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# Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct (Spain)

## No 311bis

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### 1 Basic data

#### State Party

Spain

#### Name of property

Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct

#### Location

Autonomous community of Castile-Leon

Province of Segovia

Spain

#### Inscription

1985

#### Brief description

The Roman aqueduct of Segovia, probably built c. A.D. 50, is remarkably well preserved. This impressive construction, with its two tiers of arches, forms part of the setting of the magnificent historic city of Segovia. Other important monuments include the Alcázar, begun around the 11th century, and the 16th-century Gothic cathedral.

#### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

### 2 Issues raised

#### Background

Records held by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS show that no boundary for the entire World Heritage property was provided when the revised nomination was submitted in 1985. Within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory Project the State Party provided maps showing the property (Central Area) and buffer zone including the line of the Aqueduct for its full length in several sheets (Plano UNESCO 1 – 8).

The property area of 134,28 ha including the aqueduct to a length of 16,23 km and variable width as shown in the maps of a minimum of 10m either side of the axis of the Aqueduct path, was approved by Decision 36COM 8D (Saint Petersburg, 2012).

The proposal for the creation of a buffer zone submitted in 2012, which did not form part of the 1985 revised nomination, was referred back to the State Party by the World Heritage Committee in its decision 36 COM 8B.62 (Saint Petersburg, 2012).

Decision WHC 36 COM 8B.62:

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-12/36.COM/8B.Add and WHC-12/36.COM/INF.8B1.Add,*
2. *Refers the examination of the proposed buffer zone for the Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct, Spain, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:*
  - o *Provide a textual description and justification of the buffer zone boundary. This should consider views to and from the property and include an appropriate analysis;*
  - o *Provide detailed information regarding the protection afforded the buffer zone by the Special Plans for the Historical Areas of Segovia (PEAHIS), and on how the loop of aqueduct and buffer zone outside the Special Plan area (Plano UNESCO 8) will be protected.*

#### Modification

The minor boundary modification request now submitted is for a buffer zone of 401,44 ha surrounding the entire property including the full length of the Aqueduct to a variable width as shown on the maps attached to Annexes 1-7 to the submission extending a minimum of 50 m from the property boundary. The buffer zone incorporates all the declared Historic Areas (from 1941 to 1978) and the Pintoresque Landscape (declared in 1947) and takes into account a number of viewpoints:

- Panoramic from the Alcazar's gardens viewpoint;
- Panoramic from the Canaleja's viewpoint;
- Views up to San Justo and El Salvador churches (Postigo del Consuelo Viewpoint);
- Historic Area for the Aqueduct safeguard (300 m from the monument onto the San Ildefonso and Boceguillas Roads);
- Picturesque landscape of poplar avenues and groves of Segovia's Town;
- Historic buildings group of Santa Eulalia's Square.

ICOMOS notes that no view analysis has been provided but considers that the photographic coverage is adequate.

The property and buffer zone are protected by the Special Plans for the Historical Areas of Segovia (PEAHIS). According to Spanish cultural heritage legislation the PEAHIS are directed at maintaining "the urban and architectural structure and landscape silhouette (of the Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct) as well as the general characteristics of their environment and the values that determined their statement (of OUV)". Where the Aqueduct loops outside the PEAHIS boundary the property and buffer zone are protected by National Parks (Guadarrama Mountains) and Biosphere Reserves (Royal Site San Ildefonso - El Espinar) legislation.

ICOMOS commends the intention of the PEAHIS but notes that no details have been provided on how they protect the buffer zone in terms of height controls and protection of viewsheds.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed buffer zone is adequate but that more detail is required on how it will be protected.

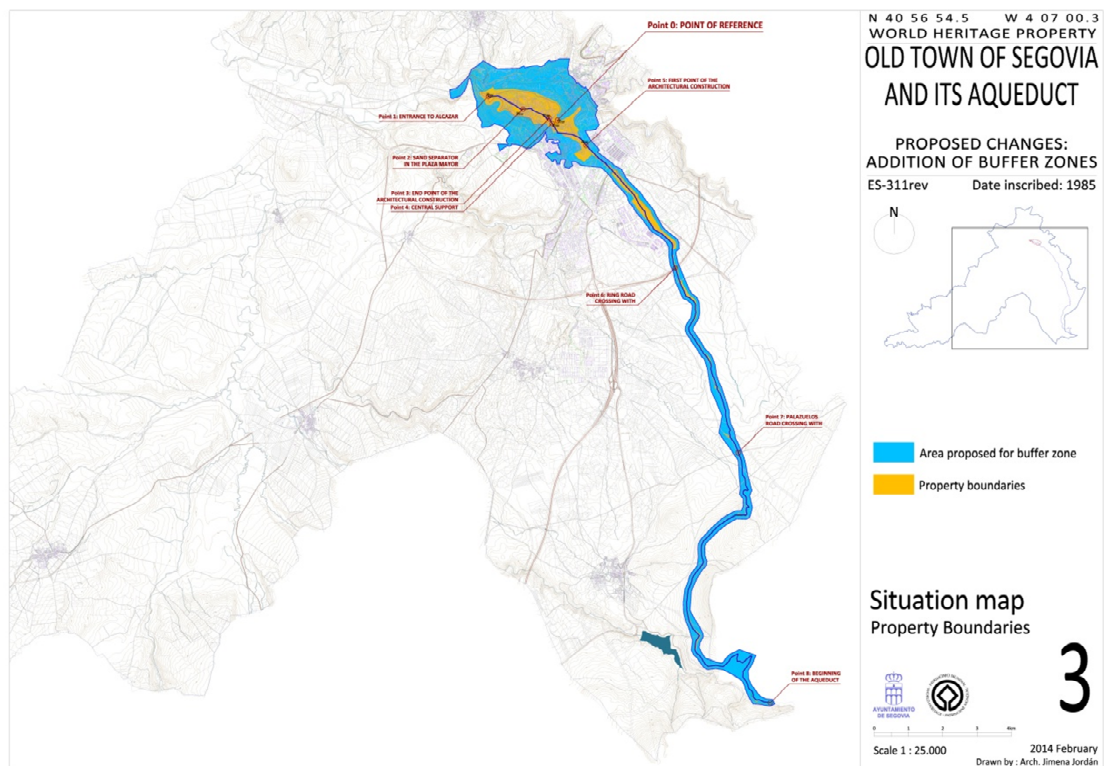
### **3 ICOMOS Recommendations**

#### **Recommendations with respect to inscription**

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct, Spain be **approved**.

#### **Additional recommendations**

ICOMOS also recommends that the State Party submit, by 1 December 2015, a report to the World Heritage Centre outlining in detail how the buffer zone will be protected in terms of height controls and protection of viewsheds for examination by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone