

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/AA/1633/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 17 December 2020

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

**World Heritage List 2021 – Interim report and additional information request
The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**

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 2021. 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 Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales” was carried out by Friederike Hansell (Germany) from 27 September to 3 October 2020. The mission expert greatly appreciated the support, facilities and information provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

On 22 September 2020, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the rationale of the selection of components, protection, management plans, current quarrying and operations and renewable energy. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 13 November 2020 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2020, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2021. The additional information provided by the State Party, together with the mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2021.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation for the meeting held on 25 November 2020 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the third part of the ICOMOS Panel meeting. During this final part of its meeting, the Panel identified areas where it considers that further information is needed.

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

Protection of the setting and key views

In the additional information, the State Party explained that the national park and landscape designations cover all areas between and surrounding the six serial components, acting as an added layer of protection for the nominated property, its setting and views. The State Party asserted that there has not been a definition of key view-points in order to not undervalue the landscape scale, wider setting and other view-points. During the meeting between the State Party and the ICOMOS Panel in November 2020, the strategy used for protecting the setting and views was further explained, whereby the focus lies on strengthening the planning system with supplementary guidance for World Heritage properties and applying strong regulations for any proposed development.

ICOMOS notes that the serial nomination consists of separate components, which cover relatively small areas. ICOMOS appreciates the information provided in the proposed management plan (pp. 66-72) where "essential setting", "significant views" and "sense of arrival" are described for each of the serial components of the nominated property. However, ICOMOS notes that no maps or photographs are provided to specifically illustrate these key points. Therefore, it would be helpful if illustration on maps and photographs of key view-points in particular could be provided to allow ICOMOS to better understand this issue. Particularly, the ICOMOS Panel noted the area of Port Penrhyn in Component Part 1 and Portmadog in Component Part 5 as highly vulnerable. The ICOMOS Panel understands that there are protected areas and landscape designations for the coast of Anglesey, the Menai Strait area and the adjacent "seascapes" which have not been described in the maps contained in the nomination dossier and would like to receive more information on how the coastal area of Components Part 1 and 5 would be protected.

ICOMOS would be pleased to know whether formal buffer zones were considered for each component and if so why this approach was not adopted and furthermore to understand why the protected areas and landscape designations have not been proposed as a buffer zone for the nominated property. Furthermore, it would be helpful to know what are the specific measures that are in place or proposed to protect the setting and views of the serial components, especially in coastal vulnerable areas such as Port Penrhyn and Porthmadog Harbour, and the linear elements in some of the serial components (Penrhyn railway in Component Part 1, Gorseddau and Portmadoc railways in Component Part 2, Ffestiniog railway in Component Part 5, Talyllyn railway in Component Part 6.)

Management

The ICOMOS Panel is thankful for additional information provided by the State Party about the status and expected finalization of the Local Management Plans, as well as the approach explained during the meeting in November 2020.

Due to the complexity of the nominated property, ICOMOS is interested in understanding better how the six serial components will be managed as units of the property as well as individual elements. ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could submit the Local Management Plans that have been already completed as well as any guiding documents currently under elaboration that would be finalized by the date of submission of supplementary information, such as the Risk Strategy Plan, the Supplementary Planning Guidance for the nominated property, the Tourism Strategy, and the Interpretation Strategy and Communications Programme as a potential World Heritage property.

Furthermore, ICOMOS would be grateful to receive any update on planned developments, if any, notably of the housing projects in Deiniolen, Bangor and Blaenau Ffestiniog, and the refurbishment of the National Slate Museum.

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 2021 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 World Heritage Evaluation Unit

Copy to Historic England
 Cyngor Gwynedd Council
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre