

Draft Statements of Outstanding Universal Value – United Kingdom 2011

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Blaenavon Industrial Landscape, UK

Date Inscribed 2000
Date of Draft SOUV 2011

Brief Synthesis 2011

The landscape of Blaenavon, at the upper end of the Avon Llwyd valley in South Wales, provides exceptional testimony to the area's international importance in iron making and coal mining in the late 18th and the early 19th century. The parallel development of these industries was one of the principal dynamic forces of the Industrial Revolution.

The major preserved sites of Blaenavon Ironworks and Big Pit, together with the outstanding relict landscape of mineral exploitation, manufacturing, transport, and settlement which surrounds them, provide an extraordinarily comprehensive picture of all the crucial elements of the industrialisation process: coal and ore mines, quarries, a primitive railway system and canal, furnaces, workers' homes, and the social infrastructure of the early industrial community. The area reflects the pre-eminence of South Wales in the production of iron, steel and coal in the 19th century.

The Blaenavon Ironworks (c.1789) provided the main impetus for mineral workings and settlement. The remains of the late 18th century furnaces, together with later nineteenth century furnaces, are the best preserved of its period in the UK.. Beside the furnaces, two of the original casting houses can still be seen. Above the furnaces is a range of ruined kilns in which iron ore was calcined, or roasted. The remains of the original workers' housing provided on site can still be seen around the original base of the massive chimney to the blowing engine house, and the cast-iron pillars and brackets which carried blast pipes to the furnaces still survive. The iconic water balance tower of 1839 is an excellent example of lift technology using water to counter-balance loads.

The Big Pit was the last deep coal mine to work in the Blaenavon area, and the surface buildings, including the winding gear, remain almost exactly as they were when coal production ceased in 1980. The underground workings are still in excellent condition and can be seen on guided tours.

The Blaenavon landscape reflects ways in which all the raw materials necessary for making iron were obtained. The landscape includes coal, iron ore, fireclay and limestone workings and transport systems including a primitive iron-railed railway, leading to the canal and later steam

railway tracks which were used for the import and export of materials.

The landscape also reflects the development of early industrial society. Close to the Ironworks and Big Pit is the town of Blaenavon, the best preserved iron town of its period in the UK. Here can be seen the terraced housing of the workers.' Overall the town reflects powerfully the distinctive culture that had developed in ironworking and coal-mining areas of the South Wales Valleys and provides a complete picture of patronage and the social structure of the community. Notable buildings include St. Peter's Church, built by the ironmasters in 1804; the Blaenavon Workmen's Hall, built by workers' subscriptions in 1894; and St. Peter's School, built by the ironmaster's sister, Sarah Hopkins, in 1816. The school has been restored as the UK's first dedicated World Heritage Interpretation Centre.

Taking all these elements together, the site provides one of the prime areas in the world where the full social, economic and technological process of industrialisation through iron and coal production, can be studied and understood.

Criterion (iii): *Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared*

The Blaenavon Landscape constitutes an exceptional illustration in material form of the social and economic structure of 19th century industry.

Criterion (iv): *Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history*

The components of the Blaenavon Landscape together make up an outstanding and remarkably complete example of a 19th century industrial landscape.

Integrity 2011

The boundary of the Property encompasses the major monuments, the mining settlement as well as the surrounding valley landscape with its extensive remains of coal and ore mining, quarrying, primitive iron railways, and canals and thus includes all the key attributes of this early industrial period during the formative years of the Industrial Revolution.

Many of the attributes were vulnerable as a result of the lack of conservation at the time of inscription. Extensive conservation work has since been undertaken at the Ironworks, Big Pit, the settlement of Blaenavon and in the landscape. All work has been undertaken with the benefit of research and in the context of conservation plans. A programme of continuing conservation of the wider landscape is now being undertaken.

The landscape includes new settlements surrounding the mining town and this is highly visible from higher ground surrounding the town. Therefore any further new development needs to be controlled so as to ensure that the essential values and the visual integrity of the Property are not diminished. There is no buffer zone and the setting could be vulnerable to the re-use of spoil heaps, open-cast mining proposals, wind farms and other interventions. However, to date, such proposals have been successfully resisted in accordance with agreed planning policy. A buffer zone will be proposed as part of the Management Plan Review, presently underway.

Authenticity 2011

The key attributes are clearly visible. The relationship between the main monuments (the Blaenavon Ironworks and Big Pit), the historic transportation infrastructure, the settlement pattern and the extensive derelict mineral workings can be appreciated, studied and understood and the main heritage features remain in a remarkably complete condition. These substantial and interrelated remains provide opportunities to comprehend the complex process of industrialisation through iron and coal production and the development of industrial society during the early formative years of the Industrial Revolution. Nevertheless the overall ensemble is vulnerable to development that might intrude upon its readability.

To ensure the effective after use and sustainable future for monuments and buildings and to make the presentation and interpretation of the site effective it has been necessary in some situations to provide additional structures or to make minor adaptation to the historic fabric. In such cases the work has been carried out in accordance with agreed conservation plans and the changes and additions can be clearly identified.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

A comprehensive system of statutory control operates under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act (1980) and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act (1990). A network of strategic policies is also in place to protect the property in the Local Development Plans of the Torfaen County Borough Council, The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and the Monmouthshire County Council. These are the Local Authorities with statutory planning responsibility for their respective areas within the property.

There are 24 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) and 82 buildings or structures on the national List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (Listed Buildings). There are two conservation areas within the property, the Blaenavon Town Centre and Cwmavon, and a further Conservation area is currently proposed for Forgeside and Glantorfaen. These provide local protection. The main monuments and buildings in the site are within public ownership.

Property management is guided by a Management Plan. The original Plan (1999) has been completed (in terms of projects) and will be superseded by a revised Plan for the period 2010-2015.

Overall management responsibility for the Property and for delivering the Plan is through the Blaenavon Partnership which brings together a number of local authorities, Welsh Assembly Government Agencies and other bodies under the leadership of Torfaen County Borough Council.

The partnership engages with the wider community, maintaining regular contact with Blaenavon Town Council, voluntary groups, business leaders, residents and the local tourist association. To ensure effective stakeholder participation within the open landscape, a Commons Forum has been established.

There is a need to ensure continuing effective development control within the Property and its setting in order that any development does not impact adversely on the relationship between attributes and the surrounding landscape in terms of the integrity of the Property and its ability, as a cultural landscape, to convey its Outstanding Universal Value.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Blenheim Palace UK

Date of Inscription	1986
Approved Statement of Significance	2008
Date of Draft SOUV	2011

Brief synthesis 2011

Blenheim Palace, in Oxfordshire, was designed by John Vanbrugh. The English nation presented the site to John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, in recognition of his victory in 1704 over French and Bavarian troops, a victory which decided the future of the Empire and in doing so made him a figure of international importance. The Palace sits within a large walled landscape park, the structure by Vanbrugh overlaid by the designs of Lancelot "Capability" Brown from 1761 onwards.

(Statement of Significance 2008)

The design and building of the Palace between 1705 and 1722 represented the beginning of a new style of architecture and for its landscaped Park designed by Lancelot "Capability" Brown which is considered as "a naturalistic Versailles". In tangible form:

- Blenheim is an outstanding example of the work of John Vanbrugh and Nicholas Hawksmoor, two of England's most notable architects
- Blenheim represents a unique architectural achievement celebrating the triumph of the English armies over the French
- Blenheim and its associated Park has exerted great influence on the English Romantic movement which was characterised by the eclecticism of its inspiration, its return to national sources and its love of nature
- The original landscape set out by John Vanbrugh who regulated the course of the River Glyme was later modified by Lancelot "Capability" Brown who created two lakes seen as one of the greatest examples of naturalistic landscape design
- Blenheim Palace was built by the nation to honour one of its heroes John Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough and is also closely associated with Sir Winston Churchill

Criterion (ii): *Have exerted great influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts, or town planning and landscaping*

By their refusal of the French models of classicism, the Palace and Park illustrate the beginnings of the English Romantic movement which was characterised by the eclecticism of its inspiration, its return to national sources and its love of nature. The influence of Blenheim on the architecture and organisation of space in the 18th and 19th centuries was greatly felt both in England and abroad.

Criterion (iv): *Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural ensemble which illustrates a significant stage in history*

Built by the nation to honour one of its heroes, Blenheim is, above all, the home of an English aristocrat, the 1st Duke of Marlborough, who was also Prince of the Germanic Holy Roman Empire, as we are reminded in the decoration of the Great Drawing Room [the Saloon] by Louis Laguerre (1719-20).

In virtue of this criterion, just like the Residence of Wurtzburg (included in 1981) and the Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust in Bruhl (included in 1984), Blenheim is typical of 18th century European princely residences, a category which is still under represented on the World Heritage List.

Integrity 2011

The Property is enclosed by an 18th century dry stone Park wall which defines its extent and maintains its physical integrity. Within the wall, the layout of the principal buildings remains unaltered since their construction, and the overall structure of the landscaped Park layout remains largely as set out by Vanbrugh and Brown. The buildings and Park were laid out over an earlier Roman and medieval landscape remnants of which are still visible through the Vanbrugh and Brown landscapes. Changes to the landscape and buildings by their owners have continued to the present day though these have not detracted from the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property

The Park contains important veteran trees. Disease and time have caused some loss of original tree specimens but these have been replanted with the same species where possible and appropriate. Because of climate change and the greater incidence of drought, adjustments are having to be made to the mix of species used in conserving the park landscape.

The integrity of the site is well protected by its enclosing wall but important visual links do exist between the gates, the parkland buildings, buildings in the surrounding villages and landscape and care needs to be taken to ensure these key visual links are protected.

Authenticity 2011

The overall relationship between the Baroque Palace and its Park is still clearly in place and the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property can be very readily understood despite the early 20th century changes to the landscape. The form and design of the Palace and Park survive well and there is a high degree of survival of fabric and indeed original fittings and furnishings.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The UK Government protects World Heritage Sites in England in two ways. Firstly individual buildings, monuments, gardens and landscapes are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act and secondly through the UK Spatial Planning system under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts.

National guidance on protecting the Historic Environment (Planning Policy Statement 5) and World Heritage (Circular 07/09) and accompanying explanatory guidance has been recently published by Government. Policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance World Heritage Sites, their settings and buffer zones can be found in statutory planning documents. World Heritage status is a key material consideration when planning applications are considered by the Local Authority planning authority. The West Oxfordshire Local Plan contains policies to protect

the Property.

The Property as a whole is designated as a Grade I registered Park and Garden and was given National Heritage tax exemption status in 1999 in recognition of its important architecture, its outstanding scenic, historic landscape and the outstanding importance of the building's contents and their intimate association with the Property. Forty five key buildings on the site are Grade 1 and Grade II* Listed Buildings with the park wall designated Grade 2. There are 5 scheduled ancient monuments within the Park.

