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## The par force hunting landscape (Denmark) No 1469

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### Official name as proposed by the State Party

The par force hunting landscape in North Zealand

### Location

North Zealand  
Capital Region of Denmark (Hovedstaden)

### Brief description

The par force hunting landscape in North Zealand encompasses three distinct forests and landscapes – Store Dyrehave, Gribskov and Jægersborg Hegn/Jægersborg Dyrehave – which have been chosen among the extant portions of 'designed forests and grounds' in North Zealand to illustrate the designed setting where the Danish kings and their court used to practice the 'par force' hunt or *chasse à courre*, and displayed their ambitions and power throughout the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

### Category of property

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

In terms of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (July 2013) paragraph 47, it is a *cultural landscape*.

## 1 Basic data

### Included in the Tentative List

8 January 2010

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

None

### Date received by the World Heritage Centre

23 January 2014

### Background

This is a new nomination.

### Consultations

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

### Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the property from 24 to 26 September 2014.

### Additional information received by ICOMOS

On 3 September 2014, ICOMOS sent a letter to the State Party requesting clarification concerning the rationale adopted to select the components of the series and to define the boundaries of the property and of its buffer zone. Additional information concerning the comparative analysis, cartographic documentation, protection and management, and resources, was also requested. The State Party responded on 21 October 2014 and the additional information provided has been incorporated into the relevant sections.

On 26 November 2014, the State Party also informed that the private owners whose properties are included within the nominated area have been informed of the nomination.

ICOMOS sent a second letter to the State Party on 22 December 2014 seeking further additional information on the following points:

- the need that further hunting rides be encompassed within the nominated property or, at least, within the buffer zone, they being crucial for the understanding of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the par force hunting landscape;
- the need that all rides, be they publicly or privately owned, be protected for their cultural value;
- the need to modify the buffer zone so as to encompass areas and attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection;
- provide further information useful to justify criterion (iv) which has been found relevant during the evaluation process.

The State Party responded on 28 February 2015 and the information provided has been incorporated into the relevant sections of this report.

### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

## 2 The property

### Description

The nominated serial property is located in the northern part of Zealand some 30km north north-east of Copenhagen. Its gently undulating territory was shaped during the last Ice Age (22,000–12,000 BP) and features low hills, once entirely covered with forests, small lakes, and fertile cultivated plains, rich in wildlife. This landscape offered ideal conditions to create a large hunting reserve and, since the 16<sup>th</sup> century AD, the Danish kings progressively developed a royal hunting estate extending over a large part of North Zealand known as the Gribskov (etymologically 'unclaimed forest'). This is attested to by several surviving forested areas interspersed with open fields, parks and settlements, cut through by straight roads, rides and

tracks, and many royal castles and residences that punctuate the region.

The nominated series comprises three components – Store Dyrehave, Gribskov and Jægersborg Hegn/Jægersborg Dyrehave - selected among the extant portions of 'designed forests' of the region to illustrate the designed landscape where the Danish kings and their court used to practice the 'par force' hunt or *chasse à courre*, that is, the mounted chase of a single stag with dogs. This form of courtly hunting found its formalisation between the Middle Ages and the late 16<sup>th</sup> century and reached its apogee between the 17<sup>th</sup> and the late 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the European absolute monarchs transformed it into a display of power.

The rules of this type of hunt and the symbolic dimensions associated with it (demonstration of power and strength) required an appropriate setting where the ritual could take place. The existence of a network of straight rides to chase the prey and coordinate its pursuit and trapping was crucial. This road system also responded to symbolic functions: giving order to the 'wild nature' of forests and transforming it into a civilized hunting landscape, thus celebrating the power of the king.

The hunting forests in North Zealand were cut through with rides in a rigid grid pattern combined with diagonals, forming 8-pointed stars. The grid comprises radiating roads – passing through the originating centre of the grid – and connecting roads which linked the radiating roads in a regular network of rides and tracks.

The composition of the forest is based on broadleaved trees (beech and oak primarily but also other broadleaved species) in different percentages in each component. However, subsequent forest management introduced non-native conifers (common spruce) in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

#### Store Dyrehave

Store Dyrehave (or 'large deer park') is the first component of the series: it has an irregular quadrangular shape, encompassing a smooth hilly area of glacial origins and covering 1,073.4ha. The geomorphological features of the area have been incorporated into the landscape design: the highest point of the forested area has been used as the originating point of the double orthogonal grid of roads that subdivides the forest into parcels, and shapes the hunting landscape. The orientation of the grid was determined by the NW-SE direction of the existing royal road to Copenhagen. At the centre of the road star (*Kongestjernen*) was placed a stone – the *Kongestenen* – showing a compass rose and Christian V's monogram with a royal crown, which is still in place. Eight radiating roads spring from the *Kongestjernen*: they were not named, just numbered anti-clockwise. Each road is marked by a stone with the number carved on it both at its beginning and at its end, with direction carvings to help orientate hunters. The

component encompasses different habitats: bog, meadows, fields and plains.

#### Gribskov

Gribskov (etymologically 'unclaimed forest') is the second component of the series and the second largest forest in Denmark, covering 2,195.7ha. The geomorphology of the area exhibits a series of low curved moraine deposits running north-south and formed by glacial recession. Once conjoined with Store Dyrehave, with which it formed one continuous hunting estate, Gribskov is now separated by the urban growth of Hillerød. However, Gribskov's hunting landscape design shares the same road network as Store Dyrehave, as some roads surviving in the same place and direction demonstrate, although it has its own originating central star (*Stjernen*). Due to its topography and its poor soils, the central part of the Gribskov was never cultivated and retains a rich wildlife.

#### Jægersborg Dyrehave / Jægersborg Hegn

The third component (1,490.7ha) comprises two areas – Jægersborg Dyrehave and Hegn – separated by a narrow river valley running west to east. The soft relief of the area resulted from the combination of sedimentation and glacial erosion. Jægersborg Dyrehave includes open freshwater meadows, commons and bogs, surrounded by broadleaved forest with mature trees. Before becoming the hunting park of Jægersborg Dyrehave, the area served as the fields of the village of Stokkerup, subsequently destroyed. Because of that, the road system is said to differ from the other components, being more elaborate in the wooded areas. The roads here were never numbered nor marked by stone posts. The road network of this component has suffered modifications over the centuries, but the boundary of the original park has been preserved and it is still marked by a wooden fence as in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The forest is one of the most popular in Denmark; deer have been reintroduced and nowadays each year the St. Hubert's Chase takes place within it, attended by the royal family and attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors.

The Eremitageslottet, the baroque royal hunting lodge that in 1734-1736 replaced a previous wooden banqueting house, stands at the highest point of the central plain, enjoying an open view across the park and towards Øresund in Sweden. The Eremitageslottet is still used by the royal family for hunting lunches and during St. Hubert's Chase.

The nomination dossier also describes further heritage elements which, despite not being included in the nominated property nor in the buffer zones, contribute to the understanding of the formation of the large hunting estate in North Zealand. They are: Frederiksborg Slot, erected in Hillerød in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century and enlarged at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup>, with its Lille Dyrehave (small deer park), at the western edge of the Gribskov; Fredensborg Slot, on the eastern bank of Esrum Sø, built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a hunting lodge and soon to become a summer royal residence; Grønholt Skov, a former

forested area now urbanised or transformed into arable land; Stutterivangene (Gribskov), an open forest area used as meadow for the horses of the royal stables at Frederiksborg Slot; Harreskovene, a forest arranged in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century for the par force hunt with a system of straight radiating and connecting roads; Geels Skov; Jaegergården and Jægersborg Allée; Charlottenlund Skov, a designed forest that was delimited as a deer park and functioned as such for almost two centuries.

Following the dialogue between the State Party and ICOMOS on the possibility of including within the serial property some former hunting rides today outside the proposed nominated forest components or of their buffer zones, the State Party proposed to include portions of six former rides situated between the Gribskov and the Store Dyrehave and towards the Grønholt Vang. These are: one Path (0.06ha), Tolvkarlevej and Højager (0.29ha), Kulsviervvej and Byskellet (0.81ha), Grønholtvängen south of Grønholt Vang (0.38ha), Riedestien in Grønholt Vang (0.23ha) and Grønholtvängen north of Grønholt Vang (0.07ha).

Store Dyrehave for its most part is surrounded by a buffer of 300m but on its north-western side this encompasses also the Forest of Praestevangen. The buffer of the Gribskov component follows the rationale of the 300m-wide strip of land; however, to the south-west, it includes the Frederiksborg Slot's park, while on its south-eastern side it widens to cover the western corner of Grønholt Vang which acts as a buffer zone for the road trace Grønholtvängen/Jagtej/Byskellet. Jægersborg Dyrehave and Jægersborg Hegn enjoy a 300m-wide buffer for the most part of their perimeter; however, to the south the boundary widens to include State-owned property. While the Path ride component enjoys the 300m-wide buffer zone encircling Store Dyrehave, the other former rides have not been given a specific buffer, as their significance resides in their direction.

The wider setting still exhibits considerable traces of the ride system marking not only the surviving forest areas but also the meadows, open land and fields, as well as the settlement structure of the suburban residences.

### **History and development**

The vast Gribskov became by degrees the hunting grounds of the Kings of Denmark. The land owned by the monasteries was confiscated in 1536 and through exchanges Frederick II was able to consolidate his hunting grounds. He also built Frederiksborg Slot (Frederik's Castle Palace) in 1560 at Hillerød to serve as the base for week-long hunting expeditions. This palace was extended in 1602-20 to become the largest Renaissance palace in Scandinavia. The castle had its Lille Dyrehave (Small Deerpark) to the north-east, leading into the forest, which was soon to become a large designed hunting landscape. In 1618-9 a square area of over 1,000ha was enclosed from the forest to the south-east to become the Store Dyrehave (Large Deerpark). Meanwhile a smaller palace, Jægersborg Slot (Hunter's Castle Palace), was built closer to

Copenhagen from where hunting parties set off into hunting grounds nearby. One part of these grounds was enclosed in 1669 to become the Jægersborg Dyrehave (Jægersborg Deerpark), and the park was much extended after 1670 when Christian V came to the throne, reaching nearly 1,500ha.

Science was entering a golden age in Denmark, especially due to astronomer Ole Rømer, and it was in this spirit of rationalism that Christian V's forests and parks were cut through with rides in a rigid grid pattern combined with diagonals, resulting in 8-pointed stars on the ground. The whole process appears to have taken place after the peace of 1679 and over the following 15 years.

Joan Täntzer, a German hunter who came to Denmark and wrote a treatise on hunting is also said to have influenced King Christian V's hunting landscape design.

The ride system within Store Dyrehave appears to have been at an early stage, with its square area being divided into 16, and subsequently some rides were continued northwards into the rest of the Gribskov. The entire area of the par force hunting landscape in North Zealand is said to have extended to 9,700ha at one time. Subsequently another palace, Fredensborg Slot, was built at Østrup near the Gribskov in 1720-26, and a wooden banqueting house was built at the highest point of the Jægersborg Dyrehave, subsequently replaced in brick by the Eremitageslottet (Hermitage Palace) in 1734-36.

Par force hunting ceased in 1777 and a German expert, Johan Georg von Langen, was advising on conversion to forestry so the planting of conifers in North Zealand forests began. From 1781 Forestry Acts decreed that the Royal forests should be devoted to this use, and that their boundaries should be fixed. Walls and hedges were thus created to enclose most of the former hunting areas in the Gribskov. The system of rides was found to be useful in forestry terms, and most of it can still be traced today. In areas outside the park and forest boundaries, notably the area between Store Dyrehave and the remainder of the Gribskov, the land was enclosed as fields: the system of rides in these areas has mainly survived as local roads.

Jægersborg Dyrehave was opened to public access in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and has been managed as a recreational forest since 1843. Programmes to reintroduce deer since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century have made possible the reactivation of regulated hunting.

## **3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity**

### **Comparative analysis**

The nomination dossier highlights the fact that no cultural landscape has been inscribed on the World Heritage List as an intentionally designed landscape for

hunting. It then develops the comparative analysis by identifying the following parameters: forest cover, chronology, absolutism, spatial plan (radiating roads with square-based connecting roads), spatial plan centring on nature, originality and exploitation of the spatial plan both functionally and emblematically, integrity and authenticity.

On the grounds of the above elements, the nomination dossier firstly compares the surviving portions of the hunting estate in order to justify the selection of the serial components, and then examines other similar hunting parks and grounds.

The components of the series illustrate three distinct phases of development of the hunting estate which once extended over almost the whole of North Zealand. The type of network of intersecting straight rides is held to be the main defining feature of this type of designed landscape, along with the forest cover and the use of star-shaped radiating roads. A matrix of seven requisites has been used to carry out the comparative analysis, which has also been extended to the conditions of authenticity and integrity, assessed on the basis of separate matrices of requisites. On this basis the three components have been selected.

ICOMOS asked the State Party for clarification concerning the rationale adopted to select the components, particularly Jægersborg Dyrehave/Jægersborg Hegn and for further information on the dimensions of the overall system of hunting grounds in North Zealand.

In its response, the State Party provided additional maps that clarify the size of the overall hunting system and explained that the components were selected on the basis of the proposed justification of criterion (ii), the landscape being an outstanding example of the interchange of Baroque values in Europe on the developments in landscape design in the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Since Gribskov and Store Dyrehave were planned in one process, they would not by themselves illustrate the development in landscape design. On the other hand, Jægersborg Dyrehave/Jægersborg Hegn depicts different stages of the development of the hunting landscape and therefore only all three components together would make apparent the development of the landscape design.

ICOMOS considers that the selection of the components of the series appears based on an excessively complicated matrix of decontextualised formal features of the landscape design only. This approach does not do justice to the nominated property and its components, the selection of which appears nevertheless justified.

The State Party's proposal, submitted in February 2015 upon ICOMOS' request, to add to the nominated series former hunting rides that survive outside the forests and clarify the extension of the hunting grounds in the 17<sup>th</sup> -

18<sup>th</sup> centuries, has strengthened the rationale of the component selection and the serial approach.

The comparison with other similar properties focuses on the geometry of the spatial plan, the centrality of nature in the design, originality, integrity and authenticity of the landscape. The use of 'Cartesian' geometry, forest cover and design centred on nature are seen as distinctive factors, therefore only landscapes bearing these features have been considered among the several examined.

ICOMOS has asked for additional maps and clarification on the parameters used for the comparative analysis with other properties. The State Party clarified that it used a tree-structure to organise the analysis to select progressively the hunting landscapes displaying the highest number of similar design elements with the nominated one.

The clarifications provided by the State Party, however do not eliminate the weaknesses of the comparative analysis's approach, which in fact tends to fragment excessively and artificially the topic into sub-typologies which are not acknowledged by current research as relevant to the study of this type of designed landscape and, on the contrary, need to be verified. For instance, considering hunting landscapes as a prerogative of absolute monarchs is not grounded in the evidence attested to by the comparative analysis itself (e.g., the Bois de Tillet was owned by and designed for the Dukes of Orléans, the Forêt de Chantilly was designed for hunting under the Prince of Condé, and the hunting park of Gatchina was created for Count Orlov, long before the property passed to Grand Duke Paul's ownership).

Even the association of landscape design with function, that is, a specific type of hunt, cannot be considered a strict rule and therefore a determining factor, as the State Party itself admits in its additional information.

ICOMOS considers that, although the identification of comparable examples appears comprehensive, the rationale and the comparative parameters seem excessively tailored to the nominated property: the tight combination of design parameters is at odds with the aim of identifying examples that can illustrate 'developments in landscape design'. For instance, it dismisses hunting landscapes, the design of which centres on architecture (e.g. hunting lodges), despite the fact that these do illustrate the development of landscapes designed for hunting. Also the use of the notion of 'Cartesian' in this specific context raises doubts in ICOMOS' view (see Justification for Inscription). The forest cover is said to be crucial but not the forest species' composition, which, in fact, represents an important aspect in landscape design.

Despite the several weaknesses mentioned above, ICOMOS recognises the commendable efforts made by the State Party to develop an extensive comparative analysis on a subject for which a methodology for

comparison has not yet been developed, and firm comparative parameters have yet to be set up.

ICOMOS also recognises that designed landscapes are still under-represented on the World Heritage List and, particularly, intentionally-designed hunting landscapes.

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ICOMOS considers that, despite many weaknesses, the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this serial property for the World Heritage List.

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### **Justification of Outstanding Universal Value**

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

- The par force hunting landscape of North Zealand outstandingly exemplifies the interchange of important Baroque values within Europe on the development in landscape design in the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- It represents in an exceptional manner the use of Cartesian geometry in landscape design to achieve both functional – facilitating the hunt - and symbolic reasons – demonstrating the power of an absolute monarch to control and give order to nature.
- Being a design based on 'Cartesian' geometry and on nature rather than on buildings, it stands apart from similar contemporary examples.

The serial approach is justified in the nomination dossier on the grounds that the selected components encompass all attributes deemed indispensable to depict the development of this Baroque hunting landscape as an emblematic and functional spatial entity.

ICOMOS firstly notes that the justification for inscription elaborated in the nomination dossier refers to concepts that appear problematic rather than self-evident, i.e. Baroque values – which cannot be understood as a fixed and shared corpus of thought – or 'Cartesian' geometry, and their application to landscape design.

In particular, the reference to 'Cartesian' geometry as the originating principle for baroque landscape design is not grounded in a wide corpus of baseline research, nor on Cartesius' treatises, and it appears to be a later interpretation rather than a rule applied and shared at the time these landscapes were designed. In fact, the Cartesian coordinates system was not used in garden and landscape design, which was, rather, based on traditional Euclidian geometry, linear perspective and optics. Some weight should have been given to the fact that subdivision of woods and forests into squares and triangles started in the 16<sup>th</sup> century for measuring purposes.

In fact, the geometric pattern of the rides that criss-cross Store Dyrehave and Gribskov is reminiscent of the quincunx composition which was commonplace in 17<sup>th</sup>

century gardens and which was extended to hunting parks.

In ICOMOS' view therefore, the nominated property does bear witness to exchanges in garden and landscape design principles and particularly to the influence exerted by French and German hunting parks in the development of designed royal hunting landscapes belonging to the Danish Crown.

ICOMOS considers however that the geometry devised for par force hunting in the North Zealand hunting forests was an improvement on the octagon or circle-based star network derived from French or German examples. The orthogonal grid, being infinitely expandable, gave equal access to all parts of the forest, whilst its diagonals created intermittent star points suitable for the rendez-vous. The origin of this concept and layout may be related to the rise of scientific thought within the context of absolutist ambitions in 17<sup>th</sup> century Denmark.

### **Integrity and authenticity**

#### **Integrity**

The nomination dossier holds that the components of the series have been selected to ensure the complete representation of the three major phases of development of the North Zealand hunting landscape and grounds. Each of them exhibits a density of relevant attributes, none of which are suffering from adverse effects of neglect or development and altogether the series encompasses all the attributes necessary to express the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS considers that each selected component shows a high degree of integrity in terms of retention of the ride system, although some former rides have been upgraded to become vehicular roads, but less integrity with regard to the forest composition, due to the 19<sup>th</sup> century afforestation strategy. The design of all components has been undermined to a certain degree by urban development, railways, modern roads or energy infrastructure.

ICOMOS considers that the strict focus of the nomination on the design of the ride system has overlooked the historical and functional interrelation between the hunting landscape and grounds with other important elements (e.g. Lille Dyrehave near Frederiksborg or the network of hunting rides outside the forested areas) and other minor surviving features (boundary walls, ditches, edges, etc.) that would contribute to the complete depiction of the former hunting landscapes of North Zealand as territorial symbols of power.

In this regard, ICOMOS wrote a second letter to the State Party on 22 December 2014 explaining that the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel considered it important that further rides that were part of the riding system be included within the nominated property, and asking the State Party's view in this regard and in relation to their protection.

The State Party responded on 28 February 2015 by proposing the addition of six ride components that were part of the hunting ride system when all the area was used as a hunting park/ground. Additionally, the State Party proposes to expand the Gribskov component to the north so as to include one further star, as suggested by ICOMOS.

Finally, the State Party has proposed to include within the buffer zones of the three components forested areas that were historically or functionally linked to the nominated components or that provide a visual buffer.

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ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the whole series is justified; the integrity of the individual components is demonstrated, despite the existence of intrusive infrastructures, particularly in the Store Dyrehave.

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#### Authenticity

According to the nomination dossier, the royal estates of North Zealand and the nominated series are thoroughly documented and the sources of information exhibit high credibility. Cartographic analysis demonstrates that crucial attributes, i.e. the road system and forest cover, have been retained to a high degree, as well as other relevant features.

ICOMOS requested from the State Party additional cartographic documentation, which was made available on 21 and 22 October 2014: this proved to be very useful to understand better the degree of continuity and permanence of the relevant attributes.

ICOMOS considers that the form and design of the hunting landscapes, particularly of the ride system, have retained their authenticity; on the other hand, the forest cover composition has changed due to later reforestation with non-native conifers, impacting on the character of the landscape.

Additionally, the transformations caused by urban development in the close vicinity of the nominated components and the infrastructures built within Store Dyrehave and Gribskov undermine the authenticity of the setting and the sense of place.

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ICOMOS considers that the authenticity of the whole series has been justified when it is considered that the ride network is the focus of the nomination; and that the authenticity of the individual sites that comprise the series has been demonstrated, although it has been diminished by transformations which have occurred over the past decades.

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In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the whole series are justified; for individual sites, the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been demonstrated, despite changes that have impacted on each component.

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#### Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criterion (ii).

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

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the nominated property is an outstanding example of the interchange of absolute Baroque values in Europe on developments in landscape design in the 17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The property illustrates the design developments through the nominated series according to its changing function and increasing symbolic role in the Danish Kingdom. The selected components exemplify different phases of hunting landscape formation.

ICOMOS notes that, whilst the nominated property does bear witness to an interchange of values in European landscape design in the 17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> centuries, this exchange cannot be seen as an exceptional phenomenon among hunting parks of the period, which are rather commonplace. ICOMOS however observes that the nominated property bears witness to the influence exerted by French and German designed hunting landscapes on the development of the *par force* hunting landscape of North Zealand. On the other hand, ICOMOS believes that the adaptation of the star-based ride system to an orthogonal grid to give rise to an improved layout may better justify criterion (iv).

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ICOMOS considers that this criterion is justified for the whole series.

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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 has not been proposed by the State Party, however the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel has found during its evaluation process that it may also be relevant and could be justified by the nominated property.

Therefore, ICOMOS in its second letter to the State Party asked the State Party if it could provide additional information useful to justify this criterion.

The State Party responded on 28 February 2015 providing a justification for this criterion which focuses on the role of the orthogonal ride system as an expression of absolute power and its ambition of imposing one social and 'natural' order. The three components illustrate the emblematic development of landscape design.

ICOMOS considers that the orthogonal geometry conceived for *par force* hunting in the North Zealand forests was an improvement on the octagon or circle-based star network used in French or German examples.

In its infinite expandability, the orthogonal grid could give equal access to all parts of the forest; differently from radial examples, its diagonals created more than one star point suitable for the rendez-vous. The origin of this concept and layout may be associated with the rise of scientific thought within the context of absolutist ambitions in 17<sup>th</sup> century Denmark.

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ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified for the whole series.

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ICOMOS considers that the serial approach is justified and that the selection of sites is appropriate.

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In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (ii) and (iv) and conditions of integrity and authenticity.

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

The spatial organisation of the hunting forests comprised in the nominated components with their hunting rides and the surviving rides outside the wooded areas, organised according to an orthogonal grid, the emblematic markers, numbered stone posts, stone fences, and numerical road names, as well as the hunting lodges and hunting-related buildings comprised within, altogether materialise the application of baroque landscape design principles to forested areas. Straight hunting rides provided orientation during the hunting but also symbolised the absolute rule of the king who could give order to nature and make it accessible and intelligible. The wider setting of the property with surviving built complexes and micro elements that were part of this system contribute to an enriched understanding of the significance of the 17<sup>th</sup> century designed hunting landscapes and of their evolution.

#### **4 Factors affecting the property**

According to the nomination dossier, the only relevant factor affecting the property is the pressure of ongoing urban sprawl in its surroundings: environmental pressures and risk of natural disasters are low, while climate change may potentially cause concerns in the future. Tourism does not represent a threat at the moment.

ICOMOS concurs with the State Party that building development in the surroundings of the nominated series represents the major cause of concern for the retention over time of its values. On the other hand, development of infrastructures has already caused negative impacts on the property, its values and 'ambience'. In this regard, ICOMOS observes that consideration should be given to the removal of the energy infrastructure that passes through the southern part of the Store Dyrehave.

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ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are represented by urban development pressures and energy and communication infrastructure.

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#### **5 Protection, conservation and management**

##### **Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone**

The boundaries of the nominated components of the series have been determined using existing fences in the case of Store Dyrehave, where the limits of the nominated area coincide with the old stone walls from about 1620 AD, and in the case of Jægersborg Dyrehave with Jægersborg Hegn, where the boundary follows the park fence established in 1670 AD, apart from minor changes which occurred in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century on the south east edge. The boundaries of the Gribskov have been established by taking into account the historic layout of the ride system, its integrity and that of the landscape.

ICOMOS notes that in the additional information provided, the State Party highlights that the boundaries of the Gribskov component have been erroneously drawn and this mistake needs to be amended.

ICOMOS, on the other hand, notes that the delimitation of the boundaries of the individual components excludes hunting rides extending outside the state-owned forests. ICOMOS considers that, since the rides are the focus of the nomination, the still-surviving ones must be included within the nominated serial property as they are the major attribute that support the proposed justification for inscription. This is particularly evident between the Store Dyrehave and the Gribskov, on the outskirts of Hillerød, where the continuation of the rides makes it evident that both components were once one and the same.

The buffer zone for the nominated series was initially defined as a 300m buffer encircling each component, where the national legislation for forest protection applies and prevents development on open land.

In this regard, ICOMOS has requested additional information from the State Party, who explained that the current legal framework does not guarantee the protection of the hunting roads outside the state-owned property or the 300m buffer zone; therefore it has been decided to limit the proposed buffer zone to the 300m of buffer foreseen by the national legislation.

ICOMOS notes that the buffer zones so designated exclude areas that are functionally related to the nominated serial property and can support its understanding and its protection (i.e., the Lille Dyrehave as well as fragments of rides outside the nominated components).

Additionally, further areas adjacent to the boundaries of the nominated property are owned by the State and fall under the national legislation for forest protection, therefore the rationale of the 300m protection zone appears unclear and, above all, not adequate to ensure the protection of those areas containing surviving attributes contributing to sustaining the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, the integrity/authenticity of

which, however, would not justify their inclusion in the nominated area.

ICOMOS considers that solutions to achieve legal protection of surviving fragments of the historic ride network outside the nominated series and its buffer zone should be pursued, in that they represent an important defining element of the wider setting of the nominated property which bear witness to the size of the former royal hunting estate in North Zealand.

In this regard, with the aim of further clarifying this point, ICOMOS sent a second letter to the State Party on 22 December 2014 requesting its views on feasible ways to protect the rides extending into land which is not in state-ownership with a view to achieving their protection as cultural properties.

The State Party responded on 28 February 2015 explaining that public roads and paths fall under the Public Roads Act which contains measures suitable for the protection of the former rides that have become public roads. Private common roads fall under the Private Common Roads Act which allows owners to close or divert their roads, if they wish. Municipalities have the right to change the status of roads from private common to public municipal but this requires negotiation with owners. Also the classification as items of cultural interest needs negotiation.

ICOMOS observes that Danish legislation envisages some possibilities for the protection of former rides and notes also that nominated rides are covered by the Public Roads Act; additionally steps have already been taken to achieve the protection of a higher number of surviving traces of former hunting rides which are not currently being nominated. This strategy may lead in the future to the inclusion within the nominated property or its buffer zones of further former rides.

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In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are adequate.

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#### **Ownership**

Most of the nominated property is owned by the State and managed by state agencies. Public roads belong to the municipalities which also manage them; whilst Gribskov also includes 15ha of private land. Common private roads are owned and managed by individuals.

#### **Protection**

The nominated serial property is protected under several legal instruments and an articulated planning framework.

State-owned forests have been preserved since 1805, when the first Forest Preservation Act was issued. In North Zealand preservation regulations came into force even earlier, in 1781. Currently the relevant legal instruments include: the Danish Forest Act (LBK 945/2009), which also includes concerns for landscape and cultural history, and establishes the 300m 'forest

protection zone', which covers unbuilt areas encircling forests; the Nature Protection Act (LBK 933/ 2009), protecting natural habitats and ensuring that development sustains man-made and natural environments and allowing consideration of cultural elements of the landscape, and defining a 300m 'forest construction line' which prevents building construction within; the Building Preservation Act (LBK 685/2011) protecting historic buildings and their immediate surroundings; the Museum Act (LBK 1505/2006), which protects in-situ antiquities older than 100 years (i.e. the Kongestenen); the Planning Act (LBK 937/2009), which provides the legal framework for the elaboration of municipal and local plans.

The municipal and local plans of the six municipalities participating in the nomination process (Allerød, Hillerød, Fredensborg, Lyngby-Taarbæk, Gentofte, Rudersdal) include policies for the protection of cultural landscapes encompassing the nominated and adjacent areas. Provisions detail the control of location, type and height of new developments and the use of existing buildings.

ICOMOS requested additional information from the State Party on the implementation of legal protection measures and on the existence of legal or planning tools for the protection of elements related to the hunting landscape not comprised in the nominated property.

The State Party explained that the responsibilities of national Agencies and municipalities overlap according to the legal and institutional framework in place. In compliance with the Planning Act, the Minister of the Environment establishes a comprehensive planning framework which takes into account national interests and verifies that municipal planning complies with them (e.g., World Heritage properties are sites of national interest and on this basis, municipalities are bound to ensure protection of the nominated property).

Additionally, the State Party in this regard clarified that the municipal plans set out guidelines and land use targets for both urban areas and open land, and serve as a basis for local plans. In the municipal plans, guidelines will be outlined to secure the values of the nominated property and its buffer zone.

Local plans specify the allowed uses of the territory and volumes/areas of buildings. They are legally-binding documents for owners and users and through them values of the nominated property will be safeguarded. Additionally, the envisaged restrictions for buffer zones will be included in new and revised local plans.

ICOMOS has noted that, if this is the case, then it would be possible to draw a wider buffer zone and to make sure that municipalities guarantee the protection of the nominated property and its attributes through guidelines and regulations inserted in the municipal and local plans within the buffer zones.

ICOMOS considers that the overlapping system of legal and planning instruments has protected the nominated



series only in part; e.g., it has not been able to avoid the construction of the high voltage line through Store Dyrehave. Additionally, former rides which are now common/private roads, if located in the buffer zone or outside, are not protected, falling under the provisions of a law on roads that apparently do not include consideration of their possible historic nature.

ICOMOS has noted that the protection of rides in the open countryside rests solely on the goodwill of municipalities which, within their planning instruments, may designate them as valuable elements of the cultural landscape to be covered by specific planning provisions and, on this basis, sensitize private owners towards their conservation. Some municipalities have undertaken this process (e.g. Fredensborg); however, former rides remain quite vulnerable.

In the additional information provided in February 2015, the State Party clarifies that public roads and paths fall under the Public Roads Act which grants forms of protection, while this is not the case for private common roads. Municipalities have the possibility of ensuring the protection of private common roads, but this requires negotiation with the owners.

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In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is adequate. ICOMOS considers that the protective measures for the property are adequate. However, strengthening the protection of the historic wider setting would be desirable.

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### **Conservation**

Much research has been carried out on the par force hunting landscape; however no detailed survey of the remaining rides or recording of the recently discovered earthworks or marker stones has been elaborated.

The par force hunting landscape and its ride system under the Nature Agency's care have been largely retained because they are useful in forestry terms. Outside the nominated property, it has survived because it has become part of the public road network or of the private common roads. The forest and parkland are well maintained with a large quantity of older trees.

A range of past intrusions have been or are being enhanced or removed. Sections of the ride system are still being discovered and recovered by opening up vistas so as to allow walking and visual reconnection, but no attempt is being made to recreate them.

In the nominated property, active conservation measures are concerned with the tree cover and composition and the deer population, as well as the maintenance of the existing rides. An effort is being made to progressively restore the original forest composition, by replacing conifers with endemic broadleaved species.

