

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Board

SIG Name: World Heritage UK

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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, Site administrators in the Overseas Territories 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

With the start of the Covid 19 'lock-down' in March 2020 our programme for the year changed accordingly.

From early April a series of on-line forum meetings to support World Heritage Site managers were arranged. A total of eight have taken place during the year. Representatives from

DCMS, Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland, Cadw and the UK National Commission for Unesco attend. These Fora have enabled members to keep in touch and share experiences as all learnt to deal with the implications of the pandemic. Although the purpose of the meetings is particularly to assist and support Site managers, other interested parties also sign in. Average attendance has been c.35-40.

Webinars have also been organised and have attracted considerable interest. Subjects include: the Planning White Paper and Visitor Centres in a Changing World. A link with the British Council: China resulted in a full debate and exchange of views on-line with representatives of the Chinese Government and WH Site managers and academics from both countries

Regular news posts have enabled our members to keep up to date and benefit from new ideas.

A Working group has been set up to address Climate Change in World Heritage Sites and is preparing for a 3-day conference on this subject. The Learning and Engagement group has held meetings with the Youth Ambassadors group.

Throughout the year the Resilience Project has progressed. We now have a Business Plan, and a re-invigorated website with interactive member's page. As part of a Governance review the Constitution was amended and a Governance Handbook consolidates the work undertaken. Committees have been set up to deal with Event Planning, Resources and Risk, and Learning and Communications. We are working on policies to deal with Volunteers, Social media, and Health and Safety. As a result of a full Finance review we will be able to appoint a General Manager in the coming year.