The lakes and High Park are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the ancient woodland and hedgerows are both protected. Part of the setting of the property is within the Conservation Areas of Woodstock and Bladon and part is in the Cotswold's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The entire Property is within family ownership, successors of the original owner.

All UK World Heritage Sites are required to have Management Plans which set out the OUV and the measures that are in place to ensure it is conserved, protected, promoted and enhanced. Relevant Management Plan policies carry weight in the planning system..

A Management Plan has been in place since 2006 and is monitored on an annual basis by a Steering Group which includes representatives from English Heritage, ICOMOS-UK, DCMS, Natural England, the County Council and the local planning authority. There is a comprehensive and successful visitor management plan in place to manage visitors. The Steering Group is coordinated by the Blenheim Palace and Estate Chief Executive who has responsibility for implementing the Management Plan Action Plan. There is an ongoing programme of repair and regular maintenance of the buildings and structures. Recent work has included strengthening and reinstatement of the Blenheim Dam to comply with safety legislation.

Firm implementation of existing policies is important to provide effective protection of the setting of the World Heritage Site and it will be important to ensure that the management of the Park prioritises conservation of the elements of the landscape that reflect the work of Vanbrugh and Brown.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey, and St Martin's Church UK

Date Inscribed	1988
Statement of Significance approved	2008
Date of Draft SOUV	2011

Brief synthesis 2011

Christ Church Cathedral Canterbury in Kent a breathtaking mixture of Romanesque and Gothic architecture has been the seat of the spiritual head of the Church of England for nearly five centuries. Following the murder of Archbishop Thomas a Becket and his subsequent canonisation it became a place of pilgrimage. St Martin's church and the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey form the other main elements of the Property.

St Martin's Church, the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey and Christ Church Cathedral together reflect milestones in the history of Christianity in Britain. They reflect in tangible form:

- The reintroduction of Christianity to southern Britain by St Augustine, commencing at St Martin's Church where Queen Bertha already worshipped, and leading to the conversion of King Ethelbert.
- The successive architectural responses to Canterbury's developing role as focus of the Church in England – adaptation of Roman buildings, the development of Anglo-Saxon building in mortared brick and stone, and the flowering of Romanesque and Gothic.
- The development under St Augustine and the monks from Rome, of early Benedictine monasticism, which spread from its cradle in Canterbury throughout Britain had a profound impact on English society.
- The Abbey scriptorium, which was one of the great centres of Insular book production, and whose influence extended far beyond the boundaries of Kent and Northumbria. The development of literacy, education and scholarship at the Abbey meant that Canterbury became the most important centre of learning in the country.
- Canterbury's importance as a pilgrimage centre, based on Augustine and its other early saints, was transformed by the murder and canonisation of Archbishop Thomas Becket, whose Cathedral shrine attracted pilgrims from all over Europe.
- The wealth and power of the Cathedral in the 12th century - when the offerings of large numbers of pilgrims helped the building of the magnificent enlargement of the east end, with its exceptional stained glass windows and the rebuilding of the choir and transepts following the fire of 1174. These features form one of the finest examples of Early Gothic art.
- The Cathedral's rich panorama of Romanesque, early Gothic and late Gothic art and architecture is exceptional.
- The establishment of Canterbury as the seat of the spiritual leader of the Church of England.

Criterion (i): *Represent a unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of human creative genius*

Christ Church Cathedral, especially the east sections, is a unique artistic creation. The beauty of its architecture is enhanced by a set of exceptional early stained glass windows which constitute the richest collection in the United Kingdom.

Criterion (ii): *Have exerted great influence over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts or town planning and landscaping*

The influence of the Benedictine abbey of St Augustine was decisive throughout the Middle Ages in England. The influence of this monastic centre, and its scriptorium, extended far beyond the boundaries of Kent and Northumbria.

Criterion (vi): *Be directly or tangibly associated with events or with ideas or beliefs of outstanding universal significance*

St Martin's Church, St Augustine's Abbey and the Cathedral are directly and tangibly associated with the history of the introduction of Christianity to the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

Integrity 2011

The three parts of this property, St Martin's Church, St Augustine's Abbey and Christ Church Cathedral, are linked by its buffer zone. The St Martin's Church section of the site is aligned with the boundaries of the Church and Churchyard. The main part of St Augustine's Abbey, including most of its outer Precinct, is included within its boundary, although the areas of the Precinct now occupied by the Sessions House and gaol that linked the Abbey with St Martin's Church; the Almonry buildings located on Lady Wootton's Green; and the detached 13th century Conduit House are excluded. The Cathedral section of the site is delineated by the ancient boundary of its Precinct. The 12th century Conduit House, providing the Cathedral's water supply, located in Military Road is not included in the Property.

Although the key attributes of the Property are included in the boundaries in terms of the main structures, the visual and ceremonial links between them are only within the buffer zone as are a few ancillary buildings that relate to their functions. The overall integrity of the Property thus relies to a degree on its buffer zone. The presence of a busy road through the buffer zone does affect the relationship between the three parts of the Property. Development pressures in, or adjoining, the buffer zone are present and require ongoing careful management. Individual ruins within the Property suffer from weather and erosion and require regular inspection, maintenance and repair

The structure of the Cathedral was said in 2006 to be under threat and a major fundraising campaign was launched to fund ongoing maintenance. This campaign is ongoing and the South East transept is currently (2010) undergoing extensive repair. However the ruins remaining from Christ Church Priory are still considered to be in need of repair work.

At the time of inscription, it was noted that the condition of preservation of the three parts of the Property did not meet the same standards. The separateness of the three parts is still reflected by different conservation regimes. Work is ongoing to regularise this and a Conservation Plan is being prepared for the Cathedral. At the time of inscription the Bureau recommended that the Cathedral, St. Augustine's Abbey and St. Martin's Church should be included in one and the same protection area. This has been largely achieved by the designation of scheduled monuments and conservation areas.

Authenticity 2011

St Martin's Church has been in continuous use as a place of worship since the 6th century and the

present buildings of the Cathedral above ground since the 11th century. The Cathedral also thrives as a place of learning and pilgrimage including the site of the shrine of St Thomas a Becket. The majority of the property therefore maintains its historic use and function.

The Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese of Canterbury and is also known throughout the world as the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the church which welcomes the ten yearly Lambeth conferences of the bishops of the Anglican Communion.

St Martin's Church has been altered and extended in the 6th, 7th and 14th centuries but the southern wall retains Roman fabric. The Abbey was largely destroyed during the Reformation and is partially in ruins. The Cathedral and its precinct make up a diversified but coherent assembly of medieval architecture.

The vast Cathedral, and particularly its Bell Harry Tower, still dominates the city as it has done for five hundred years. The tower is the highest building in the city and its location in the valley floor means that it can be seen from surrounding higher land and extensively along the valley. Maintaining views to and from the Cathedral is crucial to sustain this visual dominance.

Inside the Cathedral are magnificent displays of mediaeval architecture, stained glass and furnishings. The coherence and almost perfect homogeneity of its choir, east transept, unfinished eastern tower, and Romanesque side chapels are still evident and these were seen at the time of inscription as one of the most beautiful architectural spaces of Early Gothic art.

The ruins of St Augustine's Abbey conveys its value in a more low key way and the links between it and the Cathedral and St Martin's church need strengthening in order that they can be seen as a single Property and to convey more readily how they each contribute to Outstanding Universal Value.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The UK Government protects World Heritage Sites in England in two ways. Firstly individual buildings, monuments and landscapes are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archeological Areas Act and secondly through the UK Spatial Planning system under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts.

National guidance on protecting the Historic Environment (Planning Policy Statement 5) and World Heritage (Circular 07/09) and accompanying explanatory guidance has been recently published by Government. Policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance World Heritage Sites, their settings and buffer zones can be found in statutory planning documents.

Canterbury City Council, the Local Authority, is concerned with the management, promotion and interpretation of the three sites. Particular objectives are improving the links between the three sites and preserving and enhancing the 'buffer zone' and setting of the three sites. The Canterbury District Local Plan includes policies to ensure that the setting of the World Heritage Site is protected. The City Council adopted the Canterbury Conservation Area Appraisal on 15th October 2010. This appraisal includes the three parts of the WHS and includes an analysis of strategic views into and within the city. The importance of preserving views of the cathedral is recognised in the document.

The majority of the Cathedral Precincts is subject to the 'Care of Cathedrals Measure 1990' as

amended in 2005 which has similar status to an Act of Parliament. The Cathedral itself has a corresponding exemption from listed building consent, as provided for in the 'Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Order 2010.

The whole of the Cathedral Precincts, the main parts of St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church and Churchyard are included in Conservation Areas. The World Heritage Site Management Plan Committee is represented on the Canterbury Conservation Advisory Committee which looks at all planning applications which affect the conservation areas within the City of Canterbury. This committee gives advice to the Planning Committee of the City Council and gives an opportunity for plans to be examined which affect the World Heritage Site itself and the buffer zone.

The whole of the World Heritage Site lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance. Most of the area within the Precincts of the Cathedral, together with the remains of St. Augustine's Abbey and part of its medieval Precinct are Scheduled Ancient Monuments and many of the buildings within the World Heritage Site are statutorily listed.

A Management Plan was adopted in 2002 and a review of it is taking place. The implementation of the Plan is overseen by the World Heritage Site Management Plan Committee that includes representatives of all the key stakeholders.

The Dean and Chapter regularly carry out quinquennial inspections of the Cathedral building. A programme of major repairs is being carried out and the Trustees of Canterbury Cathedral Trust Fund are conducting an Appeal to fund this work.

Some of the ruins of the monastic buildings of the former Christ Church Priory are included in category B on the English Heritage 'Buildings at Risk' register. This category states that there is immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric. A solution has been agreed but not yet fully implemented although work is progressing slowly with the assistance of an English Heritage grant.

The buffer zone was defined in the 1998 Management Plan but has not yet been approved by the World Heritage Committee. The buffer zone will be submitted to the Committee for consideration in due course.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd, UK

Date inscribed	1986
Statement of Significance approved	2008
Date of Draft SOUV	2011

Brief Synthesis 2011

The four castles of Beaumaris, Conwy, Caernarfon, Harlech and the attendant fortified towns at Conwy and Caernarfon are the finest examples of late 13th century and early 14th century military architecture in Europe, as demonstrated through their completeness, pristine state, evidence for organized domestic space, and extraordinary repertory of their medieval form.

The castles as a stylistically coherent group are a supreme example of medieval military architecture designed and directed by James of St George, King Edward I of England's chief architect, and the greatest military architect of the age.

The extensive and detailed contemporary technical, social and economic documentation of the castles, and the survival of adjacent fortified towns at Caernarfon and Conwy, makes them one of the major references of medieval history.

The castles of Beaumaris and Harlech are unique artistic achievements for the way they combine characteristic 13th century double-wall structures with a central plan, and for the beauty of their proportions and masonry.

