









Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Proposal for an Update of the German Tentative List for UNESCO World Heritage

April 2017

Preliminary Note

On 12 June 2014, within the framework of updating the German Tentative List for UNESCO World Heritage, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK) recommended that the proposing federal state of North Rhine Westphalia further examine the Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape. This was to ascertain that the project meets the necessary requirements for it to be included in the German Tentative List.

The project partners "Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape" implemented this recommendation with in-depth research, expert statements and by organising and publishing an international symposium on "Industrial Cultural Landscapes in the World Heritage Context" in cooperation with ICOMOS Germany and TICCIH Germany.

Together with adviser Barry Gamble (UK) the draft submitted herewith for the statement of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape was prepared and a proposal was made for which UNESCO criteria could be relevant for inscription on the World Heritage List. Furthermore, other significant industrial cultural landscapes and sites were defined which will later need to be taken into consideration for an international comparative analysis.

This present draft for the justification of the Outstanding Universal Value and for a comparative analysis forms the basis for all further work on the project "Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape. A Proposal for the World Heritage of UNESCO".

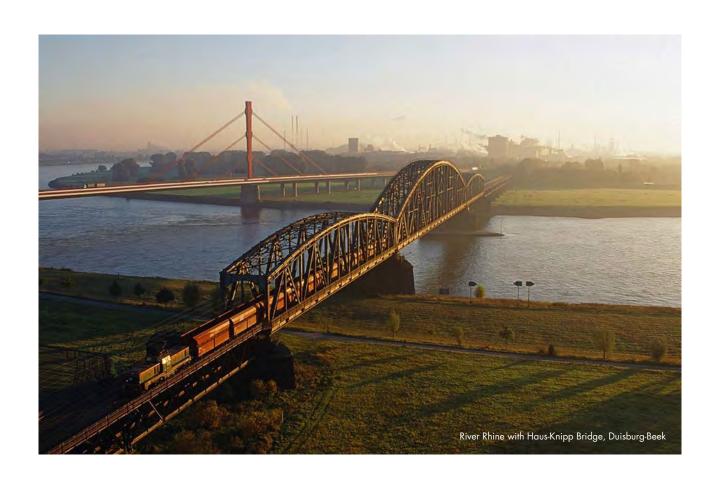
Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape

The Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape provides exceptional evidence of the profound era of large-scale heavy industry in continental Europe from the 1850s to the 1950s. The property is situated in the west of Germany and spans the period from the 1780s to the present day. This discrete landscape represents one of the world's densest and most important heavy industrial concentrations and is defined by the underlying geological formation of the Ruhr Coal Basin, broadly bounded by three major rivers (Ruhr in the south, Rhine in the west and Lippe in the north) on three sides of a regional block that measures 120 kilometres (east to west) by 70 kilometres (north to south).

By the 1870s the Ruhrgebiet was the largest coal mining and coke producing region in continental Europe, and by 1900 was the largest steel producer in the whole of Europe; a development driven by geography, a classic regional economic symbiosis between principal industrial sectors, and ultimately by national and regional government policy, technical innovation and distinctive corporate structures characterised by technological vertical integration that physically linked various stages of production.

This is a radically re-shaped landscape on an exceptional scale, an interconnected industrial pattern par excellence: Europe's exemplar of large-scale coal mining and iron and steel making heritage; a man-made landscape texture, both positive and negative in relief, of waste "mountains" and of subsidence "polders" caused by mining, the largest anywhere, together with the singular 'Emscher' regional wastewater management system, an associated early and outstanding example of a far-sighted ecological activity in the industrial-landscape context; features of water supply and power generation that chart technological advances throughout the period; an industrial transport network that was the densest in Europe;

and one of the world's largest developments of industrial settlements, in the form of "colonies" of uniform rows, grids and adapted Garden City style developments that co-located with industry to accommodate sustained population growth in employees and multi-national migrant workers for mines, iron and steelworks, railways and water infrastructure. It was the heavy industries of coal, iron and steel, major pillars in the global industrial economy, which forged the dominant landscape character, and Industriekultur – an attribute of intraregional awareness that is at the core of region-building both in terms of identity and continuous sustainable management.



Justification for Criteria

Criterion (ii): "...exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design".

The Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape represents an important interchange of human values within Europe and beyond, from the 1780s to the present day, on developments in technology, architecture, spatial regional planning and management.

A leading characteristic of the property is the large-scale application of industrial technology and infrastructure in order to achieve massive outputs of coal, iron and steel – a model transferred to other industrialising countries such as Japan at the end of the nineteenth century.

Initially, industrial technology was imported from Britain and elsewhere. The Ruhr iron and steel industry, founded on British technology, not only progressed to provide much of the steel for the railways that opened up continents, but also the seamless steel tyre for railway wheels invented in Essen in 1852-53 that fundamentally changed the safety and economy of railway transport.

