
L'Anse aux Meadows, National Historic Site Canada No 4 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Canada

Name of property

L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site

Location

Province of Newfoundland and Labrador
Canada

Inscription

1978

Brief description

At the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula of the island of Newfoundland, the remains of an 11th-century Viking settlement are evidence of the first European presence in North America. The excavated remains of wood-framed peat-turf buildings are similar to those found in Norse Greenland and Iceland.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 Issues raised

Background

The archaeological site of L'Anse aux Meadows, at the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula of the island of Newfoundland was discovered by Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad in 1960. The uncovered buildings were similar to those found in Norse Greenland and Iceland from the same period. The layout of the rooms, fireplaces and openings followed Norse design. The archaeology also uncovered approximately 800 bronze, bone, stone and wooden artifacts that confirm the Norse origins of the property.

In 1978 at the 2nd session of the World Heritage Committee (CONF 010 VIII.38), "L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park" was inscribed on the World Heritage List under criterion (vi) as "the earliest evidence of European settlement in the New World" and a "milestone in the history of human migration and discovery". The property shaped a land and sea area of 8055.67 ha, administered by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Government of Canada. In 2000 at its 24th session (CONF 204 X, Cairns), the World Heritage Committee

approved the change of the name of the property to "L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site".

As a follow up to the Retrospective Inventory of this property made by the World Heritage Centre, the State Party has been requested to provide an updated map showing the property as inscribed, meeting all the technical requirements established by the World Heritage Committee.

Modification

The minor boundary modifications submitted by the State Party concerns the clarification of the size of the property, which was incorrectly recorded at the time of its inscription, and the reduction of the boundaries of the inscribed property in order to reflect those of L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site as managed by Parks Canada Agency.

The clarification of the size of the property is linked to the Beak Point area, which is wrongly part of the World Heritage property. At the time of the inscription, the property was registered as of 8055.67 ha, without excluding the size of the Beak Point area, for which no surveys were conducted to know the exact surface of this zone. This survey has been undertaken and referenced as survey plan CLSR 105878 in January 2017. The area of Beak Point is now known and is of 2.42ha.

The management plan of the inscribed property, which was updated in 2003, mentions that the Beak Point area is considered as parts belonging to what is called "Phase II" in the management plan. Located north to the archaeological sites, it is composed of four households forming part of the community of L'Anse aux Meadows. By the 1975 Federal-Provincial Agreement, the lands of Phase II are to be included within the property boundaries when present owners of owner-occupied lands are willing to sell their lands.

The minor boundary modification also concerns the reduced boundaries of the property in order to reflect the transfers of management of five parcels of land of the property from the government of Canada to the provincial government.

In 1985, a Federal Order-in-Council (P.C. 1985-3388) transferred four parcels (60.00ha) located on the edge of the inscribed property to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Parcel 1 (58.22 ha) and Parcel 2 (1.67 ha) are located at the southeast corner of the site. Parcel 3 (0.08 ha) and Parcel 4 (0.03 ha) are located near the village of L'Anse aux Meadows on a small point opposite Beak Point. A fifth parcel of land (2.25ha) was transferred back to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1996. In this framework, the State Party submits this minor modification of the property's boundary proposal according to the new administrative situation.

According to the State Party, this overall reduction of boundaries will facilitate the management of the property as managed by Canada Parks Agency. This reduction of

0.80% of the property, from 8055.67 ha to 7991 ha, does not affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and to contain no direct association with the Norse occupation.

Furthermore, “L’Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada - Management Plan, November 2003” has already adopted the proposed boundary of the property.

Moreover, the State Party indicates that the removal of Parcels 1 – 5 as well as the corrected zoning of a portion of Beak Point in no way affects the integrity of the archaeological features. The attributes that express the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage site remain intact.

ICOMOS notes that Parcel 5 was transferred to the provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1996. According to Map.2, sheds, fences, houses, exist in this parcel. Nevertheless, the map does not indicate what is the importance of these constructions, whether they are historic or not.

Parcels 1, 2, 3, 4 were transferred to the provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador through the decree P.C 1978 – 680 / March 9th 1978 – Annex 1. According to Map.3, no indication to historic or archaeological site is displayed.

Depending on the available documents and the State Party’s indications, ICOMOS considers that no technical damages would affect the property following the removal of the parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

The State Party explains the reasons of the removal of these parcels from the property: to restore traditional gardens areas to residents for Parcels 1 and 2, to return land traditionally used by local fisherman and mariners for Parcels 3 and 4, and to permit the province to accommodate the installation of a communications tower for local fisherman and mariners for Parcel 5.

L’Anse aux Meadows is managed under the Canada National Parks Act (2000) and the Parks Canada Agency Act (1998). There are two regulations under the Canada National Parks Act: The National Historic Site General Regulations and the National Historic Site Wildlife and Domestic Animal Regulations.

The Canada National Parks Act includes authorities to make regulations concerning the management of national historic sites, for instance, L’Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site. Activities that take place in this site are also regulated under a number of federal and provincial laws.

ICOMOS considers that the present legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and Integrity of L’Anse aux Meadows provides a clear basis for effective management and protection.

The management plan was approved in 2003. The site is managed under the responsibility of Parks Canada, which is currently engaged in inquiries and management planning process for L’Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site. On the other hand, the Management Plan (2003) outlines strategies with respect to the protection of cultural resources; the heritage presentation program at the site; the management of natural resources and traditional activities; the ongoing partnerships and public involvement that ensure the commemorative integrity of the site; finally, the protection of the World Heritage values under which the site has been inscribed by UNESCO.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed modifications do not have impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and reinforce the management and protection plan of the property.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

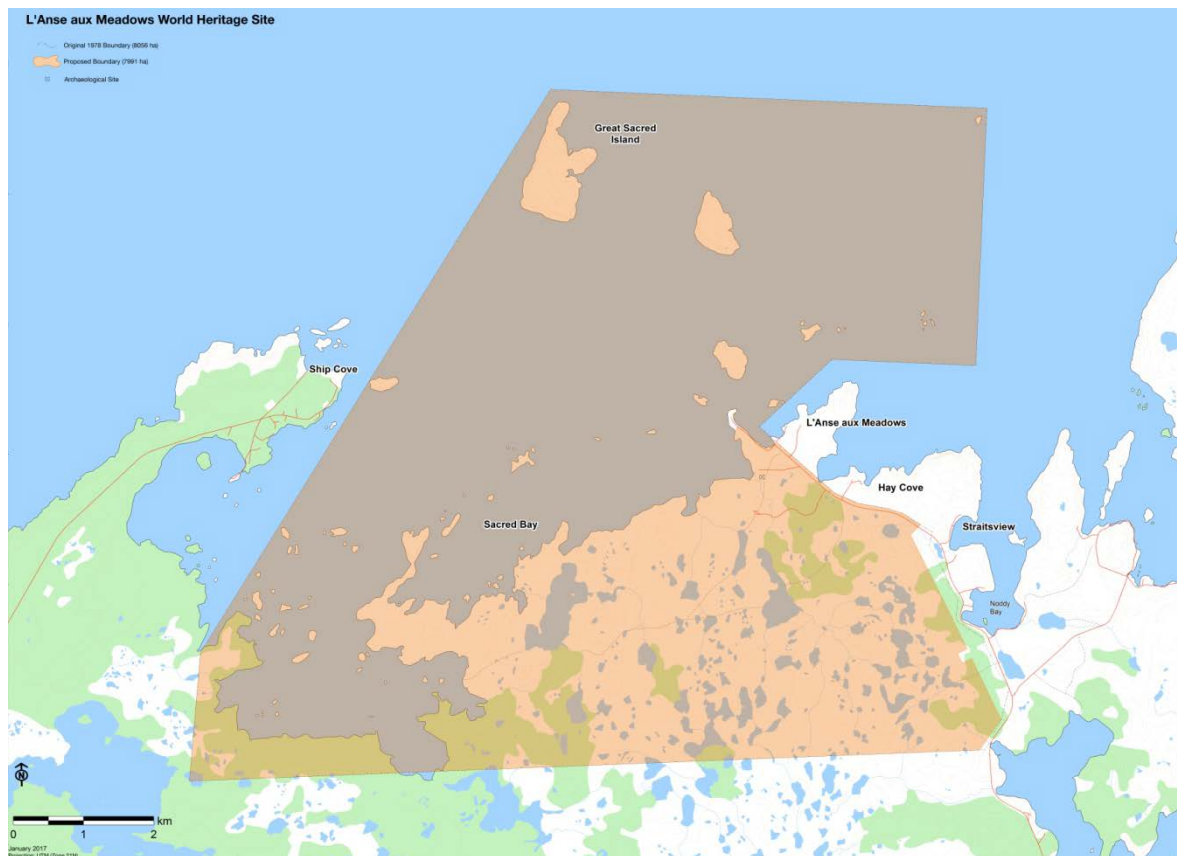
Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the minor modification of the boundaries of L’Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, Canada, **be approved**.

Additional recommendations

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

- a) Confirm clearly that there are no more archeological sites in excavation or in potential excavation in the parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
- b) Clarify the future utilization of the Beak Point parcel,
- c) Submit photographs of the concerned five parcels,
- d) Provide further information on the installation of a communications tower for local fisherman and mariners for Parcel 5,
- e) Clarify whether other modifications of a similar nature are being considered;



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property