

# GROBIŅA ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENSEMBLE

## DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

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## INTRODUCTION

The Development and Management Plan of Grobiņa Archaeological Ensemble (*hereinafter – the Plan*) is developed on the basis of planning documents for the development of Grobiņa municipality that are either already in force or under development – the Sustainable Development Strategy of Grobiņa Municipality for 2014-2030, Development Programme of Grobiņa Municipality for 2011-2017, thematic plan “Landscape Plan of Grobiņa Municipality for 2014-2030”, Grobiņa Municipality Spatial Plan for 2014-2025, as well as the Tourism Development Plan of Grobiņa Municipality for 2012-2017.

Taking into consideration spatial aspects the Plan is developed as a thematic plan for a definite territory of Grobiņa municipality – the state protected cultural monuments of Grobiņa archaeological ensemble and the buffer zone thereof; however, the strategic, management, development etc. aspects of the Plan span outside the defined territory and affect much broader areas. Structurally the Plan should be seen as a more detailed elaboration of the other spatial development planning documents of the municipality.

## 1. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING VALUE OF THE SITE

### 1.1. Outstanding Universal Value

**Grobiņa archaeological ensemble is a well-preserved, outstanding and unique evidence of an ancient habitat, existence of a very extensive trade and long-distance relations network created by Norsemen and Vikings, interaction and fruitful symbiosis of different cultures and ways of life including that of Curonians. Grobiņa archaeological ensemble has largely retained the landscape which was typical during the time of its existence.**

### 1.2. Authenticity and Integrity of the Site

Grobiņa archaeological ensemble is an authentic and very well-preserved complex of archaeological sites and structures that mostly dates back to the Viking age. The richness and diversity of finds from archaeological excavations demonstrate the importance of Grobiņa as one of the most important sites of Viking Age in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea.

Grobiņa archaeological ensemble reflects the interaction between the Norsemen and Viking culture and the local Curonian culture; consequently the Curonians were included in a wide external relationship network and adopted the mode of life of Norsemen and Vikings. In their turn, Norsemen probably adopted Curonian agrarian, jewellery-making and other traditions. As a result of this interaction an exceptional and original symbiosis of Norsemen and Curonian cultures developed.

The geographical horizon of Viking Age was large-scale: the influences of foreign countries and cultures were integrated in Vikings' social life, mythology, arts, crafts and literature. Scandinavian towns and towns under their influence developed as important intercultural sites with economic relations. Important fortresses, pagan sanctuaries and first Christian churches were situated there. These towns developed as the most important political, military and sacral centres of this period. For the first time in Nordic history, Viking culture considerably exceeded the local framework. Considerable mobility of individuals or groups was the basis for long journeys with military or mercantile goals. The Viking movement had the character of colonisation and conquest, but it also established communication among different cultures, spreading various technological and cultural innovations over long distances.

The initial habitation of Grobiņa dates back to the Stone Age, later at the beginning of the first millennium AD Grobiņa became a centre of the Curonians – a tribe of western Balts. In the 7<sup>th</sup> century Norsemen arrived in Grobiņa region and established in Grobiņa and its vicinity long-distance trade and agrarian settlements. Via the Ālande River and the Liepāja Lake Grobiņa was accessible for seagoing ships. The Baltic Sea connected Grobiņa with the biggest administrative, trade, crafts and military centres Vikings and Norsemen. In the region of Grobiņa the Norsemen in the course of interactions with local Curonians developed a peculiar form of symbiosis of different ethnic groups. This is represented in artefacts, dwelling and burial sites. Up to the 9<sup>th</sup> century Grobiņa expanded into a well-known proto-urban settlement of Norsemen, Vikings and Curonians. This is evidenced by grave goods found in flat burial sites (Smukumi, Priediens, and Atkalni), burial mound sites (Priediens, Pormaļi) and Skabārža kalns hillfort with its settlement. In Priediens burial mound site a picture stone was discovered, which is the only known picture stone discovered outside Scandinavia. Perhaps Grobiņa is mentioned as Seaborg in the Chronicle *Vita sancti Anscarii* written in the middle

of the 9<sup>th</sup> century by archbishop Rimbart of Bremen, where the attack of King Olaf in year 854 AD was described. Probably the presence of Vikings is connected also with a larger agrarian area in the vicinity of Grobiņa. In 1269, the Livonian Order built a stone castle in Grobiņa. Since 1929, extensive archaeological excavations have been conducted in the archaeological ensemble of Grobiņa.

There are several other heritage monuments in the territory of Grobiņa archaeological ensemble, partially inside it or close to it: ruins of Grobiņa medieval castle, Grobiņa Lutheran church, the historical centre of Grobiņa town, etc.

### **1.3. Values to be Preserved**

**Priediens burial mound site:** the form of the burial site in the surrounding heritage landscape on the right bank of the Ālande River in direct vicinity to the river, the terrain, ancient surface features of the burial site (mounds, ditches, elevations, platforms), ancient burials, as well as individual evidence related to them, structure, grave goods (possibly, including stone stelae) including archaeological artefacts.

**Porāni (Pūrāni) burial mound site:** the form of the burial site in the surrounding heritage landscape, the terrain, ancient surface features of the burial site – mounds, ancient burials, as well as individual evidence related to them, grave goods including archaeological artefacts.

**Atkalni flat burial site:** existing terrain, structure of the burial site, ancient burials and individual evidence related to them, grave goods including archaeological artefacts.

**Smukumi flat burial site:** existing terrain, structure, ancient burials and individual evidence related to them, grave goods including archaeological artefacts.

**Grobiņa hillfort (Skabārža kalns) and settlement:** the form of the hillfort in the surrounding heritage landscape on a curve of the Ālande River, existing terrain, ancient fortification elements still visible above ground today (defensive rampart, moat, artificially steepened slopes, flat plateau), cultural layer of the hillfort and ancient settlement, its structure with preserved ancient constructions and individual evidence related to them, archaeological artefacts.

**Grobiņa medieval castle with bastions:** the form in the surrounding heritage landscape next to Grobiņa hillfort (Skabārža kalns) and settlement on a curve of the Ālande River, existing terrain, medieval stone walls and fragments thereof still visible above ground, as well as the old fortification system and individual elements thereof (bastions, moats, artificially steepened slopes, etc.), cultural layer and its structure, archaeological artefacts.

## 2. BORDERS OF THE TERRITORY

### Monument

Grobiņa hillfort (Skabārža kalns)  
and settlement

Atkalni burial site

Priediens burial site  
Grobiņa medieval castle with  
bastions

Porāni (Pūrāni) burial site

Smukumi burial site

### Coordinate in the central part of the monument

56° 31' 59"N 21° 09' 49"E

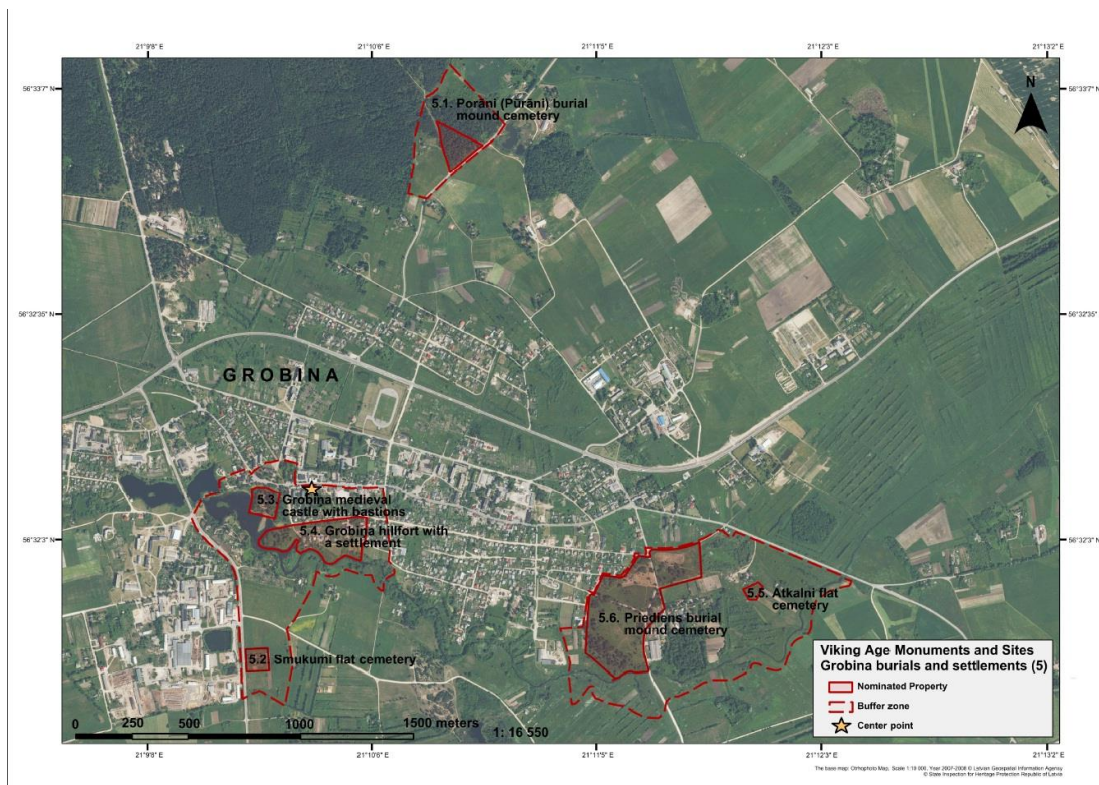
56° 31' 55"N 21° 11' 57"E

56° 31' 50"N 21° 11' 24"E

56° 32' 04"N 21° 09' 46"E

56° 32' 56"N 21° 10' 32"E

56° 31' 40"N 21° 09' 45"E



A detailed description of the borders of the territories is given in Annex 2 – Registration Documentation of State Protected Cultural Monument.

### 3. PROTECTION STATUS

The status of monuments belonging to Grobiņa archaeological ensemble – archaeological monuments of national significance – ensures protection of the site under the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia, in particular, the Law on Protection of Cultural Monuments and the Cabinet Regulation No. 474 of 26 August 2003 “Regulations regarding the Registration, Protection, Utilisation and Restoration of Cultural Monuments, the Right of First Refusal of the State and the Granting of the Status of an Environment-Degrading Object”.

<b>Number in the list of protected monuments</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
1340	National significance	Grobiņa hillfort (Skabārža kalns) and settlement	Grobiņa municipality, Grobiņa town, right bank of the Ālande River, on a peninsula of Dzirnezers
1341	National significance	Atkalni burial site	Grobiņa municipality, near Atkalni and Lankupi
1342	National significance	Priediens burial site	Grobiņa municipality, Grobiņa town, near the equestrian complex
1343	National significance	Grobiņa medieval castle with bastions	Grobiņa municipality, Grobiņa town, 1 Lielā Street
1344	National significance	Porāni (Pūrāni) burial site	Grobiņa municipality, near Porāni (Pūrāni)
1345	National significance	Smukumi burial site	Grobiņa municipality, near Rudzukulni (previously – Smukumi)

An application is being prepared for inclusion of the serial heritage site of *Viking Age Monuments and Sites around North Atlantic and Baltic Sea* into the UNESCO World Heritage List. In the case of a positive assessment Grobiņa ancient burial sites and settlements will become a world heritage site, and its conservation status will be governed by the principles set in the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.



