

City of Bath

Spa

Františkovy Lázně

Bad Ems

Karlovy Vary

Bad Kissingen

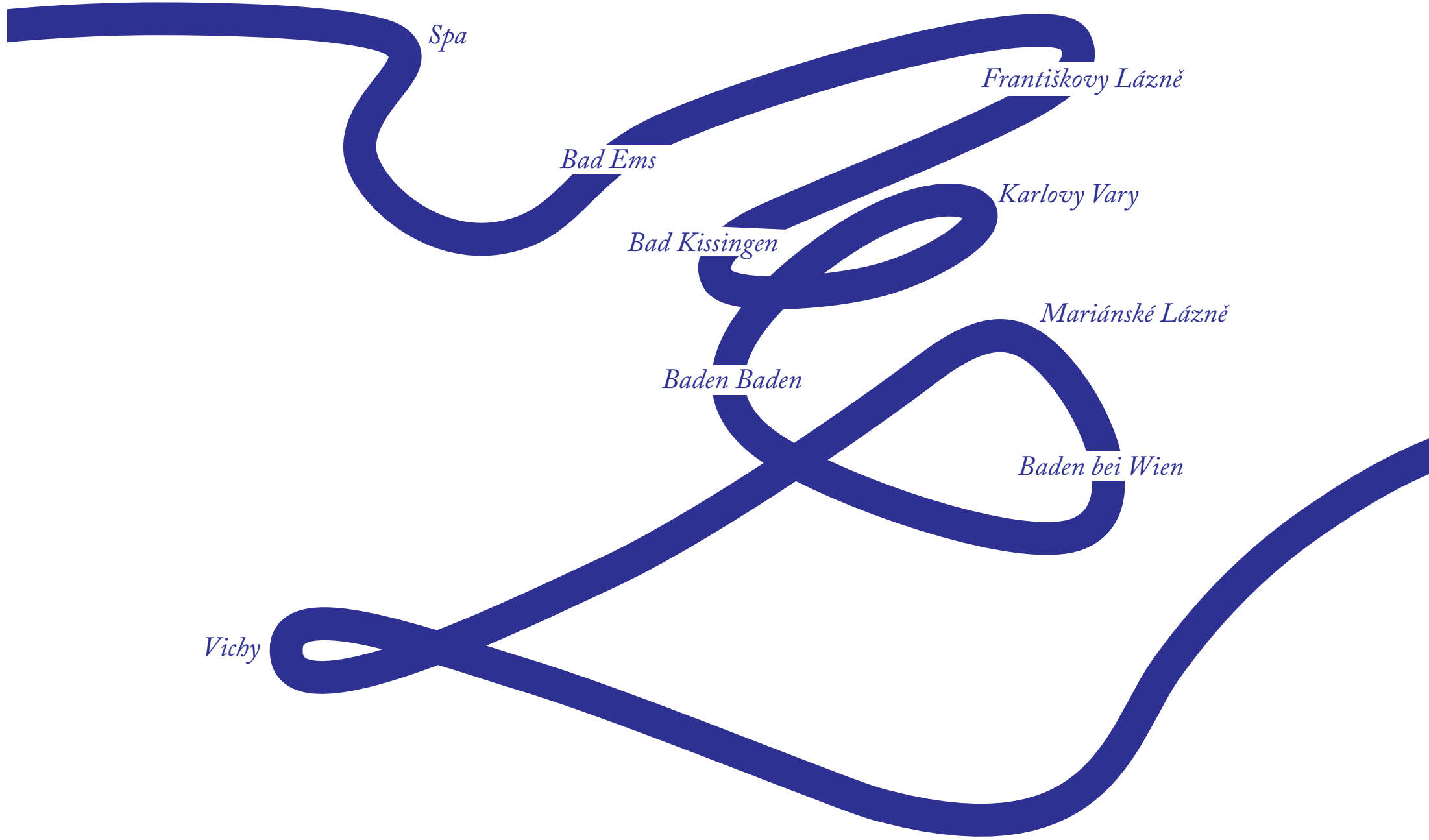
Mariánské Lázně

Baden Baden

Baden bei Wien

Vichy

Montecatini Terme





GREAT SPAS *of Europe*

*a serial nominated
property to the
World Heritage List*

GREAT SPAS of Europe

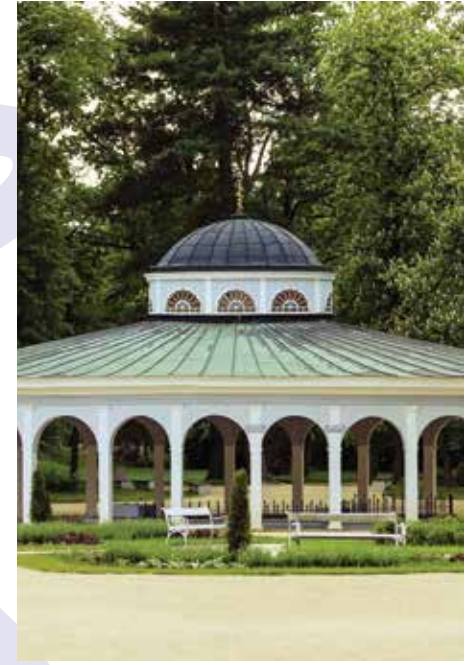
*“Continuing a
living tradition”*



Baden bei Wien



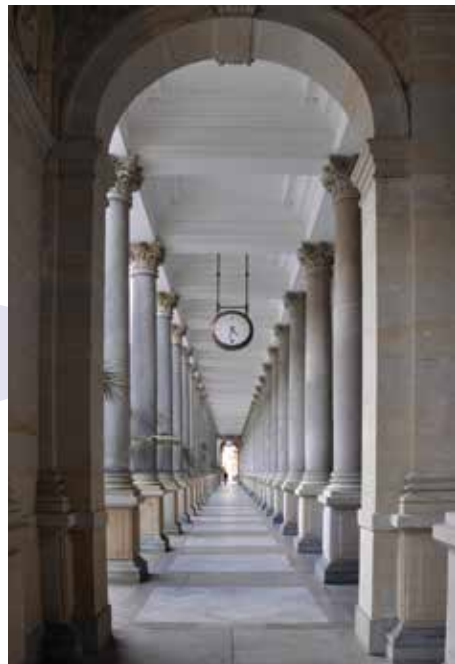
Spa



Františkovy Lázně



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Vichy



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Baden Baden



Bad Kissingen



Montecatini Terme



City of Bath

The Great Spas of Europe is a transnational series that is being nominated for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It comprises 11 exceptional spa towns across seven countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom and represents a unique cultural phenomenon and an urban typology without earlier parallel. The proposal for justification of Outstanding Universal Value includes criteria two, three, four and six.

Dita Limova
Head of UNESCO Division

International Relations Department
Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

Water has long been a catalyst for the development of significant cultural practices that have generated both tangible and intangible cultural values. This includes the use of water in spas. Natural mineral water, both thermal and cold, has universal significance, from the *thermae* of Ancient Rome to the *onsen* of Japan, but it is predominantly in Europe that its use has been medicalised. The result is a unique urban typology, the European spa, the only example of urbanisation around a medical practice.

The property provides exceptional testimony to the European spa tradition, a complex urban, social and cultural phenomenon that has its roots in antiquity but gained its highest expression from around 1700 to the 1930s. *The Great Spas of Europe* developed around natural mineral springs which were the catalyst for an innovative model of spatial organisation which included therapeutic and recreational landscapes dedicated to curative and social functions. These fashionable resorts of health, leisure and sociability created architectural prototypes and an urban typology that has no earlier parallel. They were pioneers of nascent modern tourism, and the only European settlement type to be in cultural competition with the great metropolises.

Ensembles of spa buildings include baths, pump rooms, drinking halls, treatment facilities and colonnades designed to harness the natural springs and allow its practical use for bathing and drinking. 'Taking the cure', externally and internally, was complemented by related visitor facilities such as assembly rooms, casinos, theatres, hotels and villas, and spa-specific support infrastructure. All are integrated into an overall urban context that includes a carefully managed recreational and therapeutic environment in a picturesque landscape.

The Great Spas of Europe mark the international developments in the traditional medical uses of springs by Enlightenment physicians across Europe, including pioneering the evolution of diagnostic medicine. As exceptional places in terms of scientific, political, social and cultural achievements, it contributed to the transformation of European society through the reduction of the gap between the social elite and a growing middle class. They hosted major political events and their special creative atmosphere inspired works of high-art in music, literature and painting that are of outstanding universal significance.

Effective protection and management, together with economic and/or medical success, ensured that growth was controlled whilst maintaining an original purpose and enduring atmosphere. Their sustainable function as dependable curative venues for body, mind and spirit ensures their continued contribution to European culture, behaviour and customs.



Criterion (ii) Influence on modern European towns

The Great Spas of Europe is testimony to the exchange of innovative ideas that influenced the development of modern European towns from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. This exchange included pioneering urban planning and architectural prototypes, together with an intimately associated development of medicine, arts and leisure activities. The ideas influenced the popularity and development of spa towns and balneology in other parts of the world, and are characterised by an almost continuous ease of flow across geographic boundaries, even in times of conflict.

