

Rammelsberg Mines (Germany)

No 623

1. BASIC DATA

<i>State Party:</i>	Germany
<i>Name of property:</i>	Rammelsberg mines and the historic town of Goslar
<i>Location:</i>	Lower Saxony
<i>Inscription:</i>	1992
<i>Brief description:</i>	

The copper, lead and tin mines of Rammelsberg, in the Harz mountains, were worked continuously from the 11th century until the 1980s. They bear an exceptional testimony to mine workings and practices in Europe, in terms of remains both on the surface and underground, particularly during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance period.

Situated near the Rammelsberg mines, Goslar held an important place in the Hanseatic League because of the rich Rammelsberg metallic ore deposits. From the 10th to the 12th century it was one of the seats of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. Its well-preserved medieval historic centre has some 1,500 half-timbered houses dating from the 15th to the 19th century.

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

The nominated property was initially defined as two entities considered to be complementary in their values and their significance. They are geographically very close, but are separate: the mine of the Rammelsberg mountain to the south, and the town of Goslar to the north. A narrow strip comprising a residential district separates them, and part of their boundaries are common.

Furthermore, the initial boundaries of the nominated property were imprecise, and should have more strictly followed the cadastral land division. Moreover, the definition of a specific buffer zone for the site was not considered necessary as Rammelsberg and its immediate surrounding area were protected as natural forest sites by the state of Lower Saxony.

Finally, the cultural landscape concept has strengthened the need for wider protection requiring the definition of an appropriate buffer zone.

Modification

The nominated property:

It is proposed that the two sites be made into one, and that precise boundaries be defined which are adapted to the cadastral land division. The part added to the property corresponds to a portion of Road 241, between the mountain and the town, and a residential district.

The surface area added to the nominated property is not specified, but by comparison of maps it may be estimated at around 3% of the total surface area of the property. The total area has thus been increased to 363.3 ha.

In terms of the value and significance of the added part, the research carried out by archaeologists since the property was inscribed has demonstrated its historic interest. This was the site of the medieval mining village which predated the creation of the imperial town of Goslar.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed unification of the property, and the slight extension of the property to include the space between the Rammelsberg mines and the historic town of Goslar, are both justified and judicious. This does not in any way impair the property's outstanding universal value, but instead strengthens its expression, as the history of the town and that of the mines are closely intertwined. The archaeological discoveries made in the space added to the property would in themselves justify the extension.

The buffer zone:

A buffer zone around the whole property is proposed, essentially based on landscape considerations, with a surface area of 376.1 ha.

The aim is firstly to protect the panoramic view of the Rammelsberg and the historic town seen from the surrounding hills and slopes, and secondly to preserve the landscape environment seen from the historic town and the mining site.

To the west of the property, the buffer zone extends over the Steinberg and some of the slopes of the Rabenkopf, protecting the panoramic view over the historic town and the mine workings.

To the south-west, the zone includes the part of the Herzberg which overlooks the mining site and which is opposite the Rammelsberg.

To the south and to the east, the buffer zone extends over the forested zone of the Rammelsberg, up to the outskirts of the town.

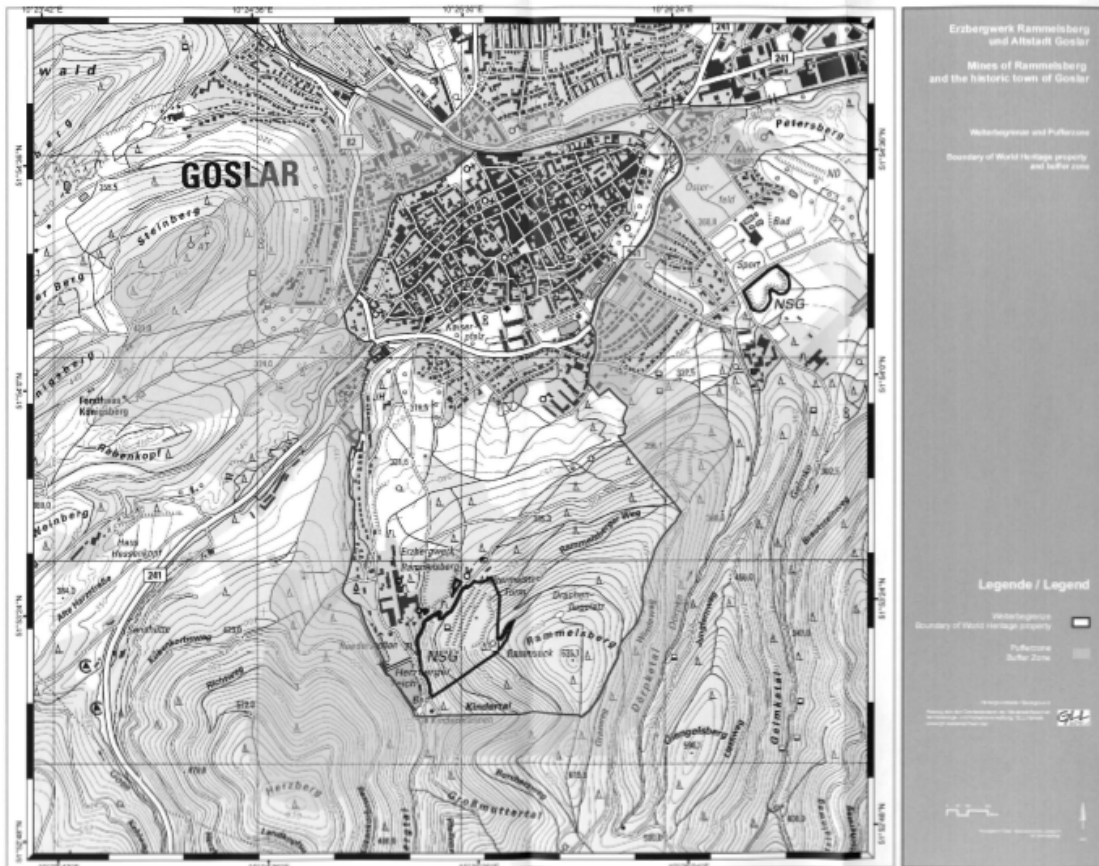
All these parts of the buffer zone consist of sites which are mainly forested or used for farming. They are protected by regional laws concerning natural forest land and rural areas.

Around Goslar, the north-eastern and northern part of the buffer zone corresponds to a narrower strip, in an urban setting, protected by the Lower Saxony state historic monument protection law.

ICOMOS considers that the proposition to create the buffer zone is justified and judicious.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the minor modification to the boundaries of Rammelsberg mines and the historic town of Goslar, Germany, be *approved*.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property