

**Report on the State of Conservation of a World Heritage Property
Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region
(Poland) (C 1599)**

1. Executive Summary

This report presents the current state of conservation of the property Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region and its buffer zones. It covers the period from November 2020 (date of submission of the last report to the World Heritage Centre) to early November 2022. The report addresses the issues identified in the World Heritage Committee decision no. 44 COM 7B.157.

The State Party undertakes measures to ensure proper protection and management of the World Heritage property Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region.

Due to its limited scope, mining activity conducted in the buffer zone of the Koryczna component has little impact on the status of the World Heritage site. The State Party wishes to reiterate that this issue has already been explained in detail during evaluation of nomination dossier to World Heritage List. A complete shut-down of the mining activity is a time-consuming process because of the nature of the undertaking in question.

Work is currently in progress to establish and operate the Kamienna River Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Cultural Park (PKPGKK) – a legal entity dedicated to protecting cultural landscape.

As the process of establishing the Cultural Park in a manner that will be acceptable for all stakeholders is rather time-consuming, the Świętokrzyski Regional Monuments Inspector has commenced parallel activities aiming to enter the surroundings of the individual components of the property, located within the buffer zones, into the register of monuments. The entry of the surroundings into the register of historic monuments guarantees legal tools (on the national level) allowing to enforce proper protection of the property against adverse changes.

The establishment of the Cultural Park means that local spatial development plans need to be developed and adopted, with the provisions thereof complying with the protection-related requirements set forth in the Cultural Park's protection plan. The provisions of such local special development plans are obligatorily agreed upon with the Regional Monuments Inspector who verifies their compliance with conservation-related requirements.

The Historical and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski (MHA) – the caretaker of the property, is conducting a number of activities related to the implementation of the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region's management plan, is cooperating with the remaining stakeholders and is also striving to expand its knowledge about the World Heritage property, to strengthen its protection and to promote the site.

Since the inscription of the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region on the World Heritage List, all investment projects related to or affecting the property are verified for their potential impact on the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its specific attributes.

Starting from 1 January 2022, the Museum is co-managed by the Ostrów Świętokrzyski District (Powiat) Authorities and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The conclusion of such an agreement ensures stable, long-term funding of the Museum and a 100% increase in its budget. This allows to conduct more research and undertake effective measures protecting the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region.

2. Response to the decision of the World Heritage Committee

This report presents the current state of conservation of the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region property and its buffer zones. It covers the period from November 2020 (date of submission of the last report to the World Heritage Centre) to early November 2022. The report addresses the issues identified in the World Heritage Committee decision no. 44 COM 7B.157. The responses were formulated on the basis of information received from stakeholders: the Historical and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, the Świętokrzyskie Regional Monuments Inspector, the Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski District Forestry Authority, as well as the Ożarów Municipality Office and the Bodzechów Municipality Office.

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

Decision: 44 COM 7B.157

The World Heritage Committee,

3. Takes note of the progress accomplished by the State Party, and requests it to continue working on the issues identified at the time of inscription by:

a) Taking appropriate and immediate measures to attenuate the negative impact of the working limestone quarry in the Koryczna buffer zone,

As stated in the previous SOC report from November 2020, due to its limited scope, mining activity conducted in the buffer zone of the Koryczna component has little impact on the state of the World Heritage site. The State Party would like to remind that this issue has already been explained in detail during evaluation of nomination dossier to World Heritage List. Information was provided at that time that the mining activity is pursued based on a legally valid mining licence granted in 2013 (i.e. prior to the inscription). The said licence expires in 2029. A complete shut-down of the mining activity is a time-consuming process because of the nature of the undertaking in question. Talks are being held with the owner of the active limestone quarry ("Anna" mine) located in the buffer zone of the Koryczna component. Activities aiming to protect the World Heritage property, placed before mining activities carried out in its surroundings are strongly supported by local residents, what has been reflected by numerous protests and petitions concerning the matter.

b) Finalizing as soon as possible the process of creating the Cultural Park, in order to make the buffer zones effective,

The Historic and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski continues work on establishing the Kamienna River Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Cultural Park (PKPGKK):

- it identifies the potential threats affecting the cultural landscape within the buffer zones of the World Heritage property, by analysing the related investment applications;
- it has come up with a modified draft of the Cultural Park protection plan;
- it holds consultations with local governments and other institutions and organisations being the stakeholders of the Cultural Park protection plan and of draft resolutions establishing the Cultural Park;
- it organises and co-organises information meetings for local communities;

- it has obtained written declarations of the residents of 7 villages in the northern part of the Ćmielów commune, supporting the idea of establishing a Cultural Park in their villages.

The modified draft of the Cultural Park protection plan has been distributed among the stakeholders who submitted a number of remarks related both, to the territory of the Cultural Park, and to the protection-related regulations proposed in the plan.

As the process of establishing the Cultural Park in a manner that will be acceptable for all stakeholders is rather time consuming, the Świętokrzyskie Regional Monuments Inspector has commenced parallel activities aiming to enter the surroundings of the individual components of the property, located within the buffer zones, into the register of monuments. The entry of the surroundings into the register of monuments guarantees legal tools (on the national level) allowing to enforce proper protection of the property against adverse changes.