The Great Spas of Europe became centres for experiment, contributing to the eighteenth century Enlightenment and introducing radical change to the then prevailing attitude towards science, medicine, nature and art. Developments within the nominated property influenced the early development of sea-bathing, climatic and gaming resorts throughout the world.

Criterion (iii) Taking the Cure; human health and mineral springs

The Great Spas of Europe bears exceptional testimony to the conscious care for health that developed around natural mineral springs. This tradition was born of a remarkable cultural and social phenomenon which flourished from the eighteenth to the early twentieth century; and which continues to thrive today. At the centre of this spa culture is a philosophy of diagnoses and prescription, healthy diets and physical exercise that, together with exceptional hospitality, entertainment and leisure opportunities, combined as a prototype of nascent modern tourism.

The nominated property embodies a 'culture-creating' tradition as places for the creation, reception and transmission of transnational trends and new values of the Enlightenment. This commanded a fresh concept of relations between citizens, between classes, and also between men and women.

Criterion (iv) A unique urban typology

The Great Spas of Europe is an outstanding example of a specific settlement type, a new urban typology centred on natural mineral springs and devoted to health and leisure that flourished from around 1700 to the 1930s. This developed to include architectural prototypes that are spatially arranged according to the distribution of springs and the regime of 'taking the cure'. Unlike any other type of settlement from the eighteenth century, these spa towns combine architecture, innovative town planning and landscape design into the built environment both functionally, visually and economically.

The principal spa ensemble includes springs, pump rooms and drinking halls, bathing and treatment facilities, 'kurhaus', colonnades and galleries, hospitals and sanatoria, assembly rooms, casinos, theatre and concert halls, arcades of shops, hotels and villas, churches of various denominations, and support infrastructure which are all set within a green environment of promenades, parks and gardens, pleasure grounds, rides and woodland walks.

The nominated property served as a model for similar spas, and spa architecture, in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

Criterion (vi) Vectors of transnational culture

The Great Spas of Europe comprised politically neutral nodes in an international network of health and leisure. They became vectors of a transnational culture.

Elements of the nominated property are associated with, and directly linked to, social, political and cultural ideas that helped to shape European democratic traditions and ideals. As international meeting places the spas are distinguished as regular hosts to prominent figures in the arts and humanities, and also to European rulers, politicians and diplomats, national elites and international high society. The spas reflected the climate of the Enlightenment where the former barriers between class and gender were relaxed and religious freedom and equality prevailed. As preferred resorts of composers and musicians, writers and poets, painters and sculptors, they were sources of patronage and inspiration for artistic and literary works of universal significance. Here, many original works were conceived, performed or exhibited for the first time.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value; the criteria for selection

Baden bei Wien

AUSTRIA

Baden bei Wien, is located next to the great European metropolis of Vienna, historic seat of one of the world's greatest imperial dynasties - the Habsburgs. Baden was long their favourite summer resort; a 'Spa of Emperors' and a magnet for high-level politics. The town uniquely combines the architecture of the beginning of the nineteenth century ("Biedermeier") with the architecture and infrastructures of the turn of the twentieth century when Baden became a world class spa resort. The spa district is centred on the spa garden that contains the architectural cluster of Kurhaus, Trinkhalle, Sommerarena and music pavilion. The therapeutic and recreational spa landscape extends into a scenic terrain of hills and valley that contain a distinguished belt of 'sommerfrische' villas for Viennese and parks. Musical heritage of outstanding universal significance is linked to one of the favourite workplaces of Wolfgang Amadus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven and Johann Strauß.

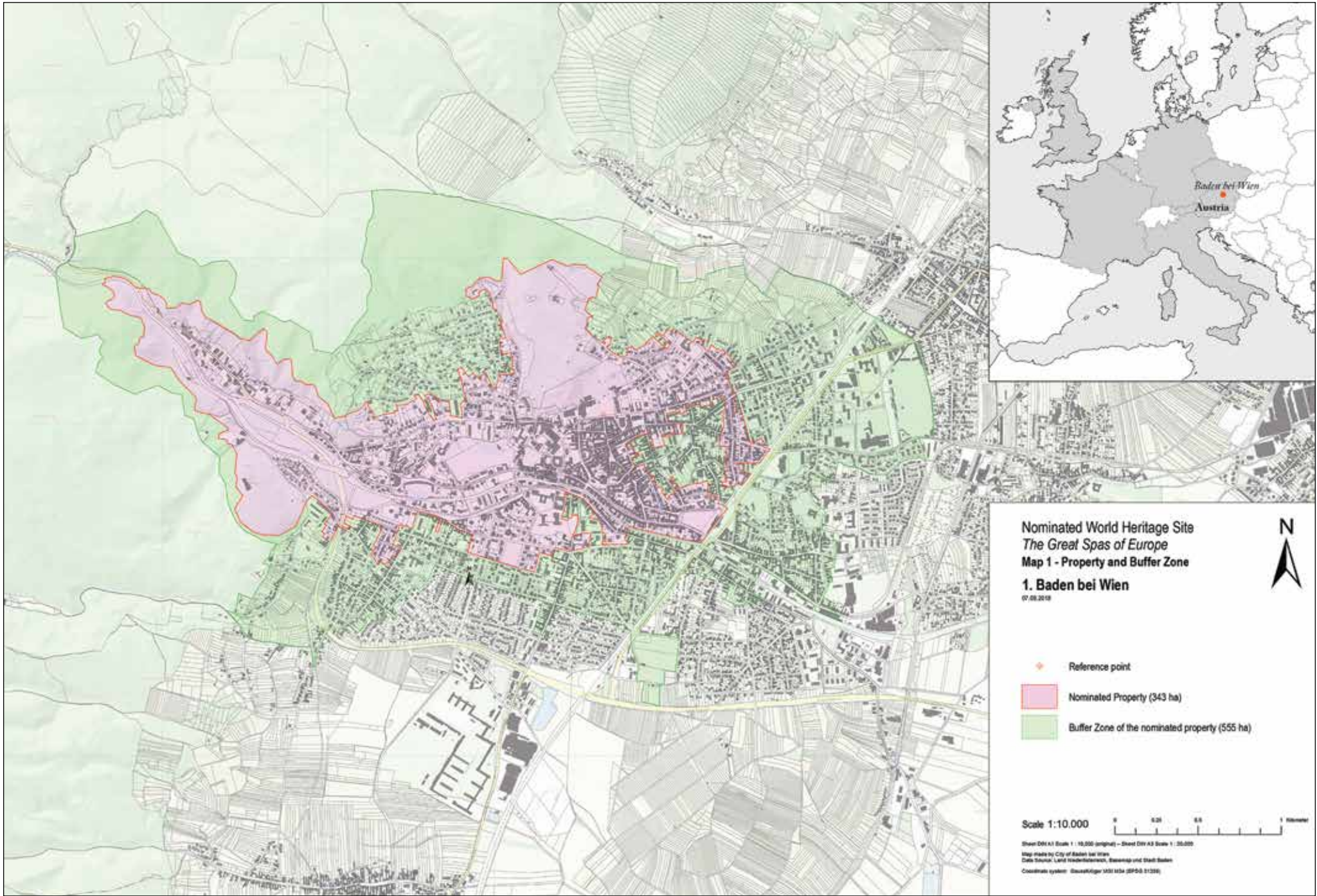


Villa Erzherzog Wilhelm, today the Eugen villa



View showing the spa quarter and the hill to the north that hosts the Kurpark

Spa of Emperors



Spa

BELGIUM

Spa, the 'eponymous spa town' and 'Pearl of the Belgian Ardennes', played a precursory role in the recognition of the medical properties of mineral water from the early seventeenth century. Its carbonated waters were ideally suited to drinking and have been widely distributed across Europe ever since, leading to the introduction of the name "spa" in the English vocabulary. Since the early eighteenth century, *Spa's* numerous springs that issue on a wooded hillside south of the town served for both crenotherapy and physical activity, a network of walks linking the various springs and connecting them to the town. *Spa* became internationally-renowned as the 'Café of Europe', and a pioneer of gaming. From the second half of the nineteenth century it was transformed into a modern spa resort with French classicist architecture. Today, thermal tradition and know-how is sustained by the addition of a new thermal centre overlooking the town.

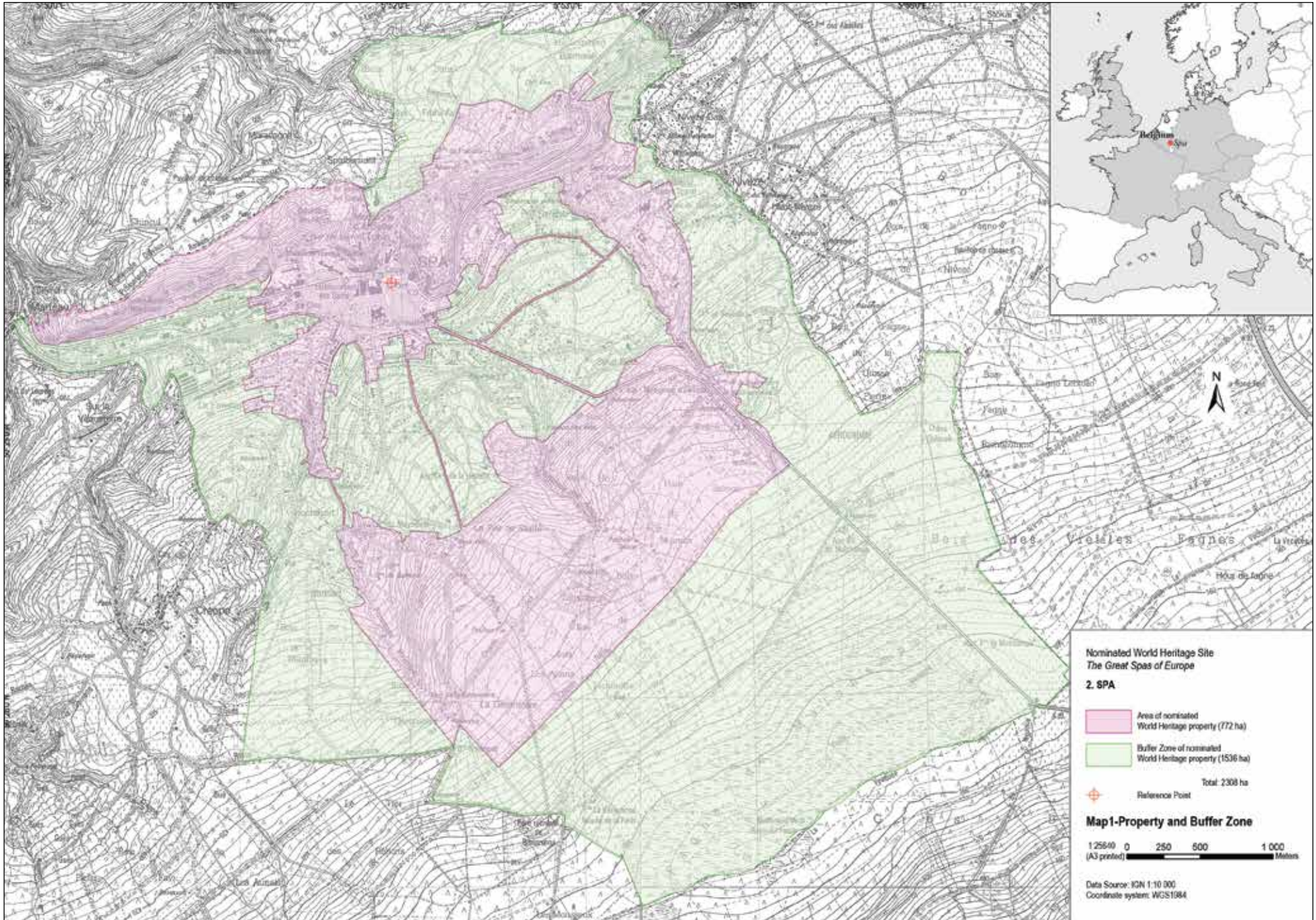


Waux-Hall



*The urban spa quarter with
Casino (centre) and Anciens Thermes
(old thermal bath, lower right)*

Café of Europe



Františkovy Lázně CZECH REPUBLIC

Františkovy Lázně is a planned ideal nineteenth century 'new (spa) town' on flat basin terrain in the 'West Bohemian Spa Triangle'. It survives with exceptional integrity and authenticity and was built at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries on a 300m-square orthogonal grid centred on a polycentric and widespread thermal spring-field. Its harmonious architectonic look is founded on the Baroque principles of axuality and symmetry and is characterised by an inner and outer spa landscape with a triple belt of parks, in which twenty-four springs and their architecturally interesting pavilions are linked by long and level promenades. The property is surrounded by extensive forest and moorland that inspired it to become one of the earliest peat spas in the world. Its historic specialism in treating women's illnesses prompted ladies to visit without accompaniment by men, an emergent place of emancipation. Musical and literary works were created by composers and authors of international renown.

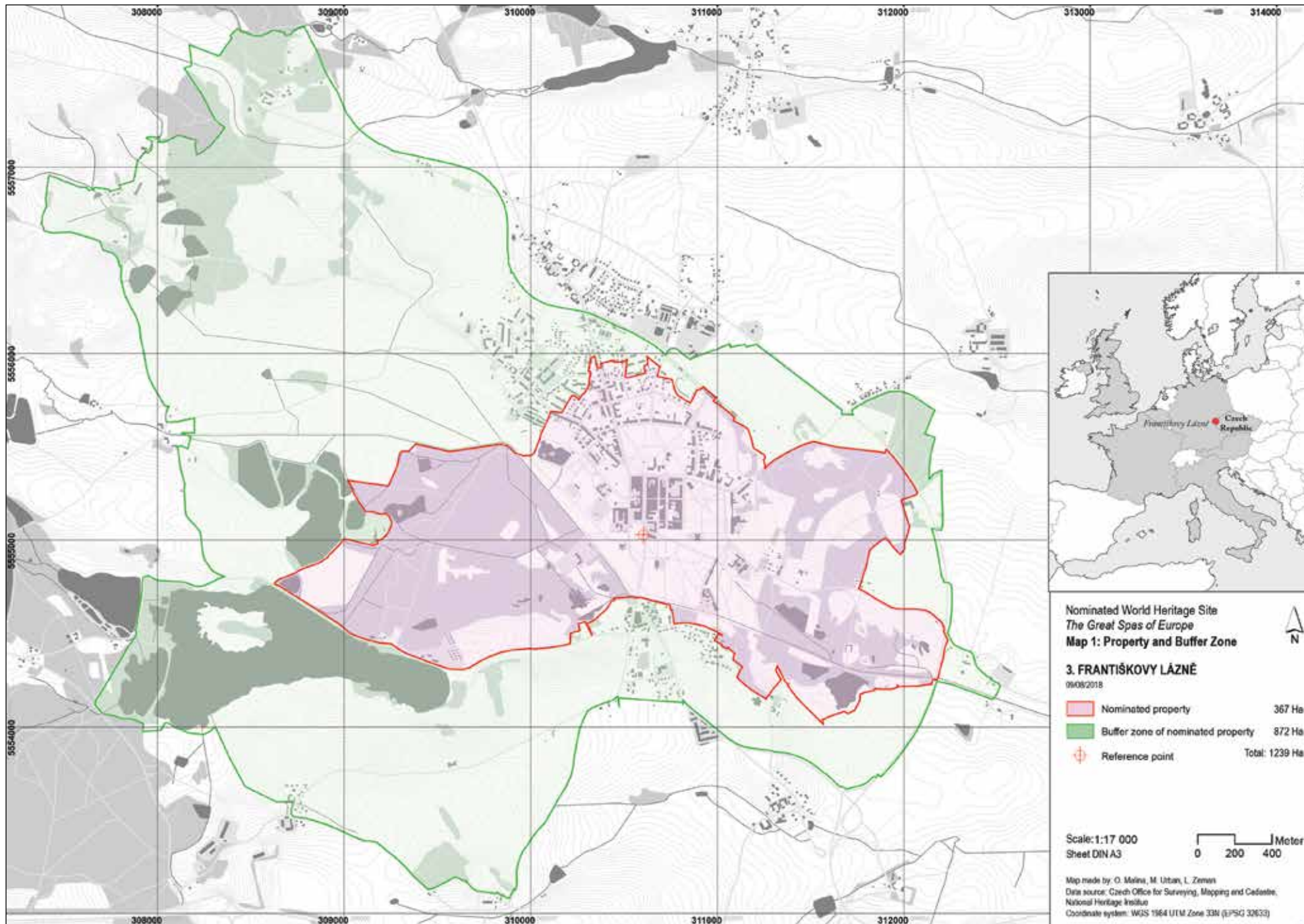


Colonnade






The spa 'New Town'

A European Model Spa




Nominated World Heritage Site
The Great Spas of Europe
Map 1: Property and Buffer Zone

3. FRANTIŠKOVY LÁZNĚ
 09/08/2018

	Nominated property	367 Ha
	Buffer zone of nominated property	872 Ha
	Reference point	Total: 1239 Ha

Scale: 1:17 000
 Sheet DIN A3

 Meter
 0 200 400

Map made by: O. Malina, M. Uhtan, L. Zeman
 Data source: Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre,
 National Heritage Institute
 Coordinate system: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 33N (EPSG 32633)

Karlovy Vary CZECH REPUBLIC

Karlovy Vary is the largest spa in Europe and principal Bohemian spa. Known as ‘the largest open-air salon of Europe’, it hosted royal families, European heads-of-state, high aristocracy and prominent artists. It is distinguished by a geyser-like spring phenomenon and unique composition of thermal water, innovative methods in balneology, and a prolific and outstanding architectural spa ensemble. The spa quarter follows the numerous hot springs that issue in the deeply incised Teplá (= Warm) River valley and displays rich Historicist and Art Nouveau styles from the town’s internationally-oriented Golden Era of the second half of the nineteenth century. An enveloping spa landscape is characterised by terraced valley sides, extravagant villas, promenades and pathways, and solitary lookout buildings. Historic spa buildings continue in use for balneological treatments and nowhere today is the ‘drinking cure’ more evident than in the beautiful colonnades where thousands of daily visitors may be seen with traditionally-shaped porcelain spa cups.

