

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Board

SIG Name:	World Heritage UK (WH UK)
Lead Member:	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Lead Officer:	Tony Crouch

Email:	Tony_Crouch@bathnes.gov.uk
Address:	
Telephone:	
Website:	Worldheritageuk.org

Membership

Bath and NE Somerset Council
 City of Bradford
 Carlisle Council
 Canterbury City Council
 Cornwall Council
 Derbyshire CC
 Devon CC
 Edinburgh City Council
 Greenwich BC
 Gwynedd Council
 Lake District NPA
 Liverpool Council
 Orkney Islands Council
 Snowdonia NPA
 South Lanarkshire Council
 Telford and Wrekin Council
 Torfaen BC
 West Oxfordshire Council
 Westminster City Council
 Wiltshire CC
 Wrexham BC

In addition, organisations which play a primary role in the management of a UK World Heritage Site, or have a similar role in preparing a nomination for a Tentative List Site, are eligible to join. These include for example, The Canal and River Trust, Historic Royal Palaces, and the National Trust properties that have WH designation. Other organisations with an interest in World Heritage issues such as Universities and independent Managing Trusts, are also welcomed, as are interested individuals. The majority of our voting members are Local Authorities.

Aim

To promote and support for the benefit of the public the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the UK's World Heritage Sites, defined as those places considered by the United Nations Educational Cultural and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) as having such Outstanding Universal Value that they warrant being inscribed on the World Heritage List through the powers of the international Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972.

To support for the benefit of the public the development of World Heritage Site nominations for the UK's Tentative List Sites, defined as sites on the UK Government's official Tentative List for nomination for World Heritage Status.

To advance the education of the public in general in respect of the significance and values of the UK's World Heritage Sites and Tentative List Sites, as defined above.

To undertake effective advocacy for the joint benefit of the UK's World Heritage Sites and for the WH Convention.

To facilitate and encourage networking, share good practice and exchange information between relevant organisations. Undertake joint projects and provide a platform in order to promote the UK's WH Sites so that more people can experience, access and enjoy them.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

An application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund resilience grants programme for £100,000 was successful. This project is underway and looks at developing a more sustainable on-going business model for WH:UK and will help improve policies and procedures, amongst other initiatives.

WH UK has supported the membership and promoted WH through two events:- the 5th Annual National Conference took place in October at Llangollen, in support of the first 10 years of inscription of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal. The programme took the outcomes of the Review, undertaken last year, titled "World Heritage An Asset for the Future" as it's theme.

In August a technical skills meeting took place at Durham Castle with a broad scope of discussions ranging from the protection of cultural property, issues of peace, to community engagement with young people and volunteering.

WH UK continues to liaise closely with Historic England, DCMS, and the UK UNESCO National Commission, and has useful contacts with Parliamentarians. We have had

regular meetings with these agencies to promote and encourage the need for better support for the World Heritage concept in the UK. As a result WH UK is now seen as a high level influencer in the Heritage sector in the UK