

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1553/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 22 December 2017

H. E. Mr Stefan Krawielicki
Permanent Delegation of Germany to UNESCO
9, rue Maspéro
75116 Paris

World Heritage List 2018

**The Archaeological Border landscape of Hedeby and the Danevirke (Germany) –
Interim report and additional information request**

Dear Sir,

As prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have been requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2018. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to the "The Archaeological Border landscape of Hedeby and the Danevirke" was carried out by Neil Price (Sweden) from 14 to 17 September 2017. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

At the end of November 2017, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2018. The additional information, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2018.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Friday 24 November 2017 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. During the final part of the ICOMOS Panel meeting that followed, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed.

While the ICOMOS Panel considered that the "The Archaeological Border landscape of Hedeby and the Danevirke" might have the potential to meet the requirements for Outstanding Universal Value, this has not yet been demonstrated.

The ICOMOS Panel noted that the recommendations resulting from the earlier trans-national serial nomination related to the Viking Age were not addressed in relation to the idea of a study of the Viking trade routes and spheres of influence. This seems to have created some conceptual problems with the current smaller nomination in terms of the lack of a definition of the Viking Age as the broader context for the extensive expansion of trading settlements between the 6th and 9th centuries that occurred over a vast area of Northern Europe.

Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

Justification for Inscription

The justification provided in the nomination dossier is rather general in terms of setting out precisely how what survives together with the archaeological evidence reflects the proposed scope of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. Although the new serial nomination does not have 'Viking' in its title, the Viking Age is prominent in the justification for Outstanding Universal Value. For instance, it is said that the sites are 'outstanding testimonies to the cultural traditions of Northern Europe in the Viking Age between the eighth and eleventh centuries AD. The arguments put forward raise concerns that are similar to those

identified by the ICOMOS Panel for the original wider series of 'Viking' sites, in terms of how one site can be seen to have a major influence over the history and development of Northern Europe during the 'Viking Age'.

The ICOMOS Panel also found the arguments surrounding the border concept to be unconvincing. The ideas that the border landscape are meant to address are confusing. It is supposed to reflect both the power of Danish kings and the interactions between a number of different peoples but it remains unclear how the political and economic power of the early Danish state is strongly reflected in Hedeby and the Danevirke, apart from in the 10th century, and how the presence or interaction of five different peoples in this area at this time are reconciled with its influence and those of the Frankish and German Empires.

The ICOMOS Panel was interested in how the site of Hedeby might provide a picture of the way a trading centre developed and flourished in one area of Northern Europe over three centuries. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could further explain whether the form and layout of Hedeby might be seen as typical of other trading centres, as the best preserved example of a trading village, or as distinctive because of its relationship to what are called the largest earthworks in Northern Europe.

Furthermore, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could further explain the relationship between the two components, Hedeby and Danevirke, and why they should be kept together.

Overall please could more detailed evidence be provided as to how Hedeby and Danevirke might reflect the whole phenomenon of the Viking Age Period expansion in Northern Europe and the role of the Danish State, as suggested in the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. It seems that justification for Outstanding Universal Value might need to be recast compared to what has been proposed.

Cultural Landscape

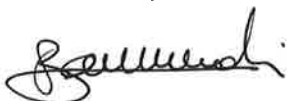
The ICOMOS Panel has considered that this property does not meet the requirements of the Operational Guidelines (paragraph 47) to be considered as a cultural landscape. The Danevirke is proposed as a single feature and is isolated from the other natural features that surround it, i.e. the boundary has been drawn to exclude these other features (i.e. dry ground (the Geest), rivers, bogs, fjords and impassable areas) that surround it and might offer an understanding as to how it relates to its surrounding landscape.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information by **28 February 2018 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines for supplementary information on nominations to be received. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while ICOMOS will carefully consider any supplementary information submitted, it cannot properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or large amounts of new information submitted at the last minute. So we request to keep your response concise and respond only to the above requests.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and the evaluation process.

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to State Archaeological Department of Schleswig-Holstein
 Multilaterale Kultur- und Medienpolitik
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre