

## **Report on the state of conservation of the UNESCO World Heritage property**

### **Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region**

#### **(Poland) (C 1599)**

#### **1. Executive Summary of the report**

This report presents the current state of conservation of the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region and its buffer zones. This is the first report on the state of conservation of the property, and it covers the period from the date of inscription on the World Heritage List in 2019 to early November 2020.

The report refers to the decision of the World Heritage Committee No 43 COM 8B.29.

The State Party welcomed the inscription of the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region on the World Heritage List and committed to its proper protection and management, in order to leave it for future generations.

This is reflected in the fact that the Historical and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski (MHA), the site manager, is conducting a number of activities related to the implementation of the Management Plan for the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region, as well as aimed at further learning about the World Heritage property, strengthening its protection and promotion. This is achieved through information and consultation meetings with local people, representatives of local governments and regional NGOs, as well as detailed research into the component parts of the property and numerous press, internet and magazine publications related to the protection of historical monuments, and promoting knowledge about the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region.

The priority is the creation and practical functioning of the Cultural Park of Prehistoric Flint Mining on Kamienna (river), a legal form dedicated to the protection of cultural landscape. The Museum's activities in this area are supported by the National Institute of Cultural Heritage (formerly named National Heritage Board of Poland). This cooperation is based on a cooperation agreement signed on 2 March 2020, the subject of which is the development of assumptions and a protection plan of the Cultural Park of Prehistoric Flint Mining on Kamienna, covering the World Heritage property, including its buffer zones and the wider setting.

## **2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee**

In July 2019, during the 43. session of the World Heritage Committee in Baku, (Azerbaijan), the Committee adopted a decision 43 COM 8B.29 concerning the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region. The property was inscribed in the World Heritage List, on the basis of criteria (iii) and (iv).

This report presents the current state of conservation of the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region and its buffer zones. This is the first report on the state of conservation of the property, and it covers the period from the date of inscription on the World Heritage List in July 2019 to early November 2020.

The response of the State Party has been prepared according to the recommendations and questions contained in the decision:

## **3. Adoption of the statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

At the 43. session of the Committee, a provisional statement of Outstanding Universal Value was adopted. The final text of the statement will be adopted at the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee scheduled for 2021.

## **4. Position of the State Party on the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee**

*At Point 4 of the Decision 43 COM 8B.29 World Heritage Committee requests the State Party to:*

*a/ Continue implementation of the management plan to ensure the effective protection of the property;*

As part of the implementation of the Management Plan for the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region, a number of activities have been carried out, including:

- 1) Information meetings and consultations with the local community, representatives of local governments and regional NGOs were organised in order to inform and plan activities related to the organisation of the Cultural Park of Prehistoric Flint Mining on Kamienna river. The intensity of these measures and their partial suspension in 2020 was influenced by the coronavirus pandemic.
- 2) An agreement has been prepared on the creation of the Cultural Park of Prehistoric Flint Mining on Kamienna between local governments – municipalities: Bodzechów, Ćmielów and Ożarów and districts: Opatowski and Ostrowiecki, and the Historical and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski (MHA), exercising substantive support over the implementation and operation of the Cultural Park.
- 3) An agreement on cooperation between the Museum (MHA) and the National Institute of Cultural Heritage was signed, the subject of which is to develop assumptions for the organisation of the Cultural Park and its protection. As part of the implementation of the agreement, the National Institute of Cultural Heritage commissioned the development of

assumptions and a draft protection plan to specialists in this field. The completion of work preparing the formal establishment of the Cultural Park is planned for the end of 2020.

The coronavirus pandemic occurring in Poland since March 2020 has significantly influenced the intensity of work of individual entities on the Management Plan, even temporarily suspending their activities.

*b/ Take appropriate and immediate measures to attenuate the negative impact of the working limestone quarry in the Korycizna buffer zone, to the immediate south-east of the property;*

The current mining activity in the buffer zone of the Korycizna component part has little impact on the status of the World Heritage property (this issue was explained in detail during the evaluation of the nomination dossier). Its complete closure is a process which, by the nature of this activity, takes time. In 2020, preliminary talks were held with the owner of the active limestone quarry in the buffer zone of the Korycizna component part – the “Anna” mine. There has also been an extensive information campaign on the risks posed by mining activities, both existing and potentially planned, in the vicinity of the World Heritage property.

*c/ Finalize as soon as possible the process of creating the cultural park, in order to make the buffer zones effective;*

Work on creating the Cultural Park of Prehistoric Flint Mining on Kamienna river are described above in subsections 2) and 3).

*d/ Specify in detail how the land development plans, which are a condition for the establishment of the cultural park, will ensure that the buffer zones provide an additional level of protection for the property, in conformity with paragraphs 103 to 107 of the Operational Guidelines;*

The aim of creating the Cultural Park is to strengthen the protection of the World Heritage property. The detailed rules that will apply to the buffer zones of the World Heritage property will be developed as part of work on the local spatial development plans of individual administrative units (municipalities) – updating existing plans and creating new ones for those areas that do not have them.

Parallel to the works on the establishment of the Cultural Park, the Regional Monuments Inspector for Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship has started activities aimed at entering the surroundings of individual component parts of the property, within the buffer zones, into the register of monuments. The inscription of the surroundings in the register of monuments guarantees legal tools for enforcing proper protection of the property against adverse changes.

*At Point 5 of the Decision World Heritage Committee recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:*

*a/ Including a heritage study methodology in the management system of the property, to ensure that any programme or project relating to the property is evaluated in terms of its impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value and the associated attributes;*

The Museum (MHA) has undertaken a number of activities aimed at improving the functioning of conservation and protection of the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region and increasing knowledge about it:

- 1) Implementation of the project “Increasing accessibility to the Historical and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski by improving the infrastructure of the Krzemionki Archaeological Museum and Reserve and the Palace of the Wielkopolski Family”, funded by the European Regional Development Fund. The aim of this project, among other things, is to improve the protection of the K1 component part “Krzemionki Opatowskie” through appropriate organisation of tourist traffic.
- 2) Continuation of research work on the property, including:
  - research of archaeozoological materials from the globular amphora culture settlement in Krzczonowice – a site associated with the extraction of striped flint in Krzemionki;
  - preparation of a programme of non-invasive research works in the area of the southern part of the “Krzemionki Opatowskie” mining field – the least scientifically explored part of the historic mines (expected to be implemented in November 2020);
  - making a laser scan of a fragment of the mining field and the structures present in the part open to the public as well as mine no. 4 and the historic mining pits present on the so-called tourist route;
  - continuation of research at the multicultural archaeological site in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski – Częstocice, which is a further settlement base for the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region.
- 3) Press and Internet publications, in magazines related to the preservation of historical monuments, aimed at promoting knowledge about the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region and obtaining greater public support.

*b/ Ensuring the long-term funding of the archaeological research programme, and guaranteeing that the research objectives of the programme are adequate in view of the conservation plan;*

In order to ensure stable, long-term financing of the Museum – the manager of the property conducted negotiations on increasing its budget, by means of its co-managing and co-financing

by the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship (in the perspective of 2021), which would allow for more effective protection and research activities in the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region starting from 2021. Talks are in progress.

**3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value.**

Not identified.

**4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.**

Not identified.

**5. Public access to the state of conservation report**

The State Party agrees to the publication of the entire report on the website of the World Heritage Centre.

**6. Signature of the Authority**