

## WORLD HERITAGE LIST

### Troy (Turkey)

No 849

#### Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	Truva/Troia/Troy
<i>Location</i>	Province of Çanakkale
<i>State Party</i>	Turkey
<i>Date</i>	14 November 1996

#### Justification by State Party

The archaeological site is unique in providing an unbroken sequence of more than 3000 years in which a succession of civilizations of great antiquity can be seen and studied. Of special importance is the role of Troy in documenting relations between Anatolia, the Aegean, and the Balkans, since it is located at a point where the three meet.

Troy II and Troy VI in particular are characteristic examples of the ancient city, with a majestic fortified citadel enclosing palaces and administrative buildings, surrounded by an extensive lower town, also fortified. Troy is a unique example of the oriental city in an Aegean context. It is also probably the most famous archaeological site in the world, excavated by the great archaeologist, Heinrich Schliemann. It may be considered to represent the starting point for modern archaeology and of its public recognition.

Troy is directly associated with the universally significant literary works of Homer (*The Iliad*) and Virgil (*The Aeneid*), which have provided, and continue to provide, lasting inspiration for literature and the arts, and as such it lies at the roots of western civilization.

The surrounding landscape, known as the Troad, is a unique creation by Hellenistic and Roman rulers, who developed it as a memorial to the Trojan War and its heroes, for pilgrimage, festivals, and tourism. Hellenistic tumuli were erected over the supposed burial places of these heroes, such as Achilles, Ajax, Hector, and Patroclus, whilst the town of Ilion became a centre for this activity.

The landscape is a rare example of the natural and the cultural heritage having been preserved in their full diversity, and it includes sites of great antiquity. As such it illustrates in a characteristic manner the continuity of an historical landscape with its cultural, social, and

economic relationships and diversity throughout antiquity and beyond. It also demonstrates the changing relationships over time between humankind and the environment.

Most importantly, it is associated with the events described in *The Iliad*, in which it is described in detail. As a result of the profound and widespread influence of this work, the Troad has become arguably the most famous non-urban landscape in the world after the Holy Land.

[**Note** The State Party does not make any proposals in the nomination dossier concerning the criteria under which it considers the property should be inscribed on the World Heritage List.]

#### Category of property

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*. The area surrounding the archaeological site may also be considered to be a *cultural landscape*.

#### History and Description

##### History

Human occupation on the site of Troy (Ilion) began in the Early Bronze Age (late 4th millennium BC). The first defensive wall round the citadel was built around 3000 BC and expanded twice, attaining a diameter of *c* 110m at the end of Phase I, around 2500 BC.

There was steady development and regularization of the settlement plan in the following five centuries (Troy II-V) to the end of the Early Bronze Age. Around 2000 BC there was a dramatic cultural change, with reconstruction of houses and walls in stone. The town expanded considerably outside the original walled settlement, and Troy VI (from *c* 1700 BC) may have covered the entire plateau, making it one of the largest towns in the Aegean region. Goods imported from Mycenae and elsewhere in Greece give an indication of its important trading role.

An earthquake in *c* 1350 BC caused grave damage to Troy VI, with defensive walls and houses collapsing, but the town quickly recovered and was rebuilt in a more orderly layout. The evidence of widespread fire and slaughter around 1250 BC, which brought Troy VIIA to an end, has led to this phase being identified with the city besieged by the Greeks during the Trojan War, immortalized in *The Iliad*. What is known of the economic and political history of the Aegean region in this period suggests that the real cause of the Trojan War was intense commercial rivalry between Troy and the mercantile Mycenaean kingdom, the prize being control of the Dardanelles and the lucrative trade with the Black Sea.

The town was to be rebuilt once again, but Bronze Age Troy, having most likely lost its commercial supremacy, had been abandoned by the end of the 2nd millennium BC. The site was reoccupied by Greek settlers from Lemnos in the 8th century BC (Troy VIII), and it

assumed considerable importance in 306 BC as the capital of a league of cities in the Troad.

In 188 BC it was identified by the Romans as the Ilium of Homer and recognized as the mother-city of Rome (*Ilium Novum*), being granted exemption from taxes. It was sacked in 85 BC during the Mithridatic War and not rebuilt until around 20 BC, following a visit by Augustus. The town prospered under Roman rule, despite being devastated by Herulian raiders in AD 267, and survived a severe earthquake in the early 6th century. Abandoned once again in the 9th century, it was reoccupied in the later Byzantine period and not finally deserted until well into the Ottoman period.

#### *Description*

The site of Troy is located on the mound of Hisarlik, which overlooks the plain along the Turkish Aegean coast 4.8km from the southern entrance to the Dardanelles. In antiquity much of this plain was submerged and so there was access by boat to the settlement (although the main harbour seems likely to have been at Besik Bay, south-west of the town).

