

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### State Party:

Denmark

### State, Province or Region:

Region of Zealand, Municipality of Vordingborg

### Name of nominated property:

Møns Klint

### Geographical coordinates to the nearest second:

The coordinates at the highest point on the central section of the cliff profile, Dronningestolen: N 54° 58' 04" E 12° 33' 01"

### Textual description of the boundary(ies) of the nominated property:

The nominated property comprises 6 km coastal chalk cliffs that have been deformed heavily by Pleistocene glaciers and thereafter exposed in a large-scaled cross section by erosional forces. The property boundary follows the chalk exposures of the cliff profile along the entire stretch of coastline, from the southernmost proximal section at Jættebrink and to the northernmost distal section at Lilleklint.

The central section, comprising Dronningestolen and Forchhammers Pynt, constitute the most heavily deformed and tallest sections of the complex. And in this central section the most prominent marginal hills are moreover included in the property, since they provide important visual contributions to the understanding of glaciotectonic impact on landscape formation. They moreover represent the geomorphological landforms in the glacio-tectonic landscape adjoining the exposed cliff profile. The tallest and most prominent hill systems are found at Aborrebjerg (143 m) in Jydelejet, and at the continuous ridge system of Siesø Bjerg and Timmesø Bjerg, within the forest of Klinteskov.

Erosion from waves and weather continuously changes the exact profile of the cliffs, keeping the surface fresh, white and well exposed. The vertical boundary of the nominated property therefore follows the, at a given time, exact cliff profile exposure and location. Meaning that as the cliff profile migrates slowly inland, so follows the property boundary. The beach in front of the cliff profile is not included in the property, but part of the buffer zone.

The buffer zone surrounds the property, and also extends into the marine section in front of the cliffs. It follows the public areas to the south and north of the property, including the calcareous grasslands of Hundevæng overdrev and Jydelejet, and in addition the central and privately owned parts of Klinteskov. However, the outermost parts of the forest, who are at the moment used in more intense private forestry, are excluded, as are a few private properties to the north (Langebjerg) and to the south (Busene).

The wider settings, including and surrounding the property and buffer zone, are moreover extensively protected by many protective designations, in addition to strict national legislation, including the 'Beach Protection Line' and the 'Coastal Proximity Zone', veritably preventing construction and change of the landscape in an area of three kilometers from the coast, and thereby effectively protecting as well the property, but also the buffer zone and beyond, from any inexpedient development in the future.



### Criteria under which property is nominated (itemize criteria)

Møns Klint is proposed to be inscribed under the criteria (viii) of Paragraph 77 of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2023), stating that the nominated properties shall:

**(viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;**

The white cliffs and their hinterlands are proposed on the World Heritage list because they represent an outstanding and superlative example of glaciotectionic mountain building, that illustrates the profound effect of lowland glaciers on Pleistocene landscapes.

#### Cultural landscape:

No

### Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

#### a) Brief synthesis

The property of Møns Klint is a coastal chalk cliff with exceptional geological and scenic qualities. The white cliffs consist of large sheets of Cretaceous chalk that has been bulldozed up into one of the world's largest glaciotectionic complexes during the last glaciation period, locally known as the Weichsel glaciation.

The complex in its entirety is one of the largest known well described glacial complexes in the world, and spans almost five kilometers inland, represented by parallel marginal ridge hills from three different glacio-directions. However, the uniqueness of the complex lies in the outstanding and large-scaled cross section of the complex, exposed in a spectacular cliff profile that reveals the inner architecture of the entire complex from south to north, and at the same time offers a magnificent visual experience for the viewer.

The coastal cliff profile on the easternmost tip of this extensive glaciotectionic complex contains the primary physiographical attributes, representing the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. Erosional forces from waves and weathering has exposed a spectacular cross-section, with an outstanding exposure of more than 6 km, and a structural relief extending 200 meters from the base to the top of the complex. The steep white cliffs, more than 120 meters above sea level, form jagged towers of whiteness above turquoise waters, stony black flint beaches, and crowned by green beech tree forests on top.

#### b) Justification for Criteria

**Criterion viii:** Møns Klint is an outstanding example of a major stage in the history of Earth: The glacial landscape formation and mountain building of the Pleistocene Epoch. It moreover represents significant geomorphic and physiographic features, in the form of a well exposed cross section through one of the world's largest glaciotectionic complexes, and it provides a unique testimony of the advances of specific glacial ice streams, including their extent, fast flow and dynamics. For the same reason, the site has played a key-role in the scientific history and acknowledgement of glaciotectionics, including important methodological contributions to the scientific discipline of glaciotectionism.

#### c) Statement of Integrity

The Møns Klint property represents a classic glaciotectionic complex, encompassed by a dramatic and scenic coastal landscape. The cliff profile covers the complete deformational history of a glacial advance, complete with a steep proximal imbricate section to the south, a central and highly deformed antiformal stack, and a distal section of thrust faults to the north.

The primary element of the complex is the exposed cross section: The cliff profile, which offers the most spectacular vistas and a unique insight into the complex glaciotectionic structures. However, to understand the true scale and evolution of the complex, also the

marginal hills that continue back into the landscape are of scientific and visual importance.

They provide an important overview of the morphological structures throughout the entire complex, including the number and direction of the glacial advances that created the glaciotectionic structures and formed the landscape. They thereby also provide an illustrative example of the classic glacio-landscape that Pleistocene glaciers have impacted and formed throughout the Northern Hemisphere, and that now cover immense parts of the continental lowland areas, corresponding largely to the fertile areas that house and feed a large portion of the Earth's population today. In the most prominent marginal hills, that are included as an integral part of the property, the chalk is completely exposed in the surface, as is the case in the entire nominated property.

#### e) Requirements for protection and management

The Møns Klint area has been iconic to Denmark for centuries, and thus well protected for its natural and scenic values for more than a century.

The 6 km coastline of the cliffs, including the cliffside edge 300 meters inland, is well protected by the national 'Beach Protection Line', with no sections missing or being inaccessible.

The Outstanding Universal Value in the area, will be protected and sustained by protecting the nature surrounding the cliff profile, as well as the geomorphological structures of the landscapes, however erosional dynamics are considered part of the outstanding value itself, and thus not covered by the conservation efforts.

The protective legislation in the area cover all remaining natural protection, not least the conservation of features in the landscape, covered by the 'Høje Møn Protection' who prevents any change in terrain or planting of trees or construction of buildings, to disturb the unhindered views of the landscape.

Conservation efforts within the nominated property, include: clearing of certain parts of the forest (supporting biodiversity as well as visibility of geological features), protecting other parts of the forest (by preventing forestry), protecting viewpoints and calcareous grasslands from overgrowth - and also distribution of visitors (away from areas of specific vulnerability).

The Danish Nature Agency is responsible for natural management on most of the property, and the private Klintholm Estate of the remaining part, and all parties follow sustainable strategies for the development and management in the area.

### Name and contact information of official local institution/agency/organization

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