

## **Executive Summary**

Røros Mining Town was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980 on the basis of criteria (iii) (iv) (v). Norway hereby submits a proposal for an extension of the world heritage area and the determination of a buffer zone. This also entails a change of the name of the Property to “Røros Mining Town and the Circumference”. The proposed extension was inscribed on the Tentative List in 2008.

### **State Party:**

Miljøverndepartementet, Norwegian Ministry of the Environment

### **State:**

Norway

### **Region, municipalities:**

The proposed extension to the Property	The proposed buffer zone
<u>County of Sør-Trøndelag</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Røros municipality</li><li>• Holtålen municipality</li></ul>	<u>County of Sør-Trøndelag</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Røros municipality</li><li>• Holtålen municipality</li><li>• Midtre Gauldal municipality</li></ul>
<u>County of Hedmark</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engerdal municipality</li><li>• Os municipality</li></ul>	<u>County of Hedmark</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engerdal municipality</li><li>• Os municipality</li><li>• Tolga municipality</li><li>• Tynset municipality</li></ul>

### **Name of the Property:**

Røros Mining Town and the Circumference

### **Geographical coordinates:**

The proposed extension makes the Property a serial nomination that consists of two areas and a transport route:

**Town and Cultural Landscapes** . North: 6943400. East: 314500

**Femundshytta**. North: 6913400. East: 336900

**Winter Transport Route**. North: 6917700. East: 322900

Coordinate System: WGS\_1984\_UTM\_Zone\_33N

### **Description of the boundaries**

The three nominated world heritage sites are located in the Circumference, i.e. the area of privileges awarded by the Danish-Norwegian King to Røros Copper Works in 1646. The circular area of privileges has a radius of 45.2 kilometres, with its centre at the first workable mine, “Old Storwartz”.

### **Town and Cultural Landscapes**

These cover a large continuous area that includes the entire sweep of landscape surrounding the previously inscribed mining town as well as the urban agriculture and the most important mining landscapes, Storwartz and the Nordgruvefeltet field.

### **Femundshytta**

This includes the industrial cultural landscape with traces of a smelter, water management systems and the community that grew up around them. After about 50 years of smelting at Røros most of the timber around the town had been consumed. The copper works then found it profitable to establish new smelters in forested areas and to transport the copper ore to these. The remoteness and the long distance between the mines and the smelters constitute one of the characteristics of mining operations at Røros. Femundshytta, operative 1743-1822, represents these smelters.

### **Winter Transport Route**

The nominated part of the winter transport route starts at the outer limit of the Circumference in Tufsingdal and continues over Lake Korssjøen to Røros. Mining operations and the mining communities created an enormous need for transport. Up to the 1880 most of this took place during wintertime using horses or bullocks and sledges on frozen rivers and lakes. The nominated winter transport route represents this form of transport.

### **Buffer Zone**

The outer limit of the Buffer Zone follows the rim of the Circumference, with the exception of the areas that are located in Tydal municipality and on the other side of the border with Sweden. The Property comprises historic sites and cultural landscapes that explain why Røros Mining Town came into existence and how it developed and functioned. However, the mining town cannot be fully portrayed without the Circumference. Norway therefore proposes that most of the Circumference should be awarded status as a buffer zone. The proposed buffer zone has high values in terms of the natural environment while at the same time there are traces of activities linked to Røros Copper Works in almost the entire area. Together the Property and the Buffer Zone constitute a totality in which Røros Mining Town has been the driving force that has stamped its mark on the entire area while being completely dependent on the resources provided by the Circumference (and by areas far beyond). The buffer zone places the Property in a broader historic and functional context, and in this way it contributes to safeguard the outstanding universal value of the Property.

### **Maps**

Five A4 size maps:

- Røros Mining Town and the Circumference – Situation
- Administrative borders
- The World Heritage Sites and the Buffer Zone
- Town and Cultural Landscapes
- Winter Transport Route, Femundshytta

## **Justification**

### **Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

The World Heritage Site Røros Mining Town and the Circumference comprises a unique mining town, established in 1646, built entirely of wood, and surrounded by a cultural landscape that shows in an outstanding and almost complete manner how the mining operations, transport and way of life had to be adapted to the requirements of the natural environment – the mountain plains, the cold climate, the remote location without roads and with marginal growth conditions for forests and agriculture. On this basis a unique culture developed that has disappeared in part, but outstanding testimony of its existence has been preserved.

### **Criteria under which the Property is nominated**

#### **Criterion (iii)**

*(iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared*

From the time copper ore was found in the mountains at Røros in 1644 and over the ensuing 333 years until the copper works went bankrupt in 1977 a unique culture developed in the remote and sparsely inhabited area. The uniqueness rests in particular on the testimony preserved that shows how technology and people could adapt to the remoteness of the location and climatic extremes in order to extract the valuable copper.

With German mining technology as a starting point, German, Danish, Swedish and Norwegian immigrants created a mining community under extreme conditions. The community developed in collaboration with the few farmers and the Sámi who already lived and worked in the area. Today there is no mining in the area, but Røros Mining Town and the traces of mining, smelters, transport systems and systems for water management, bear a unique testimony to the adaptation of technology to the requirements of the natural environment and the remoteness of the situation. Testimonies of the dual occupation of the inhabitants, mining and farming, is clearly seen in the preserved structure of the town and in the surrounding cultural landscape. The urban agriculture with its specialized system for use of resources show in an outstanding and coherent manner how people were forced to exploit to the full all available natural resources in order to survive and establish a community in an area that could not provide enough food for its own population. Transport was mainly done on frozen lakes and rivers during the winter. Testimonies of this activity are revealed by the stables and buildings, built on the farms and in the town, for overnight accommodation for those involved in transport.