ICOMOS considers that there is a need to develop an overall survey that records the ride system, its known surviving elements and those being discovered, as well as

other elements attesting to the arrangements of the territory as a hunting landscape, including their condition and threats, which would help in the conservation and management of the property.

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In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that current conservation measures in the nominated property seem effective; however an overall recording of all surviving rides and other elements associated with the hunting landscape, their conservation condition and threats, would be useful for conservation purposes.

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### **Management**

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

Almost all of the nominated property is owned and managed by the State through the Danish Nature Agency and the Agency for the Palaces and Cultural Properties (Eremitageslottet). Responsibilities concerning the buffer zones fall on the Municipalities on the basis of the existing legal and institutional framework and tasks derived therefrom. A very limited area included in the nominated property is privately owned.

A Steering Committee was established in 2010 to coordinate the nomination process. The committee includes representatives from the Danish Nature Agency, the Agency for the Palaces and Cultural Properties, the Danish Museum of Hunting and Forestry and the municipalities of Hillerød, Fredensborg, Rudersdal, Lyngby-Taarbæk, Gentofte, Allerød.

ICOMOS has asked the State Party for clarification on the formal establishment of the Steering Committee, its mandate and tasks, and on the existence of an overall management framework for the entire nominated series as well as additional information on financial resources.

With regard to the inclusion of the University of Copenhagen within the Steering Committee, the State Party informed that originally the University was part of it, but later the University preferred to act as a consultant.

As for the formal setup of the Committee, the State Party also informed that, since almost all the nominated area is in state ownership and the task of the Steering Committee was to secure political support and resources for the nomination process, a formalisation of the Steering Committee was not felt to be urgent.

The State Party equally informed that, in the event of inscription, a formal agreement will be finalised: the Museum of Hunting and Forestry will act as site manager for the entire series while the Steering Committee will coordinate involved stakeholders and work to secure political and financial support. The expected time frame for the finalisation of the agreement is May 2015.

Concerning financial resources, the State Party has provided in addition a detailed table illustrating the overall

budget for the triennium 2013–2015 of the two main administrative Danish Nature Agencies (North Zealand and Capital), explaining that 20% of the overall budget could be considered as devoted to the nominated property.

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

The nomination dossier informs that forests have been managed for more than 200 years in North Zealand: early management plans have been preserved and are displayed in the Museum of Hunting and Forestry.

Current management plans have a 15-year performance contract validity: the objectives of the plans determine also the reference for the annual grants. Continuous amendments and additions are integrated in the plan. Before the end of their validity, an assessment is carried out to verify whether objectives have been met and which new ones are to be set.

ICOMOS requested from the State Party additional information on the management plans, their structures and measures, as well as on visitor management strategies and facilities.

The State Party provided a synthetic description of each plan, their objectives and measures. Current management plans for Gribskov and Store Dyrehave have been completed in 2014 and await ratification. Sub-plans articulating the management plans are reviewed every six years. They recognise the multiple uses of the forests and include guidelines and strategies for biodiversity and storm damage recovery. Former rides have been classified as cultural tracks and are protected from damage that may derive from forest management activities. Selective felling is planned to be promoted so as to guide forest composition to shift from conifers towards beech woodlands.

With regard to carrying capacity, the State Party explained that visitor surveys have been carried out regularly since 1974 and that frequent monitoring carried out within the nominated areas demonstrates that they can bear the actual number of visitors. Strategies to distribute visitors within the whole area of the nominated forests are nevertheless being implemented.

ICOMOS considers that current management is proving to be effective; however interpretation and presentation of the par force hunting landscape are still to be developed, as current initiatives are not specifically focused on these values and features.

ICOMOS further observes that a comprehensive vision for interpretation and related facilities should be envisaged, and careful attention should be devoted to design, size and materials of any future facility or infrastructure.

Involvement of the local communities

The Danish Nature Agency set up a User Council several years ago. It meets twice a year with the aim of helping to resolve conflicts and problems and apparently it is rather effective.

ICOMOS requested clarification on the level of involvement of the private owners of the land included in the nominated property.

The State Party responded that the privately-owned land represents an insignificant fraction of the overall nominated property, therefore their owners have not been involved in the Steering Committee. However, it was admitted that timely information was not provided to them with regard to the nomination.

On 26 November 2014, the State Party wrote that the Municipality of Hillerød informed the owners of private land included within the nominated property about the nomination and that their reaction was positive.

ICOMOS notes that interpretation and presentation is already developed within the nominated property; however, these are mainly focused on other sets of the property's value, therefore it is recommended that interpretation programmes on the par force hunting landscape value and narrative be elaborated and implemented.

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In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the management system for the overall serial property is adequate; however it would be advisable that the envisaged agreement for the steering committee be formalised. The management system and plans could be extended to include an interpretation/presentation strategy. Careful attention to design, size and materials of interpretation facilities and infrastructure is also important.

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## 6 Monitoring

The monitoring of the attributes within the nominated property is integrated into the management work of the Danish Nature Agency, with regard to the forests; whilst the monitoring of the Eremitageslottet is a responsibility of the Agency for Palaces and Cultural Properties.

Monitoring indicators are based on the relevant attributes of the nominated property, that is, forests, ride system, associated buildings and visitors. Responsible agencies for each monitoring task and periodicity have been identified.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system in place is adequate, however it recommends that specific performance indicators be developed for all management tasks (e.g., in relation to interpretation/presentation).

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In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system could be extended to all management tasks.

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## 7 Conclusions

The par force hunting landscape of North Zealand comprises important forests and parks that were provided with a network of straight rides designed for courtly hunts during the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries, reflecting the ambitions and power of the Danish kings in a period when absolute monarchies flourished throughout Europe.

The nomination dossier has the merit to draw attention to this type of designed landscape, which is an understudied area compared to the history of Baroque gardens and their role in reflecting value interchanges in 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century Europe. Additionally, designed landscapes appear under-represented in the World Heritage List and, in this category, landscapes intentionally arranged for hunting are not represented.

With the elaboration of this nomination dossier, much work has been initiated to compile research publications on 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century European hunting landscapes and to establish first comparative criteria. This commendable effort by the State Party has highlighted the complexity of courtly hunting rituals and of the spaces necessary and created for this particular form of demonstration of absolute power. It has also made it evident that several hunting parks still survive in different states of integrity throughout Europe.

ICOMOS asked the State Party for clarification concerning the possibility of including further former hunting rides within the nominated property and to modify the buffer zone so as to encompass identified areas and attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection.

