

# UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

## I.01. Introduction

Year of adherence to the Convention: 1984

Organisation(s) or institution(s) responsible for preparation of report

- Department for Culture - Media and Sport; Architecture and Historic Environment Division

## I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

- Inventories, established at national, regional and local levels, have been used as a basis for selecting World Heritage sites

## I.03. The Tentative List

- Original Tentative List was submitted in 1986
- Revision submitted in 1999
- Responsibility lies with the central government, which prepared the dossier in collaboration with regional government, based on proposals from local authorities, specialist groups, private individuals and public consultation

## I.04. Nomination of Cultural and Natural Properties for the World Heritage List

Nominations

- Nominations are the responsibility of central government, prepared in collaboration with regional/local government, consultants/experts, site managers/owners, government agencies
- Motivations for nomination: conservation, honour/prestige, working in partnership, political lobbying/pressure, increased funding
- Difficulties encountered: inadequate staffing, development pressures, nature of the newly nominated sites

Inscriptions

- 21 cultural sites: *Durham Castle and Cathedral* (1986); *Ironbridge Gorge* (1986); *Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey* (1986); *Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites* (1986); *Blenheim Palace* (1987); *City of Bath*

(1987); *Hadrian's Wall*<sup>1</sup> (1987, extension in 1997); *Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey and Saint Margaret's Church* (1987); *Tower of London* (1988); *Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church* (1988); *Old and New Towns of Edinburgh* (1995); *Maritime Greenwich* (1997); *Heart of Neolithic Orkney* (1999); *Historic Town of St George and Related Fortifications, Bermuda* (2000); *Blaenavon Industrial Landscape* (2000); *Derwent Valley Mills* (2001); *New Lanark* (2001); *Saltaire* (2001); *Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew* (2003); *Liverpool - Maritime Mercantile City* (2004)<sup>2</sup>

- 5 natural sites: *Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast* (1986); *St Kilda* (1986, extension in 2004<sup>3</sup>); *Henderson Island* (1987); *Gough and Inaccessible Islands* (1995, extension in 2004); *Dorset and East Devon Coast* (2001)

Benefits of inscription

- Conservation, honour/prestige, working in partnership, cohesive site management, raising awareness

## I.05. General Policy and Legislation for the Protection, Conservation and Presentation of the Cultural and Natural Heritage

Specific legislations

- Legislation to protect cultural and natural heritage exists at national, regional and local level
- Management plans are required for all World Heritage sites (completed for 20, in draft for 3, in preparation for the remaining 3)
- A new system of heritage protection is in preparation

Other Conventions

London Convention (1969), UNESCO Convention (1970), Granada Convention (1985), Valetta Convention (1992), Ramsar Convention (1971), CITES (1973), Bonn Convention (1979), Bern Convention (1979), Basel Convention (1989), Convention on biological diversity (1992)

Provisions have been incorporated into UK domestic law /implementation by government action as appropriate

## I.06. Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

<sup>1</sup> Site renamed *Frontiers of the Roman Empire* in 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Also: *Paysage minier des Cornouailles et de l'ouest du Devon* (2006).

<sup>3</sup> Second extension in 2005.

## Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

- England: English Heritage, English Nature, Environment Agency, Countryside Agency, local authorities
- Scotland: Historic Scotland, Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department, Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, local authorities
- Wales: Cadw, Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales, local authorities
- Northern Ireland: Environment and Heritage Service, Department of the Environment
- Isle of Man: Manx National Heritage
- Jersey: Jersey Environment Department, Jersey Heritage Trust; UK Overseas territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF)
- The Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Heritage conservation is not institutionally integrated in England, Scotland and Wales, while it is integrated in Northern Ireland and the Crown Dependencies
- The private sector, local communities and NGOs are also involved

### I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- Various monitoring and evaluation reports, methodological studies and review, technical studies on heritage sites conservation, management, sustainable tourism etc with some specific World Heritage studies

### I.08. Financial Resources

#### National resources and international financial assistance, fund raising

- Funding of World Heritage sites: national and local/regional authority budget allowances, NGOs, Private Sector, site owners, lottery funding
- The State Party has not helped to establish associations for raising funds
- Several additional contributions have been made – but not necessarily through the WH Fund

### I.09. Training

#### Professional and institutional training

- Training needs for the protection of World Heritage sites have been identified
- Heritage training has been received
- Given the large range of domestic training institutions, no particular body of special significance for WH sites is singled out

### I.10. International Co-operation

- Cooperation for the protection of World Heritage on the territory of other State Parties: bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements, hosting and/or attending international training courses/seminars, distribution of material/information, financial support, experts

- Measures to avoid damage to World Heritage on the territory of other State Parties: participation in other UN programmes
- Twinning is being discussed by a number of sites within the UK

### I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

#### Information and awareness raising on local, regional national or international level

- Promotion of World Heritage sites is at national, regional and local levels through publications, postcards, Internet, postage stamps, medals and local initiatives
- Presentation and awareness are inadequate - the Government is currently working towards action to improve them
- Education of World Heritage protection: specific programmes with local schools run by certain World Heritage sites, organisation of a World Heritage Education Seminar
- World Heritage is not included within the National Curriculum for primary and secondary education, but is covered in some tertiary level courses

### I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

#### Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strengths: The high standards of work, the professionalism, the strong commitment and the diversity of all the bodies involved in the protection, conservation and management of sites ensure sound protection of WH sites; while the general awareness of World Heritage is sufficient at site level and the presentation developed, it has to be strengthened nationally and incorporated into the national curriculum
- Weaknesses: Development pressures on sites; lack of integration between natural and cultural heritage; increasing pressure on local resources; better coordination is needed between sites and basic funding for co-ordination costs is not secured; lack of local resources

#### Proposed actions:

- Revision of the Tentative List
- Improve resource base
- Ensure better co-ordination between sites and among responsible bodies
- Advice on planning issues
- Bilateral agreement: developing capacity and raising awareness in other parts of the world
- Strengthen national educational provision on World Heritage
- These activities may not require assistance from the World Heritage Fund