Excavations over more than a century have revealed many features from all the periods of occupation in the citadel and the lower town. These include 23 sections of the defensive walls around the citadel, eleven gates, a paved stone ramp, and the lower portions of five defensive bastions. These date for the most part from Troy II and VI; however, a section of the earliest wall (Troy I) survives near the south gate of the first defences.

Especially well preserved is the east wall, built of dressed limestone blocks and inclined slightly inwards. It originally stood to a height of 6m and was more than 4m thick. The north-east bastion (Troy VI) was 18m wide and 8m deep and originally stood to a height of 9m, 7m of which survive to the present day. The upper section, now disappeared, was built of mud brick, surmounting the lower courses in stone; there was a 10m deep well inside the bastion.

The long stone-flagged ramp on the west side of the site led up to one of the gates of the early fortifications. However, this was not the main entrance to the settlement, which lay further to the east and was probably also reached by means of a ramp, which was removed during later development of the town.

Within the enceinte there are the remains of many structures. The great residential complex from Troy II consists of five parallel long buildings with porches (the so-called *megara*). The largest of these, 29m by 14m in plan, is considered to represent the prototype of the Greek temple. The ensemble is considered to have constituted some form of palace.

The remains of a number of long rectangular houses from Troy II are to be seen at the bottom of one of the most striking features off the site, the so-called "Schliemann Trench," dug by the famous 19th century excavator in search of the "Citadel of Priam," the object of his search. The lower courses of the walls of these houses were built in stone, presumably capped with courses of unfired brick and with flat roofs made of wooden beams covered with branches plastered with clay.

The most outstanding survival from Troy VI also probably served as a palace. The lower parts of the walls are in very carefully dressed drystone masonry. The interior is divided into several rooms, and the vestiges of a staircase indicate that there was at least one higher storey.

The Greek and Roman cities at Troy are represented by several monuments. Construction of the sanctuary complex probably began in the 8th century BC, and they were extensively refurbished and enlarged, first by Alexander the Great and later by Augustus. They consist of a series of altars, wells, and sacrifice pits, together with a viewing platform, reminiscent of the Sanctuary of Demeter at Pergamon.

Roman urban organization is reflected by two major public buildings on the edge of the *agora* (central market place). The *odeion* (concert hall) has the traditional horseshoe-shaped plan and tiers of seats made of limestone blocks. The nearby *bouleuterion* (council house) is smaller but similar in plan.

The surrounding landscape contains many important archaeological and historical sites. These include prehistoric settlements and cemeteries, Hellenistic burial mounds, Greek and Roman settlements, Roman and Ottoman bridges, etc.

#### **Management and Protection**

##### *Legal status*

The archaeological site was designated as an historic site by Decree 3925 of the Superior Council of Immovable Cultural and Natural Property of the Ministry of Culture on 13 May 1968. It is thus protected under the provisions of Law No 2863 of the Republic of Turkey on the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Property (21 July 1983, amended by Law No 3386 of 17 June 1987).

Under this legislation, sites and the movable properties discovered on them are State property. No work may be carried out on them without the authorization of the appropriate Regional Council. There are severe penalties for breaches of these controls.

##### *Management*

The citadel is wholly owned by the Turkish State and it is managed by the Çanakkale Archaeological Museum in consultation with the University of Tübingen excavation project (directed by Prof. Dr. Manfred Korffmann), as decreed by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Turkey in April 1988. The Tübingen project is responsible for the scientific conservation of the citadel and the lower town.

Following the compulsory purchase of a number of holdings in 1994, 75% of the lower town and the cemeteries is now in State ownership, and measures to expropriate the remainder are currently in progress. The entire State-owned property in both the citadel and the lower town is fenced off and under 24-hour guard. The land remaining in private ownership is under cultivation.

In the surrounding landscape there are fifteen sites under full legislative protection. The remainder of the

properties in the area are in individual private ownership.

Overall responsibility for the protection and conservation of the designated sites rests with the General Directorate of Cultural and Natural Heritage and the General Directorate of Monuments and Museums of the Ministry of Culture. Collaborating institutions at regional level are the Edirne Regional Council for the Preservation of the Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Governorship of Çanakkale, and the Çanakkale Museum.

A development plan for the site was published in 1991 by the General Directorate of Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture. This defines the boundaries of the site, those still to be taken into State ownership, areas for public access, potential primary and secondary excavation facilities, the locations of tourist facilities and installations, the rerouting of roads, and the removal of a nearby rubbish dump. This is not yet being implemented.