Criterion (i): *Represent a unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of human creative genius*

Beaumaris and Harlech represent a unique achievement in that they combine the double-wall structure which is characteristic of late 13th century military architecture with a highly concentric central plan and in terms of the beauty of their proportions and masonry. These are masterpieces of James of St George who, in addition to being the king's chief architect, was constable of Harlech from 1290 to 1293.

Criterion (iii): *Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a civilization which has disappeared*

The royal castles of the ancient principality of Gwynedd bear a unique testimony to construction in the Middle Ages in so far as this royal commission is fully documented. The accounts by Taylor in Colvin (ed.), *The History of the King's Works*, London (1963), specify the origin of the workmen, who were brought in from all regions of England, and describe the use of quarried stone on the site. They outline financing of the construction works and provide an understanding of the daily life of the workmen and population and thus constitute one of the major references of medieval history.

Criterion (iv): *Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural ensemble which illustrates a significant stage in history*

The castles and fortifications of Gwynedd are the finest examples of late 13th century and early 14th century military architecture in Europe. Their construction, begun in 1283 and at times hindered by the Welsh uprisings of Madog ap Llewelyn in 1294, continued until 1330 in Caernarfon and 1331 in Beaumaris. They have only undergone minimal restoration and provide, in their pristine state, a veritable repertory of medieval architectural form: barbicans, drawbridges, fortified gates, redoubts, dungeons, towers and curtain walls.

Integrity 2011

The individual castles possess a high degree of integrity with the coherence of their planning, innovative design and quality of construction being undiminished.

The overall series of the four castles of Edward I includes within the property boundary all the medieval defensive structures – castles and town walls – but not the planned settlements or waterfronts. All the defensive attributes are within the boundary but as the towns were an integral part of their defensive, administrative and economic arrangements, and their waterside position contributed to their defence and trade, the full range of attributes could be seen to extend beyond the narrow boundaries.

The essential relationship between their coastal landscapes and each castle remains intact and in two cases the intimate inter-relationship of castle and town remains a striking feature of the present day urban landscape; a reassessment of the boundaries could be considered but, meanwhile, the wider landscape setting needs to be protected. Currently there is no buffer zone but the 'essential setting' of and 'significant views' from each castle have been defined in the management plan.

Potential threats could come from unsympathetic development on the town/landward side of the castles, but also from coastal or off-shore development within the setting of the castles. In the past these have not been significant issues. There is a need to protect the setting of the castles to ensure their relationship with their hinterland remains undiminished.

Authenticity 2011

The authenticity of all four medieval castles and two town wall circuits has been maintained despite some reconstruction in the late 19th century at Caernarfon. During the last 100 years the conservation of the castles and town walls has been undertaken following the philosophy of conserve as found and minimal intervention or intrusive modification has occurred. The plans, form, materials and component features of the castles are largely unaltered. They still display clearly the wide repertory of medieval architectural forms: barbicans, drawbridges, fortified gates, chicanes, redoubts, dungeons, towers and curtain walls.

The town walls at Caernarfon and Conwy remain unchanged providing an almost complete enclosed entity to their related townscapes.

The overall setting of the four castles remains largely intact – with the exception of development on the plain at Harlech and some new development at Caernarfon – and thus they retain their ability to present very clearly their scale, defensive power and intimidating presence.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The UK Government protects World Heritage Sites by the statutory protection of individual sites and buildings and by spatial planning and guidance.

The four castles and two town wall circuits are protected by statutory scheduling as monuments of national importance and by their being 'guardianship monuments' maintained by the relevant conservation body within government to current conservation principles. All four are protected by Local Plans, Planning Guidance and their World Heritage Management Plans; Harlech is within the Snowdonia National Park while all four are within Conservation Areas that cover the immediate setting of the Castles and Town Walls. Their wider setting has been defined as 'essential settings' and key views are protected.

These measures combine to ensure that the Castles are subject to rigorous controls over development that could potentially impact upon them or their setting. Shoreline Management Plans and the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Assessments help protect the sites from coastal erosion or unsympathetic coastal development thus keeping intact the important coastal views and sightlines.

The World Heritage Steering Group, which includes the participation of site owners, local authorities, government and the general public, has responsibility for the implementation of the Management Plan that ensures that conservation, development control, educational use and public accessibility is maintained.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

City of Bath UK

Date inscribed	1987
Statement of Significance approved	2008
Date of Draft SOUV:	2011

Brief Synthesis 2011

The city of Bath in South West England was founded by the Romans who used the natural hot springs as a thermal spa. It became an important centre for the wool industry in the Middle Ages but in the 18th century under George III it developed into an elegant spa city, famed in literature and art.

The City of Bath is of Outstanding Universal Value for the following cultural attributes:

The Roman remains, especially the Temple of Sulis Minerva and the baths complex (based around the hot springs at the heart of the Roman city of Aquae Sulis, which have remained at the heart of the City's development ever since) are amongst the most famous and important Roman remains north of the Alps, and marked the beginning of Bath's history as a spa town.

The Georgian city reflects the ambitions of John Wood Senior, Ralph Allen and Richard "Beau" Nash to make Bath into one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, with architecture and landscape combined harmoniously for the enjoyment of the spa town's cure takers.

The Neo-classical style of the public buildings (such as the Assembly Rooms and the Pump Room) harmonises with the grandiose proportions of the monumental ensembles (such as Queen Square, Circus and Royal Crescent) and collectively reflects the ambitions, particularly social, of the spa city in the 18th century.

The individual Georgian buildings reflect the profound influence of Palladio, and their collective scale, style and the organisation of the spaces between buildings epitomises the success of architects such as the John Woods, Robert Adam, Thomas Baldwin and John Palmer in transposing Palladio's ideas to the scale of a complete city, situated in a hollow in the hills and built to a Picturesque landscape aestheticism creating a strong garden city feel, more akin to the 19th century garden cities than the 17th century Renaissance cities.

Criterion (i): *Represents a unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of human creative genius*

Bath's grandiose neo-classical Palladian crescents, terraces and squares spread out over the surrounding hills and set in its green valley, are a demonstration par excellence of the integration of architecture, urban design and landscape setting, and the deliberate creation of a beautiful city. Not only are individual buildings such as the Assembly Rooms and Pump Room of great distinction, they are part of the larger overall city landscape that evolved over a century in a harmonious and logical way, drawing together public and private buildings and spaces in a way that reflects the precepts of Palladio tempered with picturesque aestheticism.

Bath's quality of architecture and urban design, its visual homogeneity and its beauty are largely

testament to the skill and creativity of the architects and visionaries of the 18th and 19th centuries who applied and developed Palladianism in response to the specific opportunities offered by the spa town and its physical environment and natural resources (in particular the hot springs and the local Bath Oolitic limestone). Three men – architect John Wood Senior, entrepreneur and quarry owner Ralph Allen and celebrated social shaper and Master of Ceremonies Richard “Beau” Nash – together provided the impetus to start this social, economic and physical rebirth, resulting in a city that played host to the social, political and cultural leaders of the day. That the architects who followed were working over the course of a century, with no master plan or single patron, did not prevent them from contriving to relate each individual development to those around it and to the wider landscape, creating a city that is harmonious and logical, in concord with its natural environment and extremely beautiful.

Criterion (ii): *Have exerted great influence over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental, or town planning or landscaping.*

Bath exemplifies the 18th century move away from the inward-looking uniform street layouts of Renaissance cities that dominated through the 15th-17th centuries, towards the idea of planting buildings and cities in the landscape to achieve picturesque views and forms, which could be seen echoed around Europe particularly in the 19th century. This unifying of nature and city, seen throughout Bath, is perhaps best demonstrated in the Royal Crescent (John Wood Younger) and Lansdown Crescent (John Palmer). Bath’s urban and landscape spaces are created by the buildings that enclose them, providing a series of interlinked spaces that flow organically, and that visually (and at times physically) draw in the green surrounding countryside to create a distinctive garden city feel, looking forward to the principles of garden cities developed by the 19th century town planners.

Criterion (iv): *Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural ensemble which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in history.*

Bath reflects two great eras in human history: Roman and Georgian. The Roman Baths and temple complex, together with the remains of the city of Aquae Sulis that grew up around them, make a significant contribution to the understanding and appreciation of Roman social and religious society. The 18th century re-development is a unique combination of outstanding urban architecture, spatial arrangement and social history. Bath exemplifies the main themes of the 18th century neoclassical city; the monumentalisation of ordinary houses, the integration of landscape and town, and the creation and interlinking of urban spaces, designed and developed as a response to the growing popularity of Bath as a society and spa destination and to provide an appropriate picturesque setting and facilities for the cure takers and social visitors. Although Bath gained greatest importance in Roman and Georgian times, the city nevertheless reflects continuous development over two millennia with the spectacular mediaeval Abbey Church sat beside the Roman temple and baths, in the heart of the 18th century and modern day city.

Integrity 2011

Remains of the known Roman baths, the Temple of Sulis Minerva and the below grounds Roman archaeology are well preserved and within the Property boundary as are the areas of Georgian town planning and architecture, and large elements of the landscape within which the city is set. Despite some loss of Georgian buildings prior to inscription, the Georgian City remains largely intact both in terms of buildings and plan form. An extensive range of interlinked spaces formed by crescents, terraces and squares set in a harmonious relationship with the surrounding green landscape survive. The relationship of the Georgian city to its setting of the surrounding hills

remains clearly visible. As a modern city, Bath remains vulnerable to large scale development and to transport pressures, both within the site and in its setting that could impact adversely on its garden city feel, and on views across the Property and to its green setting.

Authenticity 2011

The hot springs, which are the reason for the City's original development, are of undoubted authenticity. The key Roman remains are preserved, protected and displayed within a museum environment, and the Roman Baths can still be appreciated for their original use. The majority of the large stock of Georgian buildings have been continuously inhabited since their construction, and retain a high degree of original fabric. Repairs have largely been sympathetic, informed by an extensive body of documentation, and aided by a programme of restoration in the late twentieth century. More vulnerable is the overall interaction between groups of buildings in terraces, crescents and squares and views to the surrounding landscape that contributed to the city's visual harmony. There is a need for new developments to respect the planning of the Georgian terraces, to respect the scale and rhythm of its structures, and to contribute to picturesque views.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The UK Government protects World Heritage Sites in England in two ways. Firstly individual buildings, monuments and landscapes are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act and secondly through the UK Spatial Planning system under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts

National guidance on protecting the Historic Environment (Planning Policy Statement 5) and World Heritage (Circular 07/09) and accompanying explanatory guidance has been recently published by Government. Policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance World Heritage Sites, their settings and buffer zones can be found in statutory planning documents.

The Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan contains a core policy which states that development which would harm the qualities which justified the inscription of the World Heritage Site, or its setting, will not be permitted.