## 4. PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

### 4.1. Management Structure

#### 4.1.1. Management Principles

- *Vision of the Plan – Grobiņa becomes a recognized site in the world heritage network and a significant resource for long-term development of Grobiņa municipality and Latvia.*
- *The Plan for Grobiņa archaeological heritage is centred around the wish to protect, preserve and hand over to future generation the outstanding universal value of the site.*
- *The Plan will help strengthen the local identity, highlight heritage values and support the municipality in its social and economic activities. The status of a world heritage site will be utilised to maximum extent for development of the local community.*
- *The Plan will permit to highlight and protect world heritage values, and scientific interest in the site forms the basis for cooperation in the field of professional education and research on national and international level.*
- *Grobiņa archaeological ensemble will be managed according to national legislation and principles of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The goal of the Plan is to provide good practice in heritage management and represent Latvia in the transnational nomination for the World Heritage List – Viking Age Monuments and Sites around North Atlantic and Baltic Sea .*
- *The Plan will provide the opportunity to actively participate in international cooperation.*

#### 4.1.2. Division of Administrative Responsibility

##### National level

By the decision of the municipality the **Cooperation Council for Conservation and Development of Grobiņa Archaeological Ensemble** has been created, which includes members from Grobiņa Municipality Council, State Inspection for Heritage Protection (hereinafter – the Inspection), Liepāja city, Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, and the National History Museum of Latvia.



The task of the Council is to establish an advisory and opinion-coordination platform that not only allows agreeing in discussions upon the best heritage conservation and development scenario, but also gives practical advice and best practice for those employees of the local government who are directly involved in ensuring the management and development of these territories, thus augmenting their capacity.

### **Local level**

Political and administrative responsibility lies with **Grobiņa Municipality Council**. In the local government one person is working as professional staff in charge of coordinating cooperation with the involved institutions and development of the Management Plan, another person is responsible for technical performance of necessary activities. Municipal company Grobiņas namsaimnieks SIA is involved in site maintenance, and it performs management and improvement of the sites. Development Division of the Municipality Council has five people involved in coordination of activities, attracting investment and implementing investment projects.

Due to the fact that Priediens burial site, Atkalni burial site, Smukums burial site and Porāni (Pūrāni) burial site are not owned by the municipality the owners of the sites need to be involved in planning the conservation and development of the sites. The **owners** are responsible for conservation and everyday maintenance of the heritage monuments which they own, according to requirements for protection of archaeological heritage.

Grobiņa Municipality Council will perform activities with the aim to inform the owners and educate them on the uniqueness of the sites in their ownership, to promote understanding and interest in conservation and maintenance of the sites. In the future a working group/commission may be established that could include experts from the State Inspection for Heritage Protection and the municipality, and also the owners of the sites.

Upon becoming a world heritage site, also **international monitoring** is planned: An international transnational serial nomination monitoring group will meet once a year. The State Inspection for Heritage Protection and Grobiņa Municipality Council will ensure Latvia's participation in it. The monitoring group will draw up joint guidelines for site management, promote visibility of the sites for wider public and scientific research of the sites, and it will also prepare reports for the World Heritage Committee.

## **4.2. Management Instruments:**

### **4.2.1. Legislation**

The status of monuments belonging to Grobiņa archaeological ensemble – archaeological monuments of national significance – ensures protection of the site under the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia, in particular, the Law on Protection of Cultural Monuments and the Cabinet Regulation No. 474 of 26 August 2003 “Regulations regarding the Registration, Protection, Utilisation and Restoration of Cultural Monuments, the Right of First Refusal of the State and the Granting of the Status of an Environment-Degrading Object” (hereinafter – Regulation No. 474).

Development of the site is influenced by international conventions in the field of conservation of heritage which Latvia has joined, in particular the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society.

Grobiņa Municipality Spatial Plan for 2014-2025 includes individual buffer zones of state protected cultural monuments, which also include a regime of use of the monuments specifically developed for each particular monument. The binding regulations of the Spatial Plan – the Territory Use and Building Regulations and the graphic part of the Spatial Plan include the above-mentioned territories of the monuments and their buffer zones, by laying down particular restrictions to their future use and development. The main purpose of these restrictions is to ensure preservation of the values defined in Chapter 1.3 of this Plan.

#### 4.2.2. Financial Resources

As far as the municipality budget allows, funds for maintenance of the sites are provided within the annual municipality budget. Maintenance of sites not owned by the municipality presents a special problem because the municipality is not allowed to directly invest its resources in private property. Here, it is very important that the municipality is able to cooperate with the owners. When drawing up municipal binding regulations governing the way how the territory should be used and what can be built there, a mechanism must be provided for demanding responsibility from the owner for management of the territory owned by him. Another solution is announcing of a project competition for a particular purpose, which could stimulate and support the owners' ability to ensure adequate management of the sites.

### 4.3. Planning of Development of the Site

#### 4.3.1. Long-term objectives

- Create conditions and develop a management system for long-term preservation and development of Grobiņa archaeological heritage by highlighting its outstanding universal value both locally and internationally.
- Create and develop a municipal development policy that assigns Grobiņa archaeological complex with functions important to the society, focuses on involving the local community, and includes initiatives important for protection of the site.
- Create and strengthen institutional capacity for implementing plans intended for managing and developing Grobiņa archaeological heritage, and develop institutional cooperation on local, national and international level for the purpose of exchange of expertise and experience.
- Perform significant scientific studies and other types of initiatives that facilitate studying, protection, conservation, promotion and restoration of the site.
- Become a nationally and internationally significant research centre in studying the particular period of history and in promotion of archaeology as a discipline of the science of history.

- Ensure an increase in the number of tourists by creating high-quality tourism infrastructure, which will have a positive effect on the local economy and sustainability of the quality of living of the local community.

