
Maulbronn Monastery Complex (Germany) No 546bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Germany

Name of property

Maulbronn Monastery Complex

Location

District of Enz, State of Baden-Württemberg

Inscription

1993

Brief description

Founded in 1147, the Cistercian Maulbronn Monastery is considered the most complete and best-preserved medieval monastic complex north of the Alps. Surrounded by fortified walls, the main buildings were constructed between the 12th and 16th centuries. The monastery's church, mainly in Transitional Gothic style, had a major influence in the spread of Gothic architecture over much of northern and central Europe. The water-management system at Maulbronn, with its elaborate network of drains, irrigation canals and reservoirs, is of exceptional interest.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

13 March 2019

2 Issues raised

Background

The Maulbronn Monastery Complex was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv) in 1993. At the time of inscription of the property, no buffer zone had been defined.

As noted in the brief description above, the water-management system at Maulbronn is an element of Outstanding Universal Value and its attributes comprise an elaborate network of drains, irrigation canals and reservoirs. However, at the time of inscription there was some uncertainty about which water-management features in the surrounding managed forest were actually part of the monastery water-management system.

The current minor boundary modification requests relate the modification of the property boundaries and the creation of a buffer zone.

Modification

The State Party proposes to add a nett additional area of 2.5 ha to the property boundary, with a total property boundaries of 72.45 ha, and to create a buffer zone of 1,568.47 ha.

The proposed changes to the property boundaries are the addition or the removal of water management features from the property consistent with their being attributes or not attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value.

The State Party has undertaken a detailed survey of the historic water management system using high resolution airborne laserscans and extensive field research between 2014 and 2016. As a result, a more precise knowledge of the historic function of the ditches and pond system was obtained. It was found that the four small ponds southwest of the Zaisersweiher do not belong to the monastic water system but are more modern features that served as dew ponds or fire water ponds. There is also no functional connection of the mediaeval water system of the monastery with lake Eckhausee. However, the former lake Billensbacher See was an important functional element of the sequence of ponds in the Salzach valley beneath the monastery. This lake is dried up and partly developed, but nevertheless it is an important archaeological attribute of the historic water management system.

In total, five water management features are to be excluded and one feature is to be added.

The State Party presents the creation of a buffer zone comprising the valley of the river Salzach, where the walled monastery is situated at the end of the valley, surrounded by partly developed but largely wooded ridges. The criteria used to define the proposed buffer zone relate to protection requirements (minimum distances to ditches and pond edges), functional requirements (the water catchment area) as well as providing an area to protect the monastery and water system from visual impacts.

ICOMOS however notes that the maps, indicating the localisation of the proposed modifications, comprise two buffer zones: one located at the valley of the river Salzach, as described by the State Party in the documentation submitted, and another one located at the south eastern side of the first buffer zone.

Existing management arrangements for the property will continue to operate with the modified boundaries, including for the former lake Billensbacher See which will be added to the property.

A conceptual landscape document has been developed for the preservation, maintenance and development of the proposed buffer zone (Landschaftsplanerische Gesamtperspektive Kloster-landschaft Maulbronn 2012).

The existing legal protection for the World Heritage property will extend to the modified boundary. The existing property is, and the modified property will be, subject to the Monument Protection Act Baden-Württemberg. According to §8 and §15 of the Act, any modification to listed buildings or monuments requires permission by the monument protection authority.

A range of statutory rules and regulations will apply in the proposed buffer zone, including the Monument Protection Act Baden-Württemberg, Water Protection Act Baden-Württemberg, Forest Act Baden-Württemberg, Nature Protection Act Baden-Württemberg and the Town and Country Planning Code.

ICOMOS notes that, as presented on the maps showing the extent of the proposed boundaries modifications and creation of buffer zone, the property is comprised of a series of several components, with the creation of two buffer zones. ICOMOS considers that the State Party should provide a table showing clearly the name of the component parts, their coordinates, areas extent and buffer zone, in order to clearly identify each component and each buffer zone, as prescribed by the *Operational Guidelines* p. 95, Annex 5.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed modifications to the property boundary and the identification of a buffer zone for the Maulbronn Monastery Complex will contribute to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and strengthen its management.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

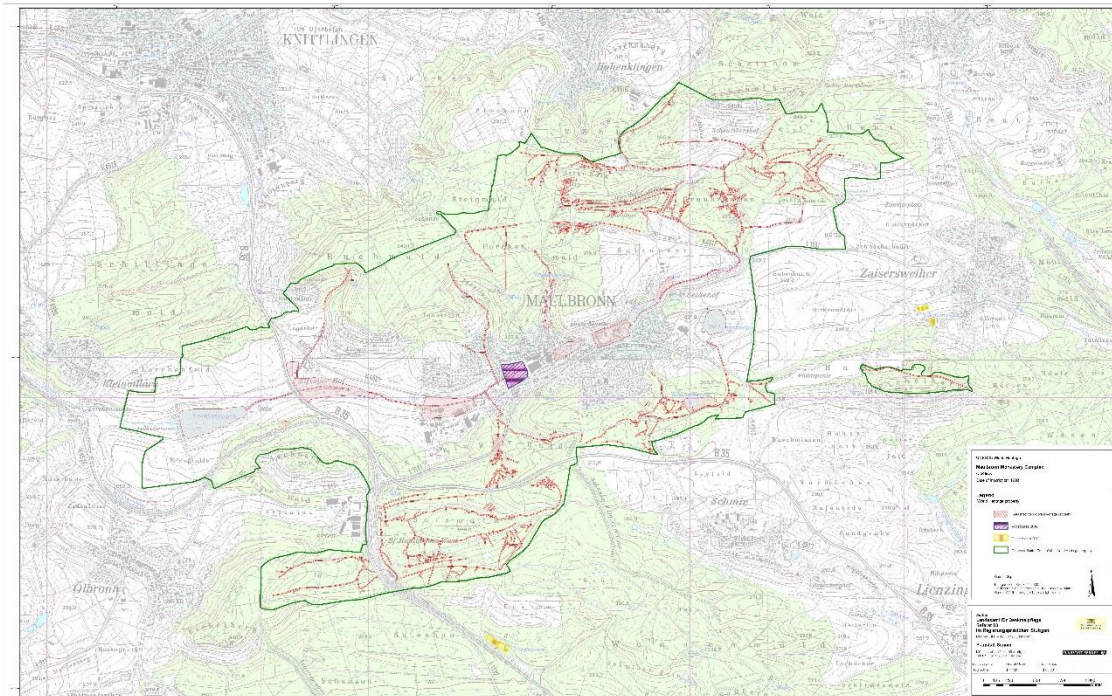
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary for Maulbronn Monastery Complex, Germany, **be approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed creation of a buffer zone for Maulbronn Monastery Complex, Germany, **be approved**.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Providing a clear table detailing each component part of the property, as well as the two buffer zones, as prescribed by the *Operational Guidelines*;



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property and the proposed buffer zone