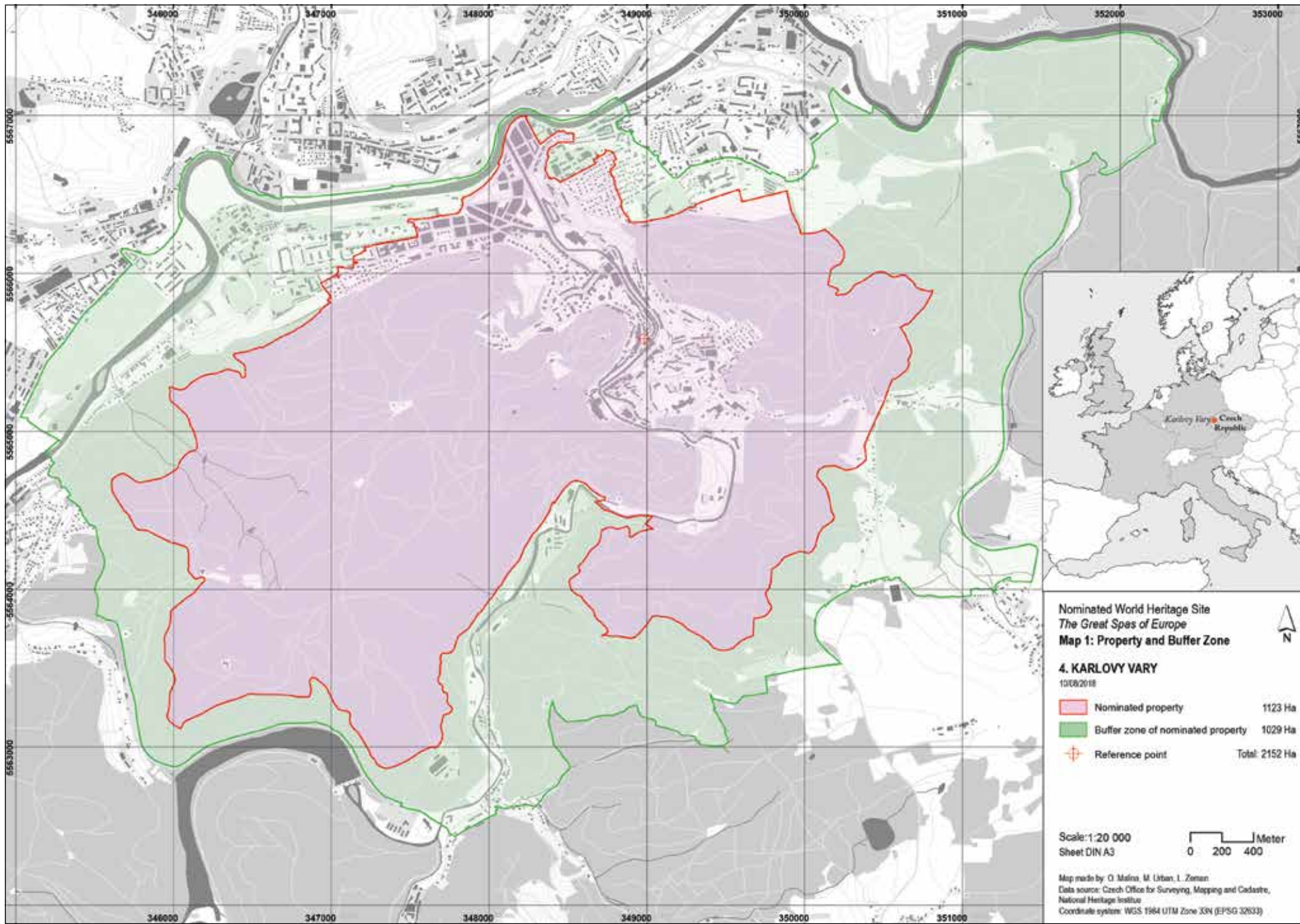


Karlovy Vary, surrounded by the steep forested slopes of the Teplá River valley






Tržní (Market) Colonnade

Europe’s Open-air Salon

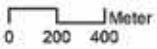


Nominated World Heritage Site
The Great Spas of Europe
Map 1: Property and Buffer Zone

4. KARLOVY VARY
 10/08/2018

	Nominated property	1123 Ha
	Buffer zone of nominated property	1029 Ha
	Reference point	Total: 2152 Ha

Scale: 1:20 000
 Sheet DIN A3



Map made by: O. Malina, M. Urban, L. Zeman
 Data source: Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre,
 National Heritage Institute
 Coordinate system: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 33N (EPSG 32633)

Mariánské Lázně CZECH REPUBLIC

Mariánské Lázně is an early nineteenth-century 'new (spa) town' in the 'West Bohemian Spa Triangle'. It retains high authenticity and structural integrity and makes a significant contribution to the innovative historic urban landscape of *The Great Spas of Europe*. The 'spa in a park' exhibits a grand harmony with nature, and from the 1870s gained an international reputation as a meeting place of royal families and the aristocracy, a venue for important global political negotiations, for scientific gatherings, and as a place of inspiration for high-art. Prolific mineral springs provide a focus for Central Park and a diverse neoclassical ensemble of outstanding nineteenth and early twentieth century spa buildings, including pavilions and an iconic colonnade. Springs rise in a swathe of wooded hills with therapeutic and recreational trails. *Mariánské Lázně* continues to be one of the most significant centres of European balneotherapy, 'taking the cure' in original spa buildings with preserved interiors and equipment.

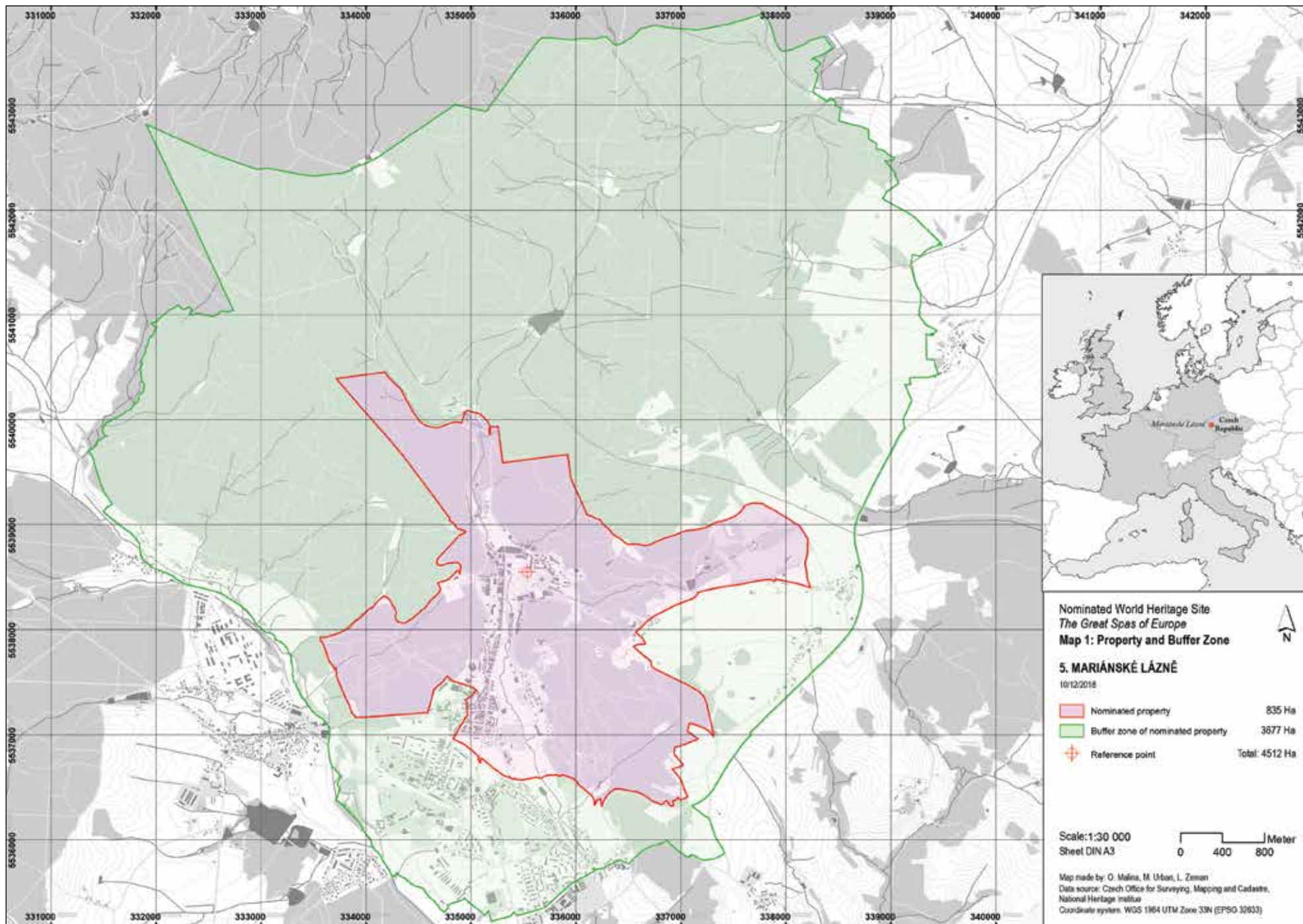


Main colonnade






View north to the spacious 'spa in a park'