In the course of those activities, a procedure has been initiated (ex-officio) to enter the Kamienna River Region with Settlements Mining, Handling and Processing Minerals into the register of immovable monuments of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship. Three areas of key significance for the protection of the World Heritage site (i.e. components) have been identified within the region, along with their buffer zones: K1 – “Krzemionki” mining field with “Księża Rola” (a part of the said field), K2 – “Borownia”, and K3 – “Korycizna”.

Further plans assume that a procedure will be initiated to enter a settlement complex located near Ćmielów (comprising the K4 “Gawroniec” component and its buffer zone) into the register of immovable monuments of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship.

c) Specifying 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 Culture Park is to strengthen the protection of the World Heritage site. The formal establishment of the Cultural Park requires that specific resolutions be adopted by the Commune Councils, upon seeking an opinion of the Regional Monuments Inspector. Such resolutions need to contain information about the borders of the Cultural Park, the manner in which it will be protected, as well as on the forbidden ways of using land (and on applicable restrictions) ensuring that the protected cultural landscape will not be threatened. The adoption of such resolutions by the individual administrative entities (communes) requires that local special development plans must be developed and adopted for the entire area of the Cultural Park, with the provisions thereof complying with the protection-related requirements set forth in the Cultural Park’s protection plan. The provisions of such local special development plans are obligatorily agreed upon with the Regional Monuments Inspector who verifies their compliance with conservation-related requirements.

d) Further developing and strengthening the Management Plan by:

(i) continuing its implementation in order to ensure effective protection of the property,

The Historic and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski has undertaken a number of activities aimed at improving the functioning of conservation protection of the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region and at expanding the knowledge concerning the said region:

- 1) Finishing the project titled "Increasing accessibility to the Historic and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski by improving the infrastructure of the Krzemionki Archaeological Museum and Reserve and the Wielkopolski Family Palace". The said project aims, inter alia, to enhance the protection of the K1 "Krzemionki Opatowskie" component by organising, in an appropriate manner, the flow of tourist traffic.
- 2) Organising the 100th anniversary of the discovery of prehistoric mines in the Krzemionki region, with a particular emphasis placed on promoting knowledge about the world heritage property.
- 3) Continuing research on the property, including non-invasive studies in the southern part of the "Krzemionki" mining field – the least scientifically explored part of the historic mines, and promoting the results of such research during a scientific conference and by means of an English language publication;
- 4) Publishing press and Internet articles in magazines related to the preservation of historical monuments, aimed at promoting knowledge about the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region, as well as boosting public support.

Some of the components are located on land owned by the State Treasury and managed by the Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski District Forestry Authority. Activities protecting the K1 - "Krzemionki" component, within the boundaries of the "Krzemionki Opatowskie" nature reserve, protection activities are conducted pursuant to the Protection Plan adopted by means of a Disposition of the Regional Environmental Protection Director. The said plan sets out the framework of the protection activities related to ecosystems and the associated attributes of the nature reserve.

On the remaining plots of land affected by the entry into the register of monuments, activities are carried out pursuant to the Forest Management Plan that has been subjected to a strategic environmental impact assessment.

The Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski District Forestry Authority is participating, to the extent related to the scope of its competence, in the work related to managing the World Heritage property. It cooperates with the Historic and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, with state institutions, local government and social organisations.

(ii) including Heritage Impact Assessment methodology in the management system of the property, to ensure that any programme or project relating to, or having an impact on, the property, such as any potentially planned mining activities, is evaluated in terms of its impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value and the associated attributes,

Since the inscription of the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region on the World Heritage List, all investment projects related to or affecting the property are verified for their potential impact on the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its specific attributes. The opinions issued serve as a basis for taking specific decisions.

(iii) ensuring the long-term funding of the archaeological research programme,

On 20th December 2021 an agreement was concluded between the State Treasury – Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Ostrów Świętokrzyski District (Powiat) Authorities on co-managing a joint institution of culture, i.e. the Historic and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski. Starting from 1st January 2022, the Museum is co-managed by the Ostrów Świętokrzyski District (Powiat) Authorities and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

The conclusion of such an agreement ensures stable, long-term funding of the Museum and a 100% increase in its budget. This allows to conduct more research and undertake effective measures protecting the Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region.

(iv) guaranteeing that the research objectives of the programme are adequate in view of the conservation plan;

The organisational structure of the Historic and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski comprises the following departments: Archaeology, History, Art and Artistic Crafts, Science and Education, Promotion, Archive and Library, Head Stock-taker. The Museum organises permanent and temporary exhibitions (until 2009, nearly 240 temporary exhibitions have been organised), conducts scientific research, holds on-site lessons, workshops, lectures, conferences and concerts. It issues scientific publications and exhibition catalogues. The Museum's collection comprises nearly 5,600 volumes and 4,200 exhibits.

For more than 45 years now, the Historic and Archaeological Museum has been collecting, storing, preserving and making available cultural exhibits related to archaeology, history and art of the region.

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

Not identified.

4. In accordance with the provisions of section 172 of the Operational Guidelines, please describe any potential substantial renovation works, modifications and/or construction works planned within the property, the buffer zone (buffer zones) and/or corridors or other areas, if such changes may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including its authenticity and integrity.

Not identified.

5. Public access to the Report on the state of conservation

The State Party hereby consents to the publication of the full version of the report on the World Heritage Centre website.

6. Signature of the authority

dr Jarosław Sellin

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND NATIONAL
HERITAGE

SECRETARY OF STATE
GENERAL CONSERVATOR OF MONUMENTS