
Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Danube Limes (Austria, Germany, Slovakia) No 1608bis

1 Basic information

States Parties

Austria, Germany, Slovakia

Name of property

Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Danube Limes
(Western Segment)

Location

Austria

Federal State of Upper Austria (*Oberösterreich*):
Administrative districts (*Verwaltungsbezirke and Städte*)
of Schärding, Grieskirchen, Eferding, Linz-Land, Linz
Federal State of Lower Austria (*Niederösterreich*):
administrative districts (*Politische Bezirke*) of Amstetten,
Melk, Krems, St. Pölten-Land, Tulln, Wien-Umgebung,
Bruck an der Leitha
City of Vienna (*Wien*): administrative district (*Bezirk*) of
Innere Stadt

Germany

Free State of Bavaria (*Bayern*):
Regions (*Regierungsbezirke*) of Lower Bavaria
(*Niederbayern*), Upper Palatinate (*Oberpfalz*); counties
and municipalities (*Landkreise and Städte*) of Kelheim,
Regensburg, Straubing, Deggendorf, Passau

Slovakia

Bratislava Self-governing region (*Bratislavský
samosprávny kraj*): administrative district of Bratislava
Nitra Self-governing region (*Nitriansky samosprávny
kraj*): administrative district of Komárno

Inscription

2021

Brief description

The Danube Limes (Western Segment) extends almost 600 km along the Danube River, defining the northern and eastern boundaries of the Roman provinces of Raetia (eastern part), Noricum and the north of Pannonia, from Bad Gögging in Germany, through Austria, to Iza in Slovakia. The fortifications established a continuous chain of military installations along the Danube, and functioned between the 1st and 5th centuries CE. The component parts include legionary fortresses, forts, fortlets, watch towers and roads associated with the Roman Empire. In addition to the military purposes, these also controlled trade and access across the river.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

13 March 2024

2 Issues raised

Background

The inscription of this transnational serial property in 2021 on the basis of criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv) is one of a number of inscribed segments of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire in Europe, and includes seventy-seven component parts. A number of the boundaries and buffer zones were adjusted during the evaluation procedure through the dialogue between the States Parties and ICOMOS.

The World Heritage Committee inscribed the transnational serial property and recommended that the States Parties give consideration to establishing buffer zones for component parts that do not have them and to submit these as minor boundary modifications by 1 February 2023 (Decision 44 COM 8B.24).

A state of conservation report was submitted by the States Parties in 2023, responding point by point to Decision 44 COM 8B.24 of the World Heritage Committee.

Modification

Minor boundary modifications are proposed to the buffer zones of twelve of the component parts of the serial transnational property:

Bad Gögging – Heilbad (Germany) (001): the proposed buffer zone of 3.19 ha includes part of the historic village centre, an area to the north-west known for its sulphuric springs, and an area to the south where the main sewer of the Roman baths is thought to occur. The Roman baths and surrounding settlement functioned as an integral unit. With the exception of a small area in the south, the proposed buffer zone is part of a registered archaeological monument, and the southern portion is also protected by the Bavarian Monument Protection Law.

Regensburg Kumpfmühl – Kastell und Vicus I-II (005-006) (Germany): the proposed buffer zone of 15.35 ha encloses two component parts. The inscribed component parts and buffer zone cover the known area of the Roman fort and *vicus* of Regensburg Kumpfmühl, although there is an apparent gap in part of the buffer zone on the northern boundary. The proposed buffer zone is protected by two registered archaeological monuments, as well as Regional and Urban development plans.

Straubing – Kastell St Peter (020) (Germany): the proposed buffer zone of 1.52 ha includes the extent of the *vicus* and the immediate setting of the inscribed component part. It is protected by the Bavarian Monument Protection Law.

Oberranna – Kleinkastell (025) (Germany): no buffer zone is proposed. The States Parties argue that this is unnecessary because the boundaries of the component part already include an area without archaeological traces

that extends to the Danube. The State Party of Germany considers that the existing boundaries of the component part maintain the visual connection to the Danube.

Ybbs – Kleinkastell (041) (Austria): the proposed buffer zone of 1.97837 ha includes the assumed outline of the fortlet and connects the component part to the Danube. Most of this area is already designated as an archaeological zone in the land use plan.

Pöchlarn – Kastell und Vicus (042 – 045) (Austria): the proposed buffer zone of 5.21854 ha encloses four component parts and extends to the flood prevention dam. This area more fully includes the extent of the fort and part of the *vicus*. The area of the buffer zone is already designated as an archaeological zone in the land use plan.

Tulln – Kastell (059-060) (Austria): the proposal extends the existing buffer zones for these two component parts to enclose them both, a total of 11.3782 ha (compared to the previous buffer zones of 0.7432 and 4.0131 ha respectively). The additional area included in the proposed buffer zone includes the immediate setting of the fort and its Roman settlements to the east, south and west. The area of the buffer zone is already designated as an archaeological zone in the land use plan.

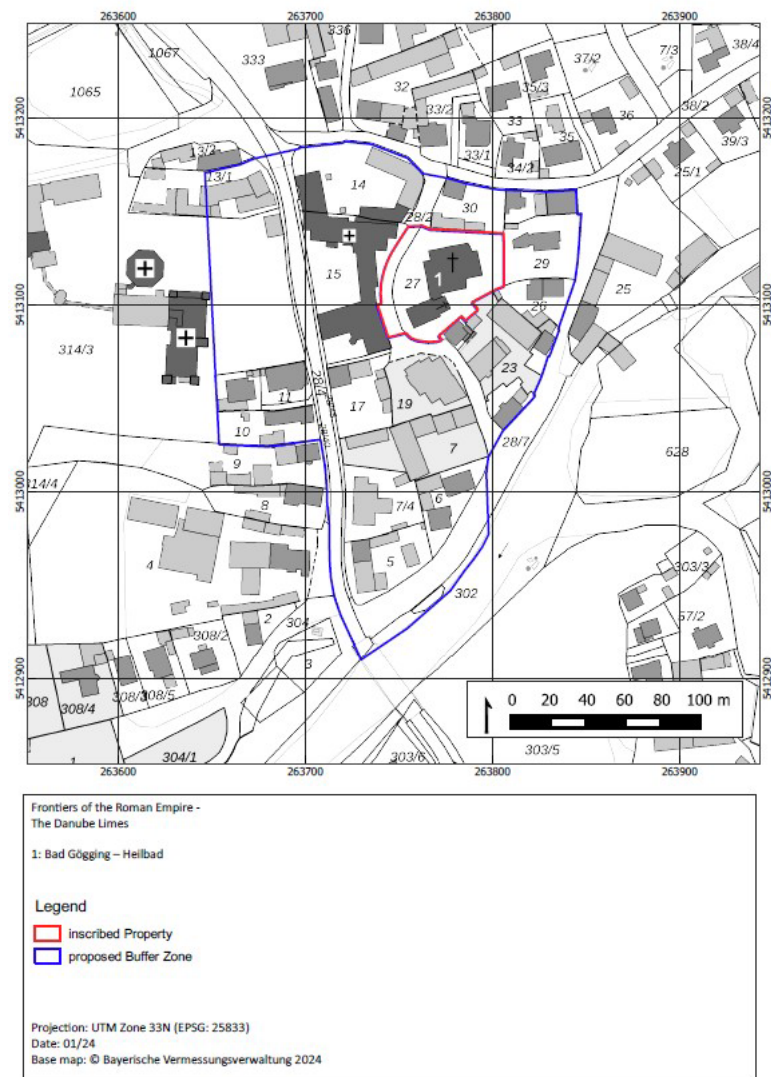
Klosterneuburg – Kastell und Vicus (065) (Austria): the proposal further extends the existing buffer zone from an area of 1.4602 ha to 7.77602 ha. The additional area includes the extent of the *vicus* and areas of archaeological potential. The area of the buffer zone is already designated as an archaeological zone in the land use plan.

ICOMOS considers that these proposals should be welcomed as they provide stronger protection to archaeological materials associated with the inscribed component parts, as well as their setting.