Grand Harmony with Nature



Nominated World Heritage Site
The Great Spas of Europe
Map 1: Property and Buffer Zone

5. MARIÁNSKÉ LÁZNĚ
 10/12/2018

	Nominated property	835 Ha
	Buffer zone of nominated property	3677 Ha
	Reference point	Total: 4512 Ha

Scale: 1:30 000
 Sheet DIN A3



Map made by: O. Malina, M. Urban, L. Zeman
 Data source: Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre,
 National Heritage Institute
 Coordinate system: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 33N (EPSG 32633)

Vichy

France

Vichy, 'Queen of Spas', greatly contributed to the creation of nineteenth century European spa culture, in which France played a major role. It is the most prestigious and well-known French spa town, the model spa serving as a benchmark in both France and its colonies. Located on a flat plain beside the River Allier, it combines Parisian urban principles with a spa promenade inside the city. Napoleon III encouraged the building of a new spa town laid out with parks and boulevards, a cosmopolitan 'Little Paris' of grand bath complexes, pump rooms connected by covered promenades, casino and theatre, hotels and villas. The success of *Vichy* resumed after difficult times in the Second World War, and bottled water – 'reine des villes d'eaux' – continued to be exported in large quantities, worldwide. This further provides the basis for trademark cosmetics and skin care products of the Vichy Laboratories, the leading skincare brand in European continental pharmacies.

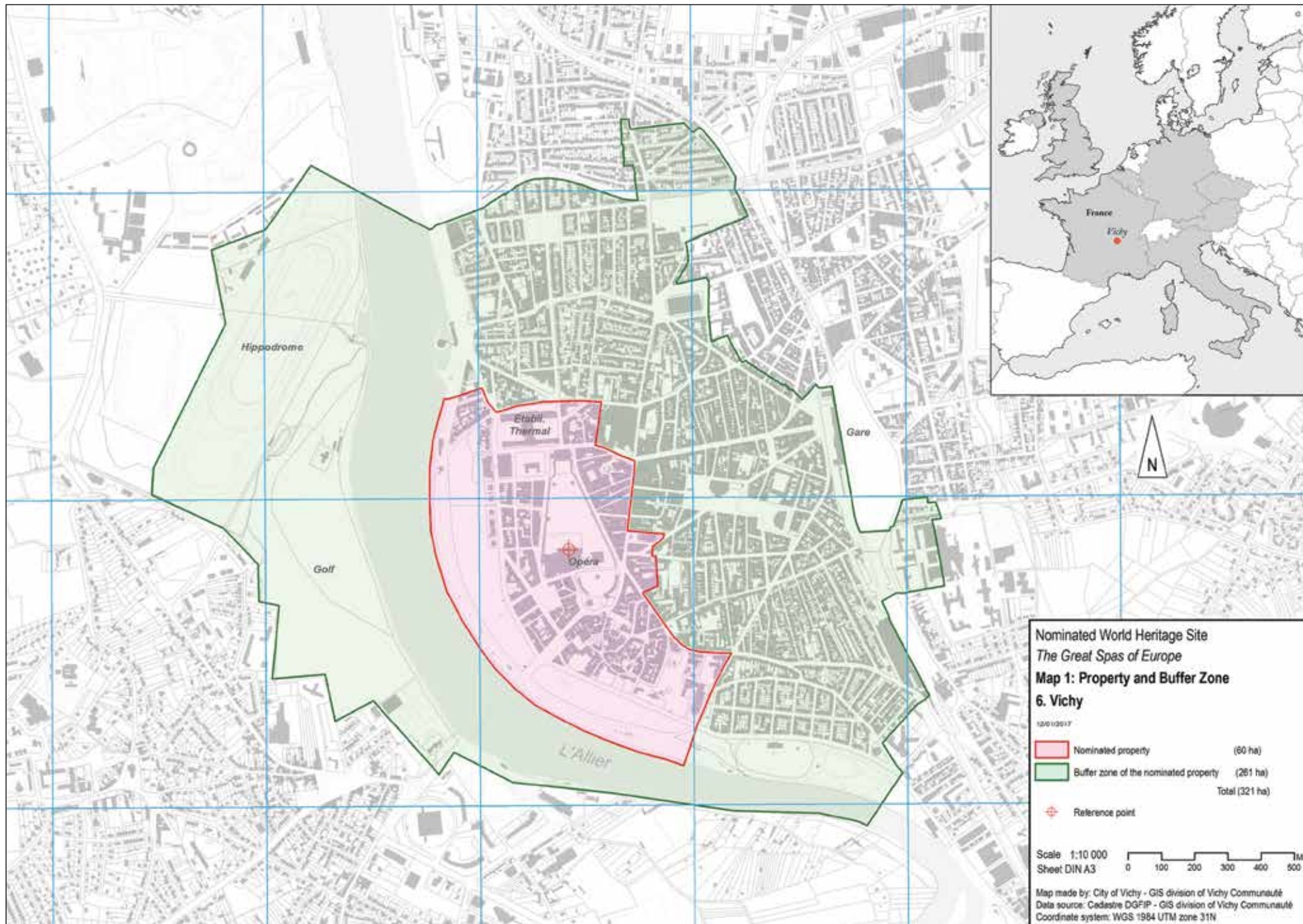


The Casino



View south across the principal spa quarter to the River Allier

*Queen of the
spa towns*



Bad Ems

Germany

Bad Ems, is a compact 'Great Spa', a model in form and function that documents the temporal depth of the European bathing tradition. Tightly contained in a deeply cut valley of a tributary of the Rhine, the picturesque 'Imperial Spa' became one of the most important spa towns in Germany; a venue for major political events and decisions, pioneering gaming and a linked musical heritage. Its thermal springs are clustered by the river where the principal spa quarter has continually occupied the same site throughout history. Distinguished architectural heritage reveal developments from the medieval 'Wildbad' through courtly life in the Baroque, to the sophisticated international resort of the nineteenth century and modernising developments of the early twentieth century. The transition into an interconnected spa landscape, with challenging therapeutic trails and high rocky overlooks, remains fully legible. *Bad Ems* mineral water has a long bottling history, and its salts were used in famous pastilles.