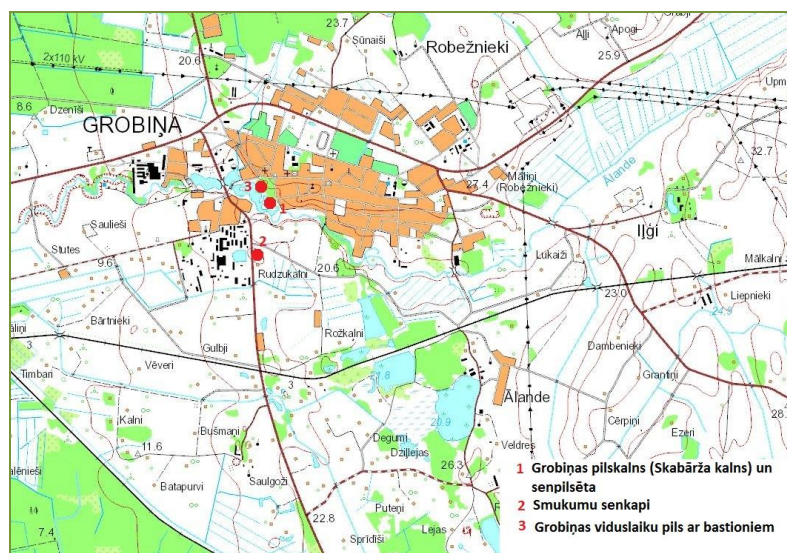
#### 4.3.2. Medium-term Goals

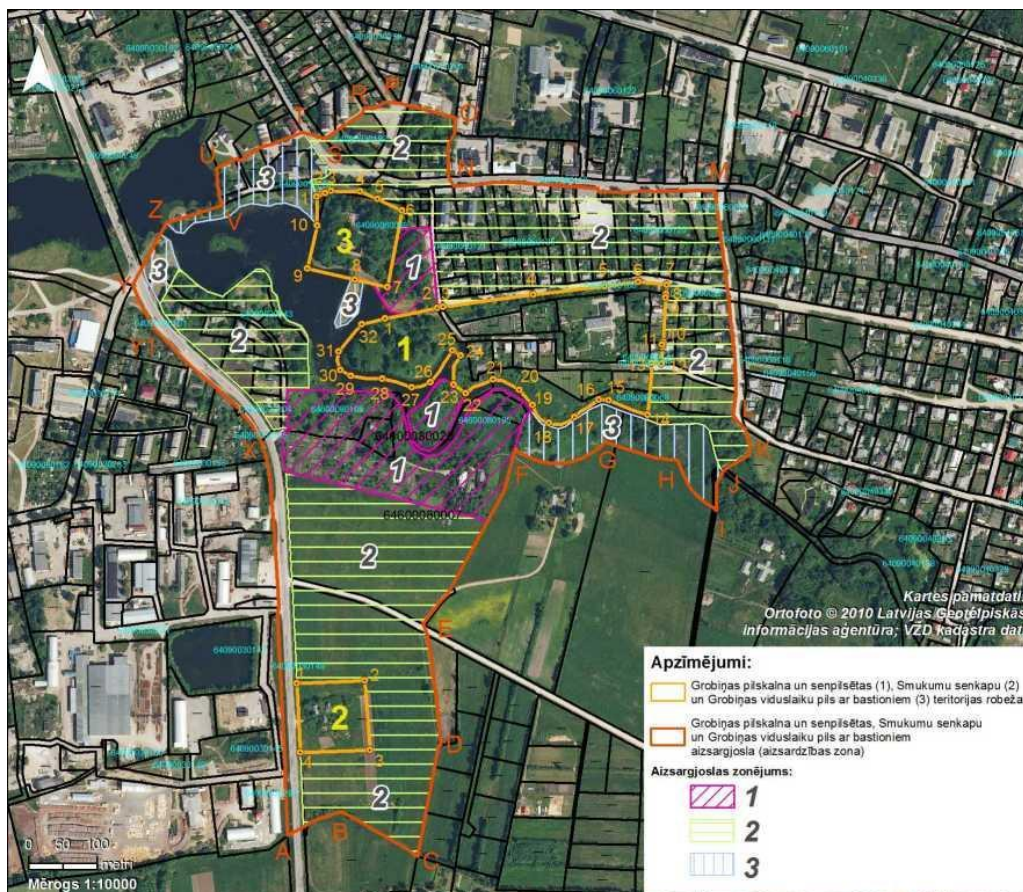
- Create a Viking museum – information centre and website.
- Create footpaths, information signs in cooperation with land owners, create a tourism map.
- Involve local businesses in promotion of Grobiņa archaeological heritage.
- Create and expand tourism infrastructure – car parking for visitors, tourist accommodation, observation towers etc.

#### 4.3.3. Short-term Goals

- Develop Grobiņa Municipality Spatial Plan for 2014-2025 to ensure operation of binding regulations that will govern future arrangements and restrictions in management and development of territories of the monuments. The spatial plan will also form a framework for future planning processes that will also include the development of the Development and Management Plan of Grobiņa Archaeological Ensemble, public involvement in discussing the plan and approval of the plan.
- Prepare a concept for studying, interpreting and promoting Grobiņa archaeological heritage.

#### 4.3.4. Development and Management Plan of the Archaeological Ensemble





### Grobiņa hillfort (Skabārža kalns) and settlement

- No construction of new structures, roads or other works involving changes in terrain is permitted, with the exception of:
  - tourism infrastructure that organises movement in the territory of the monument;
  - placement of information stands;
  - archaeological excavations for scientific purposes, provided that after completion of such excavations the terrain of the monument is returned to previous condition and no threat is caused to future preservation of the monument.
- Regular maintenance of the territory at Grobiņa hillfort (Skabārža kalns) (mowing grass, cutting bushes etc.), without damaging the upper layer of terrain;
- At Grobiņa hillfort (Skabārža kalns) individual large trees or groups of trees should be maintained, but bushes and undergrowth are undesirable;
- At Grobiņa hillfort (Skabārža kalns) the bank of the Ālande River should not be allowed to overgrow with bushes;
- Mass events organised at Grobiņa hillfort (Skabārža kalns) must not change the terrain of the monument or substantially affect the vegetation covering Grobiņa hillfort (Skabārža kalns);
- All digging works deeper than 30 cm in the territory of the ancient settlement must be supervised by an archaeologist.

### Maintenance regime of the buffer zone

- Maintenance and improvement of the buffer zone must be performed without causing threat to the form and structure of Grobiņa hillfort (Skabārža kalns) and settlement.

- In the buffer zone man-made terrain changes and construction works are permitted unless they have a negative visual effect or physically threaten the Grobiņa hillfort (Skabārža kalns). Project documentation of planned works must be agreed with the Inspection.
- When performing digging works in the buffer zone new archaeological finds are possible. In such case works must be stopped and the finds must be immediately notified to the Inspection.
- In territory 1 of the buffer zone archaeological supervision may be required during works that involve changes of the terrain.
- In territory 2 of the buffer zone archaeological supervision must be ensured during works that involve changes of the terrain.
- In the buffer zone deepening of the bed of the Dzirnavdīķis millpond or raising of the water level must be agreed with the Inspection. Any other works involving changes in the water conditions of the Dzirnavdīķis millpond must be notified to the Inspection in advance in writing.
- Tourism infrastructure objects – paths, bridges, gathering and recreation locations, the shape and text of information stands and signs – must be agreed with the Inspection.
- In the buffer zone agriculture is allowed in the same intensity and the same areas as before.

### **Smukumi flat burial site**

- No construction of new structures, excavation of gravel pits, building of roads or other works involving changes in terrain is permitted, with the exception of:
  - tourism infrastructure that organises movement in the territory of the monument;
  - placement of information stands;
  - archaeological excavations for scientific purposes, provided that after completion of such excavations the terrain of the monument is returned to previous condition and no threat is caused to future preservation of the monument.
- Regular maintenance of the territory of the monument (mowing grass, cutting bushes etc.), without damaging the upper layer of terrain;
- Growing of new bushes is not to be allowed in the territory of the monument.

### Maintenance regime of the buffer zone

- Maintenance and improvement of the buffer zone must be performed without causing threat to the form and structure of Smukumi burial site.
- In the buffer zone man-made terrain changes and construction works are permitted unless they have a negative visual effect or physically threaten the archaeological monuments. Project documentation of planned works must be agreed with the Inspection.
- When performing digging works in the buffer zone new archaeological finds are possible. In such case works must be stopped and the finds must be immediately notified to the Inspection.



- In territory 1 of the buffer zone archaeological supervision may be required during works that involve changes of the terrain.
- In territory 2 of the buffer zone archaeological supervision must be ensured during works that involve changes of the terrain.
- Tourism infrastructure objects – paths, bridges, gathering and recreation locations, the shape and text of information stands and signs – must be agreed with the Inspection.
- In the buffer zone agriculture is allowed in the same intensity and the same areas as before.

### **Grobiņa medieval castle with bastions**

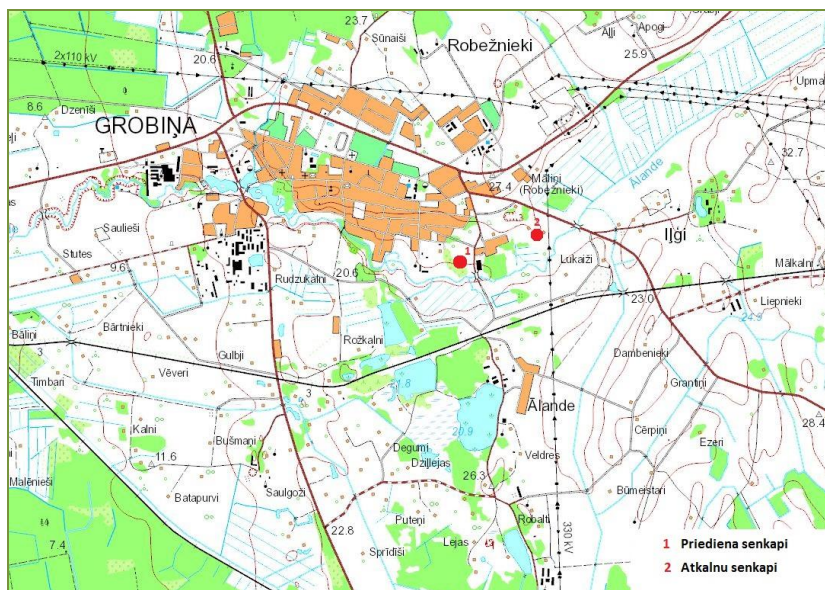
- No construction of new structures, roads or other works involving changes in terrain is permitted, with the exception of:
  - tourism infrastructure that organises movement in the territory of the monument;
  - placement of information stands;
  - archaeological excavations for scientific purposes, provided that after completion of such excavations the terrain of the monument is returned to previous condition and no threat is caused to future preservation of the monument.
- Regular maintenance of the territory of the monument (mowing grass, maintenance of trees and bushes etc.), without damaging the upper layer of terrain;
- In the territory of the monument the bank of the Ālande River should not be allowed to overgrow with bushes;
- No reconstruction of Grobiņa medieval castle ruins is allowed, only conservation of the ruins;
- Mass events organised in Grobiņa medieval castle must not worsen the protection condition of the ruins, change the terrain of the monument or significantly affect the vegetation at the monument.

