
Royal Domain of Drottningholm (Sweden) No 559bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Sweden

Name of property

Royal Domain of Drottningholm

Location

The island of Lovön, Province of Stockholm, Ekerö
Municipality

Inscription

1991

Brief description

The Royal Domain of Drottningholm stands on an island in Lake Mälaren in a suburb of Stockholm. With its castle, perfectly preserved theatre (built in 1766), Chinese pavilion and gardens, it is the finest example of an 18th century north European royal residence inspired by the Palace of Versailles.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

13 March 2019

2 Issues raised

Background

The Royal Domain of Drottningholm was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991 on the basis of criterion (iv). The retrospective statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property, approved in 2016 (40 COM 8E), defines the ensemble of Drottningholm as “the best example of a royal residence built in the 18th century in Sweden, [...] representative of all European architecture of that period, heir to the influences exerted by the Chateau of Versailles on the construction of royal residences in western, central and northern Europe.”

The buffer zone was not required at the time of inscription. However, the need was regularly highlighted throughout management and monitoring, including the Periodic Report submitted by the State Party (2006) as well as ICOMOS reports prepared in the process of discussion of the remodeling of the Ekerö road and construction of the Stockholm bypass. In 2009, the Swedish government allowed the Stockholm Bypass to be constructed with the condition that Lovön-Kärsön, a larger land and water area around the World Heritage property should be established

as a natural or cultural reserve, enhancing the protection and preservation of the World Heritage property. As a result, the Lovö Nature Reserve was established by the decision of the Stockholm Administrative Board in 2014, with the purpose of conservation of large peri-urban cultural and natural landscape, its valuable natural habitats, its values for recreational use and the values connected to historically contiguous agricultural use of the landscape having a strong reference to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property. The comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessments, developed in conformity with ICOMOS recommendations, in the process of designing of the above mentioned infrastructure projects, indicated the relevance of the area of the nature reserve to the objectives of the World Heritage buffer zone. The area of the reserve allowed safeguarding and support of the property's Outstanding Universal Value and demonstrated clear link between the character of the landscape and its historical agricultural use with the purpose to support the Crown's need of supplies and to uphold the King's household.

In 2018, as a result of the lengthy process of assessment and consultation, the State Party presented official request for Minor Boundary Modification, proposing the buffer zone to be established for the Royal Domain of Drottningholm.

Modification

The proposed buffer zone covers 3,227.6 ha and corresponds to the boundaries of the Lovö Nature Reserve, covering the islands Lovön, Kärsön, Fågelön, surrounding islands, islets and the water area.

As the area has strong cultural character linked with the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property, the boundaries of the nature reserve have been delineated with participation of specialists for both natural and cultural components. The objective of the nature reserve is to ensure safeguarding, conservation and maintenance of the natural and cultural environment of the designated peri-urban area, its natural habitats as well as historical agricultural and recreational use. The reserve does not include the territory of the World Heritage property, however presents an added layer of protection to it and supports the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The part of the territory is also designated as an area of national interest for cultural heritage which implies that its value must not be significantly damaged and should be given priority in planning on local and regional level.

The proposed buffer zone allows better understanding of the value and significance of the World Heritage property, ensuring long term preservation of the agricultural landscape which has been owned by the Crown and serving its need for supplies for centuries.

The proposed buffer zone also allows preservation of the visual and ideological relation of the World Heritage property to its wider landscape surroundings, setting the classical gardens within the natural and agricultural landscape context, and through uninterrupted horizon, highlighting the symbolic expression of the absolute power of the Crown, expressing the domination of man over nature and territory.

The proposal for the buffer zone was developed jointly by the Stockholm County Administrative Board, the National Property Board of Sweden and Ekerö Municipality with the participation of local residents and landowners. The management of the territory is the responsibility of the National Property Board of Sweden, which is the owner of the territories of the reserve. The management plan, approved in 2014, is the subject of renewal every decade.

The Stockholm County Administrative Board oversees the implementation of the regulations and assesses any modifications within the reserve against the purpose and directions for the establishment of the reserve. A special consultative group led by the National Property Board brings together all stakeholders to ensure harmonization of interests and actions, in conformity with the objectives for preservation and presentation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property in connection with the nature reserve.

Within the perimeter of Lovön, there are properties that are owned or leased and that are not included in the reserve and its provisions. Any changes to these properties are controlled by the municipality under the provisions of the Swedish Planning and Building Act (2010:900), there are agreements in place for the leased land with the National Property Board Sweden and Office of the Governor that regulate which modifications are permitted. These properties are also part of the area of national interest for cultural environment, meaning that through the county administrative board, the State superintends municipal decisions.

The legal framework for protection and management is provided by the Swedish Environmental Code (1998:808), as well as the Planning and Building Act (2010:900), the Ekerö Municipality Master Plan (2010), the detailed development plan for Drottningholmsmalmen (2015) as well as the Ordinance for State Owned Buildings (2013:558).

ICOMOS considers the proposed buffer zone will enhance and contribute to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property. The strong legal protection afforded for the nature reserve and the existing management arrangements provide sufficient justification for the proposed buffer zone to be effectively implemented.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

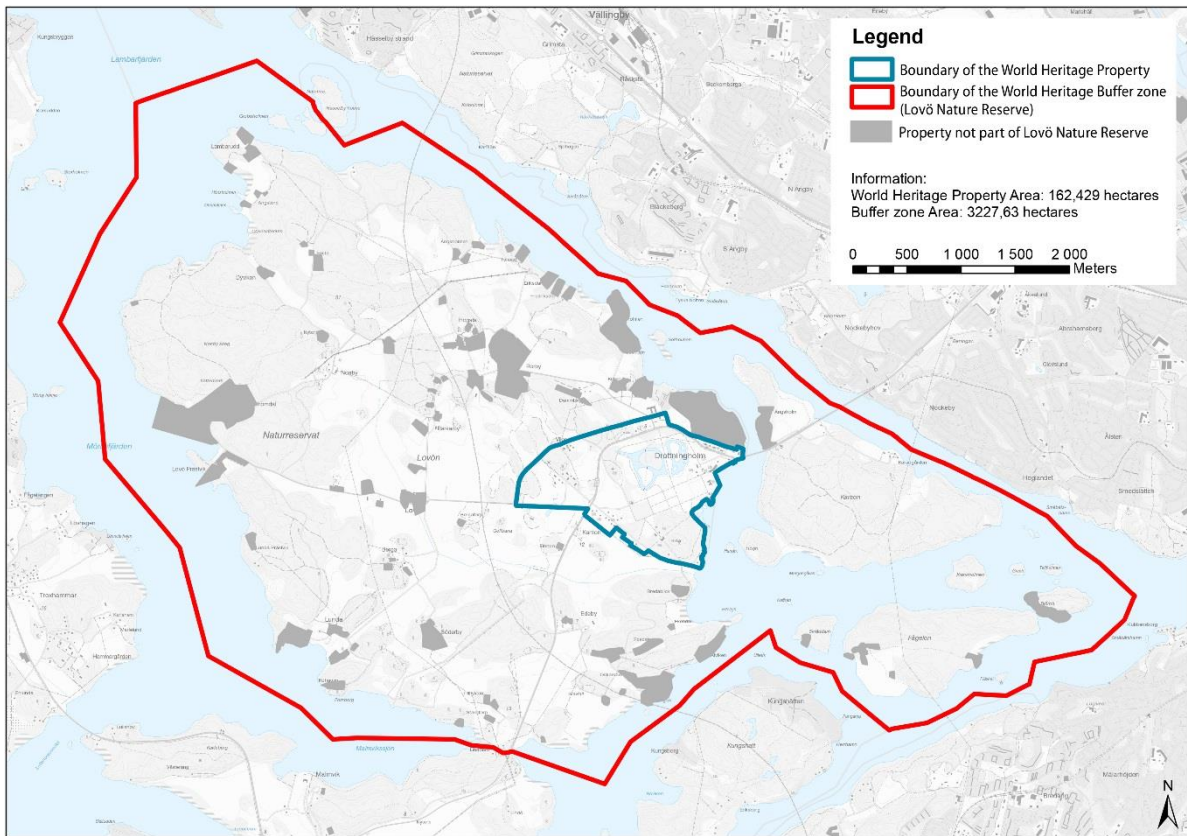
Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Royal Domain of Drottningholm, Sweden, be **approved**.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Developing a new integrated management plan for the World Heritage property and the buffer zone, including a Spatial Development Plan, covering the County Administrative Board and Ekerö municipality, as well as a comprehensive mobility plan;



Map showing the proposed buffer zone