

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

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Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2018

Mr Matthew Lodge
Permanent Delegation of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland to UNESCO
35 rue du Faubourg St Honoré
75383 Paris CEDEX 08

World Heritage List 2019

**Jodrell Bank Observatory (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) –
Interim report and additional information request**

Dear Ambassador,

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 2019. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to “Jodrell Bank Observatory” was carried out by Leo Schmidt (Germany) in October 2018. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

On 10 October 2018, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the documentation, comparative analysis, proposed justification for Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity and management. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 07 November 2018 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2018, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2019. The additional information provided by the State Party, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2019.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Friday 23 November 2018 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the discussions at the ICOMOS Panel meeting. Following the completion of their deliberations, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers further information is needed.

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

Boundaries

The ICOMOS Panel noted that the proposed boundaries for the nominated area differs from the Jodrell Bank Observatory Site boundaries. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could explain how the proposed nominated boundaries are identifiable on site, as they do not contain the whole Observatory site.

Conservation

The conservation management plan appears to consider the removal of some attributes which are in poor condition (eg. the Searchlight Aerial). In this case, the plan presumes preservation *in situ* but also refers to preservation by record if necessary. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide further information on the conservation approach for all identified attributes, on the Conservation management plan, especially on whether it will be revised and, if so, what would be the timetable for this revision.

Could the State Party confirm the date of the current Conservation Management plan gazetteer? The Nomination dossier refers to different dates for the current gazetteer – an updated version of 2016, and 2017. In addition, it appears only the 2014 version has been provided. Could the latest version also please be provided?

The ICOMOS Panel discussed the earlier buildings and additions or extensions at the Observatory, which tend to be simple utilitarian structures. They have little by way of aesthetic qualities and they do not reflect quality construction. However, this would appear to be part of their historical character. Could the State Party provide information on how the Management plan of the nominated property is taking into consideration these buildings, in particular in terms of future conservation approaches and associated changes?

Management

In addition to the major structures or instruments and the buildings, the ICOMOS Panel noted that there are smaller technological aspects of the Observatory that may have historical significance and deserve some consideration in overall conservation planning for the nominated property. Such items may continue in use, may be obsolete, or may become obsolete. The ICOMOS Panel is interested in knowing if there are future actions planned to identify such smaller items, evaluate their heritage value, and conserve them as part of the Observatory's heritage.

Monitoring indicators

The proposed monitoring indicators address a range of elements, which do not seem to directly address conservation of the identified site's attributes. Could the State Party provide information on the monitoring of the state of conservation of the identified attributes of the nominated property?

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 2019 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 would be grateful if the State Party could keep its 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 Jodrell Bank Observatory
 Historic England
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre