

Dvigrad

Country or territory:
Republic of CROATIA

Name of organization
compiling the information:
Ministry of Culture,
Conservation Department Pula

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Name and address of building or site:

DVIGRAD

Inventory reference number:

Building(s) type:

Ruins of mediaeval city

Main date(s):

6.-17. century

Current use(s):

Ruins

Significance:

Dvigrad is a deserted mediaeval settlement that contains: remains of 180 houses, well preserved fortifications with square towers and four city gates. In the centre of the city there are remains of the Romanesque basilica of St. Sofia built over two earlier churches – an early Romanesque one with three cemicircular apses and an early Christian one from 6-7 century.

The town was deserted at the beginning of the 17th century so its structure was not affected by later urban and architectural interventions. Therefore, the entirety of the city is an exceptional archaeological and urban document.

Categories of Significance:

International importance

Categories of ownership or interest:

The entire city is state property. It is the most monumental ruin in the country of Croatia.

Desertion of the city symbolises the part of Istrian history when a crisis occurred in the whole region of Istria as a result of depopulation.

Due to the attractiveness of the ruins, Dvigrad has become a tourist sensation and draws large numbers of visitors.

The significance of the city for mediaeval archaeology is even more important because it is not burdened by contemporary structures and offers an overall and exact stratigraphic analysis. The site is, in that sense, determined to become an attractive and eloquent historical document and ensures long-lasting archaeological research.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Five years ago a strategic agenda for restoration was established as a basis for the phases of annual activities.

Digitized architectural recording has been kept during the years of archaeological research and the first conservation activities.

Extensive documentation exists on the results of the excavation, executed by the University of Padua – Department for mediaeval research.

There is extensive documentation and literature about the site and the works carried out.

Condition:

Very bad – structural failure and instability

Risk:

All the structures are in fact ruins, with only parts of the bearing walls of one to fourteen metres high remaining. All the walls, except the ones consolidated in the last five years are showing signs of further deterioration.

In order to prevent further deterioration and collapse of the structure, permanent maintenance and repair are needed. Repair follows archaeological and conservation research by means of consolidation of the walls using traditional building materials and techniques. Maintenance includes removing the vegetation and deposit from the site.

Condition risk:

Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; solution agreed but not begun.

Repair scheme in progress and end use and user identified.

Technical assessment and costings:

Permanent research and preservation activities are anticipated. It is not possible to predict when the restoration is going to end, but it will surely last more than 20 years. Annual sum for regular maintenance and anticipated research and restoration works is 100,000 EURO.

Ownership:

Municipality of Kanfanar

Occupation:

Deserted

Management:

Municipality of Kanfanar as the owner is managing the site and responsible for administrating the finances. Supervision and scheduling of works is the responsibility of the Conservation Department in Pula.

Summary:

The deserted mediaeval city of Dvigrad is an attractive and important historic monument in the region of Istria and Croatia.

The appearance of the site represents and outlines the historic fate of the region. Attractiveness and significance as well as its scientific importance bring numerous visitors, experts and scientists to Dvigrad. In recent times it has become a place for archaeological research of international importance.

Conservation work is carried out by means of a «soft» conservation method, which means that consolidation of the structures is achieved by use of traditional building techniques and materials, identical to the ones used originally.

The future of the site depends on permanent maintenance and conservation works, therefore the site provides a permanent scientific – restoration spot with an aim to preserve a historic memory.

Sign and date:

Ivan Matejčić
20 April 2004.