The Ruhrgebiet is distinguished in architecture, from the Historicist to the Modern Movement style that is exemplified in an industrial context in collieries such as Prosper and Nordstern, and in industrial workers' settlements where diverse architectural design is borrowed from the English Garden City movement and others, and adapted and applied on an exceptional scale.

Innovative developments in spatial regional planning and management are reflected in green spaces, settlements and roads that were planned and developed on a regional scale from a foundation of visionary engineers and planners.

Criterion (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".

The Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape, defined by an outstanding ensemble of inter-related technological and architectural components, illustrates the profound era of heavy industry in continental Europe:

Collieries such as Zeche Zollern II/IV were technically and architecturally the most advanced of their time; the coking plant at Hansa is testimony to the distinguished position of the Ruhrgebiet in the advancement of the large-scale processing of coal into coke and gas and recovery of by-products as a base for the chemicals industry, the Gasometer Oberhausen and an infrastructure of gas pipes representing the collection and interchange of such gas, together with that generated by the ironmaking processes at such monumental preserved ironworks as Henrichshütte and Duisburg-Meiderich; massive industrial waste tips, and the innovative Emscher System, the regional industrial drain, and the polders connected to it via a permanent pumping network, an unparalleled undertaking that embodies an early environmental engineering system continued today with a new, but equally comparable, vision; a large-scale transport system, the backbone of industry, represented in the initial phase by the Ruhr river navigation, subsequently by railways that became the core of the densest network in Europe, and the later-built canals that supplemented the capacity of railways and which include an exceptional ship lift-locks technological ensemble at Henrichenburg, Europe's largest inland port at Duisburg-Ruhrort (at the confluence of the Rhine and Ruhr) and Europe's largest canal harbour in Dortmund; social infrastructure, an economic precondition for industrial organisation, represented by regionally managed water (from 1899)

and green spaces (from 1920), and industrial workers' "colonies" that show different phases of industrial, planning and architectural development.









Criterion (v): "...be an outstanding example of a 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".

The Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape is an outstanding example of large-scale land-use by one of the most important symbiotic concentrations of the coal, iron and steel industries in the world. The orientation of natural landscape features, together with coal seams that uniformly dip northward from their surface exposure to increasingly greater depths, delineated and determined the form of large-scale industrialisation and of the northward development of settlement. This progressed from the hilly Ruhr Valley in the south to the flat lowlands between the rivers Emscher and Lippe and affected individual areas with differing intensity and varied outcomes at different times during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

In order to mould the impact of rapid industrial growth and to assure the population's living conditions, large-scale water management and spatial regional planning and management, including the planned development of a structured system of green belts, was pioneered in the Ruhrgebiet in the early twentieth century, being institutionalised as early as 1899 and 1920, respectively. The coordinated approach in the building, settlement and traffic sectors as well as in landscape protection is continued today with new forces and is reflected in the region's current landscape pattern that is maintained.

Integrity

The Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape is characterised by a strong system of functional connections and industrial processes that are manifest in the form of dense nodes and concentrations and linear networks, driven mainly by industry and only in consequence by urban dynamics. These combine in the Ruhrgebiet to convey an extraordinary indication of the power and dimension of industry.

A number of industrial elements continue in use and are prominent in sustaining industrial landscape character, for example canals and railways.

The property boundary has been drawn to be highly selective, spanning an appropriate sample of the geography to convey scale and diversity, and of adequate size and wholeness to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes that convey the property's significance. It includes all necessary areas and attributes which are a direct tangible expression of Outstanding Universal Value of the property and that are not threatened by development or neglect.

Natural processes, such as water dynamics, reshaped as a consequence of massive industrial intervention, are actively managed, and will be so in perpetuity.



Authenticity

The Outstanding Universal Value of the Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape is truthfully and credibly expressed through a variety of attributes: location and setting, structures, objects, features, processes, characteristics and qualities of heritage value that contribute to the outstanding inter-relationship between culture and nature that characterises this classic landscape.

Authenticity is present to a high degree and is understood on the basis of extensive research using prolific credible and detailed information sources, and upon the understanding of clearly expressed values, the relationships between these values and the evolution of heritage elements over time and their cumulative meaning.



Protection and management

The Ruhrgebiet benefits from a longstanding governmental and non-governmental recognition of the significance of its industrial heritage, leading to its effective protection, conservation and sustainable management.

The structured orientation of a relict and a continuing landscape, that includes new functions and values, is the essential character of today's Ruhrgebiet. Monuments and sites are legally protected by traditional means, whereas major parts of rivers, canals and railways, although modified as part of a more recent international economic system, continue in use as a major contributor to industrial landscape character. These will be subject to the effective protection of clearly stated values in a property management plan. An increasing number of decommissioned railways form a strategically preserved regional network with a new purpose of interpretation, communication and recreation (for example, as cyle paths).