All UK World Heritage Sites are required to have Management Plans which set out the OUV and the measures in place to ensure it is conserved, protected, promoted and enhanced. Relevant policies carry weight in the planning system. World Heritage Properties should have Steering Groups which are made up of key local stakeholders who oversee monitoring, implementation and review of the Management Plans.

The World Heritage Site Management Plan 2010-15 aims to address the key tensions between development and conservation of the city wide site. The plan proposes that the Local Authority should adopt the Summary Management Plan and Setting Study as supplementary planning documents.

The main pressures currently facing the site are large scale development and the need for improved transport. New development will continue to be assessed against the policy framework listed above. Transport improvements are based principally around a bus based network and pedestrianisation, outlined in the Management Plan. There is a need for development to be based on a greater articulation and understanding of the distinctiveness of the Georgian city, in order that new developments may reinforce the attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Durham Cathedral and Castle UK

Date of Inscription	1986
Approved Statement of Significance	2008
Date of Draft SOUV	2011

Brief Synthesis 2011

Durham Cathedral was built between the late 11th and early 12th century to house the bodies of St. Cuthbert (the evangeliser of Northumbria) and the Venerable Bede. It attests to the importance of the early Benedictine monastic community and is the largest and finest example of Norman architecture in England. The innovative audacity of its vaulting foreshadowed Gothic architecture. The Cathedral lies within the precinct of Durham Castle, first constructed in the late eleventh century under the orders of William the Conqueror.

The Castle was the stronghold and residence of the Prince-Bishops of Durham, who were given virtual autonomy in return for protecting the northern boundaries of England, and thus held both religious and secular power.

Within the Castle precinct are later buildings of the Durham Palatinate, reflecting the Prince-Bishops' civic responsibilities and privileges. These include the Bishop's Court (now a library), almshouses, and schools. Palace Green, a large open space connecting the various buildings of the site once provided the Prince Bishops with a venue for processions and gatherings befitting their status, and is now still a forum for public events.

The Cathedral and Castle are located on a peninsula formed by a bend in the River Wear with steep river banks constituting a natural line of defence. These were essential both for the community of St. Cuthbert, who came to Durham in the tenth century in search of a safe base (having suffered periodic Viking raids over the course of several centuries), and for the Prince-Bishops of Durham, protectors of the turbulent English frontier.

(Statement of Significance 2008)

The site is significant because of:

Its exceptional architecture demonstrating architectural innovation;

The visual drama of the Cathedral and Castle on the peninsula and the associations with notions of romantic beauty;

The physical expression of the spiritual and secular powers of the medieval Bishops Palatine that the defended complex provides;

The relics and material culture of three saints, (Cuthbert, Bede, and Oswald) buried at the site.

Culture Team

The continuity of use and ownership over the past 1000 years as a place of religious worship, learning and residence;

Its role as a political statement of Norman power imposed upon a subjugate nation, as one of the country's most powerful symbols of the Norman Conquest of Britain;

The importance of its archaeological remains, which are directly related to its history and continuity of use over the past 1000 years;

The cultural and religious traditions and historical memories associated with the relics of St Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede, and with the continuity of use and ownership over the past millennium.

Criterion (ii): *have exerted great influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts, or town planning and landscaping*

Durham Cathedral is the largest and most perfect monument of 'Norman' style architecture in England. The small castral (castle) chapel for its part marks a turning point in the evolution of 11th century Romanesque sculpture.

Criterion (iv): *Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural ensemble which illustrates a significant stage in history*

Though some wrongly considered Durham Cathedral to be the first 'Gothic' monument (the relationship between it and the churches built in the Île-de-France region in the 12th century is not obvious), this building, owing to the innovative audacity of its vaulting, constitutes, as do Spire [Speyer] and Cluny, a type of experimental model which was far ahead of its time.

Criterion (vi): *Be directly or tangibly associated with events or with ideas or beliefs of outstanding universal significance*

Around the relics of Cuthbert and Bede, Durham crystallized the memory of the evangelising of Northumbria and of primitive Benedictine monastic life.

Integrity 2011

The physical integrity of the Property is well preserved. However, despite a minor modification of the Property's boundaries in 2008 to unite the Castle and Cathedral sites, the current boundary still does not fully encompass all the attributes features that convey the Property's Outstanding Universal Value. The steep banks of the River Wear, an important component of the Property's defensive role, and the full extent of the Castle Precinct still lie outside the Property boundary.

There are no immediate threats to the Property or its attributes. The visual integrity of the Property relate to its prominent position high above a bend in the River Wear and there is a need to protect key views to and from the Castle, Cathedral and town that together portray one of the best known medieval cityscapes of medieval Europe.

Authenticity 2011

The Property has remained continually in use as a place of worship, learning and residence. Durham Cathedral is a thriving religious institution with strong links to its surrounding

community. The Castle is accessible through its use as part of the University of Durham, a centre of excellence for learning.

A series of additions, reconstructions, embellishments as well as restorations from the 11th century onward has not substantially altered the Norman structure of Durham Cathedral. The monastic buildings, grouped together to the south of the cathedral comprise few pristine elements but together make up a diversified and coherent ensemble of medieval architecture which 19th century restoration, substantially in the chapter house and cloister, did not destroy.

The architectural evolution of the Castle has not obscured its Norman layout. Within the Castle, the castral chapel, with its groined vaults, is one of the most precious testimonies to Norman architecture c 1080 AD. The slightly later Norman Gallery at the east end has retained its Norman decoration of a series of arches decorated with chevrons and zigzags.

The siting of the Castle and Cathedral in relation to the surrounding city has been sustained as has its setting above the wooded Wear valley, both of which allow an understanding of its medieval form.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The UK Government protects World Heritage Sites in England in two ways. Firstly individual buildings, monuments, gardens and landscapes are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act and secondly through the UK Spatial Planning system under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts.

National guidance on protecting the Historic Environment (Planning Policy Statement 5) and World Heritage (Circular 07/09) and accompanying explanatory guidance has been recently published by Government. Policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance World Heritage Sites, their settings and buffer zones can be found in statutory planning documents. World Heritage status is a key material consideration when planning applications are considered by the Local Authority planning authority. The Durham Local Plan (2004) and emerging Local Development Framework contains policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance the Durham World Heritage Site and its setting.

Both the Castle and Cathedral are protected by designation with the Cathedral Grade I listed and also protected through the ecclesiastical protection system and the Castle a Grade I listed building. The whole Property lies within the Durham City Centre Conservation Area, managed by Durham County Council.

Although no buffer zone has been identified, the Property lies within a conservation area. Due diligence is given to preserving views to and from the site, in particular from the Prebends' Bridge, where the Castle and Cathedral dominate the steeply wooded island banks forming part of an 18th century designed landscape. Given the topography of the site, and the conservation area surrounding it, the preservation of key views is more important than the definition of a buffer zone. There is nevertheless a need to ensure the protection of immediate and wider setting of the Property in the light of highly significant profile of the Castle, Cathedral and city and its distinctive silhouette visible day and night.

A Durham World Heritage Site Management Plan was produced by the Property's key stakeholders in 2006. A Coordinating Committee oversees the implementation of the

Culture Team

Management Plan by the World Heritage Coordinator. The Management Plan is to be reviewed in 2011 and will include examination of the nature and extent of the Property boundary.

The Property faces no serious threats. The main challenges are to maintain fabric, ensure integration of its management into the management of the adjoining town and wider landscape, to assess and protect key views into and out of the Property and to improve interpretation, understanding and to encourage site-specific research.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Heart of Neolithic Orkney UK

Date of Inscription	1999
Date of Draft SOUV	2011

Brief Synthesis 2011

The group of monuments that make up the Heart of Neolithic Orkney consist of a remarkably well-preserved settlement, a large chambered tomb, and two stone circles with surrounding henges, together with a number of associated burial and ceremonial sites. The group constitutes a major relict cultural landscape depicting graphically life five thousand years ago in this remote archipelago.

The four monuments that make up the Heart of Neolithic Orkney are unquestionably among the most important Neolithic sites in Western Europe. These are the Ring of Brodgar, Stones of Stenness, Maeshowe and Skara Brae. They provide exceptional evidence of the material and spiritual standards and beliefs and the social structures of this dynamic period of prehistory.

The Orkney Islands lie 15km north of the coast of Scotland. The monuments are in two areas, some 6.6km apart on the island of Mainland, the largest in the archipelago.

The four main monuments, consisting of the four substantial surviving standing stones of the elliptical Stones of Stenness and the surrounding ditch and bank of the henge, the thirty-six surviving stones of the circular Ring of Brodgar with the thirteen Neolithic and Bronze Age mounds that are found around it and the stone setting known as the Comet Stone, the large stone chambered tomb of Maeshowe whose passage points close to midwinter sunset, and the sophisticated settlement of Skara Brae with its stone built houses connected by narrow roofed passages, together with the Barnhouse Stone and the Watch Stone, serve as a paradigm of the megalithic culture of north-western Europe that is without parallel.

The Property is characteristic of the farming culture prevalent from before 4000 BC in north-west Europe. It provides exceptional evidence of, and demonstrates with exceptional completeness the domestic, ceremonial, and burial practices of a now vanished 5000-year-old culture and illustrates the material standards, social structures and ways of life of this dynamic period of prehistory which gave rise to Avebury and Stonehenge (England), Bend of the Boyne (Ireland) and Carnac (France).

The monuments on the Brodgar and Stenness peninsulas were deliberately situated within a vast topographic bowl formed by a series of visually interconnecting ridgelines stretching from Hoy to Greeny Hill and back. They are also visually linked to other contemporary and later monuments around the lochs. They thus form a fundamental part of a wider, highly complex archaeological landscape which stretches over the much of Orkney. The wealth of contemporary burial and occupation sites in the buffer zone constitute an exceptional relict cultural landscape that supports the value of the main sites.

Criterion (i): *Represent a masterpiece of human creative genius*

The major monuments of the Stones of Stenness, the Ring of Brodgar, the chamber tomb of Maeshowe, and the settlement of Skara Brae display the highest sophistication in architectural accomplishment; they are technologically ingenious and monumental masterpieces.

Criterion (ii): *Exhibit an important interchange of human values over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design*

The Heart of Neolithic Orkney exhibits an important interchange of human values during the development of the architecture of major ceremonial complexes in the British Isles, Ireland and north-west Europe.

Criterion (iii): *Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared*

Through the combination of ceremonial, funerary and domestic sites, the Heart of Neolithic Orkney bears a unique testimony to a cultural tradition which flourished between about 3000 BC and 2000 BC. The state of preservation of Skara Brae is without parallel amongst Neolithic settlement sites in northern Europe.

Criterion (iv): *Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history*

The Heart of Neolithic Orkney is an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble and archaeological landscape which illustrate a significant stage of human history, that is, when the first large ceremonial monuments were built.

Integrity 2011

All the monuments lie within the designated boundaries of the Property. However the boundaries are tightly drawn and do not encompass the wider landscape setting of the monuments which provides their essential context, nor other monuments that can be seen to support the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Part of the landscape is covered by a two part buffer zone, centred on Skara Brae in the west and on the central west Mainland monuments.

Condition surveys have been completed for each of the monuments. These documents record previous interventions and include a strategy for future maintenance and conservation. Conservation and maintenance programmes require detailed knowledge of the sites, and are managed and monitored by suitably experienced and qualified professionals. Physical threats to the monuments include visitor footfall and coastal erosion.

The relationships and linkages between the monuments and the wider open, almost treeless landscape, and between the monuments that comprise the property and those in the area outside it that support the OUV of the property are potentially at risk from change and development in the countryside.

Authenticity 2011

Conservation work undertaken at the sites follows national and international policy and seeks to balance minimum intervention with public accessibility to the monuments. Careful consideration is given to any intervention and this will only occur following detailed and rigorous analysis of

potential consequences. In conservation work, local materials have been used where appropriate. The current, open and comparatively undeveloped landscape around the monuments allows an understanding of the apparently formal connections between the monuments and their natural settings. This fragile landscape is vulnerable to incremental change.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

World Heritage Sites in Scotland are protected through the following pieces of legislation. The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 provide a framework for local and regional planning policy and act as the principal pieces of primary legislation guiding planning and development in Scotland. Additionally, individual buildings, monuments and areas of special archaeological or historic interest are designated and protected under The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas)(Scotland) Act 1997 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) is the primary policy guidance on the protection and management of the historic environment in Scotland. Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) sits alongside the SHEP and is the Government's national planning policy on the historic environment. It provides for the protection of World Heritage Sites by considering the impact of development on their Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity.

Orkney Islands Council is in the process of producing an Orkney Local Development Plan setting out the Council's policy for assessing planning applications and proposals for the allocation of land for development. This will replace the Orkney Structure Plan (2001) and Orkney Local Plan (2004) and is scheduled for adoption in 2012. The Orkney Local Development Plan Main Issues Report (November 2009) addresses the need to put an appropriate level of protection in place for the Property and its setting. Supplementary Planning Guidance for the World Heritage Site is in preparation. This policy will establish a general commitment to preserving the integrity and authenticity of the Property. It will also seek to manage the impact of development on the wider landscape setting, and prevent development which would have an adverse impact on its Outstanding Universal Value through the designation of Inner Sensitive Zones aligned with the two parts of the Buffer Zone and the identification of sensitive ridgelines outwith this area. The Rural Conservation Area at Brodgar that includes Maeshowe, the Stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar, will be retained or expanded, and a new Rural Conservation Area established at the Bay of Skail.

All UK World Heritage Sites are required to have Management Plans which set out the OUV and the measures in place to ensure it is conserved, protected, promoted and enhanced. The property is in the care of Historic Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers. The Management Plan has been produced by Historic Scotland in consultation with the Partners who share responsibility for managing the sites and access to them: Orkney Islands Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The Management Board responsible for implementing the Management Plan comprises representatives of the Partners, and Stakeholders drawn from the tourist industry, local landowners and the archaeological community. Working groups on issues such as access and interpretation report to the Management Board, whilst the long-term challenge of coastal erosion at Skara Brae is being addressed by partnership working through the Skail Bay Coastal Protection Working Group.

The long-term need to protect the key relationships between the monuments and their landscape settings and between the Property and other related monuments will be kept under review by the Management Board, including assessing the potential for an extension of the Property boundary

Culture Team

in order that it better reflects the idea of related monuments within a relict cultural landscape that is the essence of the OUV.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site UK

Date of Inscription	1986
Statement of Significance approved	2008
Date of Draft SOUV	2011

The following factual corrections have been made:

Criterion (i) coke iron corrected to "discovered the production technique of smelting iron using coke instead of charcoal". This has also been corrected elsewhere in the text.

The Severn Gorge Countryside Trust manage "woodland, grassland and associated historic structures"

Brief Synthesis 2011

The Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage property covers an area of 5.5 km² (550ha) and is located in Telford, Shropshire, approximately 50km north-west of Birmingham. The Industrial Revolution had its 18th century roots in the Ironbridge Gorge and spread world wide leading to some of the most far-reaching changes in human history.

The site incorporates a 5km length of the steep-sided, mineral-rich Severn Valley from a point immediately west of Ironbridge downstream to Coalport, together with two smaller river valleys extending northwards to Coalbrookdale and Madeley.

The Ironbridge Gorge provided the raw materials that revolutionised industrial processes and offers a powerful insight into the origins of the Industrial Revolution and also contains extensive evidence and remains of that period when the area was the focus of international attention from artists, engineers, and writers. The site contains substantial remains of mines, pit mounds, spoil heaps, foundries, factories, workshops, warehouses, iron masters' and workers' housing, public buildings, infrastructure, and transport systems, together with traditional landscape and forests of the Severn Gorge. In addition, there also remain extensive collections of artifacts and archives relating to the individuals, processes and products that made the area so important.

Today, the site is a living, working community with a population of approximately 4000 people as well as a world renowned place to visit.. It is also a historic landscape that is interpreted and made accessible through the work of a number of organisations, in particular, the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (established in 1967 to preserve and interpret the remains of the Industrial Revolution within the Ironbridge Gorge) and the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (established in 1991 to manage the woodland and grassland and associated historic structures in the Gorge).

Within the site, five features are highlighted as of particular interest:

- 1. Coalbrookdale:** It was here in 1709 that the Quaker Abraham Darby I developed the production technique of smelting iron with coke which began the great 18th century iron revolution. There still remains a high concentration of 18th and 19th century dwellings, warehouses and public buildings in Coalbrookdale.

2. Ironbridge: The community draws its name from the famous Iron Bridge erected in 1779 by Abraham Darby III. At the eastern end of Ironbridge stand the remains of two 18th century blast furnaces, the Bedlam Furnaces, built in 1757.

3. Hay Brook Valley: South of Madeley lies a large open-air museum which incorporates the remains of the former Blists Hill blast furnaces and Blists Hill brick and tile works. Also of importance is the spectacular Hay Inclined Plane which connected the Shropshire Canal to the Coalport Canal, which in turn linked with the River Severn.

4. Jackfield: This small community on the south bank of the River Severn was important for navigation, coal mining, clay production, and the manufacture of decorative tiles.

5. Coalport: Located at the eastern end of the site and on the north bank of the River Severn, industrialisation came to Coalport in the late 18th century.

Criterion (i): *Represent a unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of human creative genius*

The Coalbrookdale blast furnace perpetuates in situ the creative effort of Abraham Darby I who discovered the production technique of smelting iron using coke instead of charcoal in 1709. It is a masterpiece of man's creative genius in the same way as the Iron Bridge, which is the first known metal bridge. It was built in 1779 by Abraham Darby III from the drawings of the architect Thomas Farnolls Pritchard.

Criterion (ii): *Have exerted great influence over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts, or town planning and landscape*

The Coalbrookdale blast furnace and the Iron Bridge exerted great influence on the development of techniques and architecture.

Criterion (iv): *Be an outstanding example of a type or building or architectural ensemble which illustrates a significant stage in history*

Ironbridge Gorge provides a fascinating summary of the development of an industrial region in modern times. Mining centres, transformation industries, manufacturing plants, workers' quarters, and transport networks are sufficiently well preserved to make up a coherent ensemble whose educational potential is considerable.

Criterion (vi): *Be directly or tangibly associated with events or ideas or beliefs of outstanding universal significance*

Ironbridge Gorge, which opens its doors to in excess of 600,000 visitors yearly, is a world renowned symbol of the 18th century Industrial Revolution.

Integrity 2011

The boundary of the Property is clearly defined by the steep sided Gorge and encompasses an extraordinary concentration of mining zones, foundries, factories, workshops and warehouses which coexists with the old network of lanes, paths, roads, ramps, canals and railroads as well as substantial remains of traditional landscape and housing: the ironmasters' houses, the workers' living quarters, and public buildings and infrastructure are all within the five identifiable areas of Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge, Hay Brook Valley with Madeley, Jackfield and Coalport, which are

enclosed by a common boundary. The well preserved historic fabric is well supported by detailed historic archives and collections of manufactured goods. The technologically revolutionary Iron Bridge spanning the River Severn Gorge is the focal point of the Site and together with the attributes above, include all that is necessary to convey the former pioneering intense industrial past within its green landscape and thus the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property.

None of the key industrial attributes are under threat, but the overall mining landscape is vulnerable to land instability resulting from mining and underlying geology and incremental changes which over time could impact on the character of the valley. The landscape is a crucial part of the Property, and it needs to be managed as a coherent whole, with key views across the valley identified and protected.

Authenticity 2011

The surviving built and natural environment with its 10 museums, monuments and artefacts, including the world famous Iron Bridge of 1779, reflects this area's unique contribution to the history and development of industrialised society. The encompassing landscape gives the Iron Bridge and Coalbrookdale Blast Furnace their extraordinary social and economic context.

The decline of the industries and the prosperity of the area at the end of the 19th and start of the 20th centuries in a way helped to protect most of the urban fabric within the Property and its landscape. The different types of dwellings, industrial buildings and structures did suffer from a degree of neglect following the decline in prosperity. However in recognition of the area's unique industrial heritage significant late 20th century investment reversed this decline. With careful attention to details, materials and techniques, most of the historic buildings, structures and urban and rural patterns have retained their essential and authentic historic character although some industrial monuments await conservation work.

In 2010 nearly 1 million people visited the Ironbridge Gorge and its museums. The Victorian Town Open Air museum at Blists Hill was established before inscription and incorporates scheduled industrial monuments, reconstructed 19th century buildings and new buildings based on local examples. Care is taken to ensure that the relationship between the original buildings and monuments on the Property and the other structures which do not form part of the historic attributes of the Property is clearly stated ensuring authenticity is not compromised.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The UK Government protects World Heritage Sites in England in two ways. Firstly individual buildings, monuments, gardens and landscapes are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act and secondly through the UK Spatial Planning System under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts.

National Guidance on protecting the Historic Environment (Planning Policy Statement 5) and World Heritage (Circular 07/09) and accompanying explanatory guidance has been recently published by Government. Policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance World Heritage Sites, their settings and buffer zones can be found in statutory planning documents. World Heritage status is a key material consideration when planning applications are considered by the Local Planning Authority. The Telford & Wrekin Local Development Framework contains policies to protect the Property.

Culture Team

The Property lies predominantly in the boundary of Telford & Wrekin Council with a small south east portion within the Shropshire Council boundary. The entire site is a designated Conservation Area and there are over 375 listed buildings of which 2 are grade I and 18 are grade II*. In addition there are 7 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. There are 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the World Heritage Property.

Added control over changes to the Property is achieved through an article 4 (2) directive for the Conservation Area which withdraws permitted development rights for certain development. It is proposed that additional controls under a wider Article 4 (1) will be implemented as an improved management tool to prevent damaging incremental change.

