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# Aquileia (Italy) No 825 Bis

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## 1 Basic data

### State Party

Italy

### Name of property

Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia

### Location

Province of Udine  
Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region  
Italy

### Inscription

1998

### Brief description

Aquileia was one of the largest and wealthiest cities of the Early Roman Empire. It was destroyed by Atilla in the mid-5th century and most of it still lies unexcavated beneath the fields. The patriarchal basilica, completed in the 11th century and remodelled in the 14th century includes earlier elements such as exceptional 4th century mosaic pavements. The basilica played a key role in the evangelization of a large region of central Europe.

### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

## 2 Issues raised

### Background

The property Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia was inscribed in 1998 under criteria (iii), (iv) and (vi). There is no buffer zone.

Following the Retrospective Inventory in which the State Party was requested to provide the size of the property and resubmit a clarified map, the World Heritage Committee adopted by decision 32 COM 8D the clarification of the area of the property at its 32th session in 2008.

At its 40th session in 2016, the World Heritage Committee adopted in decision 40 COM 8E a Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property.

### Modification

The State Party proposed the Sepolcreto (necropolis) of the Roman city of Aquileia for inclusion in the property. This is a small area of 0.11 hectares that is just outside the current boundary of the property, which encompasses 155.3 hectares. The new area of the property would be 155.41 hectares. The Sepolcreto is composed of five funerary enclosures located outside the walls of Aquileia, excavated by Giovanni Brusin in 1939-1940. Recent archaeological surveys have identified around ninety additional burials, meaning that Aquileia burial ground is one of the best preserved necropolis of northern Italy.

The State Party justifies the inclusion of the Sepolcreto within the boundaries of the property on the grounds that it would strengthen the Outstanding Universal Value of the property by representing another aspect of the city and its attributes. The property already includes public, commercial, and residential functions exemplified by the forum, thermal baths, basilica, port, warehouses and luxury residences, and these attributes along with the necropolis as the most complete example of an Early Roman city in the Mediterranean world.

The necropolis is owned by the Italian State and protected by its laws. It has been incorporated into the draft management plan for the property, which is awaiting approval.

Conservation work has been done on the necropolis in 1942 and interventions from that time are clearly marked. It has seen more conservation work in 2016 to restore the drainage system, conserve the walls and improve the public access path. The viewpoint for the necropolis is now wheelchair accessible.

ICOMOS notes that a necropolis is mentioned in the original nomination dossier and in the ICOMOS evaluation of the property. It is not explicitly stated in the justification for the modification, but it appears that a mapping oversight led to the exclusion of the necropolis from the original boundary of the property. In this regard, ICOMOS considers that the justification of the minor boundary modification proposed misses detailed explanations in relation to the necropolis mentioned in the nomination dossier. The condition of integrity is improved by the addition of the necropolis while that of authenticity is not affected by this proposed change.

ICOMOS also notes that, despite the need for a buffer zone identified in the ICOMOS evaluation in 1998, and by the State Party itself in the Periodic Report fulfilled in 2014, no buffer zone have been established for the property. However, ICOMOS still considers that a buffer zone is necessary for the protection of the property.

### **3 ICOMOS Recommendations**

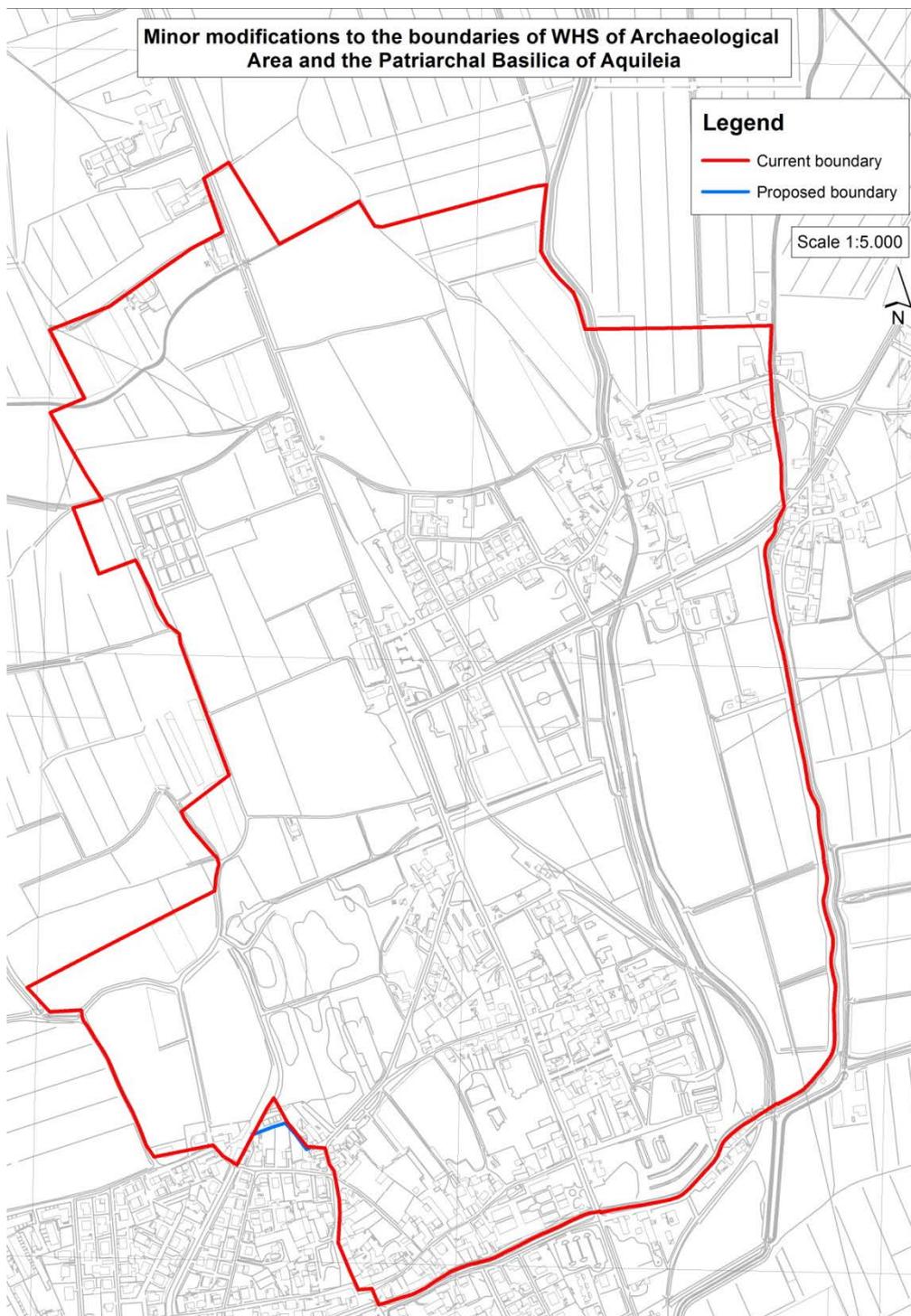
#### **Recommendation with respect to inscription**

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia, Italy, **be approved**.

#### **Additional recommendations**

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

- a) Finalising the draft management plan of the property and submitting it to ICOMOS and the World Heritage Center once it is adopted,
- b) Considering the creation of a buffer zone;



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property