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# Aquilea (Italy) No 875ter

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## 1 Basic data

### State Party

Italy

### Name of property

Archaeological Area and Patriarchal Basilica of Aquilea

### Location

Province of Udine  
Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region  
Italy

### Inscription

1998

### Brief description

Aquilea (in Friuli-Venezia Giulia), one of the largest and wealthiest cities of the Early Roman Empire, was destroyed by Attila in the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century. Most of it still lies unexcavated beneath the fields, and as such it constitutes the greatest archaeological reserve of its kind. The patriarchal basilica, an outstanding building with an exceptional mosaic pavement, played a key role in the evangelization of a large region of central Europe.

### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

14 March 2018

## 2 Issues raised

### Background

The property Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquilea was inscribed in 1998 under criteria (iii), (iv) and (vi). It was inscribed with an approximate boundary hand drawn on a cadastral map and without buffer zone. ICOMOS in its evaluation report at the time recommended a buffer zone should be created.

Following the Retrospective Inventory in which the State Party was requested to provide the size of the property and resubmit a clarified map, the World Heritage Committee adopted by decision 32 COM 8D the clarification of the area of the property at its 32<sup>th</sup> session in 2008.

At its 40<sup>th</sup> session in 2016, the World Heritage Committee adopted a Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property in its decision 40 COM 8E.

The present boundary was adopted following a prior minor boundary modification request by the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee in 2017 (decision 41 COM 8B.45). This boundary modification included the Sepolcreto (necropolis) of the Roman city of Aquilea in the property. The modification therefore added an area of 0.11 hectares which was previously just outside the boundaries. The overall size of the property in result measures at 155.41 hectares. The property remains without buffer zone.

### Modification

When accepting the minor boundary modification in its decision 41 COM 8B.45, the World Heritage Committee recommended to the State Party to consider creating a buffer zone. This minor boundary modification request can be seen as the response to this request in that it proposes the creation of a buffer zone for the property.

The proposed buffer zone encompasses an area of 245.09 hectares, which surrounds the property to all sides. It is drawn based on different existing systems of legal and managerial protection, including the municipal master plan, ministerial constraints and legislative decrees in force. The buffer zone is intended to create on this basis an officially recognized limit with the purpose of additional protection of the World Heritage Site. Its boundary is defined by natural features and legal and well as administrative borders, including a river and streets, property extensions and municipal boundaries.

Most of the buffer zone provides additional protection to the property by means of its designation as land restricted to agricultural use, which prevents any kind of architectural or infrastructural development. This designation has been formalized for the long-term with the proposed buffer zone definition. The buffer zone further contains private lands around the property, which have been identified as having high archaeological potential and which are therefore protected from any kind of development without explicit approval of the cultural heritage authorities as well as by means of article 26 of the Municipal Master Plan (PRGC), which relates to road corridors, rivers and burial grounds.

The buffer zone proposed was included in the final version of the management plan for the property, which was officially approved by the Council of the Municipality of Aquilea on 28 November 2017.

A small area in the south-west of the property comprises parts of a residential neighbourhood of small houses, minor productive/artisanal areas and an occasional public building. This has been included to provide adequate protection of views and sight lines from and to the property.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the proposed buffer zone contributes to maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value of Aquilea and will have a positive impact on its integrity and protection.

### **3 ICOMOS Recommendations**

#### **Recommendation with respect to inscription**

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Archaeological Area and Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia, Italy, **be approved**.



Map showing the proposed buffer zone