The State Party welcomed the possibility to also encompass the surviving traces of some hunting rides outside the forested areas and also considered it feasible to expand the buffer zones on the grounds of functional and visual reasons and proposed some amendments to the boundaries of the Gribskov nominated component and the addition to the series of six individual components, essentially portions of former rides, and the adjustment of the buffer zones to encompass forests and areas that could provide a functional and visual support to the nominated property.

In this regard, ICOMOS underlines that the protection and preservation of the surviving rides is crucial for the full appreciation of the original extension of the hunting grounds in North Zealand as well as for the understanding that a great part of North Zealand is in fact an historic environment, relevant features of which deserve to be safeguarded.

The components of the nominated serial property have been preserved and managed thanks to a 150-year-long tradition of management practice attested to by the complete series of historic management plans deposited in the archives. Recent management tasks have been addressing the restoration of the forest cover by selective felling and replanting.

However, protection and management tradition have not been able to completely prevent modifications wrought by modernity: the Gribskov was cut through by the railway in a south–north direction; the southern part of the Store Dyrehave has been impaired by the high voltage electric line, passing through in an east-west direction; the immediate setting of the protected forests has been undermined by urban development.

These issues have already been identified by the State Party and measures to improve the situation have been undertaken in some cases, e.g., the acquisition and demolition of houses built along the eastern boundary of the Jægersborg Hegn/Dyrehave in the vicinity of the Eremitageslottet, to recover the vistas from the castle towards the sea.

## 8 Recommendations

### Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the par force hunting landscape of North Zealand, Denmark, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**.

### Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

#### Brief synthesis

The par force hunting landscape in North Zealand series covers the former royal hunting forests of Store Dyrehave and Gribskov, traces of connecting roads between them, and the former royal hunting park of Jægersborg Dyrehave/Jægersborg Hegn. The entire former royal forest landscape covered a much larger area with a number of royal castles. The components have been selected as they encompass a completeness of attributes illustrating the development of the Baroque par force hunting landscape as an emblematic and functional spatial entity. Designed and created intentionally by Man, the par force hunting landscape exemplifies a 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>-century landscape created to perform courtly hunts. Its layout results from the combination of French and German design models based on a central-star grid system, combined with an orthogonal grid subdivision, which optimised its function during the hunt, and makes it emblematic of an absolute European monarch, his role in society, and his reason and power to control nature. The Outstanding Universal Value of the landscape lies in the spatial organisation of the hunting forests, hunting roads, buildings, emblematic markers, numbered stone posts, stone fences, and

numerical road names conveying an understanding of the practical application of the design as a means of orientation.

**Criterion (ii):** The par force hunting landscape in North Zealand exceptionally exemplifies how the interchange of Baroque values in Europe influenced developments in landscape design in the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and particularly bears witness to the influence exerted by French and German designed hunting landscapes. These models were adapted to the specific situation of the Danish terrain and to the Danish kings' aspirations. The series illustrates a development in design that evolved alongside the landscape function during par force hunts also in terms of its increasing symbolic significance.

**Criterion (iv):** As a landscape of power created by an absolute monarch in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the par force hunting landscape in North Zealand exemplifies a significant stage in European landscape design applied to hunting grounds when the rise of scientific thought took place within the context of absolutist ambitions. The orthogonal geometry conceived for its design improved the octagon or circle-based star network used in French or German examples. In its infinite expandability, the orthogonal grid could give equal access to all parts of the forest; differently from radial examples, its diagonals created more than one star point suitable for the rendez-vous.

#### Integrity

The series comprising the two hunting forests Store Dyrehave and Gribskov, the six partially preserved road traces between them, and the hunting park of Jægersborg Dyrehave and Jægersborg Hegn exhibits all attributes necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value of the par force hunting landscape in North Zealand. The preserved forest cover, despite interventions of reforestation, the hunting roads and their mutual situation, the numbered stones, the fences and the emblematic markers altogether give a clear understanding of a spatial plan that focused on nature and developed in line with changes in the practical and emblematic demands of the absolute monarch. Visual and functional integrity of some components has suffered from the effects of development; however the property currently does not suffer from development or neglect and urban pressure in the wider setting is under control. The character of the wider setting facilitates the understanding of the nominated property.

#### Authenticity

The history of North Zealand as a royal estate, later to become state-owned, is thoroughly documented in sources of high credibility. Historical maps confirm that the forest cover and the road systems realised according to the original spatial plan have survived to a large extent. In Store Dyrehave most secondary rides have disappeared, as has the forest cover, which has been changed due to later reforestation, and parts of the roads connecting Gribskov and Store Dyrehave. All original road dams and the stone fence around Store Dyrehave are authentic,

while wooden bridges and fences have been replaced several times. Stone posts in Store Dyrehave reflect their original positions. The king's monogram, crown and initials document the authenticity of Kongestenen, but the mound it was placed on has been disturbed. The series gives a clear sense of the spatial development of the par force hunting landscape. The character of the wider setting contributes to the understanding of the nominated series as the best-preserved elements of a wider historic designed hunting landscape.