The Ironbridge Gorge WHS Management Plan was published in 2001 and is being reviewed. Boundaries and protection mechanisms will be reviewed as part of the Management Plan process. The delivery of the Management Plan will be implemented by a World Heritage Coordinator working with other members of the Telford & Wrekin team and overseen by a World Heritage Site Steering Committee on which the key stakeholders are represented. The day to day management activities are carried out at local level by Telford & Wrekin Council together with diverse organisations, agencies, and owners who have various management responsibilities within the site.

There is a need to ensure that management of the Property covers the whole area within the boundaries, including the rich ensemble of minor buildings and the encompassing landscape that together give the major structures such as the Iron Bridge and the Old Furnace at Coalbrookdale their extraordinary social and economic context. Land instability resulting from previous mining activity and underlying geology is a significant factor in the Gorge and requires a comprehensive holistic management approach

There is also a need to promote wider understanding of the scope and extent of the Property, and its inter-related attributes. A new visitor and interpretation centre opened in 2009 enables visitors to understand the geographical and geological context to the Property. This complements the comprehensive high quality interpretation and educational service provided by the ten Ironbridge Museums and the Ironbridge Institute.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Maritime Greenwich UK

Date of Inscription	1997
Approved Statement of Significance	2008
Date of draft SOUV	2011

The following factual corrections have been made:

In paragraph 2 "St Alfege"

In paragraph 6 "John Flamsteed the first Astronomer Royal"

Brief Synthesis 2011

Symmetrically arranged alongside the River Thames, the ensemble of the 17th Queen's House, part of the last Royal Palace at Greenwich, the palatial Baroque complex of the Royal Hospital for Seamen, and the Royal Observatory founded in 1675 and surrounded by the Royal Park laid out in the 1660s by André Le Nôtre, reflects two centuries of Royal patronage and represents a high point of the work of the architects Inigo Jones and Christopher Wren, and more widely European architecture at an important stage in its evolution. It also symbolises English artistic and scientific endeavour in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Greenwich town, which grew up at the gates of the Royal Palace, provides, with its villas and formal stuccoed terraces set around Nicholas Hawksmoor's St Alfege's church, a setting and approach for the main ensemble.

Inigo Jones' Queen's House as the first Palladian building in Britain was also the direct inspiration for classical houses and villas all over the country in the two centuries after it was built.

The Royal Hospital, laid out to a master plan developed by Christopher Wren and built over many decades by him and other leading architects, including Nicholas Hawksmoor, is among the most outstanding group of Baroque buildings in England.

The Royal Park is a masterpiece of the application by André Le Nôtre of symmetrical landscape design to irregular terrain.

The Royal Observatory's astronomical work, particularly of the scientist Robert Hooke, and John Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal, permitted the accurate measurement of the earth's movement and also contributed to the development of global navigation. The Observatory is now the base-line for the world's time zone system and for the measurement of longitude around the globe.

Criterion (i): *represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;*

The public and private buildings and the Royal Park at Greenwich form an exceptional ensemble that bears witness to human artistic and creative endeavour of the highest quality

Criterion (ii): *exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;*

Maritime Greenwich bears witness to European architecture at an important stage of its evolution, exemplified by the work of great architects such as Inigo Jones and Christopher Wren who, inspired by developments on the continent of Europe, each shaped the architectural development of subsequent generations, while the Park exemplifies the interaction of man and nature over two centuries.

Criterion (iv): *be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;*

The Palace, Royal Naval College and Royal Park demonstrate the power, patronage and influence of the Crown in the 17th and 18th centuries and its illustration through the ability to plan and integrate culture and nature into a harmonious whole

Criterion (vi): *be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.*

Greenwich is associated with outstanding architectural and artistic achievements as well as with scientific endeavour of the highest quality through the development of navigation and astronomy at the Royal Observatory, leading to the establishment of the Greenwich Meridian and Greenwich Mean Time as world standards.

Authenticity 2011

The ensemble of buildings and landscapes that comprise the Property preserve a remarkably high degree of authenticity.

The Old Royal Naval College complex, in particular the Painted Hall and Chapel, retains well its original form, design and materials. The Royal Observatory retains its original machinery and its associations with astronomical work. The management of the Old Royal Naval College as a single entity now allows for coordinated conservation of the buildings and surrounding spaces. The Observatory, Queen's House and its associated high quality 19th century buildings are all managed as elements of the National Maritime Museum.

The landscape of the Royal Park retains its planned form and design to a degree with some ancient trees still surviving.

The stuccoed slate roofed terraces of the town that form the approach to the formal buildings and the Park retain their function as a commercial and residential centre. The coherence and conservation of buildings within the town is good although there is a need for some refurbishment and to repair the urban pattern within the Property, where disrupted by World War II bombing and subsequent reinstatement.

Integrity 2011

The boundary of the Property encompasses the Old Royal Naval College, the Queen's House, Observatory, the Royal Park and buildings which fringe it and the town centre buildings that form

the approach to the formal ensemble. The boundary includes all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.

The main threats facing the Property are from development pressures within the town that could impact adversely on its urban grain and from tall buildings, in the setting, which have the potential to impact adversely on visual integrity.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The UK Government protects World Heritage Sites in England in two ways. Firstly individual buildings, monuments, gardens and landscapes are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act and secondly through the UK Spatial Planning system under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts.

National guidance on protecting the Historic Environment (Planning Policy Statement 5) and World Heritage (Circular 07/09) and accompanying explanatory guidance has been recently published by Government. Policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance World Heritage Sites, their settings and buffer zones can be found in statutory planning documents.

The London Spatial Strategy contains policies to protect the historic environment and World Heritage Sites in particular and the London View Management Framework Supplementary Planning Document 2010 affords protection for key views of the Property. The London Borough of Greenwich Unitary Development Plan contains guidance to protect and promote the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage which have been saved and will remain in place until the UDP is replaced by the emerging LDF. There are also policies included in the current statutory plans for the neighbouring London Boroughs of Lewisham and Tower Hamlets."

All UK World Heritage Sites are required to have Management Plans which set out the OUV and the measures in place to ensure it is conserved, protected, promoted and enhanced. Relevant policies carry weight in the planning system.

The Property is protected by a variety of statutory designations; the hospital, Queen's House and observatory buildings are Grade 1 listed buildings together with statues, railings and other buildings of all grades and the surrounding residential buildings of Greenwich town centre lie within a Conservation Area. There are a number of scheduled monuments in the Park which is itself a Grade 1 registered park and garden and elements of the park are considered important for nature conservation. It is easily accessed by public transport including river bus.

The Royal Park is owned, managed and administered by The Royal Parks, a Crown agency. The Queen's House and associated 19th century buildings and the Royal Observatory is in the custodianship of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum. , is well used by visitors for recreational activities and provides the access route from the National Maritime Museum and Greenwich Town centre up to Rangers House and the Royal Observatory. All elements are in a good state of conservation. The Old Royal Naval College is in the freehold of Greenwich Hospital, which remains a Crown Naval charity. The buildings are leased to Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College, also a registered charity whose objectives are to conserve, maintain and interpret the buildings for the public. The Royal Courts are leased to Greenwich University and Trinity College of Music to form the Maritime Greenwich University Campus. Greenwich Foundation also retains and maintains a number of key buildings. Commercial activities in the town centre are coordinated by a town centre manager. The Property is easily accessible

Culture Team

The management of the Property is guided by a Management Plan approved by all the key partners. The second iteration of the Management Plan is now being reviewed. Overall coordination for the whole Property is provided by a World Heritage Site Coordinator who has responsibility through a World Heritage Executive Committee with delivering the Management Plan which is monitored by the World Heritage Site Steering Group. The Steering Group is made up of key local stakeholders and national organisations.

The history, value and significance of the Property is now explained to visitors through Discover Greenwich a recently opened state-of-the-art visitor centre.

The Royal Park, like any designed landscape evolving over time, is vulnerable to erosion of detail and its maintenance and conservation form part of a detailed plan that sets out the design history of the Royal Park, the rationale for its ongoing maintenance and future restoration of the historic landscape in particular for the way avenues and trees. The Royal Park is well loved and used by residents as well as visitors to the Observatory, Old Royal Naval College and the Maritime Museum.

A number of high profile annual events are held within the Royal Park and in 2012, the equestrian Olympic and ParaOlympic events will take place there. For all events appropriate safeguards are put in place to ensure there is no adverse impact on the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, in particular on the Royal Park trees, on underground archaeology or on the surrounding buildings.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

New Lanark UK

Date Inscribed 2001

Date of Draft SOUV 2011

Factual correction:

Criterion (ii) "housing and other facilities for workers"

Brief Synthesis 2011

New Lanark is an exceptional example of a purpose-built 18th century mill village, set in a picturesque Scottish landscape near the Falls of Clyde, where in the early years of the 19th century, the Utopian idealist Robert Owen inspired a model industrial community based on textile production. It was there that Owen first applied his form of benevolent paternalism in industry, building on the altruistic actions of his father-in-law, David Dale. It was there, too, that he formulated his Utopian vision of a society without crime, poverty, and misery. New Lanark prospered under his enlightened management.

The village was founded in 1785, and the cotton mills, powered by water-wheels, were operational from 1786 to 1968. At the turn of the 19th century the mill buildings formed one of the largest industrial groups in the world.

The creation of the model industrial settlement at New Lanark, in which planning and architecture were integrated with a humane concern on the part of the employers for the well-being of the workers, is a milestone in social and industrial history. The moral, social and environmental values which underpinned Robert Owen's work at New Lanark provided the basis for seminal material and intangible developments that have had lasting influences on society over the past two hundred years.

New Lanark is a unique reminder that the creation of wealth does not automatically imply the degradation of its producers. The village offered a cultural response to the challenges presented by industrial society and was the test-bed for ideas that sought to improve the human condition around the world. The nature and layout of New Lanark inspired other benevolent industrialists to follow his example, and this movement laid the foundations for the work of Ebenezer Howard in creating the concept of the Garden City. The social and economic systems that Owen developed were considered radical in his own time but are now widely accepted in modern society.

The imposing mill buildings, the spacious and well designed workers' housing, and the dignified educational institute and school still survive to testify to Owen's humanism.

Criterion (ii): - *Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design.*

When Richard Arkwright's new factory system for textile production was brought to New Lanark

the need to provide housing and other facilities for the workers and managers was recognised. It was there that David Dale and Robert Owen created a model for industrial communities that was to spread across the world in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Criterion (iv): - *Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.*

New Lanark saw the construction not only of well designed and equipped workers' housing but also public buildings and landscaped areas designed to provide for their educational and recreational needs, as well as their physical health and well-being.

Criterion (vi): - *Be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (the Committee considered that this criterion should justify inclusion in the List only in exceptional circumstances and in conjunction with other criteria cultural or natural).*

The name of New Lanark is synonymous with that of Robert Owen. His social philosophy in matters such as progressive education, factory reform, humane working practices, international cooperation, and garden cities, was to have a profound influence on social developments throughout the 19th century and beyond.

Integrity 2011

The appearance of the buildings of the village is now close to that of the early nineteenth century, during Owen's management, based on the physical evidence, archaeology, graphic and written archive material available. In restoring the village to its historic state some later 20th century structures have been removed, so focusing on those elements that contributed to the site's Outstanding Universal Value.

Authenticity 2011

The level of authenticity at New Lanark is high. The process of conservation and rehabilitation has now been in progress for almost half a century, and major projects continue to the present day. The village has remained little changed from its heyday of cotton production in the early nineteenth century. Where elements are missing or have been replaced, the site is clearly interpreted to reflect this. Where rebuilding or reconstruction have been necessary, this has been carried out to the best conservation standards, based on full historic records. Repair and restoration has been undertaken using appropriate traditional materials and workmanship, following original designs wherever possible, and always respecting existing historic fabric. The original weir, lade and waterways which provided water-power to the mills from the 1780s are still in use today.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

World Heritage Sites in Scotland are protected through the following pieces of legislation. The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 provide a framework for local and regional planning policy and act as the principal pieces of primary legislation guiding planning and development in Scotland. Additionally, individual buildings, monuments and areas of special archaeological or historic interest are designated and protected under The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas)(Scotland) Act 1997 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.

Culture Team

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) is the primary policy guidance on the protection and management of the historic environment in Scotland. Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) sits alongside the SHEP and is the Government's national planning policy on the historic environment. It provides for the protection of World Heritage Sites by considering the impact of development on the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity.

The management of New Lanark World Heritage Site is the responsibility of its three main partners; South Lanarkshire Council, Historic Scotland and the New Lanark Trust. The New Lanark Management Plan will be endorsed and strategically overseen by the management partners, who will also assume responsibility for its implementation.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Edinburgh Old and New Town World Heritage Site UK

Date of Inscription	1995
Statement of Significance approved	2008
Date of Draft SOUV	2011

Brief Synthesis 2011

The remarkable juxtaposition of two clearly articulated urban planning phenomena. The contrast between the organic medieval Old Town and the planned Georgian New Town provides a clarity of urban structure unrivalled in Europe. The juxtaposition of these two distinctive townscapes, each of exceptional historic and architectural interest, which are linked across the landscape divide, the "great arena" of Sir Walter Scott's Waverley Valley, by the urban viaduct, North Bridge, and by the Mound, creates the outstanding urban landscape.

The Old Town stretches along a high ridge from the Castle on its dramatically situated rock down to the Palace of Holyrood. Its form reflects the burgh plots of the Canongate, founded as an "abbatial burgh" dependent on the Abbey of Holyrood, and the national tradition of building tall on the narrow "tofts" or plots separated by lanes or "closes" which created some of the world's tallest buildings of their age, the dramatic, robust, and distinctive tenement buildings. It contains many 16th and 17th century merchants' and nobles' houses such as the early 17th century restored mansion house of Gladstone's Land which rises to six storeys, and important early public buildings such as the Canongate Tolbooth and St Giles Cathedral.

The Old Town is characterized by the survival of the little-altered medieval "fishbone" street pattern of narrow closes, wynds, and courts leading off the spine formed by the High Street, the broadest, longest street in the Old Town, with a sense of enclosed space derived from its width, the height of the buildings lining it, and the small scale of any breaks between them.

The New Town, constructed between 1767 and 1890 as a collection of seven new towns on the glacial plain to the north of the Old Town, is framed and articulated by an uncommonly high concentration of planned ensembles of ashlar-faced, world-class, neo-classical buildings, associated with renowned architects, including John and Robert Adam, Sir William Chambers, and William Playfair. Contained and integrated with the townscape are gardens, designed to take full advantage of the topography, while forming an extensive system of private and public open spaces. The New Town is integrated with large green spaces. It covers a very large area, is consistent to an unrivalled degree, and survives virtually intact.

Some of the finest public and commercial monuments of the New-classical revival in Europe survive in the city, reflecting its continuing status as the capital of Scotland since 1437, and a major centre of thought and learning in the 18th century Age of Enlightenment, with its close cultural and political links with mainland Europe.

The successive planned extensions from the first New Town, and the high quality of the architecture, set standards for Scotland and beyond, and exerted a major influence on the development of urban architecture and town planning throughout Europe.

Culture Team

The dramatic topography of the Old Town combined with the planned alignments of key buildings in both the Old and the New Town, results in spectacular views and panoramas and an iconic skyline.

The renewal and revival of the Old Town in the late 19th century, and the adaptation of the distinctive Baronial style of building for use in an urban environment, influenced the development of conservation policies for urban environments.

Edinburgh retains most of its significant buildings and spaces in better condition than most other historic cities of comparable value.

Criterion (ii) - *Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time....on developments in architecture....monumental arts, town planning or landscape design.*

The successive planned extensions of the New Town, and the high quality of its architecture, set standards for Scotland and beyond, and exerted a *major* influence on the development of urban architecture and town planning throughout Europe, in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Criterion (iv) - *Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural ensemble which illustrates a significant stage in human history.*

The Old and New Towns together form a dramatic reflection of significant changes in European urban planning, from the inward looking, defensive walled medieval city of royal palaces, abbeys and organically developed burgh plots in the Old Town, through the expansive formal Enlightenment planning of the 18th and 19th centuries in the New Town, to the 19th century rediscovery and revival of the Old Town with its *adaptation* of a distinctive Baronial style of *architecture in an urban setting*.

Integrity 2011

The property encompasses significant town-planning components, including layout, buildings, open spaces and views, that demonstrate the distinctiveness between the organic growth of the Old Town and the planned terraces and squares of the New Town with the wide landscaped valley between. Overall the property forms a remarkably consistent and coherent entity which has developed and adapted over time. It has largely preserved its skyline and extensive views in and out of the property, although as with any modern, living city these have altered and developed over time, while preserving the key attributes of OUV within the site. The vulnerability of the skyline and the views in and out of the property have been addressed by the introduction of a Skyline Policy.

Authenticity 2011

The level of authenticity in Edinburgh is high. Individually the high quality buildings of all dates have been conserved to a high standard and the layout of streets and squares maintain their intactness. The property also continues to retain its historic role as the administrative and cultural capital of Scotland, while remaining a vibrant economic centre.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

World Heritage Sites in Scotland are protected through the following pieces of legislation. The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006

provide a framework for local and regional planning policy and act as the principal pieces of primary legislation guiding planning and development in Scotland. Additionally, individual buildings, monuments and areas of special archaeological or historic interest are designated and protected under The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas)(Scotland) Act 1997 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. The Old Town, New Town, Dean Village and West End Conservation Areas provide adequate protection by covering the majority of the World Heritage Site, whilst around 75% of buildings within the property are category A, B or C listed buildings.

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) is the primary policy guidance on the protection and management of the historic environment in Scotland. Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) sits alongside the SHEP and includes the Government's national planning policy on the historic environment. It provides for the protection of World Heritage Sites by considering the impact of development on the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity. Local policies specifically protecting the property are contained within The City of Edinburgh Local Plan. A Skyline Policy has also been adopted by City of Edinburgh Council that defines key views across the city with the aim of providing planning control that will safeguard them. This control of tall buildings that might impact on the city centre provides appropriate protection to the setting of the property, safeguarding its world-renown silhouette and views out from the property outwards to such crucial topographic features as Arthur's Seat and the Firth of Forth.

Historic Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council work closely on the management of the property. Edinburgh World Heritage was established in 1999 by the City of Edinburgh Council and Historic Scotland through a merger between the Edinburgh New Town Conservation Committee and the Edinburgh Old Town Renewal Trust. Its role includes coordinating the promotion and management of the property and overseeing the implementation of its Management Plan.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites UK 1986

Date of Inscription	1986
Date of approved Statement of Significance	2008
Date of Daft SOUV	2011

Brief Synthesis 2011

The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site is internationally important for its complexes of outstanding prehistoric monuments. Stonehenge is the most architecturally sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world, while Avebury is the largest in the world. Together with inter-related monuments, and their associated landscapes, they demonstrate Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and mortuary practices resulting from around 2000 years of continuous use and monument building between c. 3700 and 1600 BC. As such they represent a unique embodiment of our collective heritage.

(Statement of Significance 2008)

The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Property is internationally important for its complexes of outstanding prehistoric monuments.

It comprises two areas of chalkland in southern Britain within which complexes of Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and funerary monuments and associated sites were built. Each area contains a focal stone circle and henge and many other major monuments. At Stonehenge these include the Avenue, the Cursuses, Durrington Walls, Woodhenge, and the densest concentration of burial mounds in Britain. At Avebury they include Windmill Hill, the West Kennet Long Barrow, the Sanctuary, Silbury Hill, the West Kennet and Beckhampton Avenues, the West Kennet Palisaded Enclosures, and important barrows.

The World Heritage Property is of Outstanding Universal Value for the following qualities:

Stonehenge is one of the most impressive prehistoric megalithic monuments in the world on account of the sheer size of its megaliths, the sophistication of its concentric plan and architectural design, the shaping of the stones, uniquely using both Wiltshire Sarsen sandstone and Pembroke Bluestone, and the precision with which it was built.

At Avebury, the massive Henge, containing the largest prehistoric stone circle in the world, and Silbury Hill, the largest prehistoric mound in Europe, demonstrate the outstanding engineering skills which were used to create masterpieces of earthen and megalithic architecture.

There is an exceptional survival of prehistoric monuments and sites within the World Heritage Property including settlements, burial grounds, and large constructions of earth and stone. Today, together with their settings, they form landscapes without parallel. These complexes would have been of major significance to those who created them, as is apparent by the huge investment of time and effort they represent. They provide an insight into the mortuary and ceremonial practices of the period, and are evidence of prehistoric technology, architecture and astronomy.

The careful siting of monuments in relation to the landscape helps us to further understand the Neolithic and Bronze Age.

Criterion (i): *Represent a unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of human creative genius.*

The monuments of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Property demonstrate outstanding creative and technological achievements in prehistoric times.

Stonehenge is the most architecturally sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world. It is unrivalled in its design and unique engineering, featuring huge horizontal stone lintels capping the outer circle and the trilithons, locked together by carefully shaped joints. It is distinguished by the unique use of two different kinds of stones (Bluestones and Sarsens), their size (the largest weighing over 40t) and the distance they were transported (up to 240km). The sheer scale of some of the surrounding monuments is also remarkable: the Stonehenge Cursus and the Avenue are both about 3km long, while Durrington Walls is the largest known henge in Britain, around 500m in diameter, demonstrating the ability of prehistoric peoples to conceive, design and construct features of great size and complexity.