Innovative institutions emerged as necessary counterparts to the mining companies: "Emschergenossenschaft" (Emscher Cooperative) and the "Siedlungsverband Ruhrkohlenbezirk" (Regional Federation of the Ruhr Coal district's municipalities, the Regional Planning Authority). They continue today, the latter in the form of "Regionalverband Ruhr" (RVR), which is also legally responsible for the "Route of Industriekultur". Cities, towns and green spaces continue to evolve, but their historic and other values remain rigorously protected under the framework of regional plans.

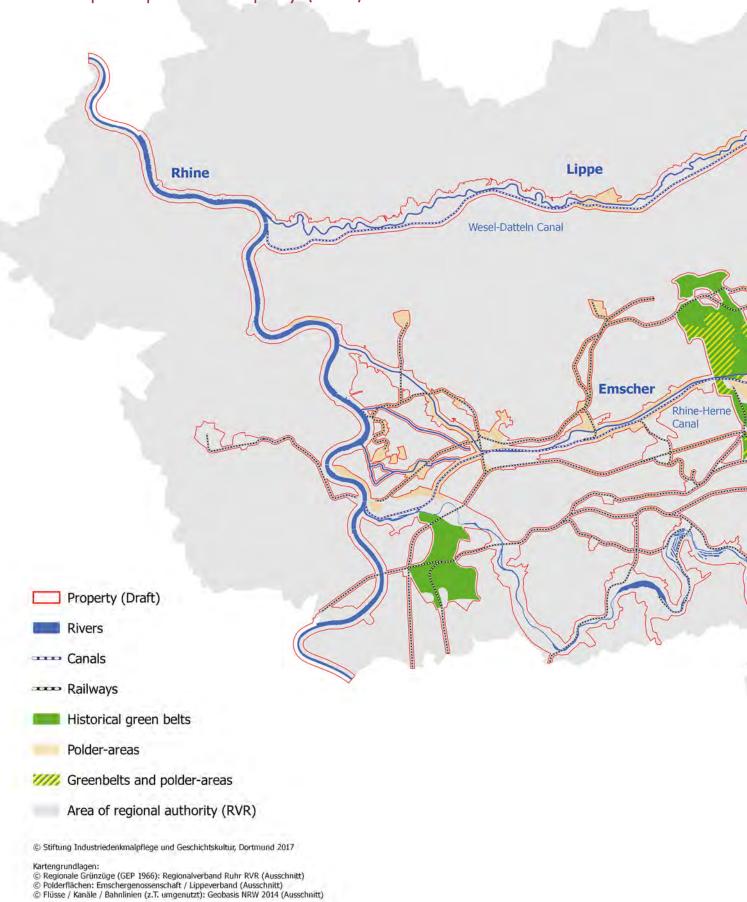
Civil society, local authorities, and structural politics of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the "RVR" and the "Landschaftsverbände" "LWL" (Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe) and "LVR" (Regional Association of the Rhineland), have contributed substantially to widespread and innovative large-scale preservation, conservation,

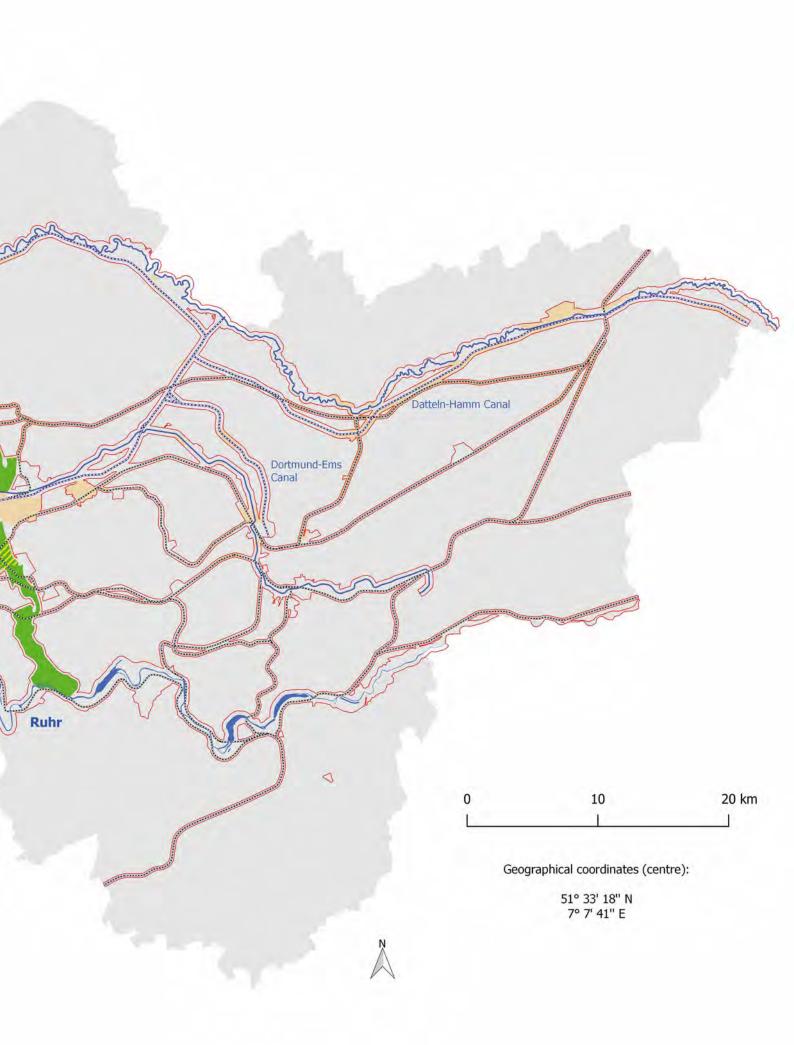
protection, management and utilisation of industrial cultural heritage in the Ruhrgebiet. Outcomes include the "International Building Exhibition" (1989-99), monument and structural preservation by "Industrial Museums" and the establishment of the "Foundation for the Preservation of Industrial Monuments and Historical Culture" (1995), inscription of "Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen" on the World Heritage List (2001), European Capital of Culture (2010) and the "Route of Industriekultur" that embodies historic and new community values and which continues to develop as a model sustainable approach to a common heritage of the industrial era.