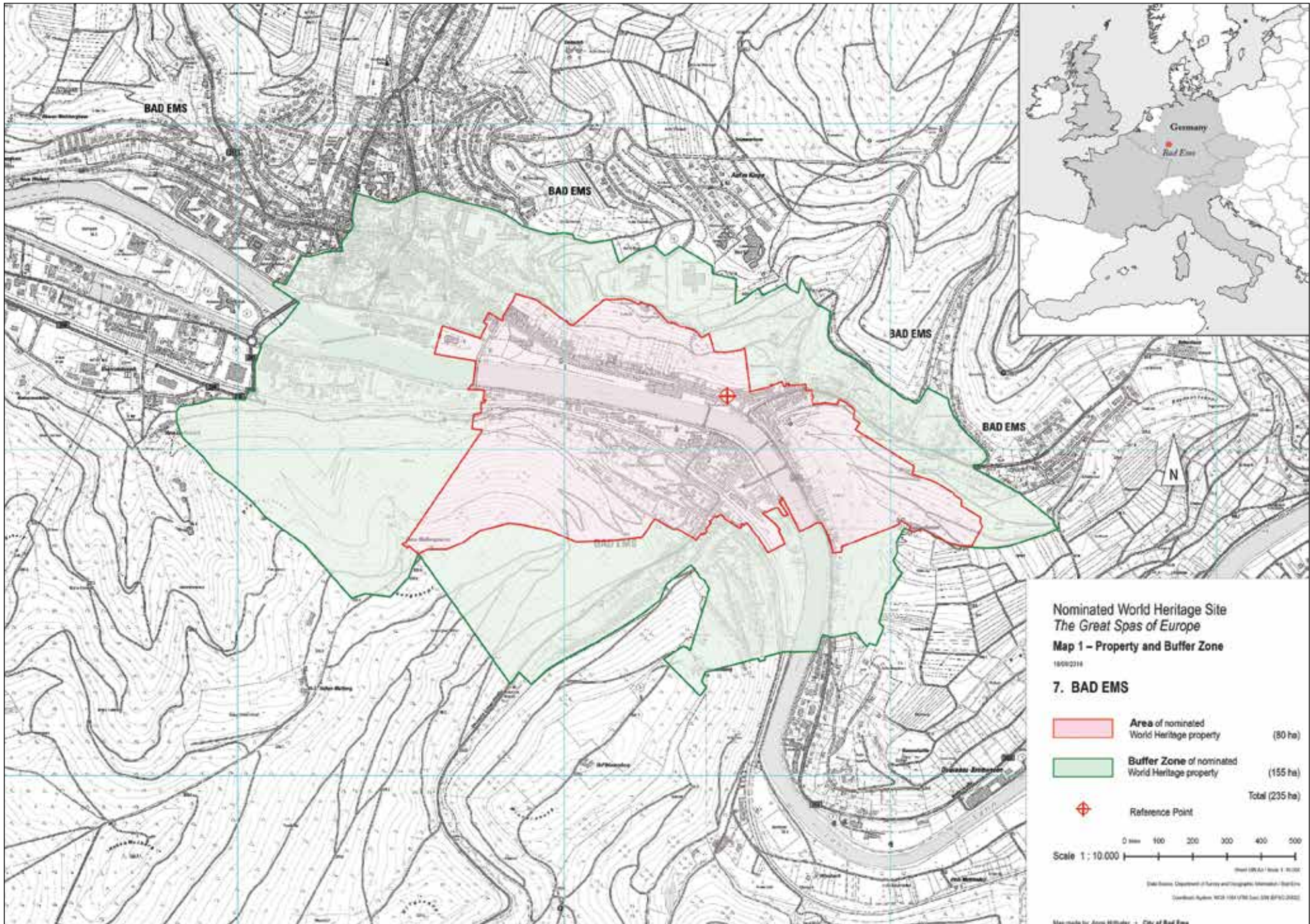


Kursaal



View to the west

The Picturesque Imperial Spa



Nominated World Heritage Site
The Great Spas of Europe
Map 1 – Property and Buffer Zone
 1809/218

7. BAD EMS

	Area of nominated World Heritage property	(80 ha)
	Buffer Zone of nominated World Heritage property	(155 ha)
		Total (235 ha)
	Reference Point	

Scale 1 : 10,000

0 100 200 300 400 500

Sheet 1809/218 of Series 1: 10,000
 Data Source: Department of Survey and Geomatics Information - Bad EMS
 Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 33N EPSG:31463

Baden-Baden

Germany

Baden-Baden, the ‘Summer Capital of Europe’, was patronised by the ruling and cultural elite of nineteenth century continental Europe. Located on the western edge of the Black Forest, it became one of Europe’s largest and most fashionable spas with an unbroken tradition of using mineral water for healing from antiquity to the present. All development phases have been preserved in the city’s physical structure, but the nineteenth century is predominant. Reflected by the separate spa quarter, newly developed across the River Oos from the old town, it was here, in the Kurhaus and Casino, that *Baden-Baden* acquired a worldwide reputation as the supreme example of the German gaming spa. It was also a place of inspiration for major artists and works of universal significance. Today, balneological treatments and bathing continue with great popularity in both historic and new thermal establishments, while an outstanding tradition of music and theatre is vibrantly sustained.

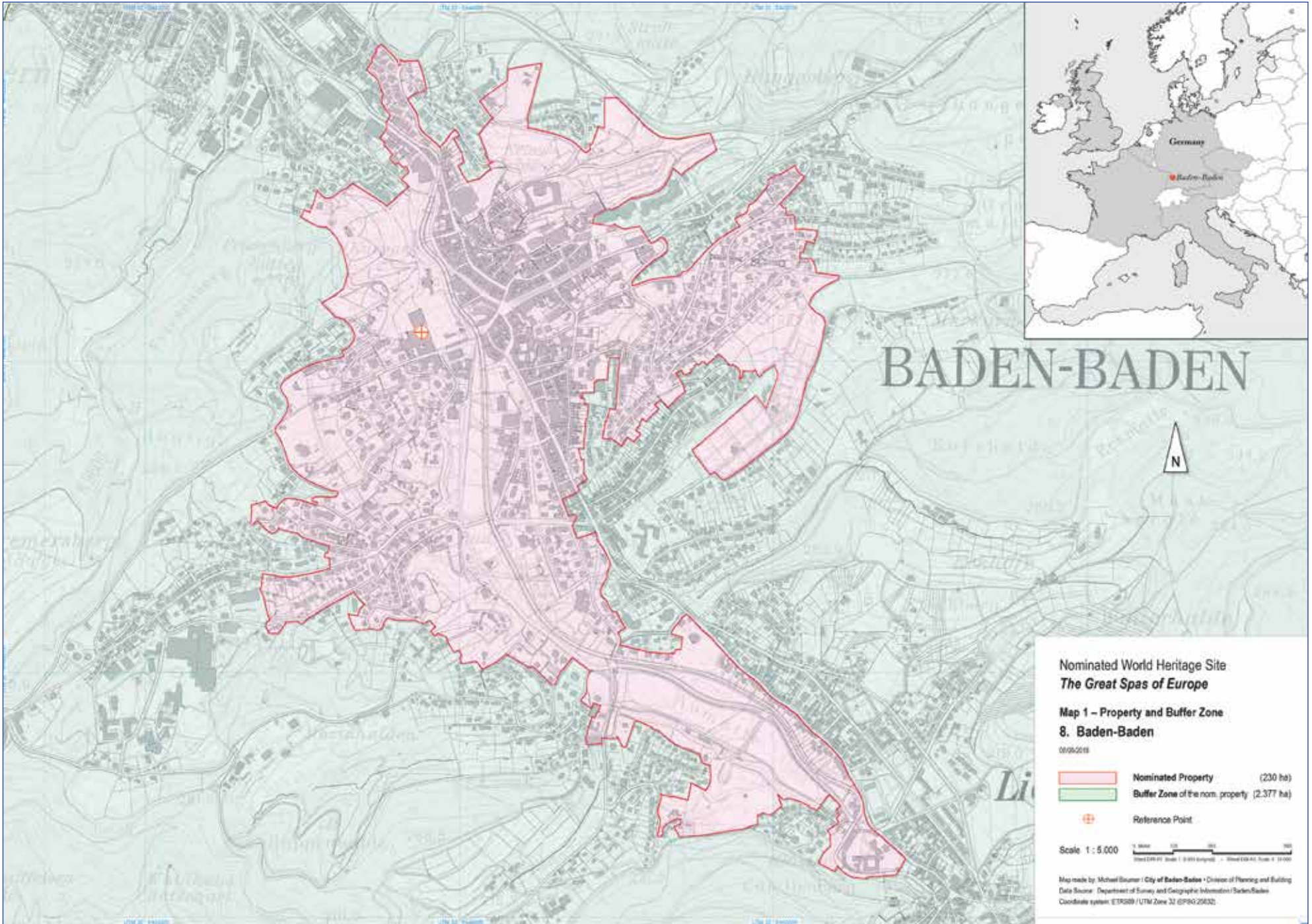


Kurhaus



*View east across the spa town
in the Oos Valley to the wooded
hills of the Black Forest*

*Summer
Capital
of Europe*



Bad Kissingen

Germany

Bad Kissingen, the Bavarian 'Great Spa' that bridges nineteenth century neoclassicism and modernity, is outstanding for the reform era of the early twentieth century. Architect Max Littmann built and rebuilt almost the entire spa in exceptional architecture using innovative forms and materials; the unparalleled Wandelhalle pump room is the largest structure of its kind in the world. Development took place outside the medieval walled town, guided by the cluster of springs, the Saale River, and the oldest formal spa garden outside an urban context, the whole making a seamless transition into parks and wooded hills. Internationalism increased from 1874 with visits by German Imperial Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. His living quarters are preserved at the Upper Saline, part of a second spa quarter distinguished by early industrial-scale facilities for the production of brine, an important feature of European spas. Health tourism remains vibrant in this 'Great Spa' maintained in its original function.