The National Parks Department of the Ministry of Forests collaborates in this work in relation to the surrounding landscape. A plan for its preservation was prepared by the Department in 1971. This involves the creation of the Troy Historical Park, with the construction of a tour road and a branch road to the site, a camp site, limited development on the coast, and relocation of the existing villages of Tefikiye and Kalafat. Following a long delay, this plan is currently being implemented by the Turkish Government.

## **Conservation and Authenticity**

### *Conservation history*

The contemporary history of the site and its subsequent exploration and conservation dates from 1793, when it was first discovered. It was identified by scholars, first as Ilium in 1810 and then as Troy in 1820. Heinrich Schliemann first visited the site in 1868 and began his historic excavations there in 1870. Between then and his death in 1890 he carried out seven major campaigns, completed in 1893-94 by his assistant, Wilhelm Dörpfeld. It was in 1873 that he found the famous gold hoard (known erroneously as "King Priam's Treasure," since it came from Troy II, not Troy VIIA).

Between 1932 and 1938 more scientific excavation was carried out by Carl W Blegen of the University of Cincinnati, when the complicated stratigraphy was unravelled and some limited conservation and reconstruction works carried out.

The present campaign by the University of Tübingen, with international participation, began in 1988 and has involved substantial conservation and restoration projects.

The conservation work has largely been sympathetic and unobtrusive. It has involved the construction of mud-brick walls to stabilize vulnerable sections, the revetment of unexcavated blocks with stone, some backfilling of especially delicate features, drainage measures, and the restoration and partial reconstruction of masonry features such as walls and bastions after meticulous documentation. Electricity and water

supplies have been introduced into the citadel to aid future investigations and conservation activities.

Survey work in the surrounding landscape (which has been little impacted by contemporary intrusions because of its status as a military exclusion zone) has been carried out by Schliemann, Dörpfeld, Blegen, J M Cook, A Akarca, and the Tübingen team.

### *Authenticity*

The authenticity of the archaeological site is high, since there have been very few reconstructions. Those that have taken place, on the defences, have been in strict accordance with the principles of anastylosis.

The authenticity of the surrounding landscape is also high. It represents an organic development from prehistory to the present century that has not been subject, like so much of Turkey's Mediterranean coastline, to obtrusive tourist construction by virtue of its status as a military exclusion zone.

## **Evaluation**

### *Action by ICOMOS*

An ICOMOS expert mission visited Troy in December 1997.

### *Qualities*

Troy is outstanding for several reasons. First, it is a major archaeological site that vividly illustrates the meeting of Near Eastern and Mediterranean cultures in the Early Bronze Age. The excavations there over the past century have established a relative chronology that is fundamental to the understanding of this seminal period of Old World cultural development.

Secondly, the struggle for commercial supremacy between Troy and Mycenae that culminated in the siege of Troy in the 13th century BC was immortalized by Homer in *The Iliad*, one of the greatest literary masterpieces of all time. It has inspired great writers, sculptors, painters, and composers since antiquity and continues to do.

Thirdly, it was the scene of the activities of one of the giants of the emerging modern scientific discipline of archaeology, Heinrich Schliemann. Although his techniques may seem crude to modern practitioners, he was instrumental in creating a public awareness of the heritage that helped to lay the foundations of the contemporary conservation ethic.

### *Comparative analysis*

It is impossible to conceive of another site that compares with Troy in terms of the three qualities listed above.

### *ICOMOS recommendations for future action*

It is very important that the 1971 plan for the development of the Troy Historical Park should be implemented fully and rapidly. The site already receives a quarter of a million visitors each year, and this figure is likely to rise significantly with the opening of Çanakkale International Airport and the construction of the Dardanelles Bridge there. Only in this way can the landscape around the archaeological site be safeguarded.

Similarly, it is essential that the 1991 development plan for the site itself should be implemented without delay. There have been substantial improvement to the immediate environs of the site over the past decade, but increased visitor numbers will create intense pressures on a relatively fragile archaeological site.

Study of the nomination dossier by ICOMOS does not reveal precisely what is proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List nor what constitutes the buffer zone. These are implicit in the material provided, the former being the historic site protected under Turkish antiquities legislation and the latter the area proposed in the 1971 plan for the establishment of the Troy Archaeological Park.

Before making a firm recommendation regarding inscription on the World Heritage List, ICOMOS needs to have the opportunity to study a map showing the precise areas proposed for inscription and the buffer zone and to relate this to the report of its expert mission. At its meeting in June 1998 the Bureau accepted this proposal and requested the State Party to provide the information required. At the time this evaluation was sent to the printer nothing had been received from the State Party.

#### **Brief description**

Troy, with its four thousand years of history, is one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world. In scientific terms its extensive remains are the most significant and substantial demonstration of the first contact between the civilizations of the Near East and the burgeoning Mediterranean world. Moreover, the siege of Troy by Mycenaean warriors from Greece in the 13th century BC, immortalized by Homer in *The Iliad*, has inspired great creative artists throughout the world since that time.