Dynamic change is, of course, an essential cultural landscape characteristic. But it will be ultimately controlled within the framework of a property management plan, implemented by an overarching authority that brings together all major stakeholders involved in the conservation and management of the property, and which is backed by a robust system of protection and management with deep-rooted and sympathetic community use. This remains the hallmark of a successful conservation concept of industrial cultural landscape, and the strategy to include it into modern sustainable regional development.

World Heritage Project

Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape Concept Map of the Property (Draft)

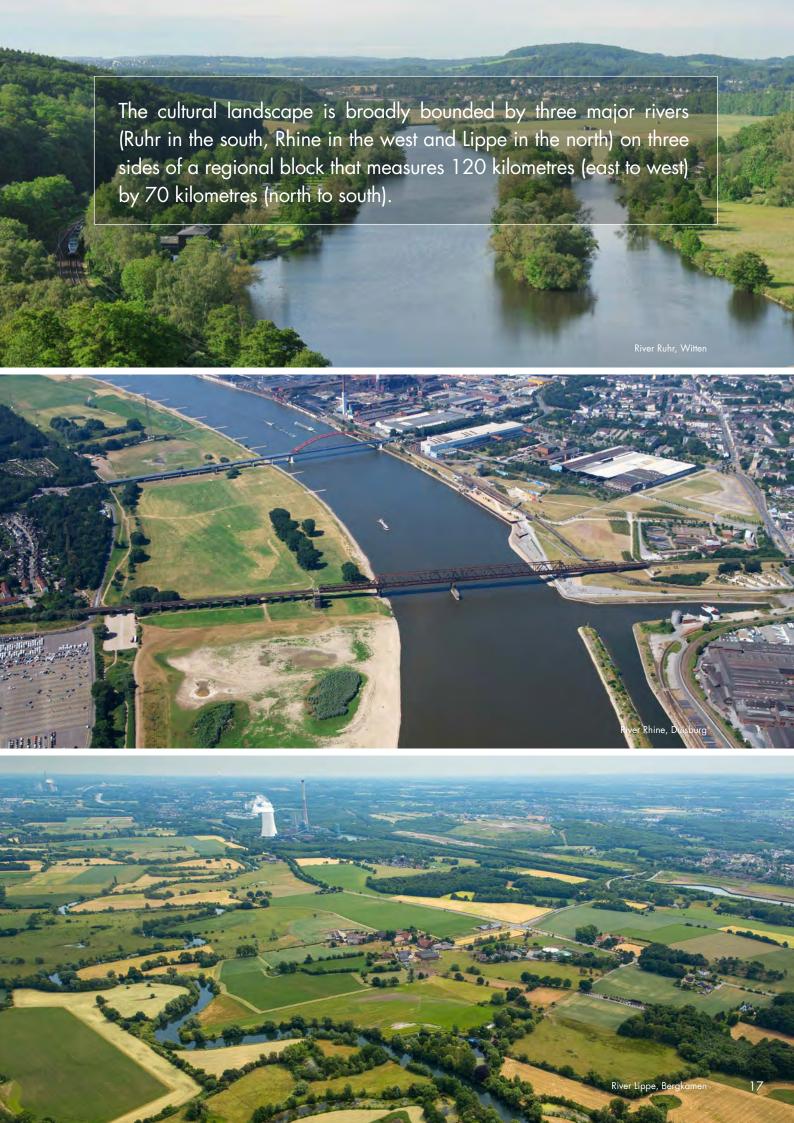




