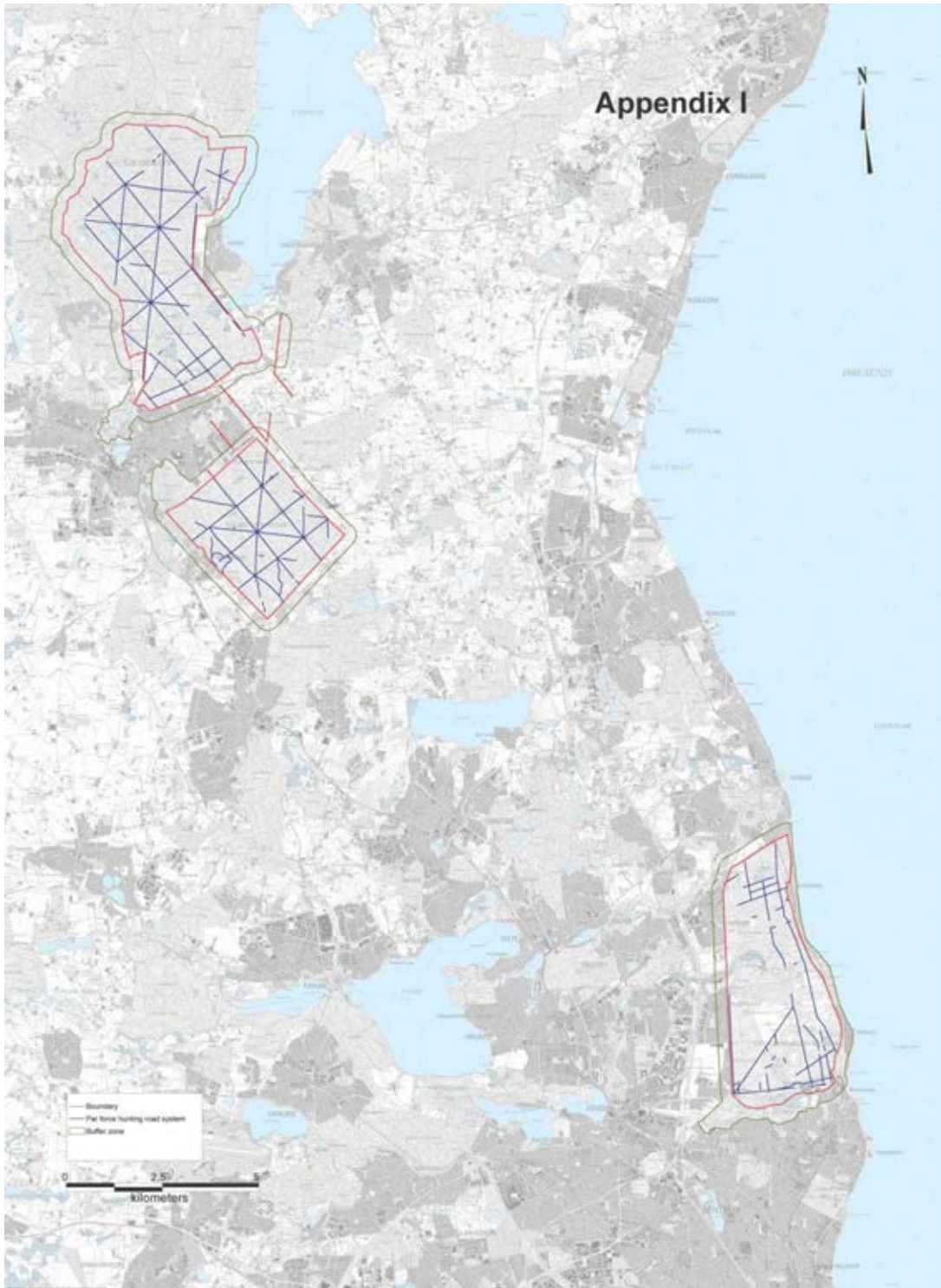
#### Management and protection requirements

The nominated property is almost entirely state- or municipality-owned and is protected by national acts and enactments, regional plans and agreements, and municipal and local plans. Almost all activities are determined by the budget. Responsibility for the forest management rests with the Nature Agency. Fifteen-year management plans also stipulate how this protected cultural heritage should be managed. The Agency for Palaces and Cultural Properties manages Eremitageslottet and operates 10-year plans. The municipalities have 4-year municipal plans providing frameworks for local plans and guidelines to protect cultural heritage, including road traces in private ownership. The cooperation and coordination among all institutions and bodies with responsibilities in the nominated property and buffer zones ensures the long-term effectiveness of protection and management and is granted by a Steering Committee representing state agencies, municipalities, and museums. As the public's awareness of the cultural heritage of the area, and their desire to return to it time and again, are vital to the successful long-term protection of the par force hunting landscape of North Zealand, the nominated property is well equipped with public facilities, and the dissemination of knowledge should be based on a comprehensive strategy and focussed on the Outstanding Universal Value.

#### Additional recommendations

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

- Carrying out a survey and recording of the ride system, both those parts remaining and those rediscovered, and other elements and arrangements which bear witness to the hunting landscape formation;
- Extending the monitoring system to all management tasks and identifying appropriate indicators;
- Developing an overall interpretation and presentation programme specifically for the par force hunting landscape;
- Considering for the future the removal from the southern part of the Store Dyrehave of the infrastructure that currently cuts through the forest, and restoration of the vegetation cover.

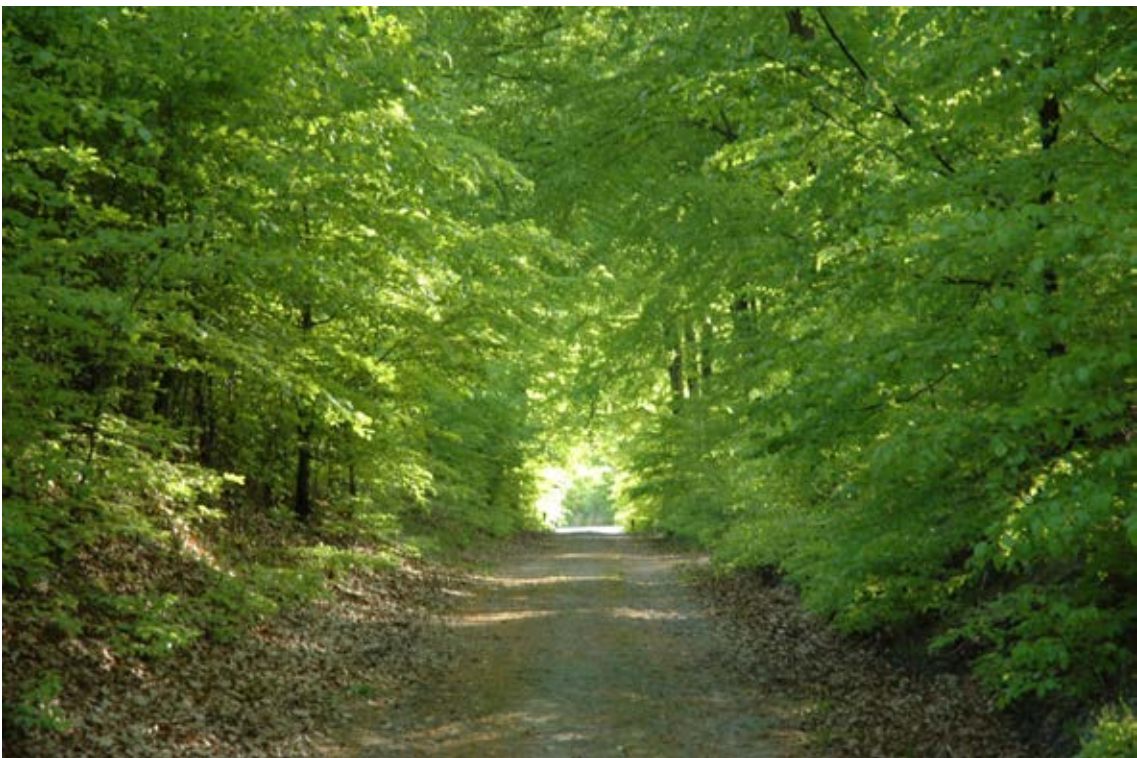


Map showing the boundaries of the nominated properties





Kongestjernen in Store Dyrehave



Tovej in Store Dyrehave





Road system



Forest trace in Jægersborg Dyrehave