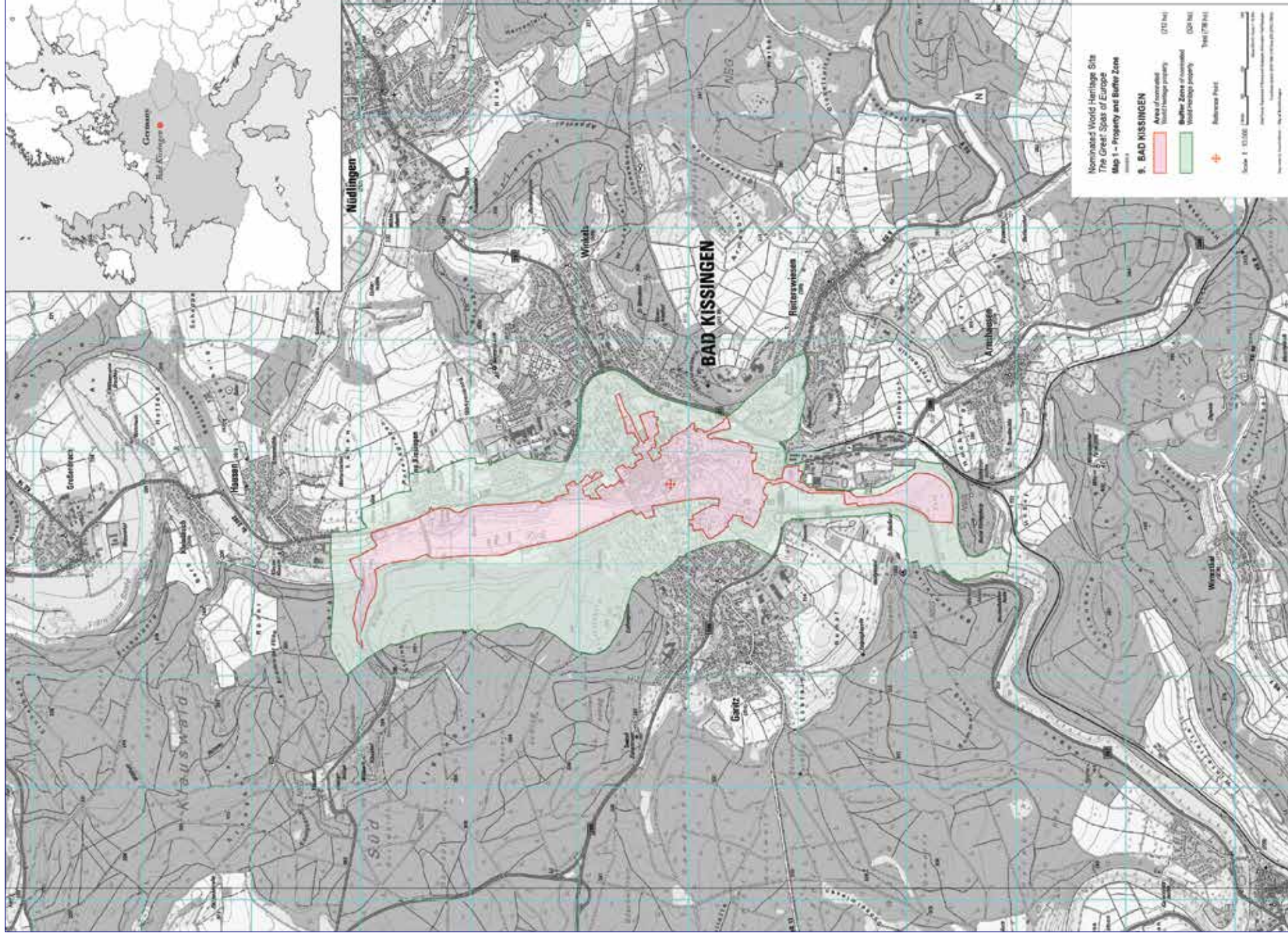


Arkadenbau



*Spa quarter with the
old town beyond*

Between Classicism and Modernity



Montecatini Terme

Italy

Montecatini Terme, with its early distinguished role in the recognition of the medical properties of mineral water, is an important representation in a country rich in thermal springs. Attracting important intellectuals and artists, such as Verdi, Puccini and Leoncavallo, it also represents the last major materialisation of any 'Great Spa'. An ambitious regeneration project transformed a late-eighteenth century 'garden spa' into a 'landscape spa'. Monumental spa architecture, centred on four principal springs, is dotted jewel-like within an oasis of gardens, formal parkland and promenades. The image of greenery continues in a swathe of pine trees and terraced olive groves that, together with the historic funicular railway, ascend the steep mountainside crowned by Montecatini Alto - the focal point of the Viale Verdi, the central boulevard and main axis of the modern spa. With its eclectic and liberty spa architecture reinterpreted in Tuscan style, Montecatini Terme continues to serve as a centre for balneological treatment.

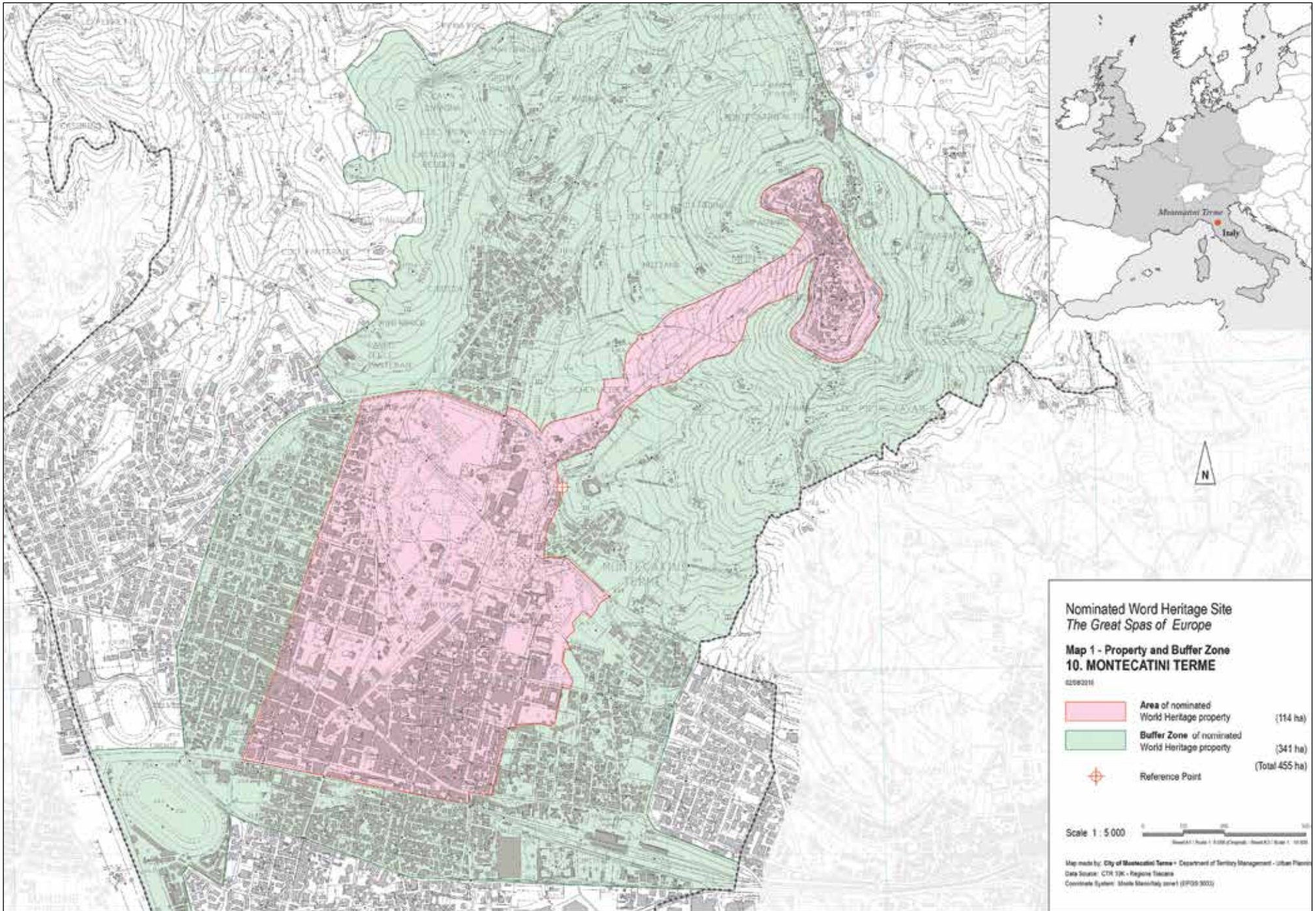


Tettuccio Thermal Baths



The principal spa quarter

Garden Spa of Europe



Nominated World Heritage Site
The Great Spas of Europe

Map 1 - Property and Buffer Zone
10. MONTECATINI TERME

02/08/2018

- Area of nominated World Heritage property (114 ha)
- Buffer Zone of nominated World Heritage property (341 ha)
- Reference Point (Total 455 ha)

Scale 1 : 5 000

Map made by: City of Montecatini Terme - Department of Territory Management - Urban Planning
Data Source: CTR 196 - Regione Toscana
Coordinate System: Sella Meridiana zone1 (EPSG:3003)

City of Bath

United Kingdom

City of Bath is held to be one of the earliest and most profoundly influential 'Great Spas'. From a medieval walled city around its central cluster of hot springs, the grand 'Georgian Spa' was created during the eighteenth century when frequently visited by Royalty and high aristocracy. Bath doctors pioneered diagnostic medicine based on its mineral waters, and the surrounding landscape was managed as part of 'the cure'. Dedicated to leisure, pleasure and high-fashion, 'Masters of the Ceremony' devised and policed the '*Rules of Bath*', a model for continental spas. Architectural spa prototypes were pioneered, and Bath contributed to the creation of a polite society, helping to shape European democratic traditions and ideals. Distinguished by iconic spa buildings, exceptional Georgian town planning, Palladian architectural ensembles, crescents and squares, Bath has managed its hot springs for 2000 years. Today, it is sustained as a living spa, its bathing functions enhanced by original refurbishments and new additions.

