



Foundation Study Summary and Next Steps

**MÜHLBERG CASTLE
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Foundation Study Summary and Next Steps

1. Main Result of the Geotechnical Study

The geotechnical study carried out by the engineering firm BIB Bolduan aimed to analyze the ground conditions and determine whether the structural movements observed in the castle are related to soil issues or to the building structure itself.

The results of the study indicate that:

- No significant failures were identified in the foundation ground.
- The natural soil layers beneath the castle have **adequate bearing capacity** for the existing structure.
- No active groundwater was detected beneath the building foundations during drilling.
- The natural ground at the site is **stable and geotechnically competent**.

The study also notes that some parts of the castle were historically built over filled sections of the former moat, which may lead to **localized differential settlements**, particularly in the south and southwest wings.

However, the technical report concludes that:

The majority of the foundations of Mühlberg Castle can still be considered to be in good condition.

This means that the main issue does not lie in the ground, but rather in certain structural elements of the building that require stabilization.

2. Structural Condition of the Building

The cracks and deformations identified in certain parts of the castle were already known prior to the study and are mainly related to:

- accumulated deformations over centuries,
- localized settlement in specific areas,
- structural deterioration typical of historic buildings.

The areas requiring attention are primarily:

- the **south wing**,
- the **transition towards the west wing**.

The remainder of the building maintains a **reasonably stable structural condition considering its age**.

3. Expectations from the Authorities

The responsible authorities — particularly the **Denkmalschutzbehörde (heritage protection authority)** and the district building supervision authority — consider that the geotechnical study has fulfilled its purpose.

The next required step is the preparation of a technical stabilization plan for the building.

This plan must include:

- identification of structural elements at risk of deterioration or collapse,
- definition of the necessary stabilization measures,
- a priority list for urgent interventions,
- a cost estimate for the stabilization measures.

In Germany, this type of document is typically referred to as a:

Sicherungskonzept or **Stabilisierungsplan**.

4. Potential for Public Financial Support

Once a technical plan with defined measures and cost estimates is available, the authorities will be able to assess eligibility for public funding programs for heritage preservation.

This point is particularly important because:

- the castle has already received public funding in the past (e.g., for the north wing restoration),
- the project is known to the heritage institutions of the State of Brandenburg,
- the castle is officially registered as a protected historic monument.

This means the project may qualify for various funding sources, such as:

- State of Brandenburg heritage funds,
- federal heritage conservation programs,
- historical preservation foundations.

In many cases, these programs can cover a significant portion of stabilization works.

5. Next Steps of the Project

The project is currently in the following phase:

Phase 1 – Technical Studies

Geotechnical study completed

Phase 2 – Building Stabilization Plan

The next step is the preparation of a technical plan defining the stabilization measures.

Phase 3 – Public Funding Evaluation

With the plan and cost estimates, applications for public funding can be submitted.

Phase 4 – Execution of Stabilization Works

Initial interventions will focus on securing the structure and preventing further deterioration.

6. Key Considerations for Potential Investors

The results of the study eliminate one of the major risks in projects of this type:

foundation ground failure

When soil conditions are unstable, repair costs can become extremely high and may render historic rehabilitation projects unviable.

In this case, the study confirms that:

- the ground is competent,

- the problem is structural and localized,
- stabilization is technically feasible.

This allows the project to move forward with a **phased stabilization strategy**, followed by a broader restoration project.

7. Current Project Status

Mühlberg Castle is currently in a typical phase for historic preservation projects:

Technical diagnosis completed

Definition of stabilization measures (current stage)