

SWEDEN

Rock Carvings in Tanum

Brief description

The rock carvings in Tanum, in the north of Bohuslän, are a unique artistic achievement not only for their rich and varied motifs (depictions of humans and animals, weapons, boats and other subjects) but also for their cultural and chronological unity. They reveal the life and beliefs of people in Europe during the Bronze Age and are remarkable for their large numbers and outstanding quality.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription

1994

Agency responsible for site management

- County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland
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2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria

C (i), (iii), (iv)

Justification provided by the State Party

The Bronze Age Rock Carvings in Tanum represent a unique artistic achievement through its rich and varied motifs and skilful and detailed depictions of animals, humans, ships, weapons and religious symbols of Bronze Age man. The often lively scenes and complex compositions of elaborate motifs within the field of every day life, warfare, cult and religion. Some of the panels Fossum, Vitlycke and Aspeberget and others are obviously preformed according to advanced plans. In many cases the motifs, techniques and compositions comprise an exceptional testimony of the European Bronze Age Culture.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

Criterion i The rock carvings of the Tanum region constitute an outstanding example of Bronze Age art of the highest quality.

Criterion iii The range of motifs on the Tanum rock carvings provide exceptional evidence of many aspects of life in the European Bronze Age.

Criterion iv The continuity of settlement and consistency in land use in the Tanum are, as illustrated by the rock art. the archaeological remains, and the features of the modern landscape in the Tanum region combine to make this a remarkable example of continuity over eight millennia of human history.

Committee Decision

The Committee made no statement.

- Statement of Significance as stated by ICOMOS adequately define and reflect the outstanding universal value of the site
- The State Party proposes the ICOMOS text to be the statement of significance

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: no buffer zone has been defined
- The question of the buffer zone will be attended to in the future

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained
- At the time of the inscription the national road, at that time single-lane in each direction, which passed through the central–eastern section of the inscribed site, had been designated for upgrading as the European E-6 road traveling south from Oslo. It will become a dual carriageway and will assist in reducing the congestion on the existing road. The presence of a museum on the site is of great importance in many activity areas varying from conservation work to public and educational missions. The future for World Heritage management and education is closely related to the conditions under which Vitlycke museum operates. Structural changes in agriculture and farming in the area have an impact on the qualities in the surrounding landscape

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- No agreements, laws mentioned
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- Management plan
- Timeframe: 2005
- Action to be taken at national, regional and local level

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Rural landscape, unpaid visitor attraction

Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group: the steering group is under reconstruction. the function is to coordinate work between the main responsible bodies at the site
- Formally constituted
- Management by the State Party; management under protective legislation
- No site manager
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local
- The current management system is not sufficiently effective

5. Management Plan

- No management plan
- New management plan will be completed and adopted: December 2005
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Vitlycke museum; County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland
- Extra funding has been drawn from World Heritage status
- There would probably not have been possible to build a new museum at Vitlycke if Tanum would not have been inscribed in the World Heritage List. Extra funding from the State Party was received for this purpose. The new museum has since its opening attracted a lot more tourists than before and the entrance fee is an extra funding. On the other hand the increased amount of visitors due to the World Heritage Status also demands greater funding for personal and management of the site. Many actions mainly concerning conservation has been made possible through three EU-projects regarding rock art. Educational cross-cultural projects mostly involving young people have been financed and carried out. These projects are closely related to World Heritage status
- Funding available for the adequate management of the site: sufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 1

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Good: conservation, management, interpretation, education
- Average: promotion, visitor management

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- The Tanum area has its own museum in Vitlycke. Vitlycke museum will from 2005 be a museum body on it's own within the regional family of museums. The main focus in museum activities are documentation, archive and library, visitors centre for national and international tourists, educational development related to life long learning, formal education and world heritage certification, museum as a local resource and attraction for economical and social development
- There are no training centers in Sweden. There is a very good access to specialized expertise through the National Heritage Board and networks with different universities in mainly Sweden but also Norway

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 100,000 in 2004 – trend: stable
- Visitor facilities: museum at Vitlycke with exhibitions; gift shop; Restaurant; guided tours and guided night tours; WC; a large car- and bus-park; reconstructed Bronze Age Farm; reference library, archives, documentation rooms and a database. Direction signs and markings are provided so that visitors can find their way to the rock art sites. On-site installations as small parking facilities, signs, pathways and sometimes platforms
- No tourism/visitor management plan

10. Scientific Studies

- Condition surveys, archaeological surveys
- The result has been an increased documentation of rock art. There has also been a development of techniques regarding covering rock art

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- Not enough signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem is not used on publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among visitors
- There is a need of special information and education. Local cooperation (Tanum municipality and Vitlycke museum) has led to a "Local Implementation Plan" focusing on local and regional target groups. General improvement in engagement from school leaders and politicians is needed
- No special events and exhibitions concerning the site's World Heritage status
- Web site available
- No local participation

Education, information and awareness building activities

- Vitlycke museum is working together with schools locally and in the region (internet learning tool www.varldensbilder.net) and historical camps for school children are arranged by the museum on a regular basis. Life long learning and unique experiences on the site is a vital part of world heritage tourism

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 22nd (1998); 23rd (1999)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 22nd (1998)

Conservation interventions

- Registration of state of the art and damages have been performed on most of the about 500 sites with rock carvings and cup-marks have been performed. Based on these results a care and maintenance plan was compiled for each site. A care programme has been carried out from 1996 by a team from the Municipality of Tanum under supervision by the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland. All sites opened to the public with information and on-site installations are cared for twice a year by sweeping and cleaning, grass cutting and removing of new brushwood according to a drawn up care plan. Four sites have been excavated
- Present state of conservation: adequate

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure
- Specific issues if mentioned: planning of the new E6 road

13. Monitoring

- No monitoring programme
- Measures taken/planned: the World Heritage site management authority is planning to develop key indicators for monitoring how the outstanding universal value of the site is being sustained

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, management
- Strength: the Vitlycke Museum; guidebook "Hällristningsresan"; special signposts; three EU-projects
- Weaknesses of management: there is a lack of coordination. The responsibility is unidentified and spread among many different stakeholders

Future actions:

- A management plan has to be worked out and be adopted by all involved parties. Important is to find the overall strategy for the site concerning many different aspects (different roles for different institutions, conservation- and visitors- strategy etc)
- Timeframe: 2005
- Activity does not require funding from World Heritage Fund