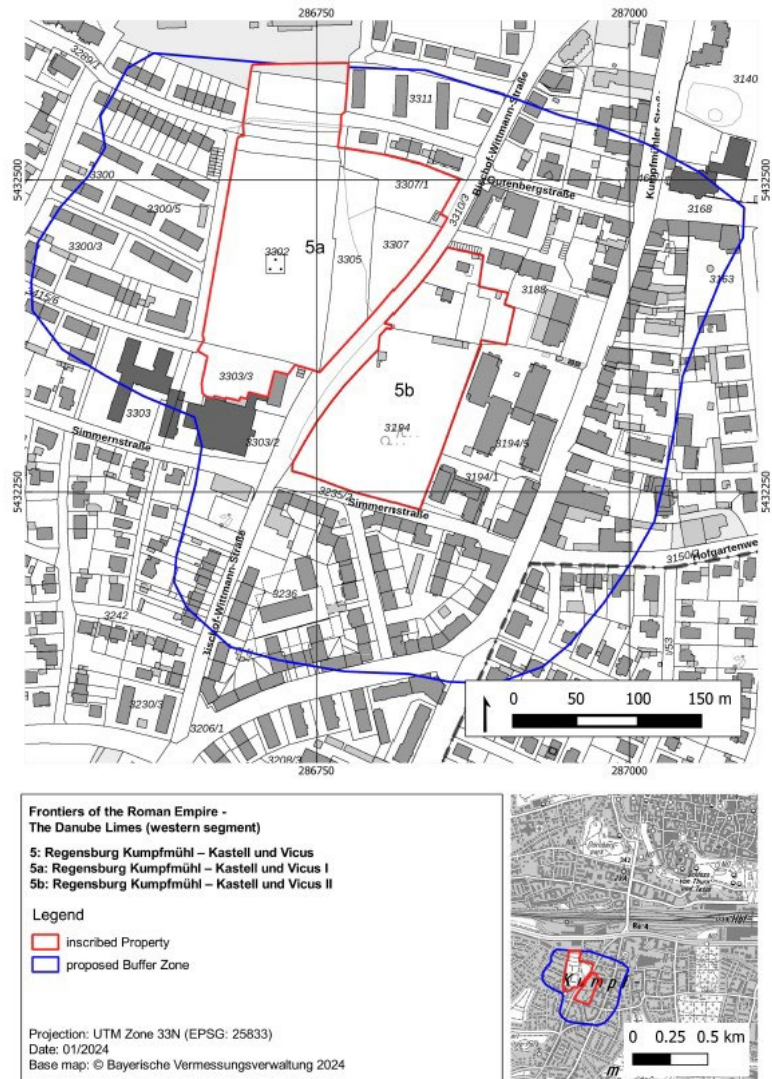
3 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

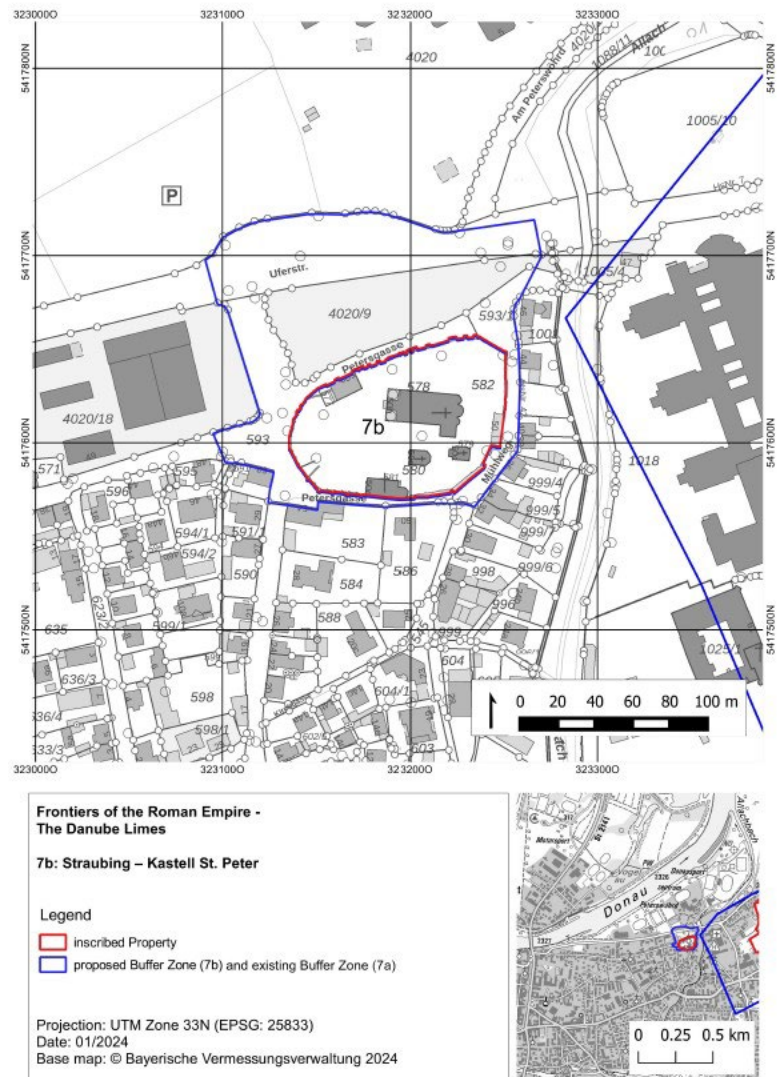
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zones for twelve component parts (001, 005-006, 020, 041, 042-045, 059-060, and 065) of Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Danube Limes (Western Segment), Austria, Germany, Slovakia, be **approved**.