A distinct and proud culture emerged in this setting. Inside the ‘free mining town’, the miners owned their own farms and had a relatively high degree of freedom vis-à-vis their employment at the copper works. Towards the end of the 1800s major changes took place in the field of mining and transport. The cultural heritage of this period such as flotation plants, cableways, a power station, railway tracks, etc are also preserved. As the importance of the copper works gradually diminished, the community successfully readjusted to new activities. Therefore when the copper works finally went bankrupt, the consequences for Røros Mining Town were undramatic.

The mining operations and the urban agriculture that involved keeping livestock have ended and the cultural heritage sites where these activities took place have fallen into disuse. Today Røros Mining Town is a living urban community based on industry, trade and tourism. However, the traces of the old mining culture remain in the cultural heritage sites as well as in the German-influenced place names and family names, in the dialect which contains many special words, the Røros pols dance, the Røros breed of cow, and in traditions such as the Røros Fair.

**Criterion (iv)**

*(iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.*

Nordic towns of wooden construction are a significant expression of building traditions in northern Europe. Røros is an outstanding example of a Nordic town of wooden construction. The original town structure is completely retained with well-preserved buildings bearing the stamp of the 1700s and 1800s. The town plan is an example of how European concepts of town planning were adopted and adjusted to local conditions and building traditions in this remote mountain town.

Røros is also a well-preserved and exceptional example of the town communities that arose in conjunction with the high activity in ore mining in the 1600s to 1700s in Europe and the new world” of South America. On account of the climate and the location, Røros represents the outer limits of what was possible at that time, and this is reflected in the building tradition.

Røros Mining Town is situated on a south-aligned slope surrounded by hills ascending to treeless mountain plains. The town is framed against this spectacular backdrop with the panorama of the mountains on all sides. After 1679 there have been no more fires, which is unusual for a town of wooden construction such as Røros. It is a completely preserved wooden town, and only the church is a masonry building. The original town structure is preserved with the residential houses with their interior courtyards clustered together along the streets. The building tradition is based on traditional wooden architecture with or without exterior panelling, and the form and details are typical of the region. The large number of well-preserved outbuildings with stables and cowsheds are a rarity and constitute a clear reminder of the miner’s dual occupations – mining and farming.

**Criterion (v)**

*(v) be an outstanding example of traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.*

Røros Mining Town and the Circumference constitute a totality that is an outstanding example of traditional settlement and land-use. The various activities that have been carried out in the area constitute a cohesive and interdependent unit. These activities have shaped a cultural landscape that provides a unique picture of how the mines and the mining town functioned as a complex and at times vulnerable system that verged on the limits of what was possible in an inhospitable landscape with a harsh climate.

Today these cultural landscapes have been altered to some extent by the closure of mines and by changes to agriculture activities.

The outstanding universal value of Røros Mining Town and the Circumference is closely linked to the natural environment: the mountain plains, the cold climate, the copper ore, a network of lakes and rivers as well as long distances to harbours and large towns. This gave Røros its uniqueness, and formed the background for the development of the cultural landscapes that were linked to Røros Mining Town and the copper works in different ways.

The industrial cultural landscapes are relict landscapes with traces of mining, smelters and other mining operations. They show traces of mining operations on the mountain plains throughout a period of 333 years in an outstanding manner. Since the end of mining operations, there has been no development pressure because the mining areas and the smelter at Femunden are located in mountain areas.

The urban agricultural landscape developed at the same time. The only form of agriculture possible in the cold climate was growing hay as fodder for livestock. The miner's family lived in town and kept their livestock there. Urban agriculture was composed of an intricate system of small plots on the outskirts of Røros Mining Town where grass was grown. The uncultivated land in the vicinity of the town and one or more summer grazing farms were also part of the resource base. In addition, haymaking and gathering reindeer lichen etc. were part of a totality that shows how the inhabitants used all the resources nature had to offer. Since the men worked at the copper works and were often away from home, the women, and sometimes the children, played an important role in these agricultural activities. At Røros the traces of this complex system are preserved almost in their entirety in the cultural landscape. Together they form a well-functioning system which is an outstanding example of a cultural landscape created by the arduous toil of the mining families.

### **Name and Contact information**

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#### **Official Local Institution/Agency**

Town and Cultural Landscapes and Winter Transport Route, northern section	Røros kommune (Røros municipality) 7374 RØROS NORWAY Contact: Torbjørn Eggen, e-mail: <a href="mailto:torbjorn.eggen@roros.kommune.no">torbjorn.eggen@roros.kommune.no</a>
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**Other Local Institutions**

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Nordøsterdalsmuseet (Nordøsterdal Museum) Museumssenteret Ramsmoen Kongsveien 6 2500 Tynset NORWAY e-mail: <a href="mailto:mus-rams@online.no">mus-rams@online.no</a>

**Official Web address**

Røros Museum	The website has a comprehensive history of the world heritage site Røros Mining Town and the proposed extension in Norwegian and in English <a href="http://www.verdensarvenroros.no">www.verdensarvenroros.no</a> <a href="http://www.worldheritageroros.no">www.worldheritageroros.no</a>
Riksantikvaren Directorate for Cultural Heritage	The website of the Directorate has a description of the present world heritage site in Norwegian and English, and an up to date report on the progress of work with the extension in Norwegian. <a href="http://www.riksantikvaren.no">www.riksantikvaren.no</a>