

The Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz as an example for the management of a historical monument

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Introduction

Located between the Bauhaus town of Dessau and Lutherstadt Wittenberg, the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz covers an area of about 145 square kilometres; equivalent to about one quarter of its original size in the 18th/19th century.



Figure 1. Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz, Comparison of the area wide expansion of principality Anhalt-Dessau in 1800 (without exclaves) and monument area in 1997

The Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz is the largest area of an historical cultural landscape in Saxony-Anhalt. Former research projects were focused on the design and constructional highlights of the cultural landscape, which means: castles, small structures, historic town centers and parks. The landscape which is situated between those constructions was assessed partially due to landscape planning values.

Between those different evaluations it lacked the connection of the different scientific understandings that means an extensive complex analysis and evaluation of the historical cultural landscape. There were repeatedly problems in planning processes. The beauty of the landscape awakes desires to develop it, which would result in everlasting changes for the area. Also infrastructural measures like power lines, wind energy areas and traffic routes would mean a drastic change of the cultural landscape.

The realization for the need of a complex, scientifically-sound examination of the historical cultural landscape led to the preparation of the presented monument master plan.

Background

The Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz origins go back to the reign of Duke Leopold III Frederick Franz of Anhalt-Dessau (1740–1817). Impressed by several trips to England, France, Italy, and the Netherlands and excited by a wide range of contacts with contemporary personalities, the prince and his architect Friedrich Wilhelm von Erdmannsdorff (1736–1800) together with skilful gardeners created a total work of art - the essential parts of which can still be enjoyed today. The embellishment of the countryside initiated by Leopold III Frederick Franz, Duke of Anhalt-Dessau, is exemplary of the 18th century. Here he realised his vision of an economically thriving society, inspired by the spirit of the Enlightenment, oriented to social security, humanism, and peace. Nestled in the flood plain of the middle Elbe and lower Mulde rivers expansive sightlines and avenues of an elaborately modelled landscape are revealed. This includes palaces, parks and gardens, therein antique-styled temples, pastures, orchards, meadows planted with solitary trees. Dykes, rivers, and lakes are lined with groves. With the exception of the industrial site Vockerode the Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Kingdom has a predominantly rural character. The horticulturally enhanced landforms between the parks and gardens, also known as "gems" - the Wörlitz complex, the Sieglitz hill, the George garden with Beckerbruch [Becker mire] and the Grosskühnau park - form the connective basis of the total artwork. The culminating point is, besides the palaces and parks of Mosigkau, Oranienbaum, and Luisium, undoubtedly the Wörlitz complex, unique in its cultural and historical dimension of the Enlightenment. It is considered the earliest and largest landscape park in the English style on the Continent and represents an encyclopaedia of German and international intellectual life. Education, freedom, and the right to individual happiness are fundamental values of the world of ideas taking effect here. The efforts to preserve this unique cultural landscape influenced the development of the last 200 years, even though the consequences of industrialisation cannot be overlooked. Towns and settlements expanded into the surrounding landscape. Infrastructural measures, such as the construction of the motorway in the 1930s altered the historically grown cultural landscape. In 1979 the Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Kingdom was registered to the central monument list of the GDR. Since 1988 it is part of the UNESCO recognised Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve. As early as 1991 the Landtag Saxony-Anhalt committed itself to the preservation and appropriate development of the Garden Kingdom. With the

newly enacted State Monument Protection Act the designation as Monument Area was effected, including a variety of explicitly designated monuments (Monument Protection Act of the State of Saxony-Anhalt). In 1994 the state government decided to establish the Dessau-Wörlitz Cultural Foundation; the Vockerode power station was taken offline.

Goals and objectives

The Garden Kingdom Dessau-Wörlitz of today has, in contrast to its founding period, no longer any unified administrative structures. The comprehensive management to preserve the unique cultural monument is the responsibility of different institutions and individuals. Daily assessment decisions characterise the image of the future Garden Kingdom Dessau-Wörlitz. The Regional Forum Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Kingdom was formed in 1997. Its objectives, formulated in the Charter of the same name, included the pooling of regional actors and identification of ways to achieve a common economic development in accordance with the historical cultural landscape. The register of monuments of the Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Kingdom published in the same year contained for the first time a precise definition of the boundary of the monument area. Amongst the fundamental strategies of the following years number the key monument protection objectives for the Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Kingdom developed by the State Office for Heritage Management and Archaeology Saxony-Anhalt, the integrated subspace concept commissioned by the town of Dessau (Schumacher 1998), and the 1998/1999 developed "Strategy to revive the historical infrastructure of the Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Kingdom" (HORTEC 1999). With the designation as a reservation area for culture and heritage conservation in 1999 the Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Kingdom was redefined in the state's development plan; previously it had been defined as an area for recreation, nature and landscape (Act of 23.08.1999).

In 2000 followed the registration to the UNESCO World Heritage List, accompanied by the new designation "Gartenreich Dessau-Wörlitz" [Garden Kingdom Dessau-Wörlitz]. With the listing as UNESCO World Heritage arose the obligation to process the natural and infrastructural, the urban and conservational requirements of this outstanding cultural landscape professionally and scientifically and to highlight prospects for their further development.

Methods

Between 2001 and 2008 the entire area was interdisciplinarily recorded, analysed, and evaluated according to heritage preservation standards by art historians, landscape and urban planners. This resulted in a monument

framework master plan for the Garden Kingdom Dessau-Wörlitz. The planning area covers an expanse of approximately 25,100 ha and is identical neither with the Garden Kingdom Dessau-Wörlitz monument area nor with the world heritage area of the Garden Kingdom Dessau-Wörlitz.

The monument master plan comprises three key work priorities:

- Historic cultural landscape and settlements (LOT 1)
- Local studies of historic settlement centres (LOT 2)
- Historic gardens (LOT 3)

In the years 2002–2005 the work of the planners involved focused on the assessment of the historic cultural landscape, including its settlement sites. In the following years, scientific research was conducted on a total of 21 historic cultural landscape areas, 25 historic settlement centres and nine historic gardens.



Figure 2. Monument master plan Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz, historical cultural landscapes, garden areas and cultural landscape areas in valence- and state-levels after the current landscape structure

The jointly developed objective compiled by the State Office for Heritage Management and Archaeology and the Dessau-Wörlitz Cultural Foundation involved a survey and evaluation of punctiform, linear, and planiform elements of the predominantly 17th and 18th century historic cultural landscape. Subsequent designs following the principles of large-scale land beautification of the outgoing 18th century should also be taken into account. Recommendations were formulated based on the evaluation of the changes executed over the last 200 years that do not conform to the original structure

and scale of the landscape, villages, and gardens. Another objective was specific technical assistance for regionally active stakeholders, according to the zoning of the protected area divided into maximum and minimum requirements for the preservation and development of the heritage landscape. In addition to the 1999 study of historic infrastructure (Kulturstiftung Dessau-Wörlitz 2000), which essentially records and evaluates the punctiform and linear structural elements between the parks, also the parks, their surroundings, the planiform elements of the designed landscape as well as the surviving substance of the historic villages centres should be included in the master plan. All cartographic works were accomplished digitally as a geographic information system (GIS) using ARCVIEW 3.2. The assessment of the individual areas was done at different scales. Methodologically, monument preservation techniques of recording and evaluation are linked with those of historical-ecological landscape analysis. A distinction is made between substantial cultural landscape elements, such as solitary trees, avenues, sightlines, path designs, buildings, and structural elements arising from the land use of cultural landscape areas. In addition to the landscape area, also the urban-structural level of the settlements has been recorded, differentiated between the historic village centres and their extensions. Special attention was given to the analysis of the appearance of the edges of the settlements, including their progression into the open countryside. The monument protection master plan is structured as follows:

1. Overview of work process

1.1 Presentation of the planning area: Preparation of a base map showing the characterising land use patterns of the landscape, transfer, and processing of the biotope and land-use types (Map L 1). *1.2 Recording of garden, landscape, and settlement areas:* Representation of the garden areas, the characterising formations of the cultural landscape areas, and the settlement areas with their historic centres; delimitation of sub-areas and illustration of their internal structuring with reference to the characterising formations above (Map L 2).

