-appropriation gained tangible force with the arrival of the railway in Grand Pré (1869), with a sign at the station that read 'Welcome to the Land of Evangeline and Gabriel'.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Grand Pré became a major place of Acadian remembrance and awareness. In 1907, part of the old village was bought by an Acadian descendant, John F. Herbin, including the location of the old church and cemetery; the centuries-old willows stood as silent witnesses to the events. A series of projects followed to symbolically mark the old territory: gardens with the willows, the statue of Evangeline (1920), Memorial Church (1922), Deportation Cross (1924), etc. Since this period, Grand Pré has become the main gathering place for commemorations by the Acadian diaspora. At the end of the 1950s, the Grand Pré memorial site became the property of the Federal Government and was named 'Grand Pré National Historic Site of Canada'.

In the 1940s, the Federal and Provincial authorities launched a restoration programme for the dykes and *aboiteaux*. It was implemented and completed by the end of the 1960s, with a view to maintaining the integrity of the marshland while taking account of erosion phenomena and the evolution of the coast line, which has led to dykes being moved, and some of the older being abandoned. All this work was carried out by the community-based Grand Pré Marsh Body, which is today responsible for the hydraulic management and

maintenance using an approach that is similar to that adopted by the Acadian pioneers.

Between 1982 and 1997, the *aboiteau* system was remade, reducing their number to five, but making them larger and easier to maintain.

### 3 Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity

#### Comparative analysis

ICOMOS considers that the nomination dossier together with the additional information supplied by the State Party provides a complete and detailed comparative analysis, in two main directions: polder farming settlements and their landscapes, and memorial places and landscapes associated with deported peoples.

Lands reclaimed from the sea as polders by human effort are analysed from their historical perspective, especially in Europe during the late Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and then the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. These two centuries were particularly fruitful in Holland, the leading country in the drainage of land to create polders, in Germany, England and then in France's western Atlantic regions from where many of the Acadian colonists originated. The techniques used to improve the soil and cultivation techniques are also examined, from the point of view of sustainable production systems.

With regard to the creation of polders for agricultural purposes, a series of places are examined, two of which have already been inscribed on the World Heritage List, in the Netherlands: Beemster Polder (1999, criteria (i), (ii) and (iv)) and Schokland and Surroundings (1995, criteria (iii) and (v)). These have a direct rapport with the creation of polders at Grand Pré, in terms of their testimony to combating rises in water levels by the use of natural hydraulic techniques, before the use of mechanical pumps. Again in the Netherlands, the Mill Network at Kinderdijk-Elshout (1997, criteria (i), (ii) and (iv)) could also be added because the overall structure of its landscape and the first drainage system dates back well before the period of pumps driven by windmills and then by electric motors.

The other properties examined, again from the point of view of polders created for farmland, are firstly the nearby site of Tantramar Marsh in the Bay of Fundy (Nova Scotia, Canada), then the Atlantic Coast of North America with the Delaware Bay dykes (United States), and finally a series of sites in Europe: the Marais Dol in Mont Saint-Michel Bay (France), the Marais Poitevan (France), Gwent Levels at the mouth of the Severn (United Kingdom) and Altes Land (Germany). More broadly, the movement of polderisation and the defence of farmland against rising tides in coastal regions dates back to antiquity, but it developed in particular in Western Europe starting from the Middle Ages on the Atlantic and North Sea coasts. The phenomenon increased considerably in the modern era to promote the colonisation of new farmland, generally

more fertile because of its alluvial base. It would be worth adding to this comparison the entire Friesland region in the Netherlands, where a vast gravity drainage system involves an entire province, and where mechanical pumping is only reserved for extreme situations (spring tides, storms and exceptional rainfall).

Inter-regional comparisons are made regarding *hydraulic networks* and valve systems, that play a crucial role at low tide in this first phase of natural gravity drainage, being the most widespread method. Particular attention is paid to the tidal range in the various regions examined, from which it appears that the Bay of Fundy and Minas Basin have the highest in the world.

The comparative analysis then addresses a wide variety of factors that have formed the landscape of each polder: technical and hydraulic choices, landholding system and roadway structure, agricultural uses, built structures, and the coastal environment viewed from the hydrological and landscape aspects.

For the State Party, Grand Pré is the best example of an historic polder in North America, as it is the most complete and the most authentic of them all. More broadly, it is an exceptional legacy of human effort to control and develop, under extreme tidal conditions, areas subject to flooding. It has also escaped the transformations of industrial agriculture, conserving its traditional methods of agrarian and hydraulic management.

The second part of the comparative analysis deals with landscapes, in general, as places of memory, and was strengthened by the additional documentation sent by the State Party. The comparison criteria examined are the association of the property with the Acadian diaspora, its state of conservation, its symbolic role in the collective memory and its inter-community value.

There are other sites linked to the deportation of the Acadians at local and regional levels, such as Monument-Lefebvre in Memramcook (New Brunswick) and the Acadian museums in Bonaventure (Quebec) and Prince Edward Island, but Grand Pré remains the most important in symbolic terms and it has been reinvested by the Acadian community in a privileged manner, notably as the place of commemoration for the entire community, since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

There are other places of Acadian memory, linked to their passage during the *Grand Dérangement* (France), or to their resettlement in new areas (Louisiana and South America). The significance of these places is complementary, marking the historical stages following the diaspora, with Grand Pré remaining a point of departure, the point of rupture of the *Grand Dérangement*.

In broader terms, there have been many deportation events throughout human history and many places retain strong symbolic and memorial values for their descendants.

Sites conveying these values and already inscribed on the World Heritage List are examined, notably in Africa: Tsodilo (Botswana, 2001, criteria (i), (iii) and (vi)), Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba (Togo, 2004, criteria (v) and (vi)), and Matobo Hills (Zimbabwe, 2003, criteria (iii), (v) and (vi)). Regarding more specifically the memory of the deportation of slaves, the sites of Kunta Kinteh Island and associated sites (Gambia, 2003, criteria (iii) and (vi)), Island of Gorée (Senegal, 1978, criterion (vi)), Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius, 2006, criterion (vi)), and Le Morne Cultural Landscape (Mauritius, 2008, criteria (iii) and (vi)), and Robben Island (South Africa, 1999, criteria (iii) and (vi)) are examined. In Europe, other memorial sites linked to dramatic events are also considered, such as the Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2005, criterion (vi)), and Auschwitz Birkenau (Poland, 1978, criterion (vi)). This study reveals the importance of places of memory in terms of the authenticity of the link between a region and a human group, the importance of the associated dramatic events, the importance of the memorial experience that derives from these sites and its universal meaning. Additionally, criterion (vi) is always used for places of memory.

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

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#### **Justification of 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:

- It is a property that illustrates an effort to reclaim land from the sea using simple and ingenious *aboiteaux*, dykes and drainage channel techniques, in a maritime environment made extreme by the extent of the tidal range.
- More than 1,300 hectares were transformed as a result into particularly rich and prosperous farmland, using a community-based hydraulic management system and a durable system of cultivation that is still in use
- Complemented by the remains of human settlements along the adjacent coastal strip, the Grand Pré marshland forms an exceptionally well preserved polder landscape that is unique in North America.
- The Grand Pré landscape is testimony to the exceptional way European colonists settled in the maritime provinces of modern Canada. In particular, it testifies to the Acadian culture of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, established under peaceful relations with the Mi'kmaq people, followed by the expulsion of the Acadians starting in 1755.
- From the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Grand Pré, its archaeological vestiges and its marshland landscape became the main place of remembrance of the *Grand Dérangement* of the Acadians.
- In a peaceful manner and through shared recognition in Nova Scotia, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century Grand Pré has become the main place for the commemoration of

the Acadian diaspora, and more generally the landscape which symbolises its origins.

ICOMOS considers that the justification of proposed Outstanding Universal Value is completely acceptable. Grand Pré constitutes a major effort in the relationship between humans and their natural maritime environment. It is expressed through a remarkable and lasting effort to create a polder under extreme tidal conditions. It employs simple and ingenious techniques of *aboiteaux*, dykes and drainage networks. Grand Pré also constitutes the main Acadian place of remembrance, the celebration of their culture and the landscape symbolising their origins.

### **Integrity and authenticity**

#### **Integrity**

The nominated property presents a sufficiently vast ensemble of farmland forming a continuous polder of more than 1,300 hectares, with clearly identified boundaries. The polder is complemented by higher land that has functional and historic relationships with the polder.

All the technical and structural vestiges of the creation of the polder out of the marsh and its hydraulic management present all the elements needed for its understanding: dykes, *aboiteaux*, network of drainage channels, paths, human coastal settlements, farmland divisions, etc. The archaeological vestiges unearthed in Grand Pré village are however less extensive than hoped given the available archival documentation. The material testimonies of Acadian culture are essentially structural and topographical. The ensemble allows an understanding of the general settlement of the Acadians and later the Planters in Grand Pré.

The ensemble forms a very legible and broadly open cultural landscape, in a well preserved coastal and maritime environment allowing the full expression of its values. The habitation on the higher ground has remained sufficiently dispersed so as not to alter the meaning of the marshland landscape. It has also retained a quality maritime environment with an open bay and rich biodiversity.

The Minas Basin region is a place of reference and memory for the Acadians, with Grand Pré at its centre, because of its symbolic landscape and the peaceful re-appropriation of Grand Pré village for commemorative purposes and as a gathering place for the Acadian diaspora.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity of the material and landscape ensemble formed by the property are met, as are the memorial and symbolic values. However, the coastal instability due to the tidal currents and the possibility mentioned above of a wind farm in the property's maritime environment beyond the

buffer zone proposed by the State Party, weaken this integrity in the longer term.

#### **Authenticity**

The traditional construction of the dykes is still used today, with blocks of clay soil dug out and then appropriately piled up, but the earth sods are now produced by mechanised means. They still use the technique of soil reinforced by the roots of carefully selected halophile plants for the dykes. There are vestiges of old dykes, reinforcements using posts and log fascines, together with rock facings for protection against the currents.

The construction technique for the *aboiteaux* has retained the same structural typology of a "sluice", a square section channel under the dyke, with clapper valves. Archaeological excavations have revealed *aboiteaux* from all periods, starting from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, making it possible to follow their history. Their size has increased and their number decreased for reasons of efficiency (maintenance and silting). Wood has been replaced by modern materials, such as concrete, steel and even plastic, in the five large *aboiteaux* currently in use.

The configuration of farmland division in the marsh suitably illustrates the original irregular structure, and bears testimony to the drainage of the soil and the progressive construction of the dykes since their initial function as alluvial banks. Almost one third of the current land boundaries in the marsh still conform to those of the Planters in 1760.

The community-based hydraulic management has been retained throughout time, notably when the Acadians were replaced by the Planters. Today, it is represented by the *Grand Pré Marsh Body*.

The archaeological elements unearthed in Grand Pré and Hortonville are limited to structural and topographical aspects, but they are intelligible and wholly authentic.

The memorial constructions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century have been retained in their original form and materials. The landscapes are fully evocative of the creation of a polder for farmland at Grand Pré by the Acadians.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of authenticity are met both for the constituent material elements of the marsh and its landscapes, and for the hydraulic, land and agrarian management. They are also met for the memorial aspects of the Acadian culture and for the symbolic dimension of the landscapes.

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ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met.

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#### **Criteria under which the inscription is proposed**

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (v) and (vi).

*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 Grand Pré is a living landscape of a farmland polder, locally called the *marshland*, in a difficult coastal environment characterised by some of the highest tidal ranges in the world. It was installed by the Acadians, more than three centuries ago, creating extraordinarily fertile farmland. For this, they used an ingenious soil drainage and desalination system with a series of dykes fitted with *aboiteaux* and a network of drainage channels. They instituted a community-based management system for the marshland, especially its hydraulic system that has been maintained over time. It continues today to ensure the prosperity of the local rural community. The Grand Pré living cultural landscape is an exceptional example of a prosperous farming community that has managed to come to terms with its environment through an ingenious technology and remarkable community-based organisation. It bears testimony to the lifestyle of the Acadians and then the Planters who followed them.

ICOMOS considers that the Grand Pré cultural landscape indeed provides outstanding testimony to a traditional farming settlement that was created by the Acadian colonists in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in a coastal region with one of the world's highest tidal ranges. The reclamation of the land subject to flooding was made possible by the particularly ingenious use of traditional techniques of dykes, *aboiteaux* and a drainage network, as well as their community-based management system that is still practised today. Grand Pré is testimony to the continued application of the hydraulic and technical models put in place by the Acadians and their successors. The resultant rich alluvial land led to continuous and lasting agricultural development.

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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;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the landscape of Grand Pré is the most important place of remembrance for the Acadians, dispersed by the *Grand Dérangement* and their deportation starting in 1755. It is expressed today by the imposing presence of the drained marshland and its continued use, by its symbolic and peaceful re-appropriation by the Acadian descendants and the presence of memorial elements erected in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, such as Memorial Church, the willow gardens, etc. It is the most emblematic evocation of the ancestral lands of the Acadians and the origins of their culture. The landscape and memorial legacy of Grand Pré is testimony to the various stages in

Acadian history: its beginnings, the establishment of its traditional culture based on hydraulic and farming skills, followed by the expulsion and forced displacement of the community at the beginning of the Acadian diaspora, and lastly the Acadian renaissance and peaceful reconciliation of the communities through cultural sharing. Grand Pré is a living and striking example of the universal human aspirations exemplified in the desire to belong to a community, the intimate link with one's ancestral lands, and the desire for reconciliation.

ICOMOS considers that indeed Grand Pré is the iconic place of memorial of the Acadian diaspora dispersed by the *Grand Dérangement* in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, along the coastal fringes of Europe and Atlantic America. Its polder landscape and archaeological remains bear testimony to a culture of pioneers having been able to create their own territory, whilst living in harmony with the native Mi'kmaq people. Its memorial constructions form the centre of the Acadians' symbolic re-appropriation of the land of their origins, in a spirit of peace and cultural sharing with the English-speaking community.

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ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

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ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (v) and (vi) and conditions of integrity and authenticity and that Outstanding Universal Value has been demonstrated.

#### **Description of the attributes**

The property is based on the creation and development of the Grand Pré polder or marshland covering an area of 1,300 hectares. It is complemented by a coastal strip which is closely associated with its creation and history. The property's main components supporting its Outstanding Universal Value are:

- The territory of Grand Pré forming a vast polder or marshland, the land division, cultivation methods and agricultural production which have been followed with considerable continuity for more than three centuries.
- The farming landscape is complemented by the strip land division of the eastern section and the coastal strip, bearing testimony to the French colonization in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- The hydraulic drainage system is based on an exemplary ensemble of dyke and *aboiteau* construction techniques for the removal of water and a network of streams and drainage channels. Its technical continuity and community-based management have continued through to the present day.
- The property includes archaeological vestiges of the villages of Grand Pré and Hortonville that bear testimony to the settlements and lifestyles of the Acadian colonists and their successors, the Planters.
- The property and its landscape include traces of the more important paths that crossed the marshland and structured the adjacent coastal area.

- The original sites of Grand Pré village and Horton Landing have memorial structures and monuments erected in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in honour of the Acadian ancestors and their deportation during the *Grand Dérangement* starting in 1755.
- The entire property forms the symbolic reference landscape for the Acadian memory and is the main venue for its commemoration.

#### 4 Factors affecting the property

##### Development pressures

Overall, the State Party does not consider that there is any notable negative effect from modern development on the property, because of its status as a protected property and the continuing hydraulic and agricultural management in accordance with its traditional values. It does, however, refer to a certain number of elements and trends to which attention needs to be paid.

Maintaining a viable agricultural economy is vital for the future of the marshland's conservation. Its present and future development must comply with the property's cultural and landscape values. The compromise with modernity is balanced and mechanization remains limited, both for the property's preservation and for structural and technical reasons, such as the nature of the soil. Furthermore, the demographic trend is toward a slow decrease in the number of farmers and to their overall ageing. The result is a certain lack of manpower for farming, and in the longer term concern about who will take over farming the marshland. It would be regrettable if inscription on the List were to accelerate any such movement through a marked increase in constraints, real or perceived by the farmers. There is therefore a degree of concern about the future of intensive farming in Grand Pré, and more broadly in Kings County.

On the other hand, the property's environmental qualities have led to the creation of holiday homes and the arrival of well-off retirees. In the past twenty years, this has led to a trend to convert farm buildings into holiday homes and denser habitation on the higher ground. This increase is leading to pressure to extend the road network in the property and its buffer zone. Conversely, older paths are tending to be abandoned and absorbed into the agricultural land.