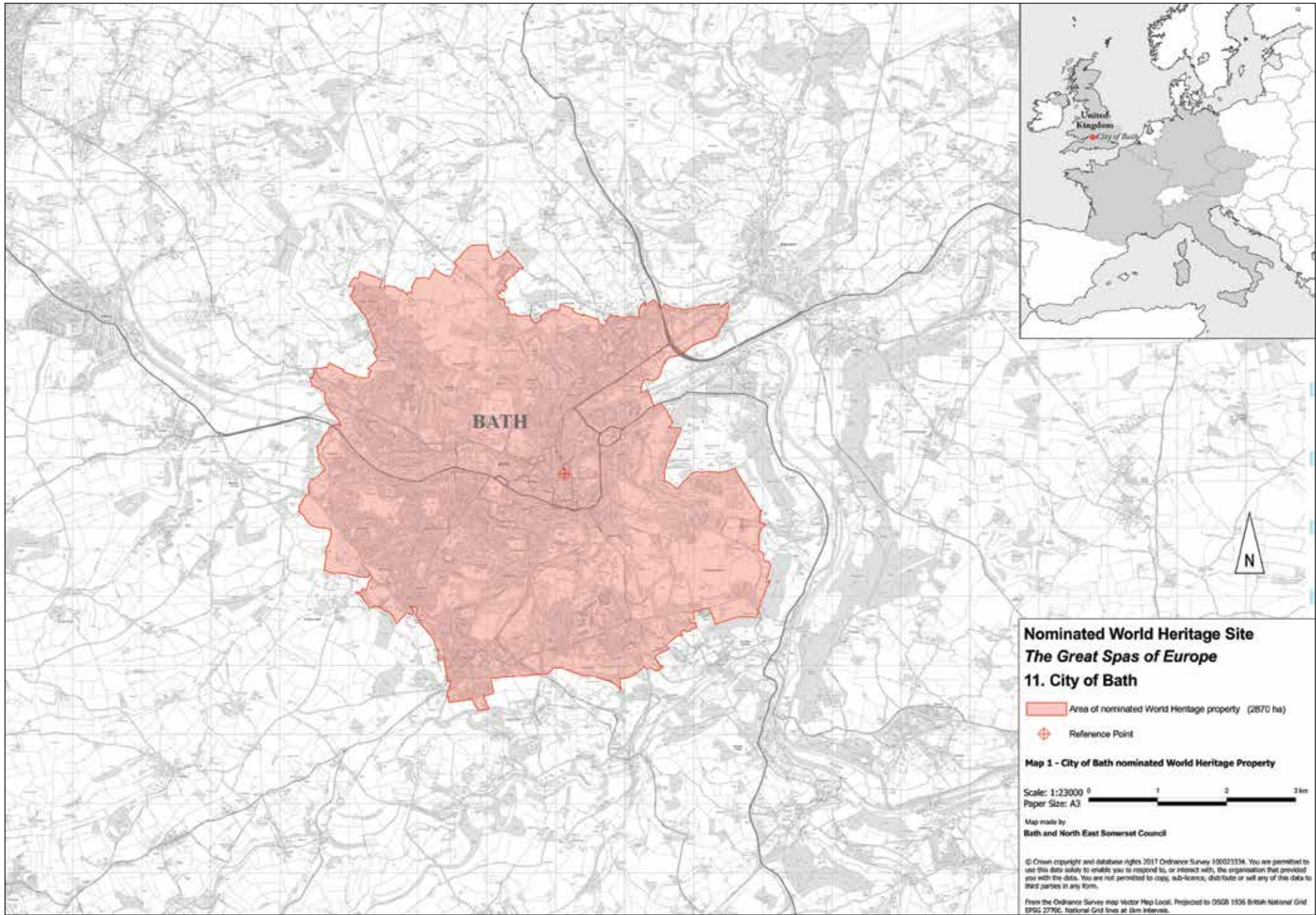


Roman Great Bath and Abbey





View north to the Royal Crescent (left) and Circus (right)

Georgian Spa City



Nominated World Heritage Site
The Great Spas of Europe
11. City of Bath

-  Area of nominated World Heritage property (2870 ha)
-  Reference Point

Map 1 - City of Bath nominated World Heritage Property

Scale: 1:23000 
Paper Size: A3

Map made by
Bath and North East Somerset Council

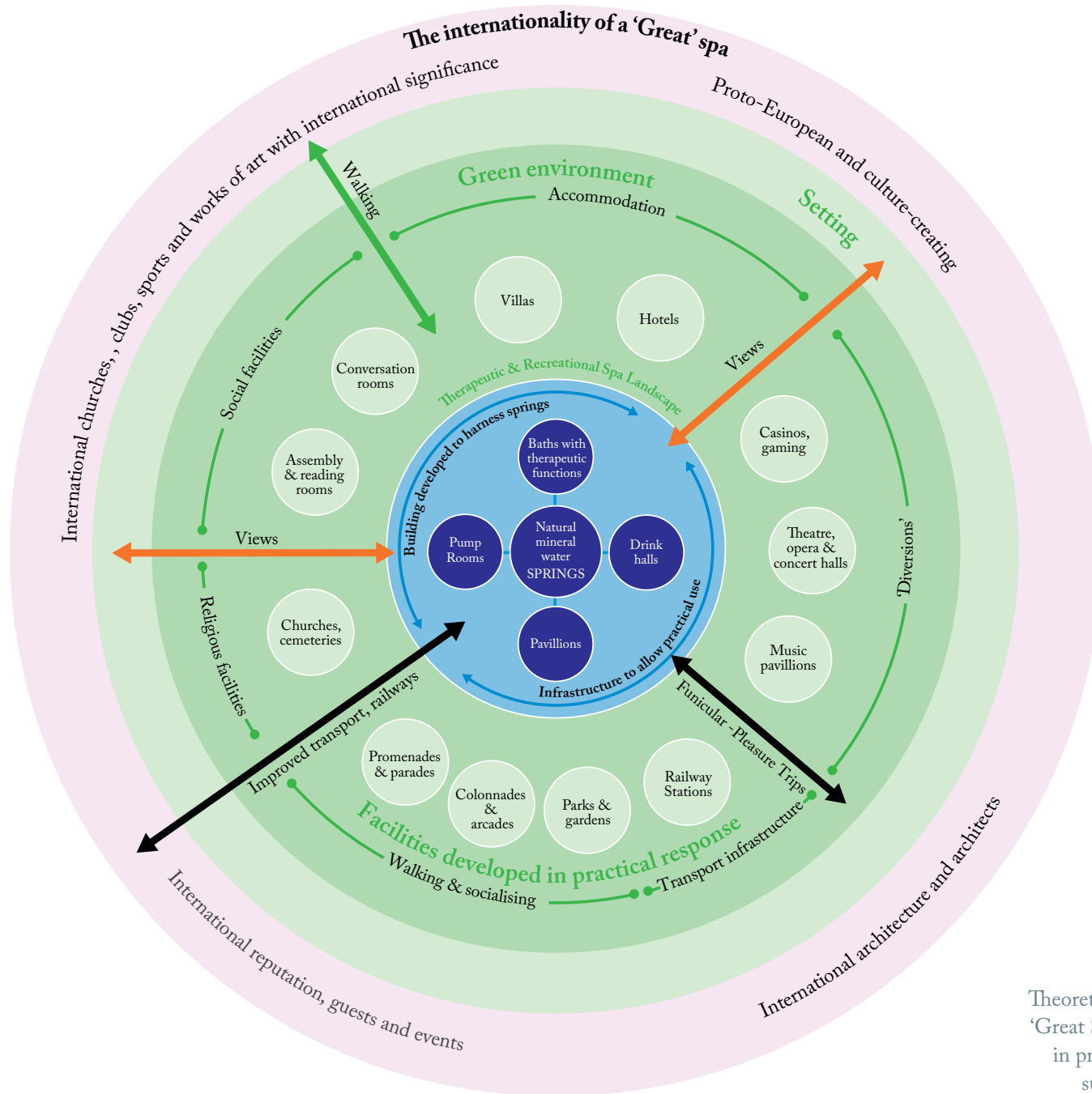
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From the Ordnance Survey map Vector Map Local. Projected to OSGB 1936 British National Grid EPSG 27700. National Grid lines at 1km intervals.

GREAT SPAS *of Europe*

1. *Baden bei Wien*
2. *Spa*
3. *Františkovy Lázně*
4. *Karlovy Vary*
5. *Mariánské Lázně*
6. *Vichy*
7. *Bad Ems*
8. *Baden-Baden*
9. *Bad Kissingen*
10. *Montecatini Terme*
11. *City of Bath*





Theoretical historic urban landscape of a 'Great Spa': zones will not be concentric in practice, but will depend on factors such as the distribution of springs, topography and historical development.

AUSTRIA



Baden bei Wien



BELGIUM



Spa



Františkovy Lázně



CZECH
REPUBLIC



Karlovy Vary



FRANCE



Mariánské Lázně



GERMANY



Vichy



Bad Ems



Baden-Baden



ITALY



Bad Kissingen



UNITED
KINGDOM



Montecatini Terme



City of Bath



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