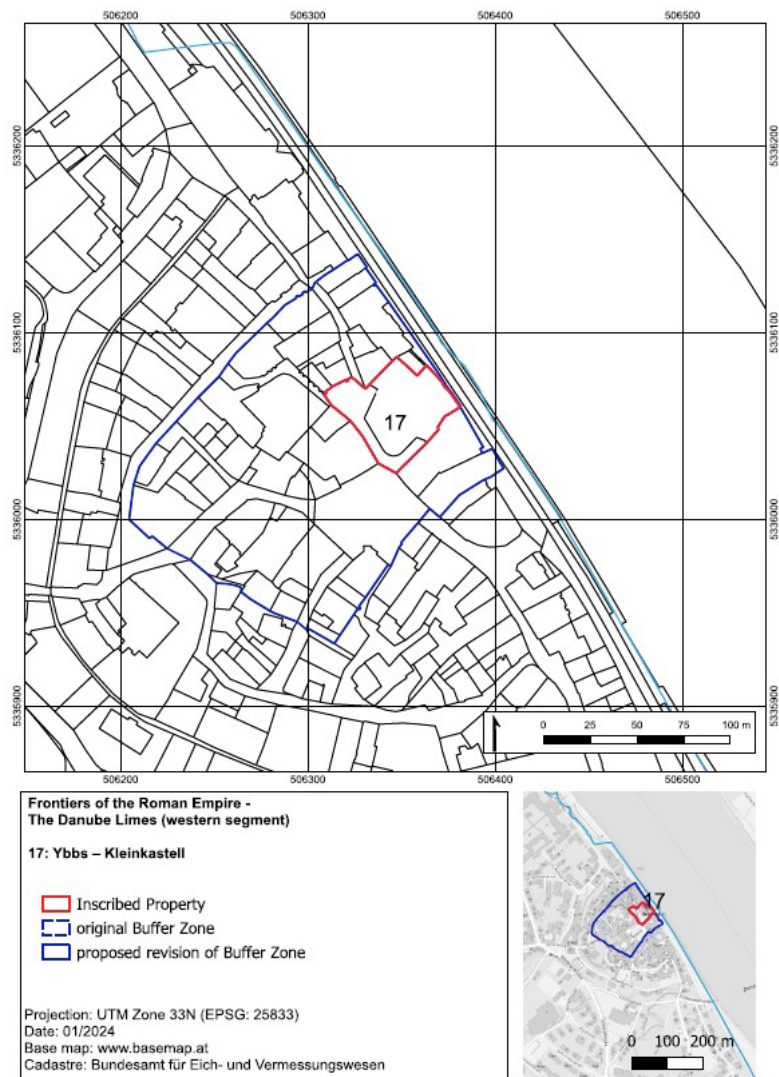
Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone for component part “Bad Gögging – Heilbad”
(February 2024)



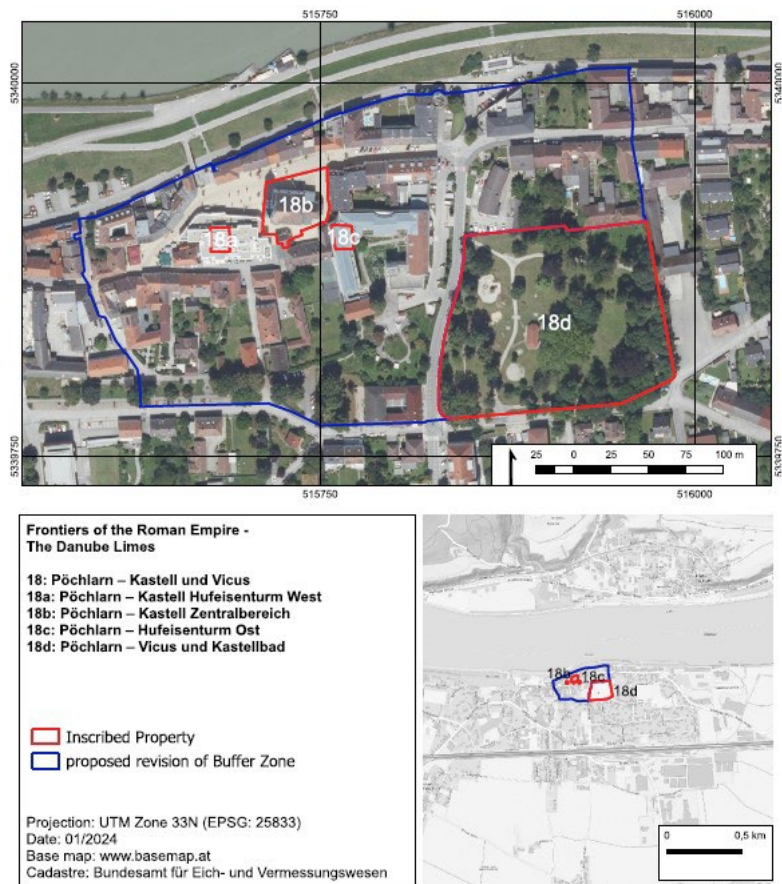
Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone for component parts of the cluster “Regensburg Kumpfmühl – Kastell und Vicus” (February 2024)



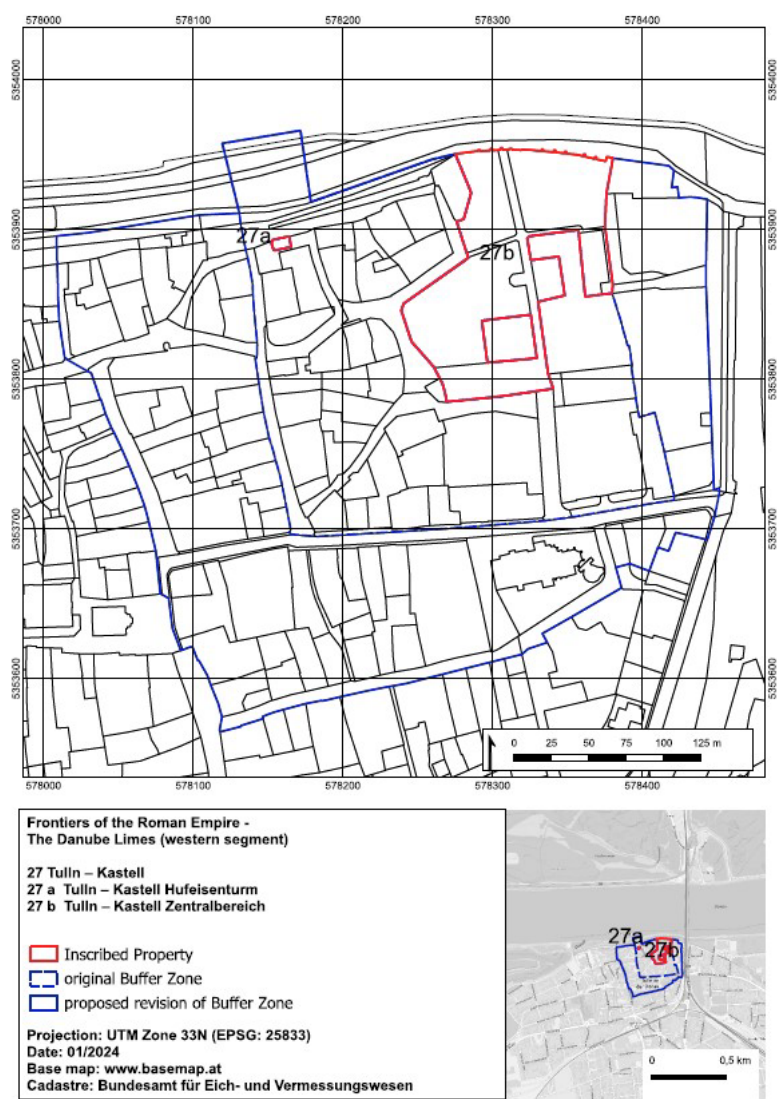
Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone for component part “Straubing – Kastell St. Peter” (February 2024)



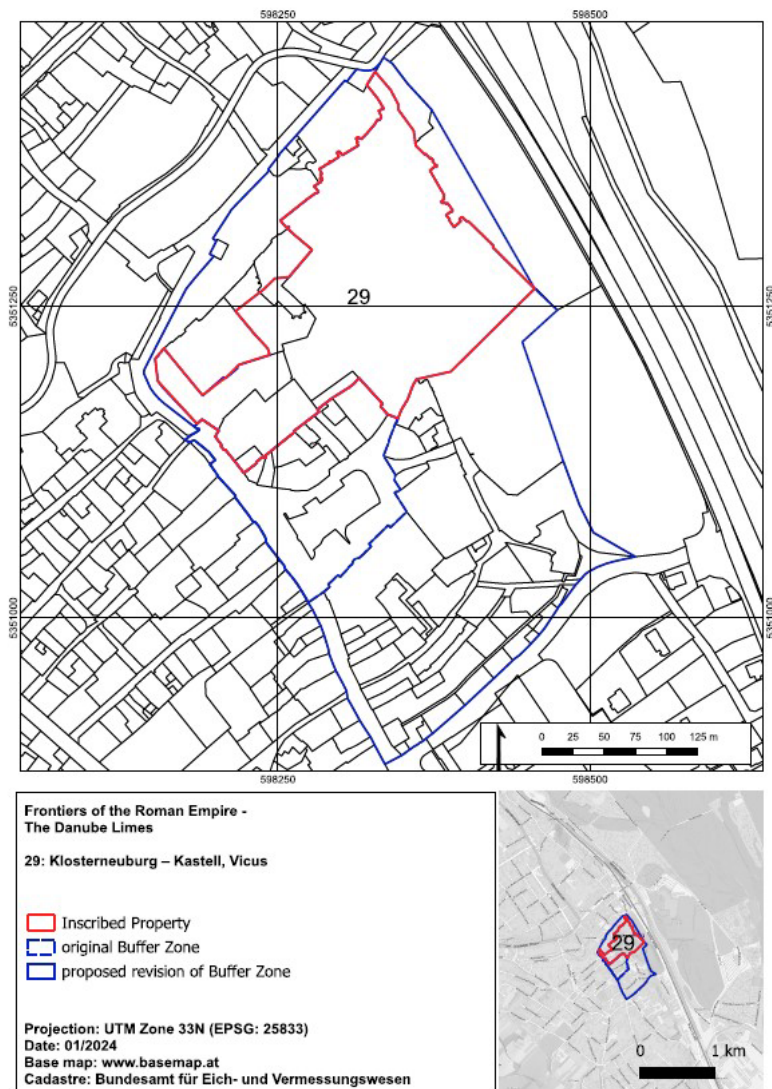
Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone of component part “Ybbs – Kleinkastell”
(February 2024)



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone for component parts of the cluster “Pöchlarn – Kastell und Vicus” (February 2024)



Map showing the revised boundaries of the buffer zone for component parts of the cluster “Tulln – Kastell”
(February 2024)



Map showing the revised boundaries of the buffer zone for component part “Klosterneuburg – Kastell und Vicus”
 (February 2024)