The strong winds that blow in Minas Basin make it an attractive region for the installation of wind turbines. For the moment no such project has been announced in the region, but the possibility shouldn't be excluded. The use of tidal power in the bay has also been considered; this could lead to its silting up and changes to the equilibrium between marine species.

ICOMOS shares the concerns expressed by the State Party in its assessment of the potential risks weighing on farming, for the moment presented as minor or with effects in the medium term. They are nonetheless very real,

crucial even for the future of the property's conservation, and must be monitored closely, especially with regard to the changing social conditions and farming techniques in Grand Pré. The density and architectural compatibility of new or restored habitations are also creating pressures that need to be suitably controlled. The appearance of wind turbine projects in Minas Basin could seriously undermine the landscape quality of Grand Pré.

##### Tourism pressures

Tourism in Grand Pré involves, on the one hand, local seasonal visitors, and on the other, the participants in the memorial events organised by the Acadian diaspora. However, the current annual number estimated at around 30,000 people, is half that of the early 1990s. The tourism infrastructure is sufficient and able to cope with any increase that might result from the property's inscription on the World Heritage List.

##### Environmental pressures

The main pressure lies in the historic phenomenon of erosion of the earthen banks supporting the marsh and its alluvial surrounds by the effect of coastal currents compounded by the heights of the tides as already mentioned. This is a constant pressure on the property against which the dyke system has ceaselessly fought. The property's history is punctuated by the regular repositioning of the dykes and their reconstruction to adapt the marshlands' tidal defences to the hydrological reality of the bay. This is an artificial physical boundary evolving slowly as it comes into contact with natural pressures.

ICOMOS considers that the coastal environment close to the property forms a relatively fragile ensemble that merits particular attention in terms of its erosion and biodiversity.

##### Natural disasters and impact of climate change

Through the slow rise in sea levels, global warming is tending to exacerbate the effects of coastal erosion by the currents. These are placing increased pressure on the established dykes and on their maintenance, especially during the spring tides. The burying of the old dykes and their relatively rapid transformation into archaeological remains is a striking phenomenon. This coastal deterioration effect is for the moment particularly noticeable on the northernmost part of Long Island (buffer zone), with the beaches having receded by around 15 m since the 1960s. This phenomenon is contained in the marshland by the active management and maintenance of the dykes.

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ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are development pressures from habitation and increased density in the area of the higher ground, and the possibility of wind farm projects in the Minas Basin area. For the longer term, particular attention must be paid to agricultural development issues.

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## 5 Protection, conservation and management

### Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The surface area of the nominated property is 1,323 hectares, and it has a population of 154. Its boundary corresponds to the marshland, by following the boundary of the current dykes, and the coastal section of the nearby higher ground with historical ties to the property.

The land part of the buffer zone incorporates Long Island, Boot Island and the land surrounding the property to its south up to the boundary defined in the Grand Pré Community Plan; it includes a population of around 1,100 people of whom a good third are seasonal. The maritime section corresponds to a 500m strip surrounding the property's maritime boundaries and the land sections of the buffer zone. Following ICOMOS's recommendations, the buffer zone has been extended in Minas Basin to protect the visual integrity of the Grand Pré marshland, viewed from the coastal area of Grand Pré at Horton Landing, by a maritime strip up to the coast of Blomidon Peninsula facing Grand Pré. The coastal part of Blomidon Peninsula is included in the buffer zone and forms its northern boundary. The extended buffer zone has a surface area of 5,868 hectares, of which 1,448ha are in the land zone and 4,420ha in the maritime zone.

In relation to Minas Basin, IUCN considers that "*this internally important wetland appears to be appropriately protected as a Ramsar site. Whilst it possesses important natural values, it does not appear to be an essential component of the Landscape of the Grand Pré, as nominated.*"

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ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone are adequate.

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### Ownership

The nominated property is mainly comprised of privately owned land (92.63%). The Province owns the roads and various other pieces of land (3.09%). The dykes, paths serving the marshland and the drainage network belong to the community-based organisation in charge of the marshland's hydraulic management, *Grand Pré Marsh Body* (2.36%). The memorial site is a Federal property managed by Parks Canada: the *Grand Pré National Historical Site of Canada* (1.92%).

### Protection

#### Legal Protection

The property's legal and regulatory protection depends on the Federal Government of Canada, the Government of the Province of Nova Scotia and the Municipality of Kings County. The main legal texts protecting the property and the buffer zones are:

At the Federal level:

- The Grand Pré National Historical Site of Canada is managed by Parks Canada (Act of 1998), and it is protected by the *Canada National Parks Act* (2000), and the various associated texts, and by the *National Historic Sites Policy of Canada*.
- Four other sites within the property and two in the buffer zone are protected by the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* (1985), which is implemented by Parks Canada.

At the Nova Scotia provincial government level:

- The property's archaeological and historical resources are protected by the *Special Places Protection Act* (1989), which particularly regulates excavation rights.
- The *Agricultural Marshland Conservation Act* (2000) identifies land recognised as subject to flooding; it organizes its management and controls the creation of administrative and technical bodies in charge of its management, in this instance the Grand Pré Marsh Body.
- The historical burial site in Lower Horton is regulated by the *Cemetery Protection Act* (1998).
- The beaches and dunes are protected by the *Beaches Act* (1989).
- The *Municipal Government Act* organizes the power of the counties (municipalities) in Nova Scotia, especially as regards land use and building codes.

