

Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe

Management Plan

DRAFT

The nominated transnational serial World Heritage Property *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe* and all of its component parts are managed within an overall framework of cooperation to achieve common standards of identification, recording, research, protection, conservation, management, monitoring, presentation and understanding of the Viking Age heritage, in an inter-disciplinary manner and within a sustainable framework. The basic responsibility for the management of individual component parts of the nominated property should rest with each State Party. The management is performed in accordance with their legislative and management systems.

The main goal of the States Parties is, through cooperation in a Steering Group, to create and develop common rules and good practice in order to protect, preserve, monitor and promote the Outstanding Universal Value of *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe*. This goal involves active collaboration between national bodies of management, as well as effective coordination in making the property better known to the public.

Particular objectives that result from the main goal will be realised through common management practice agreed by States Parties. Through the established Steering Group, necessary coordination of the management of the individual component parts will be ensured, as well as joint responsibility for the nominated transnational serial property *Viking Age in Northern Europe*

Management principles of the nominated property

The aim of the participating States Parties through cooperation in the Steering Group is to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the transnational serial property *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe* by developing and implementing common rules for their management.

This will be achieved through:

- The establishment of common principles and guidelines for good management of the property
- Building capacity for common management of the property through networks and training
- Promoting *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe* as a common heritage by improving public knowledge, education and accessibility
- Involving communities and other stakeholders and enabling their cooperation
- Monitoring the maintenance of the OUV and the implementation of the common management principles

The common principles and guidelines for the property will be agreed upon when the nomination comes into force and a permanent steering group has been established. All the nominated component parts are, however, already maintained in quite similar ways and on similar principles.

Management Structure

Steering Group

The Steering Group makes decisions regarding the structure of the management system, its goals and procedures.

The States Parties nominate representatives to the Steering Group. The State Party nominates one person from the national cultural heritage authority and one person from each component part. The representative from the cultural heritage authority is the National Contact Person.

Each State Party has one vote in the decisions made by the Steering Group. The decisions of the Steering Group must be unanimous. The Steering Group has one general meeting annually. An extraordinary meeting may be requested by any State Party at any time.

Chair

The Chair is rotated in alphabetical order, Denmark, Iceland, Latvia, Norway and Schleswig-Holstein, every second year.

The Chair heads the Steering Group and officially represents the Group. The Chair is supported by a Vice-chair. The Vice-chair is the next Chair.

Activities

Steering Group

The main activities of the Steering Group are:

- To establish common principles and guidelines for the management of the property. To follow up the state of conservation of the component parts of *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe* by collecting and assessing annual reports from the five countries
- To coordinate periodic reporting to the World Heritage Committee for the whole series
- To coordinate and give recommendations for the management of the five component parts of the *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe*
- To develop policies and programmes for the presentation and promotion of *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe*
- To facilitate research to increase knowledge and improve management of *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe*
- To promote and facilitate exchange of experience for all the parties involved in site management
- To facilitate availability of information on *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe* for a wider community
- To encourage sustainable use of *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe*
- To agree a work plan and budget
- To decide on the location of the Secretariat based on the advice of the Chair

The Steering Group can consult experts for advice and support, either by calling on individuals or by forming ad hoc groups.

Chair

The main responsibilities of the Chair are:

- To prepare the meetings and decisions of the Steering Group
- To prepare the annual work plan and budget for *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe*
- To be the focal point for periodic reporting and submit the report for the whole series to the World Heritage Centre
- To coordinate and promote the implementation of the decisions made by the Steering Group
- To represent *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe*

- To draw up the Annual Report of the Steering Group based on the national reports submitted by the States Parties before the annual meeting of the Steering Group
- To be in charge of the Secretariat

Secretariat

The Chair is in charge of the work programme for the Secretariat.

The main task of the Secretariat is to assist the Chair in pursuing the policies and decisions of the Steering Group. The Secretariat should assist the Chair in preparing and organising the annual meetings of the Steering Group, as well as issuing the proceedings and other relevant tasks.

The Secretariat keeps all relevant records and is responsible for communicating with the World Heritage Centre.

The Secretariat administers the World Heritage Property's website.

Future extensions to the serial property

The Steering Group will assess and give its recommendations to the involved States Parties for possible future extensions based on whether these extensions would contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the whole Property. States Parties wishing to nominate further component parts to *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe* are required to endorse the common management system of the property.

Language

The working language of the transnational serial nomination *Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe* is English.