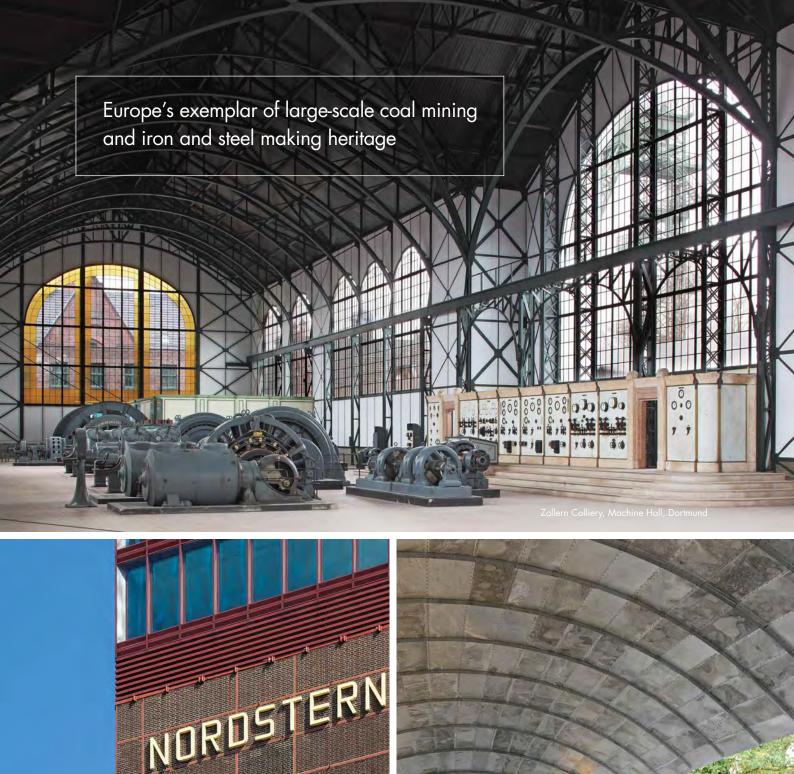




















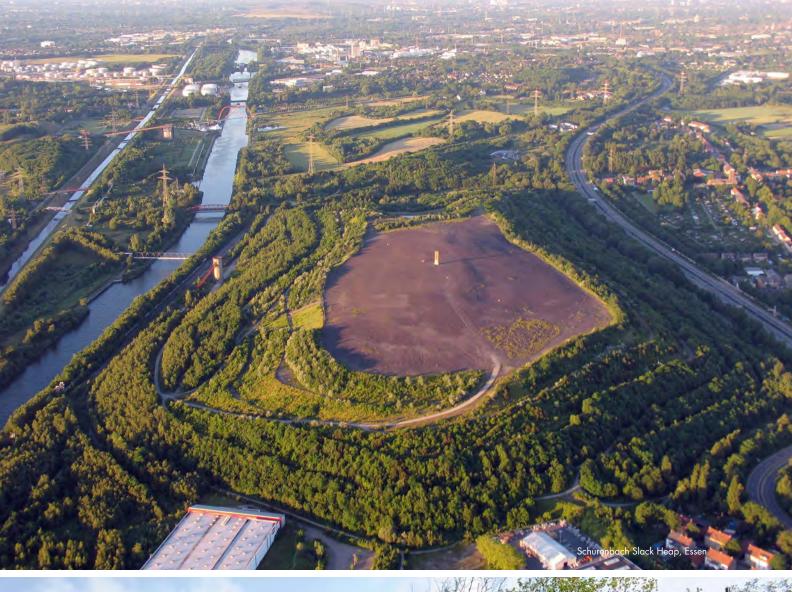












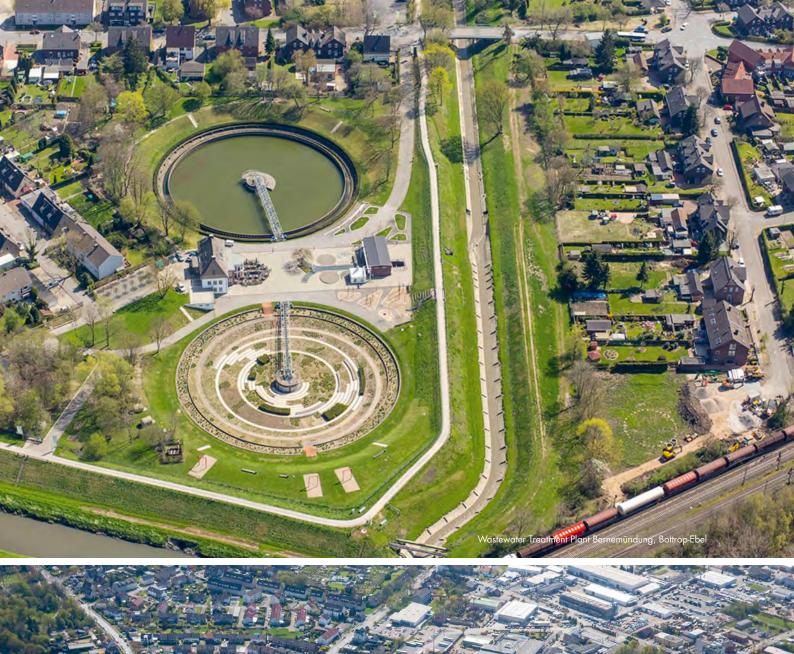








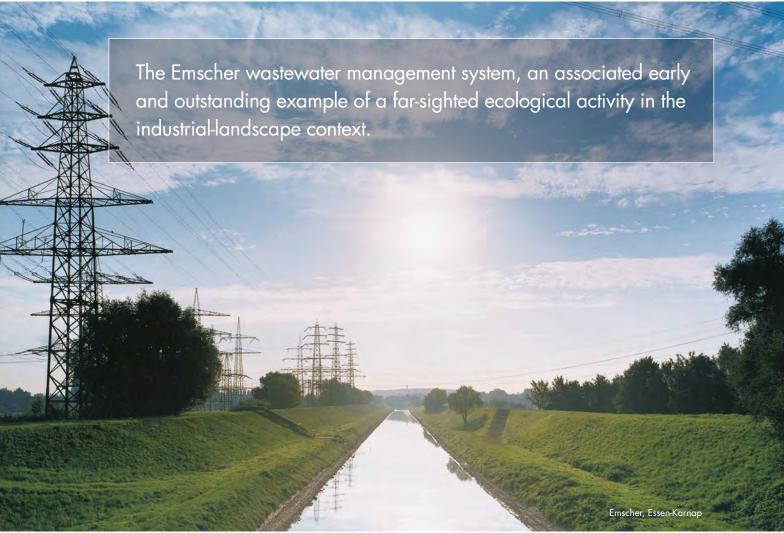






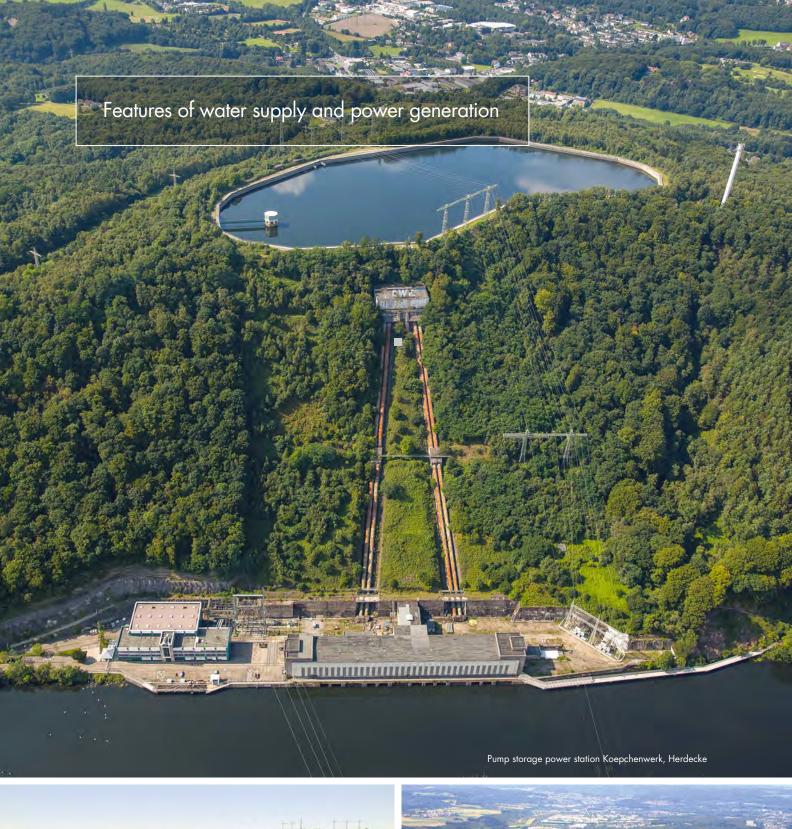
















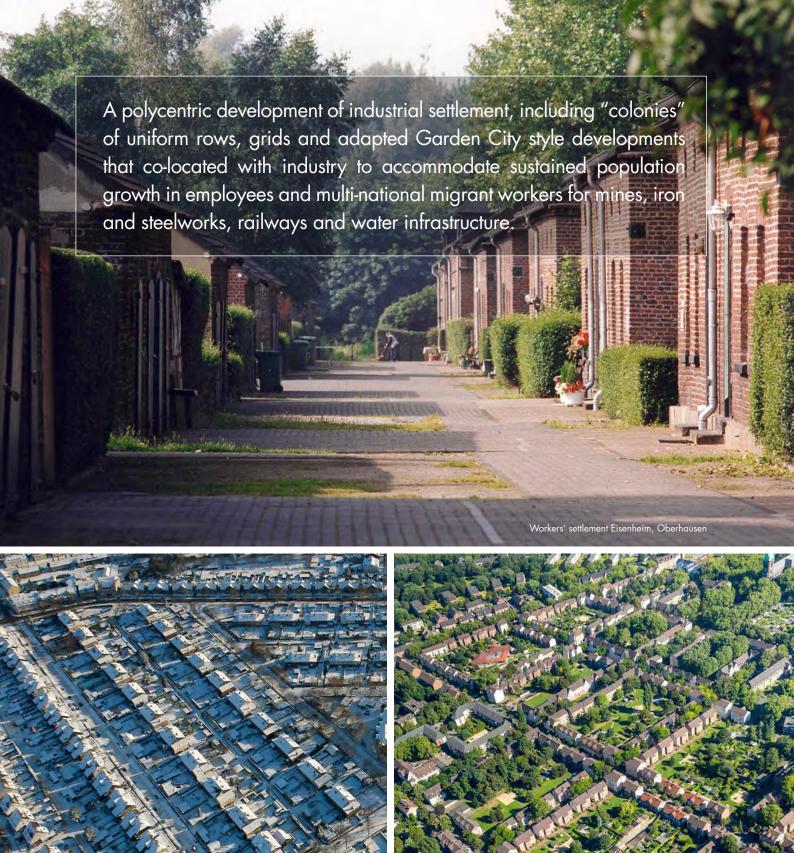












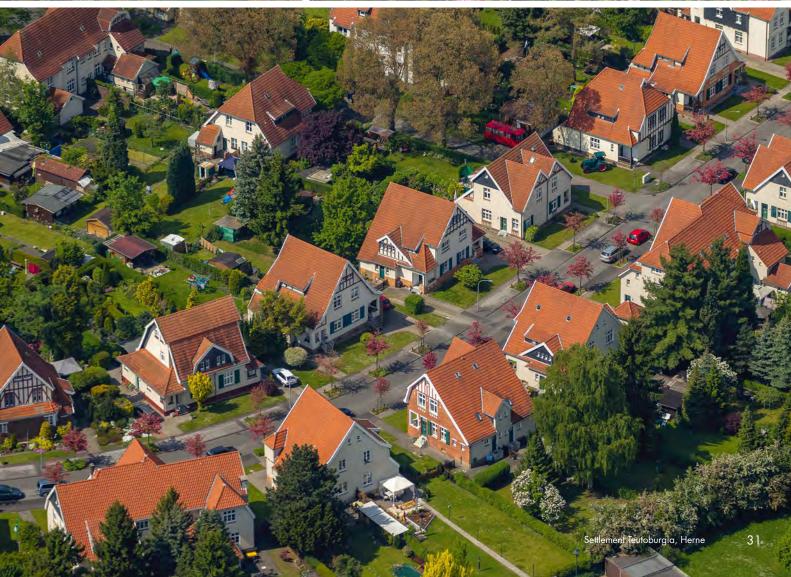


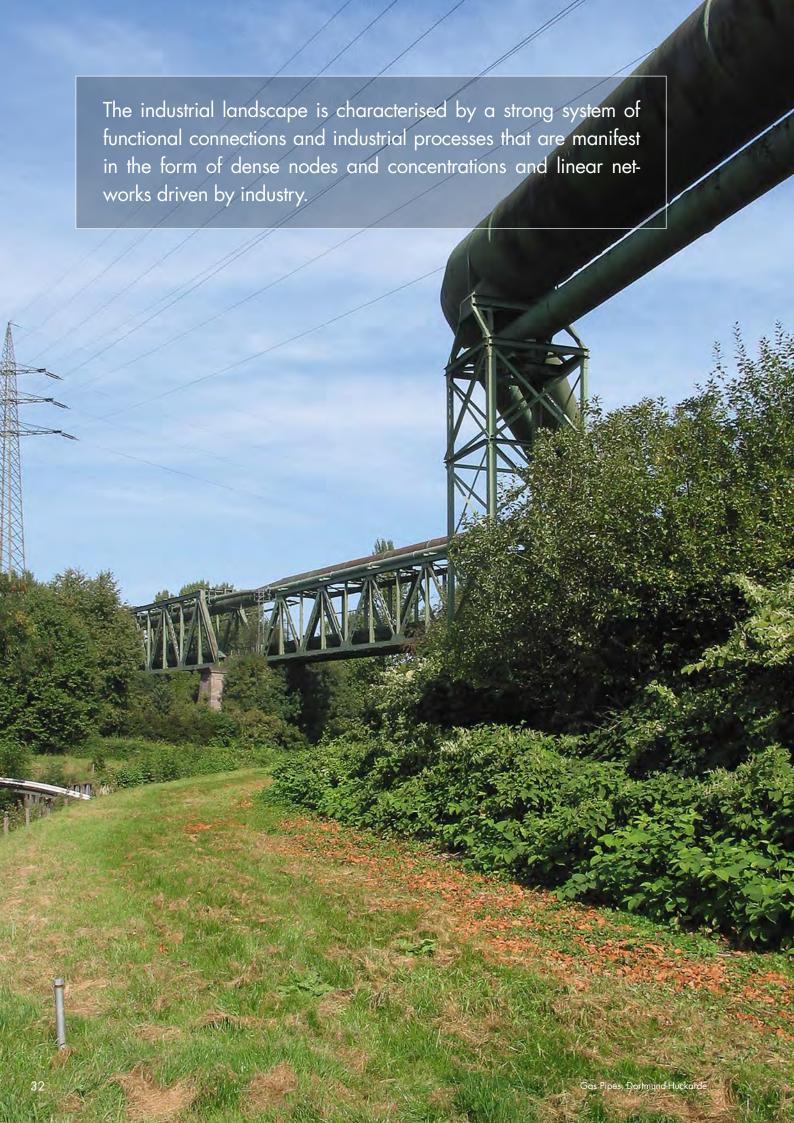
















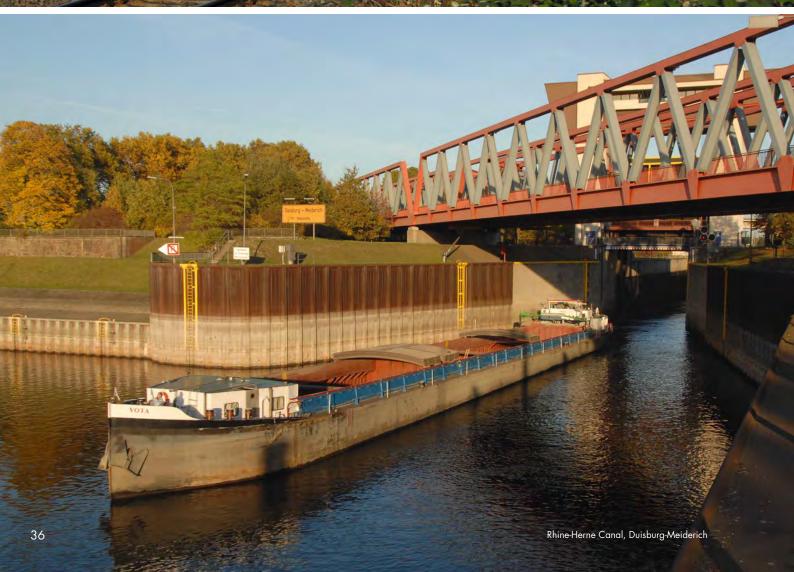


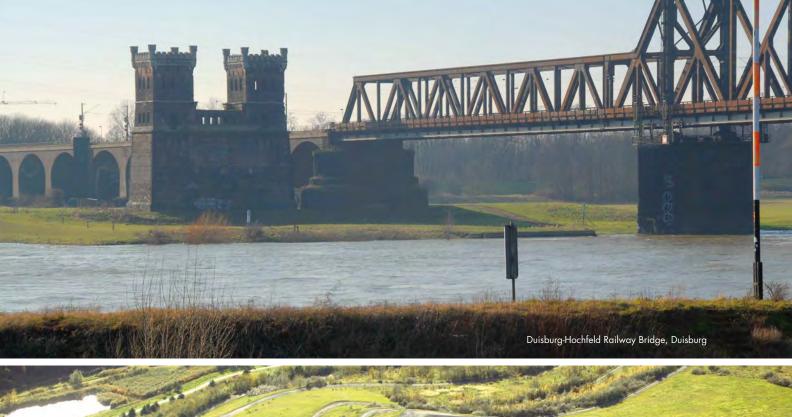
































Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape

Comparison with other similar properties

A comparison with similar properties was elaborated at the level and scale of the overall regional industrial cultural landscape, and particularly