At the Kings County level:

- The *Municipal Planning Strategy* (1979, modified in 1992) defines and controls land use, issues policy statements regarding social and economic development, and recognizes the need to protect existing agricultural resources.
- Specific planning for the property was created under the *Grand Pré and Area Community Plan* (2008); it defines the general policy for coordinating the property's protection, especially for the conservation of cultural landscapes.

The marshland and maritime area of the extended buffer zone is protected by a Ramsar Convention on Wetlands that guarantees the conservation and monitoring of its natural values and protection under the Federal Species at Risk Act. Its visual and landscape protection is guaranteed by the Provincial Agricultural Marshland Conservation Act, that also applies to Blomidon Peninsula, and by the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

#### Traditional Protection

There are several levels to the traditional protection of the property: the transmission of expertise for the community-based technical management of the hydraulic system, the continuation of farming practices respecting the traditional and landscape values, and the considerable interest paid by the Acadian diaspora to the property's symbolic value.

## Effectiveness of protection measures

ICOMOS considers that the property's protection measures are effective because they correspond to clear directions and choices that are well accepted by the population and the Acadian diaspora. They are applied at the main places of remembrance by the Federal agency Parks Canada, and elsewhere by the other stakeholders in the property's practical management: regional technical authorities, the municipality, the Grand Pré Marsh Body and the farmers.

ICOMOS considers that the extension to the maritime buffer zone to guarantee the property's visual integrity is adequate, as are the associated protections.

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ICOMOS considers that the protection of the property and its buffer zone is adequately provided.

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## Conservation

### Inventories, recording, research

There are extensive public archives documenting the history of Grand Pré, especially maps and drawings of the site at various periods. Grand Pré has also been the subject of many historical studies from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and an extensive bibliography is available.

Archaeological research has unearthed a certain number of structural elements of the former Acadian village of Grand Pré, and of the Planters' village in Hortonville, and more recently technical elements such as an old wooden *aboiteau*.

There are various descriptive inventories of the property and its technical elements. The most recent is: *The Landscape of Grand Pré, Landscape assessment* (2010).

Numerous impact studies relating to the possibilities for the property's evolution in response to management and economic development options have been made in recent years.

ICOMOS considers that the archaeological management of the property's remains has long been disparate between the various excavation sites. An overall and coordinated archaeological policy has been announced (*Strategy for the Management and Conservation of Archaeological Heritage in the Landscape of Grand Pré*, 2010); it must be implemented without delay for the entire property, and it must also apply to the buffer zone and the property's surrounding coastal areas.

### Present state of conservation

Management of the marshland's fields is still focused on the property's age-old, intensive, mixed farming practices (cereals, animal pasturing and orchards). It is carried out within the framework of private family holdings and a context of controlled technical modernization that is compatible with the data from the historical land divisions. The marshland's farming

activities give an impression of good landscape conservation.

The state of maintenance and conservation of the hydraulic system (dykes, *aboiteaux* and drainage network) and the marshland's paths is good. The hydraulic system was the subject of extensive reinforcement and modernization work between 1950 and 1994, which respected the existing techniques.

The conservation of the monuments and memorial sites at the National Historical Site of Grand Pré is good.

The conservation of the archaeological sites is considered by the State Party as being only 'moderate', both for those that are the responsibility of Parks Canada and those under the responsibility of the Province; the former because of vegetation invasion, and the latter because of pressure from coastal erosion.

### Active conservation measures

There is a diverse ensemble of technical conservation measures for the various aspects of the property. These measures are implemented by the authorities in charge of their respective management:

- Land use is under the municipal control of Kings County. As it is privately owned, its conservation is the responsibility of the owners. The Grand Pré property and its land buffer zone have been declared a priority agricultural economic and controlled individual habitat area.
- All the acts and municipal bylaws concerning the conservation of Grand Pré have been grouped together in a common document: *Grand Pré Heritage Conservation District: Plan, Bylaw and Guidelines*.
- The property's hydraulic management and maintenance of the dykes, drainage channels and marshland paths are provided by the *Grand Pré Marsh Body* with funding from the Nova Scotia Ministry for Agriculture, especially for major works.
- The conservation of the memorial monuments and archaeological sites within the National Historic Site of Grand-Pré is provided under the programmes implemented by Parks Canada.
- The property's other archaeological sites, mainly in the marshlands, are not covered by any specific conservation programmes of the provincial supervisory authority, which mainly manages excavation authorisations. The Strategy for the Management and Conservation of Archaeological Heritage in the Landscape of Grand Pré should significantly improve this point.
- The conservation of public roads is provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

### Maintenance

The maintenance measures for the property are intertwined with the property's conservation programmes, of which they form a day-to-day aspect;

they are provided by the various technical services already mentioned.

#### Effectiveness of conservation measures

ICOMOS considers that the conservation measures for the property are satisfactory and effective, with the exception of the archaeological sites in the marshland, under Provincial responsibility, which are relatively fragile and without any real conservation (2010). Regular monitoring of these sites should be introduced under the Strategy for the Management and Conservation of Archaeological Heritage in the Landscape of Grand Pré and standardized with those under Parks Canada's responsibility. More generally, the property, its buffer zone and environs should be the subject of a coordinated and systematic programme of archaeological excavation, continuing on from the projects announced under the Strategy for the Management and Conservation of Archaeological Heritage in the Landscape of Grand Pré.

The new definition of the buffer zone and the protections applied to it comply with ICOMOS's recommendations.

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ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation of the various elements of the property is satisfactory. However, the comprehensive archaeological policy announced for the property must be implemented and should be extended to cover the buffer zone and coastal environs.

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#### Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The property benefits from a long-standing and durable management system that includes the various regional and technical aspects already examined above, in direct continuity with its preservation and conservation. These various authorities are the following:

- The Federal *Parks Canada Agency* manages the National Historical Site of Grand Pré, the Horton Landing monument and associated archaeological sites. It acts through its *New Brunswick North Field Unit*.
- The *Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture* participates in the management of the hydraulic system, especially the dykes.
- The *Grand Pré Marsh Body* provides technical management and maintenance of the hydraulic system.
- The *Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage* manages the archaeological sites that do not come under the jurisdiction of Parks Canada.
- The *Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal* manages the public roads.
- The *Municipality of the County of Kings* controls the agricultural land use and construction.

- The not-for-profit association *Société Promotion Grand-Pré* is responsible for visitor services and touristic and cultural promotion of the property.

Coordination of the property's various traditional management bodies was implemented when writing the nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List. It has been taken over by the *Grand Pré World Heritage Site Stewardship Board* which was recently instituted and acts as the overarching authority for the various partners in the property's management. Its composition and its method of operation are set out in the additional documentation supplied by the State Party in February 2012. It will be definitively instituted in the event of the property's inscription. In particular, it is tasked with harmonising the property's management and implementing its conservation. Another of its roles is to inform and educate the public.

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

The various areas of the property's management tie in within the framework of the traditional or institutional management that has been in place for many years: agricultural management by the marshland owners and farmers, hydraulic management by the community-based Grand Pré Marsh Body and management of the National Historic Site of Grand Pré by Parks Canada. The latter has a *Management Plan for the National Historic Site of Grand Pré* that corresponds to the application of Federal programmes for the conservation of historic properties, archaeological sites and their landscapes.

The nomination for the World Heritage List was an opportunity to carry out a series of thematic and prospective studies concerning the property's status and future management, and to draw up a framework document: the *Management Plan for the Landscape of Grand Pré*. This is the management plan for the property. It is designed to coordinate the property's protection and conservation. It includes in a coherent document the data from various thematic and sectorial studies, some of which are considerably detailed, including:

- *Strategy for the Management and Conservation of Archaeological Heritage in the Landscape of Grand Pré*.
- *Tourism Strategy and Interpretation Framework for the Landscape of Grand Pré*.
- *Société Promotion Grand Pré Business Plan* and its *2011-2012 action plan*.
- The *Municipal land use plan* for Grand Pré and the *Municipal Planning Strategy*.
- The various *economic, regional and agricultural development plans* of Nova Scotia.

This series of plans and programmes concerning Grand Pré for the short and medium term form a management system that has recently come under the control of a

*Memorandum of Understanding* signed by the various institutional stakeholders. This document details the way in which the various parties will cooperate in managing the property and it makes provision for the creation of a *Grand Pré World Heritage Site Stewardship Board*. The memorandum is completed by a series of framework documents including a *Memorandum of Understanding on the Governance of the Nominated Property* in the event that the property is inscribed on the List and the associated *Terms of Reference - Grand Pré World Heritage Site Stewardship Board*.

ICOMOS considers that the management plan appropriately defines the aims of the property's management. The management plan should be accompanied by a schedule of current and programmed actions; it should also be coordinated with the Action Plan of the *Société Promotion Grand Pré*.

#### Risk preparedness

The main risks taken into account by the State Party are the subject of in-depth analysis and technical preparation, especially with regard to coastal erosion and protection of the dykes in the event of major climatic events that may affect them. This refers in particular to the following recent contractual documents:

- *Risk Preparedness Framework for the Landscape of Grand Pré*,
- *Coastal Change Monitoring Plan for the Landscape of Grand Pré*,
- The Federal programme: *Species at Risk*
- It also involves regional and local emergency intervention plans in the event of a disaster under the *Emergency Management Act*.

#### Involvement of the local communities

The farmland owners are directly responsible for the management of the land and therefore maintaining the property's landscape and rural values.

The *Grand Pré Marsh Body* is a traditional association for the management of the hydraulic systems, formed by the Grand Pré owners, with the assistance of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

The Municipality of Kings County is highly involved in the property's management and is a direct stakeholder in its conservation policy.

The not-for-profit *Société Promotion Grand Pré* is essentially run by the local population.

The Acadian movement is heavily involved in the communities directly associated with the property's memorial, historical and symbolic values.

ICOMOS considers that the property benefits from an exceptional level of involvement by the local communities and the Acadian community in the property's management and conservation.

Resources, including staffing levels, expertise and training

The various partners in the management already discussed above contribute through their expertise and funding to the property's conservation and management.

- *Parks Canada* provides its expertise at the Federal and international levels in the areas of archaeology, history, architecture, ecology, engineering, heritage protection and conservation. The central Parks Canada Agency and the Atlantic Service Centre provide staff training.
- The *Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture* ensures the maintenance of the Grand Pré dykes. It has a dedicated service for this that includes a supervisor, an engineer, a protection manager and technical staff. It works in consultation and together with the *Grand Pré Marsh Body* staff.
- The *Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage* is responsible for the archaeological heritage of local value.
- The *Municipality of the County of Kings* contributes to the property's management through its planning monitoring service and geographic information systems (GIS).
- The *Stewardship Board* has the support of a permanent secretariat, a steward and a consultative technical committee.

The New Brunswick North Field Unit (Parks Canada) has an annual operating budget in excess of CAD500,000; the *Société Promotion Grand Pré* has an annual consolidated budget of around CAD440,000. The Department of Agriculture allocates around CAD1,000,000 each year to maintaining the region's dykes and marshlands; the allocations are made according to the level of urgency. Standard maintenance of the dykes and marshlands is provided jointly by the Department and the Grand Pré Marsh Body. The latter receives a levy from the marshland farmers; its income is around CAD20,000 a year. Funding for the Stewardship Board's operation will be shared at three levels: Federal, Provincial and Municipal. Special Federal and regional funds provide finance for specific projects on application.