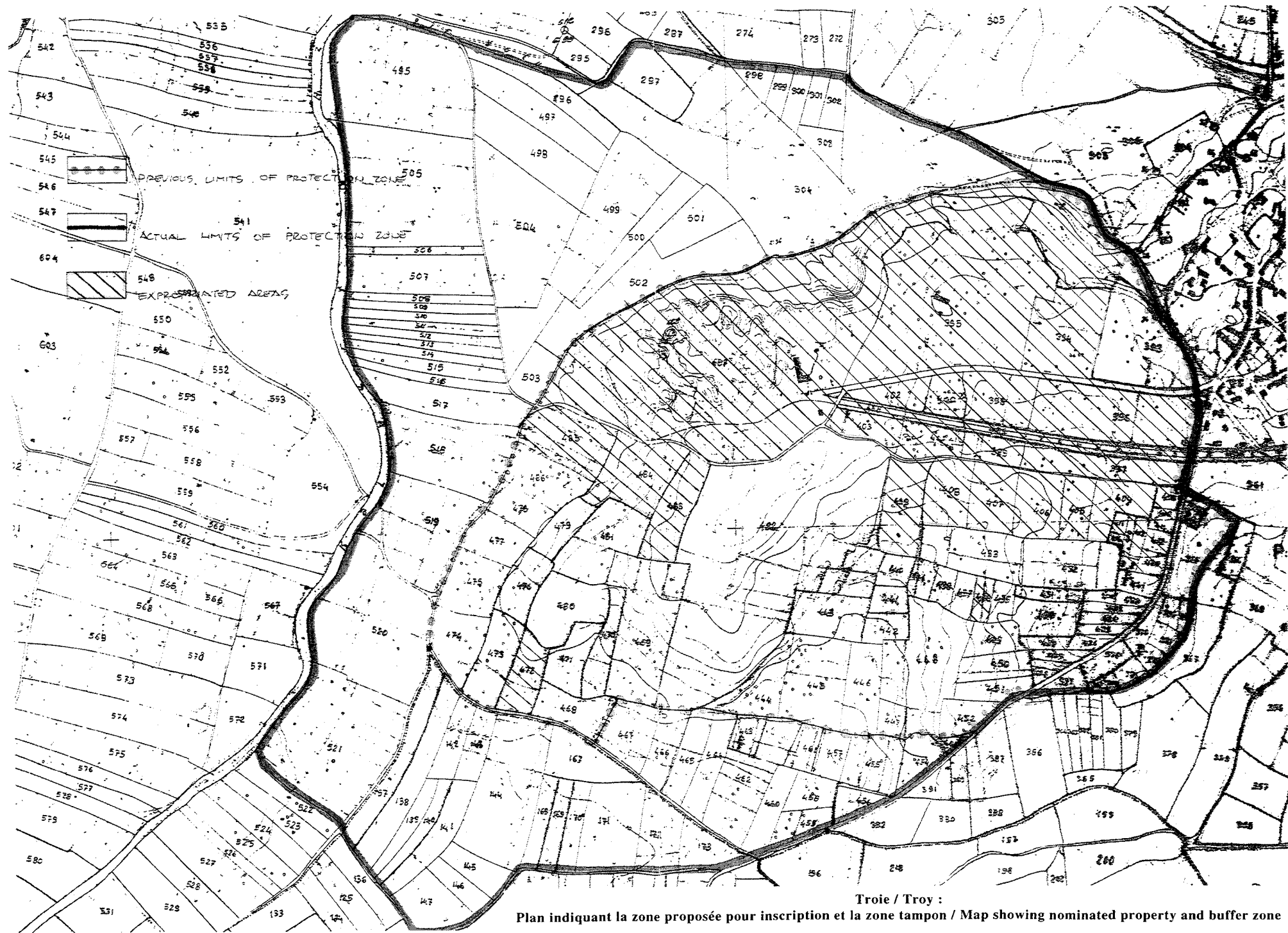
#### **Recommendation**

That this nomination be *deferred*, the State Party being requested to provide precise cartographic information regarding the area proposed for inscription and that proposed as a buffer zone.

In the event of this information being provided and found acceptable, ICOMOS recommends that this property be inscribed in 1999 on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria ii, iii, and vi*:

The archaeological site of Troy is of immense significance in the understanding of the development of European civilization at a critical stage in its early development. It is, moreover, of exceptional cultural importance because of the profound influence of Homer's *Iliad* on the creative arts over more than two millennia.

ICOMOS, October 1998



Troie / Troy :

Plan indiquant la zone proposée pour inscription et la zone tampon / Map showing nominated property and buffer zone