### Maintenance regime of the buffer zone

- Maintenance and improvement of the buffer zone must be performed without causing threat to the form and structure of Grobiņa medieval castle with bastions.
- In the buffer zone man-made terrain changes and construction works are permitted unless they have a negative visual effect or physically threaten the archaeological monuments. Project documentation of planned works must be agreed with the Inspection.
- When performing digging works in the buffer zone new archaeological finds are possible. In such case works must be stopped and the finds must be immediately notified to the Inspection.
- In territory 1 of the buffer zone archaeological supervision may be required during works that involve changes of the terrain.
- In territory 2 of the buffer zone archaeological supervision must be ensured during works that involve changes of the terrain.
- In the buffer zone deepening of the bed of the Dzirnavdīķis millpond or raising of the water level must be agreed with the Inspection. Any other works involving changes in

the water conditions of the Dzirnāvdiķis millpond must be notified to the Inspection in advance in writing.

- Tourism infrastructure objects – paths, bridges, gathering and recreation locations, the shape and text of information stands and signs – must be agreed with the Inspection.



### **Priediens mound burial site**

- No construction of new structures, roads or other works involving changes in terrain is permitted, with the exception of:
  - tourism infrastructure that organises movement in the territory of the monument;
  - placement of information stands;
  - archaeological excavations for scientific purposes, provided that after completion of such excavations the terrain of the monument is returned to previous condition and no threat is caused to future preservation of the monument;
  - restoration of previously studied burial mounds to their previous visual condition, with the approval of the Inspection.
- Regular maintenance of the territory of the monument (mowing grass, cutting bushes etc.), without damaging the upper layer of terrain;
- Individual pine trees or groups of trees should be allowed to grow in the territory of the monument;
- In the territory of the monument the bank of the Ālande River should not be allowed to overgrow with bushes;
- Horse-riding or intensive grazing that damages the top layer of soil is not to be permitted in the territory of the monument;
- No mass events may be organised in the territory of the monument.





### Maintenance regime of the buffer zone

- Maintenance and improvement of the buffer zone must be performed without causing threat to the form and structure of Priediens burial site.
- In the buffer zone man-made terrain changes and construction works are permitted unless they have a negative visual effect or physically threaten the archaeological monuments. Project documentation of planned works must be agreed with the Inspection.
- When performing digging works in the buffer zone new archaeological finds are possible. The buffer zone of Priediens burial site includes the destroyed part of the burial site (location of former parsonage, new buildings built there, stadium, stables), therefore individual finds from the destroyed graves are possible in this territory. In the case of such archaeological finds the works must be stopped and the finds must be immediately notified to the Inspection.
- In territory 3 of the buffer zone the landscape with a view on the Ālande River valley and Priediens must be preserved.
- In territory 2 of the buffer zone archaeological supervision must be ensured during works that involve changes of the terrain.
- Tourism infrastructure objects – paths, bridges, gathering and recreation locations, the shape and text of information stands and signs – must be agreed with the Inspection.
- In the buffer zone agriculture is allowed in the same intensity and the same areas as before.
- Growing of new bushes and overgrowing of the banks of the Ālande River is not to be allowed in the buffer zone.

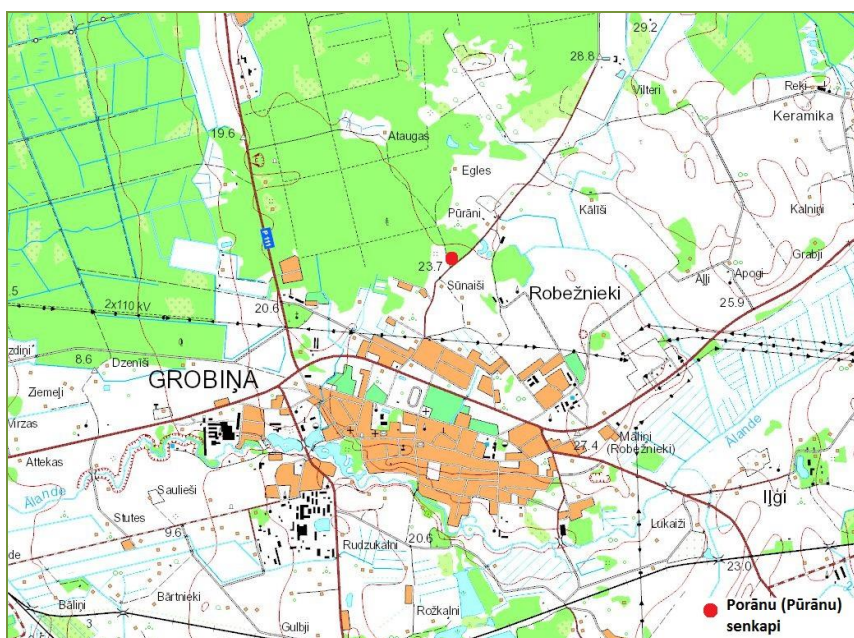
### **Atkalni flat burial site**

- No construction of new structures, roads or other works involving changes in terrain is permitted, with the exception of:

- tourism infrastructure that organises movement in the territory of the monument;
- placement of information stands;
- archaeological excavations for scientific purposes, provided that after completion of such excavations the terrain of the monument is returned to previous condition and no threat is caused to future preservation of the monument.
- Regular maintenance of the territory of the monument, without damaging the upper layer of terrain;
- Agriculture is permitted in the territory of the monument, provided that the soil is not ploughed deeper than before.

#### Maintenance regime of the buffer zone

- Maintenance and improvement of the buffer zone must be performed without causing threat to the form and structure of Atkalni burial site.
- In the buffer zone man-made terrain changes and construction works are permitted unless they have a negative visual effect or physically threaten Atkalni burial site. Project documentation of planned works must be agreed with the Inspection.
- When performing digging works in the buffer zone new archaeological finds are possible, and they must be immediately notified to the Inspection.
- In territory 3 of the buffer zone the landscape with a view on the Ālande River valley, Priediens and Atkalni burial sites must be preserved.
- In territory 2 of the buffer zone archaeological supervision must be ensured during works that involve changes of the terrain.
- Tourism infrastructure objects – paths, bridges, gathering and recreation locations, the shape and text of information stands and signs – must be agreed with the Inspection.
- In the buffer zone agriculture is allowed in the same intensity and the same areas as before.
- Growing of new bushes and overgrowing of the banks of the Ālande River is not to be allowed in the buffer zone.







### Porāni (Pūrāni) mound burial site

- No construction of new structures, excavation of gravel pits, building of roads or other works involving changes in terrain is permitted, with the exception of:
  - tourism infrastructure that organises movement in the territory of the monument;
  - placement of information stands;
  - archaeological excavations for scientific purposes, provided that after completion of such excavations the terrain of the monument is returned to previous condition and no threat is caused to future preservation of the monument;
  - Restoration of previously studied burial mounds to their previous visual condition, with the approval of the Inspection.
- Regular maintenance of the territory of the monument by preserving the forest, removing undergrowth, but without extensive clearings.

### Maintenance regime of the buffer zone

- Maintenance and improvement of the buffer zone must be performed without causing threat to the form and structure of the burial site.
- In the buffer zone man-made terrain changes and construction works are permitted unless they have a negative visual effect or physically threaten the archaeological monuments. Project documentation of planned works must be agreed with the Inspection.
- When performing digging works in the buffer zone new archaeological finds are possible. In such case works must be stopped and the finds must be immediately notified to the Inspection.
- In territory 2 of the buffer zone archaeological supervision must be ensured during works that involve changes of the terrain.

- Tourism infrastructure objects – paths, bridges, gathering and recreation locations, the shape and text of information stands and signs – must be agreed with the Inspection.
- In the buffer zone agriculture is allowed in the same intensity and the same areas as before.
- Growing of new bushes is not to be allowed in the buffer zone.

#### 4.4. Scientific Research of the Site

The task of the Cooperation Council for Conservation and Development of the Archaeological Heritage of Grobiņa Municipality is to establish an advisory and opinion-coordination platform that not only allows agreeing in discussions upon the best heritage conservation and development scenario, but also gives practical advice and best practice for those employees of the local government who are directly involved in ensuring the management and development of these territories, thus augmenting their capacity.

Scientific expertise for studying and preserving Grobiņa heritage values is provided by Liepāja City Museum. In future studying of the site it is also planned to invite international experts.

In the future creation of a Viking museum – information centre is planned, which will also be given an important role in research and collection of materials. It is necessary to continue discussions concerning potential borrowing of collections from abroad (Russia).

A LIDAR scan of Grobiņa archaeological ensemble needs to be performed to provide scientific basis for future studies of the ensemble.

International seminars need to be organised on Viking age history, as well as annual lectures on Grobiņa archaeological heritage and archaeology in general.

Studies need to be promoted in the context of Grobiņa as a Norsemen intercultural contact site and overseas settlement.

Researchers need to be involved in developing a concept for interpreting and promoting Grobiņa archaeological heritage.

## 4.5. Potential Threats and Activities for Elimination of Threats

### 4.5.1. Potential Threats and Elimination of Threats

Threats	Activities for elimination of the threats
Development pressure (building and agriculture)	Drawing up of development plans. Current building <i>status quo</i> must be maintained in the territory and the buffer zone. New constructions may be built only in connection with the development of the archaeological complex. <i>Status quo</i> must be maintained in relation to land used for agriculture: no expansion of agricultural land at Atkalni and Smukumi; the forest at Porāni should be gradually turned into a park.
Pressure of environmental change (erosion, flood, household waste)	<p>Work with owners and visitors of the site to reduce household waste.</p> <p>Erosion in the territory of Priediens burial site taking into consideration that it was created in sandy ground, and therefore if the turf layer is lost, as was observed in previous years, the site can be eroded by wind and rain. Continuous monitoring, control of erosion, activities to eliminate it.</p> <p>As regards flooding, particular attention needs to be paid to locations in the Ālande River basin outside populated areas. Continuous monitoring, control of flooding, activities to eliminate it, identification of threats in spatial planning process.</p>
Tourism pressure (excessive unorganised visitor flow in the future)	Tourism plan.
Lack of funds	Attraction of external funding. Heritage as an economic resource, attraction of investors.
Very complex site – it is difficult to explain its value to the public.	Development of a concept for interpreting and promoting Grobiņa archaeological heritage. Search for new ideas, communication plan. Capacity building of employees, to explain the outstanding universal value of the site.
Sites are owned by different owners, not all owners are sufficiently interested in the future vision of the site.	Work with owners by involving them in the development of the site development plans. Educational activities. Incentives to stimulate interest to participate in

	preservation and everyday maintenance of the site.
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#### 4.5.2. Monitoring System

Preservation of the outstanding universal value of the site is continuously monitored. All development projects in the territory or its buffer zone are coordinated with the State Inspection for Heritage Protection according to applicable laws and Cabinet regulations. The Inspection grants permits to perform archaeological studies.

Kurzeme Regional Department of the Inspection monitors the archaeological ensemble by performing irregular inspections. In the future inspections and photo-recording will be important in monitoring the state of preservation of the site. Everyday monitoring is performed by Grobiņa municipality services that follow the compliance with binding regulations of the municipality.

### **4.6. Communication and Tourism Development Plan**

Objective – develop the visibility and story of the site, and make the site visually enjoyable.

#### 4.6.1. Communication and public participation

The chapter needs to be developed in detail within the framework of developing a concept for interpreting and promoting Grobiņa archaeological heritage.

Key issues include:

- Definition of all stakeholders that should be involved in creating and communicating the story of Grobiņa archaeological ensemble, division of responsibility of each stakeholder.
- Collection of ideas and joint agreement on a common position concerning Grobiņa “story” and aspects of how it is presented.
- Agreement on who should develop the concept for interpreting and promoting Grobiņa archaeological heritage, and what topics should be covered by the concept.
- Discussion and agreement on the implementation and monitoring mechanisms of the concept for interpreting and promoting Grobiņa archaeological heritage, and about division of responsibility.
- Discussion and agreement on future development and management aspects – ideas of D. Gertners’s diploma paper, information campaigns, conferences, including international conferences devoted to Grobiņa or Vikings, scientific publications, information materials, publishing of books, the future Viking museum or centre – first a concept, research and collection, and then – physical implementation, marketing of the site, idea competitions on a common sign, logo etc.

#### 4.6.2. Tourism Infrastructure

Until now, the territories of Grobiņa ancient burial sites and settlements have been relatively well protected from excessive visitor activity and the related anthropological load. It is related

to the location of some of the sites included in the nomination, and also the ownership of the sites. The municipality owns only two of the six sites included in the nomination. For the time being no major tourist flows have been observed in the privately owned sites. The relatively highest visitor activity has been recorded in the sites in Grobiņa town, in particular, the hillfort and the medieval castle.

No accurate national-level statistical information is available on the number of tourists who visited these places. Currently, the Tourism Development Plan of Grobiņa Municipality for 2012-2017 is being developed, which provides for a range of activities for developing a planned and coordinated tourism system, creation of attractive tourism infrastructure, and creation of competitive tourist attractions, services and products. According to the tourism plan, in the next few years a tourism information centre and/or tourism information points will be created in the municipality. One of the tasks of this centre will be to record the number of tourists visiting these sites; however, these figures will not reflect the total number of visitors because it is impossible to track the flows of those tourists who do not use the services of information centres.

As there are no statistics on the number of visitors of heritage sites it is only possible to get an approximate idea about the numbers of visitors on the basis of tourism objects that count visitors. So, for example, in Grobiņa town, the memorial room of Latvian writer Zenta Mauriņa attracts 4,000-5,000 visitors a year. The number of tourists who come to cultural, sports and recreation events organised by the municipality could currently reach around 20,000 tourists per year. Taking into consideration the compact character of Grobiņa town and its surroundings, it is clear that most of these visitors and tourists include in their trips also the sites included in the nomination, in particular, the hillfort, the medieval castle and Priediens burial site.

Taking into consideration that currently the ability of heritage sites to cope with increased anthropological load is relatively low, the municipality has set a goal to increase tourist flows only gradually in line with investment in infrastructure development of the territories. Several projects have already been implemented to achieve this objective. Within the framework of these projects tourism products/infrastructure has been created near the hillfort and medieval castle – promenade with footpaths, bicycle trail, car parking, environmental objects, benches, lighting. As a result, an attractive environment has been created, historical landscapes have been preserved and also access has been ensured for people with functional disorders.

In all of the sites included in the nomination information signs have been placed, and it is planned to supplement them with QR codes and develop a corresponding digital information platform to improve availability of information. The tourism plan also provides for various marketing activities, for example, booklets and maps, souvenirs, outdoor advertising objects, development of a website, implementation of various informative and promotion events such as seminars, conferences and exhibitions. A lot of attention will be paid to further studying of the sites and development of possibilities for exhibiting already existing and also potential new historical evidence. Another future task will be the creation of a museum or exhibition about the sites included in the nomination by also using various modern digital technologies.

An important task is the maintenance of the sites' territories, for example, mowing of grass, creation of tourist footpaths to reduce their impact on sensitive areas. At the hillfort and also in the territories of the burial sites it is necessary to create such infrastructure elements that



channel tourist flows in a way that reduces their negative impact on the sites, for example, through the use of footpaths, wooden footbridges, steps, barriers.

The municipality plans to create, train and develop a movement of tourist guides who will give tourism flows a more organized and planned character and also provide tourists with extensive information and a positive experience. The municipality also plans that most of the activities of active tourism related to the historical value and traditions of the sites included in the nomination will be organised outside the territories of these sensitive sites to reduce any potential negative impact.

A very important set of activities is connected with the establishment of a cooperation network involving the owners of the sites included in the nomination. Due to the fact that most of the sites are located on private land it is necessary to solve issues concerning physical management and improvement of these territories, for example, car parking for visitors, observation towers/places.

#### 4.7. Action Plan for 2013-2015

<b>Action</b>	<b>Involved parties</b>	<b>Responsible party</b>	<b>Time period</b>
Develop Grobiņa Municipality Spatial Plan for 2014-2025 that includes individual buffer zones and regime of use of the monuments of Grobiņa archaeological ensemble	Grobiņa Municipality Council Projekts 3i SIA State Inspection for Heritage Protection	Grobiņa Municipality Council	2011-2013
Develop a plan for conservation and development of Grobiņa archaeological ensemble, discuss it and agree with all involved parties	Grobiņa Municipality Council State Inspection for Heritage Protection Liepāja Museum National History Museum of Latvia Latvian National Commission for UNESCO	Grobiņa Municipality Council	2013-2014
Develop the concept for studying, interpreting and promoting Grobiņa archaeological heritage, discuss it and agree with all involved parties	Grobiņa Municipality Council State Inspection for Heritage Protection Liepāja Museum National History Museum of Latvia Latvian National Commission for UNESCO	Grobiņa Municipality Council	2014-2015

## **ANNEXES**

1. Statute of the Cooperation Council for Conservation and Development of the Archaeological Heritage of Grobiņa Municipality
2. Registration Documentation of State Protected Cultural Monument
3. Bibliography
4. *In the future – concepts for interpreting and promoting Grobiņa archaeological heritage*