The additional documentation submitted in February 2012 provides details about the general planning for the property's management and conservation operations for the coming three years, and the personnel tasked with their implementation.

ICOMOS considers that the level of expertise of the staff involved in the Landscape of Grand Pré and the funding guarantees are adequate. ICOMOS encourages the State Party to consolidate permanent employment for the property, especially those employed by the *Société Promotion Grand Pré* and those for the future Stewardship Board.

## Effectiveness of current management

The additional information submitted by the State Party in February 2012 provides clarification about the institutions involved and their relationship with each other, notably with regard to the *Société Promotion Grand Pré* responsible for the memorial aspects of the site and Acadian history.

ICOMOS considers the work by the State Party is of high quality for the identification of the property and its definition as a cultural landscape, as well as for the identification of its conservation and management priorities, notably the development of sustainable farming compatible with its landscape and memorial values.

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ICOMOS considers that the management system for the property is in place and that it is effective.

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## 6 Monitoring

The property's technical monitoring is provided by the various departments responsible for the property's conservation and management (see conservation and management). A concerted approach is being set in place (2010) that aims to link more closely the provisions for the technical monitoring of the property's various components, which in general have been operating for many years, and the general objectives for the conservation of the property's value, in particular the following:

- Strengthen the link between the protection of the property's values and sustainable agricultural development.
- Enrich knowledge and interpretation of the property for the local population and visitors.
- Encourage shared stewardship within the local community to encourage the protection, interpretation and promotion of the property.

A table of indicators sets out the targets, the authorities in charge of their application and their monitoring frequency which varies between one and five years. Two specialist monitoring programmes have also been introduced:

- Monitoring coastal change.
- Monitoring the state of archaeological sites.

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ICOMOS considers that the property's technical monitoring system is satisfactory, but that it would benefit from being expanded to include a regular assessment of changes to farmland and building use.

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## 7 Conclusions

ICOMOS recognizes the Outstanding Universal Value of the Landscape of Grand Pré. In the first place, it is a living cultural landscape of polders that was created by

French colonists in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. They were to give rise through their rural lifestyle, management of their natural environment and peaceful relations with the Mi'kmaq native people, to the Acadian culture, one of the very first to refer explicitly to its North-American origins. The Acadians knew how to develop, using simple and ingenious means, a system of dykes, *aboiteaux* and drainage networks that enabled them to reclaim farmland from the sea in a lasting and effective manner in a region with the world's highest tidal ranges. They made it one of the most fertile areas in the region. More broadly, it is an exceptional testimony to the adaptation of the first European colonists to the conditions offered by the North American Atlantic coast, an experience that was continued by the Planters in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Secondly, Grand Pré is a symbolic landscape and iconic place of remembrance of the *Grand Dérangement* of the Acadians who were dispossessed and dispersed to both shores of the Atlantic in the years 1750-1760. The techniques they implemented and the farming and hydraulic management methods they used have survived to the present day.

### Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the Landscape of Grand Pré, Canada, be inscribed on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (v) and (vi)**.

### Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

#### Brief synthesis

The Grand Pré 'marshland' and the remains of the associated old villages constitute a cultural landscape bearing testimony to a remarkable effort, over many centuries, using the polder technique to develop agricultural farmland, in a maritime location with extreme tides. In particular, it demonstrates the permanency of its hydraulic drainage system using dykes and *aboiteaux* and its agricultural use through a community-based management system established by the Acadians and then taken over by the Planters and their modern successors. Grand Pré is also testimony to the history of the Acadians in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and their deportation.

Grand Pré forms a vast area of polders or *marshlands*, in which the land division and crop farming methods have continued for three centuries. It is the most important example of its type in North America. The farming landscape is complemented by the strip land division method along the coastal area, bearing testimony to 17<sup>th</sup> century French colonization. The hydraulic system is based on an exemplary ensemble of dykes, *aboiteaux* to evacuate the water, and a drainage network. These techniques and community-based management have continued through to today. The property includes archaeological remains of the villages of Grand Pré and Hortonville that testify to the settlements and lifestyles of the Acadian settlers and their successors. The property

and its landscape include traces of the major pathways that crossed the marshland and organized the adjacent coastal area. The locations of Grand Pré village and Horton Landing have memorial buildings and monuments erected in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in homage to the Acadian ancestors and their deportation, starting in 1755. The overall property forms the symbolic reference landscape for the Acadian memory and the main site for its commemoration.

**Criterion (v):** The cultural landscape of Grand Pré bears exceptional testimony to a traditional farming settlement created in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Acadians in a coastal zone with tides that are among the highest in the world. The polderisation used traditional techniques of dykes, *aboiteaux* and a drainage network, as well as a community-based management system still in use today. The resultant rich alluvial soil enabled continuous and sustainable agricultural development.

**Criterion (vi):** Grand Pré is the iconic place of remembrance of the Acadian diaspora, dispersed by the *Grand Dérangement*, in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Its polder landscape and archaeological remains are testimony to the values of a culture of pioneers able to create their own territory, whilst living in harmony with the native Mi'kmaq people. Its memorial constructions form the centre of the symbolic re-appropriation of the land of their origins by the Acadians, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in a spirit of peace and cultural sharing with the English-speaking community.

#### Integrity

The conditions of integrity of the material and landscape ensemble formed by the property are met, as well as for the memorial and symbolic values. However, the coastal instability due to the tidal currents makes this integrity fragile in the long term. Also, the possibility of wind farm projects being developed in the maritime and coastal environment could also affect it.