with those properties possessing specificities of coal, iron and steel, water management, transport and industrial settlement, and corresponding broadly with the era of industrialisation, particularly in Europe, but also in the USA and Japan.

The Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape shares a number of attributes with the following sites on the World Heritage List: Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin (France); Major Mining Sites of Wallonia (Belgium); Blaenavon Industrial Landscape (UK); Ironbridge Gorge (UK); Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape (UK) and sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining (Japan). On Tentative Lists the most direct comparator is Industrial Complexes in Ostrava (Czech Republic) and, whilst not on any lists, some sites in the Upper Silesian Industrial District, Poland. These are considered to be the most direct comparators.

The use of the cultural landscape category brings with it the need for contextualization, spatial continuity and a density of attributes that include processes and close interrelationships. In this respect it was concluded that the Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape is the exemplar that represents the profound era of large-scale heavy industry in continental Europe. Further, it has a continuing dimension that sustains original function, exhibits significant material evidence of its evolution over time, and in which change also includes changing human values. No other site presents the combination of attributes that is uniquely the Ruhrgebiet, the property contributing markedly to "filling the gaps" in the universally significant category of Industrial Cultural Landscapes on the World Heritage List.





















Imprint

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Editors:

The Foundation for the Preservation of Industrial Monuments and Historical Culture (SIG)

and its partners in the World Heritage project "Ruhrgebiet Industrial Cultural Landscape"

- · the Ministry of Building, Housing, Urban Development and Traffic in North Rhine-Westphalia (MBWSV)
- · the Ruhr Regional Association (RVR)
- · the Rhineland Regional Association (LVR)
- · the Westphalia-Lippe Regional Association (LWL)
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