2. Historic cultural landscape and settlements (LOT 1)

2.1 Recording, Inventory

2.1.1 Comparison with historical design structures, structural elements and single structures as well as land use, recognisable planting tableaux.

Investigation of the settlement structure in terms of urban planning aspects, comparison of plans and sources for all time horizons as well as working out a landscape genesis for all sub-areas of the survey area, analysis of historical maps to assess the historical landscape elements, designation of lost elements (e.g. cleared forests, former pasture and farmland), processing of the entire

settlement areas while including delimitation of historical centres, illustration of the characteristic historical features of the historic buildings, textual description with evaluation of source material (Map L 3).

2.1.2 Representation of preserved and still-visible residual structures, corresponding representation of the inner areas, thereby delimiting the historic settlement of 1851/52 and representation of the boundary of the settlement in 1818, cartographic presentation of the historical landscape inventory by time horizons (Map L 4), detail map (cartographic presentation of historical settlement inventory and its stages of development, designation of spatial borders).

2.1.3 Recording and representation of the differentiated nature of subspaces with description, photographic documentation of priorities and the elements of the spatial areas, corresponding representation of the inner areas, designation of historic cultural landscape elements (e.g. historic forests, grasslands and arable land) and structures (e.g. meandering forest edges, oak meadows, orchard meadows, vistas), procurement of the historic infrastructure (Map L 5) detail map.

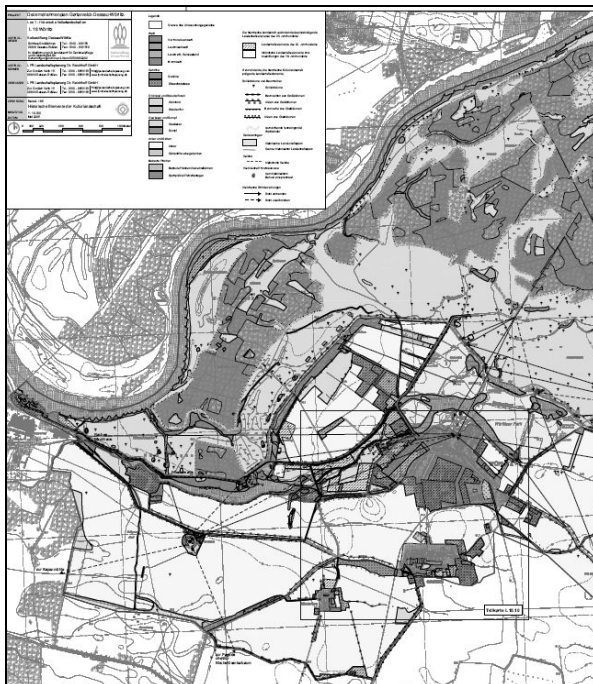


Figure 3. Monument master plan Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz, historical features of the cultural landscape scale 1: 10,000 map L 18.5

2.2 Evaluation, general principle of targeted time horizons

Identification of the targeted, preservation and reconstruction situation (selection of the time horizons, on which the restoration statement is based), overlay plan (chronological map) recording and evaluation of existing plans in the study area, determination and illustration of impairments, designation of undisturbed areas, two-dimensional assessment according to maintenance, conservation, restoration and reconstruction of the given time horizon, representation of the time horizon of the inventory and the time horizon of the restoration or reconstruction target (Map L 6).

Creation of a plan of impairments, differentiated by impairments to the inventory and planning impairments, differentiated by major users (Map L 7).

2.3 Objectives and recommendations for use (measures)

Representation of the inventory worthy of preservation, corresponding to the desired historical condition and the desired objective (general principle), review of traceability according to target catalogue (general principle) under consideration and weighing of legal planning requirements, corresponding representation of the inner areas.

Representation of the desired future effect following restitution to the intended target status, corresponding representation for the inner areas subject to urban structural planning perspectives for the historical centres and formulation of design and development goals for the entire settlement area, representation of agreed monument preservation objectives, elaboration of action measures on restoration, reconstruction, and conservation as well as maintenance (Map L 8) detail map.

2.4 Compilation of a representation of the monument preservation target inventory

(Map L 9) detail map.

The scientific methodical approach of analysis and assessment which is applied in LOS 1 was also practised at the studies of Heritage Management relevant elements and structures, historic settlement centers (LOS 2) and Gardens and parks (LOS 3).

LOS 2 further contains the following information. Appendix: Verification of the monument register, photographic documentation of the current situation of the single monuments recorded in the monument register of Saxony-Anhalt with a short description and indication of condition.

For LOS 3 should be added: Adoption of the methodology used for the total area, in Particular the correlation of the chosen time horizons (starting from the second half of the 18th century at an interval of approx. 50 years, but also on the basis of time horizons verified in the garden plans), and the analysis and evaluation of known maps.

The maps listed below served as working basis:

- Bein: „Vermessungs-Plan von einem Teil des Fürstenthumes Dessau, vermessen anno 1780 durch Bein [Survey plan of one part of the principality of Dessau, measured anno 1780 by Bein] (Berlin State Library, Prussian Cultural Heritage).
- Decker, Carl von: Cabinet map of the area around Berlin and the region around Dessau, Bitterfeld and Wittenberg bordering the province Brandenburg to the south-west, 1818 (Berlin State Library, Prussian Cultural Heritage).
- Royal Prussian Land Survey, first edition of the plane-table sheets (b/w), recorded 1851/52, issued 1872/74 (Berlin State Library, Prussian Cultural Heritage).
- Original plane-table sheets of the Royal Prussian Land Survey (coloured) 1851/52 (Berlin State Library, Prussian Cultural Heritage).
- Prussian Land Survey, plane-table sheet, 1903/04 (revised 1927, single supplements 1938) (Berlin State Library, Prussian Cultural Heritage).
- Plane-table sheets (new and reprinted with corrections from the 1940s) after 1950.
- Current topographic maps
- For settlements and gardens individual historical special maps exist.



Figure 4. Monument master plan Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz, Wörlitz area - overlay of historical maps with the current holdings

Results

The monument master plan for the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz was published in 2009. The attached DVD contains the most extensive gathering of materials with historical cartography and actual pictures until now, as well as a current inventory for the Garden Kingdom of Dessau Wörlitz. The analysis and evaluation of historical cultural landscapes, including settlements and gardens were made scientifically sound. Short-, medium- and long-term measures to protect and preserve the historical cultural landscape are shown.



Figure 5. Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz, Kupenwiesen near Vockerode (Aerial view by R. Ulbricht)

Discussion

The monument master plan operates as an informal authority, which means that it does not have a legally fixed status. For the people who are working at the Garden Kingdom it is an indispensable basis for decision making and reasoning help in dealing with the historical cultural landscape. For example it is consistently applied in the current authorization process, for example, at the building-, monument- and environmental- law. The monumental expertise's aim is to preserve the traditional appearance of the world cultural heritage even with increasing pressure of infrastructural development.

Another task is to gradually restore lost elements of the historical garden empire and depending on their importance to fit in new features carefully.

With it the monument master plan meets the tasks of the science-based observation of the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz in its landscape-urbanic- and cultural contexts.

Conclusion

Eight years after its publication it is still an ongoing task to mediate in the key messages of the monument master plan. Because of this context, the State Office for Heritage and Archaeology initiated a project that is primarily concerned with issues of placement of monuments and memorial customer in the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz. Simultaneously the existing monuments are qualified retroactively.

The monumental goal is to increase the broad public acceptance of the protected historical cultural landscape of the World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

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