#### Authenticity

The conditions of authenticity are met for the component material elements of the marshland and its landscapes, and for the hydraulic, regional and agrarian management of the marshland. They are also met for the memorial aspects of the Acadian culture and for the symbolic dimension of these landscapes.

#### Management and protection requirements

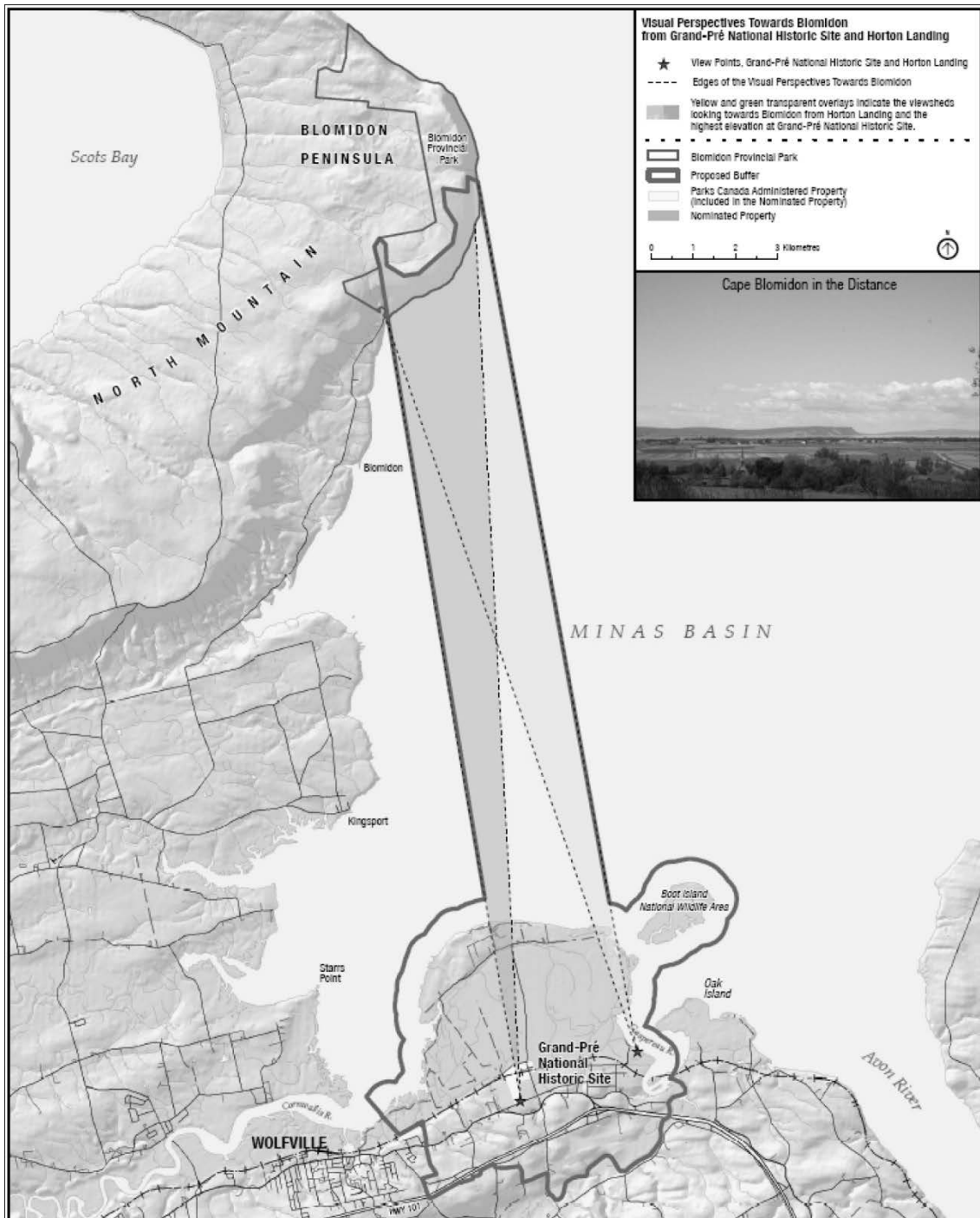
The property's protection measures are appropriate and they are effective because they correspond to clear directions and choices that are well accepted by both the inhabitants and the Acadian diaspora. They are applied to the main place of remembrance by the Federal Government's Parks Canada Agency, and elsewhere by the other stakeholders in the property's practical management: regional technical authorities, the municipality, the Grand Pré Marsh Body and farmers. The maritime component of the buffer zone has been

extended to guarantee the visual integrity of the property viewed from the coastal area of the old village of Grand Pré at Horton Landing.

The property's management system is in place and acts effectively. It involves a series of specialist entities, either public, such as the Federal Parks Canada, provincial, or traditional bodies such as the Grand Pré Marsh Body. Overarching coordination of the various stakeholders has been confirmed by the implementation of the Stewardship Board and its personnel, together with a schedule for the implementation of actions programmed in the Management Plan. The property's memorial dimension is handled by the *Société Promotion Grand Pré*.

ICOMOS recommends the State Party give consideration to the following:

- Applying without delay the Archaeological Management Plan announced for the overall property, and consider extending it to the property's buffer zone and surrounding coastal areas;
- Expanding the property's monitoring system with a regular assessment of changes to farmland and building use.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the nominated property



View of the marshland



*Aboiteau* of the drainage system





Acadian Deportation Cross at Horton Landing



Grand Pré National Historic Site of Canada