Avebury prehistoric stone circle is the largest in the world. The encircling henge consists of a huge bank and ditch 1.3km in circumference, within which 180 local, unshaped standing stones formed the large outer and two smaller inner circles. Leading from two of its four entrances, the West Kennet and Beckhampton Avenues of parallel standing stones still connect it with other monuments in the landscape. Another outstanding monument, Silbury Hill, is the largest prehistoric mound in Europe. Built around 2400 BC, it stands 39.5m high and comprises half a million tonnes of chalk. The purpose of this imposing, skilfully engineered monument remains obscure.

Criterion (ii): *Have exerted great influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts, or town planning and landscaping.*

The World Heritage Property provides an outstanding illustration of the evolution of monument construction and of the continual use and shaping of the landscape over more than 2000 years, from the early Neolithic to the Bronze Age. The monuments and landscape have had an unwavering influence on architects, artists, historians and archaeologists, and still retain a huge potential for future research.

The megalithic and earthen monuments of the World Heritage Property demonstrate the shaping of the landscape through monument building for around 2000 years from circa 3700 BC, reflecting the importance and wide influence of both areas.

Since the 12th century when Stonehenge was considered one of the wonders of the world by the chroniclers Henry de Huntington and Geoffrey de Monmouth, Stonehenge and Avebury have excited curiosity and been the subject of study and speculation. Since early investigations by John Aubrey, Inigo Jones, and William Stukeley, they have had an unwavering influence on architects, archaeologists, artists and historians. The two parts of the World Heritage Property provide an excellent opportunity for further research.

Today, the Property has spiritual associations for some.

Criterion (iii): *Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.*

The complexes of monuments at Stonehenge and Avebury provide an exceptional insight into the funerary and ceremonial practices in Britain in the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Together with their settings and associated sites, they form landscapes without parallel.

The design, position and inter-relationship of the monuments and sites are evidence of a wealthy and highly organised prehistoric society able to impose its concepts on the environment. An outstanding example is the alignment of the Stonehenge Avenue (probably a processional route) and Stonehenge stone circle on the axis of the midsummer sunrise and midwinter sunset, indicating their ceremonial and astronomical character. At Avebury the length and size of some of the features such as the West Kennet Avenue, which connects the Henge to the Sanctuary over 2km away, are further evidence of this.

A profound insight into the changing mortuary culture of the periods is provided by the use of Stonehenge as a cremation cemetery, by the West Kennet Long Barrow, the largest known Neolithic stone-chambered collective tomb in southern England, and by the hundreds of other burial sites illustrating evolving funerary rites.

Integrity 2011

The boundaries of the Property capture the attributes that together convey Outstanding Universal Value at Stonehenge and Avebury. They contain the major Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments that exemplify the creative genius and technological skills for which the Property is inscribed. The Avebury and Stonehenge landscapes are extensive, both being around 25 square kilometres, and capture the relationship between the monuments as well as their landscape setting.

At Avebury the boundary was extended in 2008 to include East Kennet Long Barrow and Fyfield Down with its extensive Bronze Age field system and naturally occurring Sarsens. At Stonehenge the boundary might be reviewed to consider the possible inclusion of related, significant monuments nearby such as Robin Hood's Ball, a Neolithic causewayed enclosure.

The setting of some key monuments extends beyond the boundary. Provision of buffer zones should be considered to protect the setting of individual monuments and the overall setting of the Property.

The survival of the Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments at both Stonehenge and Avebury is exceptional and remarkable given their age – they were built and used between around 3700 and 1600 BC. Stone and earth monuments retain their original design and materials. The timber structures have disappeared but postholes indicate their location. Monuments have been regularly maintained and repaired as necessary.

The presence of busy main roads going through the World Heritage Property impacts adversely on its integrity. The roads sever the relationship between Stonehenge and its surrounding monuments, notably the A344 which separates the Stone Circle from the Avenue. At Avebury roads cut through some key monuments including the Henge and the West Kennet Avenue. The A4 separates the Sanctuary from its barrow group at Overton Hill. Roads and vehicles also cause damage to the fabric of some monuments while traffic noise and visual intrusion have a negative impact on their settings. The incremental impact of highway-related clutter needs to be carefully managed.

Development pressures are present and require careful management. Impacts from existing intrusive development should be mitigated where possible.

Authenticity 2011

Interventions have been limited mainly to excavations and the re-erection of some fallen or buried stones to their known positions in the early and mid-twentieth century in order to improve understanding. Ploughing, burrowing animals and early excavation have resulted in some losses but what remains is remarkable in its completeness and concentration. The materials and substance of the archaeology supported by the archaeological archives continue to provide an authentic testimony to prehistoric technological and creative achievement.

This survival and the huge potential of buried archaeology make the Property an extremely important resource for archaeological research which continues to uncover new evidence and expand our understanding of prehistory. Present day research has enormously improved our understanding of the Property.

The known principal monuments largely remain in situ and many are still dominant features in the rural landscape. Their form and design are well-preserved and visitors are easily able to appreciate their location, setting and interrelationships which in combination represent landscapes without parallel.

At Stonehenge several monuments have retained their alignment on the Solstice sunrise and sunset, including the Stone Circle, the Avenue, Woodhenge, and the Durrington Walls Southern Circle and its Avenue.

Although the original ceremonial use of the monuments is not known, they retain spiritual significance for some people, and many still gather at both stone circles to celebrate the Solstice and other observations. Stonehenge is known and valued by many more as the most famous prehistoric monument in the world.

There is a need to strengthen understanding of the overall relationship between remains, both buried and standing, at Stonehenge and at Avebury.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The UK Government protects World Heritage Sites in England in two ways. Firstly individual buildings, monuments and landscapes are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act and secondly through the UK Spatial Planning system under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts. The individual sites within the property are protected through the Government's designation of individual buildings, monuments, gardens and landscapes.

National guidance on protecting World Heritage Properties is given in Planning Circular 07/09 on the Protection of World Heritage; while that on the historic environment is contained in Planning Policy Statement 5. Planning Circular 07/09 specifies that policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance World Heritage Properties and their settings and buffer zones should be included in development plans and frameworks at all levels. The protection of the Property and its setting from inappropriate development could be further strengthened through the adoption of a specific Supplementary Planning Document.

At a local level, the Property is protected by the legal designation of all its principal monuments. There is a specific policy in the Local Development Framework to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property from inappropriate development, along with adequate references in relevant strategies and plans at all levels. The Local Planning Authority is responsible for continued protection through policy development and its effective implementation in deciding planning applications with the management plans for Stonehenge and Avebury as a key material consideration. These plans also take into account the range of other values relevant to the Property. Avebury lies within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: a national statutory designation to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the landscape.

About a third of the Property at both Stonehenge and Avebury is owned and managed by conservation bodies: English Heritage, a non-departmental government body, and the National Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds which are both charities. Agri-environment schemes, an example of partnership working between private landowners and Natural England (a non-departmental government body), are very important for protecting and enhancing the setting of prehistoric monuments through measures such as grass restoration and scrub control. Much of the Property can be accessed through public rights of way as well as permissive paths and open access provided by some agri-environment schemes. Managed open access is provided at Solstice. There are a significant number of private households within the Property and local residents therefore have an important role in its stewardship

The Property has effective management plans, coordinators and steering groups at both Stonehenge and Avebury. There is a need for an overall integrated management system for the Property. A review of the current system and governance arrangements should inform any future changes. Research Frameworks have been published for the Property and are regularly reviewed.

An overall visitor management and interpretation strategy, together with a landscape strategy needs to be put in place to optimise access to and understanding of the Property. This can be done through continuing research and landscape level management. This should include improved interpretation for visitors and the local community both on site and in local museums holding collections excavated from the Property as well as through publications and the web.

It is important to maintain and enhance the improvements to monuments achieved through grass restoration and to avoid erosion of earthen monuments and buried archaeology through visitor pressure and burrowing animals.

At the time of inscription the State Party agreed to remove the A344 road to reunite Stonehenge and its Avenue and improve the setting of the Stone Circle. The impact of roads and traffic and the need to improve visitor facilities remain the biggest challenge

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Studley Royal Part including The Ruins of Fountains Abbey

Date of Inscription: 1986
Approved Statement of Significance: 2008
Date of Draft SOUV: 2011

Brief Synthesis

Situated in North Yorkshire, the 18th century designed landscape of Studley Royal water garden and pleasure grounds, including the ruins of Fountains Abbey, is one harmonious whole of buildings, gardens and landscapes. This landscape of exceptional merit and beauty represents over 800 years of human ambition, design and achievement.

Studley Royal is one of the few great 18th century gardens to survive substantially in its original form and is one of the most spectacular water gardens in England. The landscape garden is an outstanding example of the development of the 'English' garden style throughout the 18th century, which influenced the rest of Europe. With the integration of the River Skell into the water gardens and the use of 'borrowed' vistas from the surrounding countryside, the design and layout of the gardens is determined by the form of the natural landscape, rather than being imposed upon it. The garden contains canals, ponds, cascades, lawns and hedges, with elegant garden buildings, gateways and statues. The Aislabies' vision survives substantially in its original form, most famously in the spectacular view of the ruins of Fountains Abbey itself. The Abbey is not only a key eye catcher in the garden scheme but is of outstanding importance in its own right, being one of the few Cistercian houses to survive from the 12th century and providing an unrivalled picture of a great religious house in all its parts.

The remainder of the estate is no less significant. At the west end of the estate is the transitional Elizabethan/Jacobean Fountains Hall, partially built from reclaimed abbey stone and with its distinctive façade, it is an outstanding example of its period. Located in the extensive deer park is St Mary's Church, a masterpiece of High Victorian Gothic architecture, designed by William Burges in 1871 and considered to be one of his finest works.

Statement of Significance (2008)

Studley Royal Park, including the ruins of Fountains Abbey, combines into one harmonious whole buildings, gardens and landscapes constructed over a period of 800 years. All, important in their own right, have been integrated into a continuous landscape of exceptional merit and beauty. Its principal components are:

Studley Royal: one of the few great 18th Century 'green gardens' to survive substantially in its original form: arguably the most spectacular water garden in England. The landscape garden is an outstanding example of the development of the 'English' garden style throughout the 18th century, which influenced the rest of Europe. The garden contains canals and ponds, cascades, lawns and hedges, with elegant temples and statues used as eye-catchers. The layout of the gardens is determined by the form of the natural landscape, rather than a design that is imposed upon it. The Aislabies' design survives substantially in its original form.

Fountains Abbey ruins: a key element in the garden scheme, providing the spectacular culmination to the principal vista, but also of outstanding importance in its own right. It is one of the few Cistercian houses surviving from the 12th Century and provides an unrivalled picture of a great religious house in all its parts. Fountains Abbey, founded in 1132, soon became one of the largest and richest Cistercian abbeys in Britain, before being closed by Henry VIII in 1539 during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. It was partially demolished soon after.

Jacobean Fountains Hall: an outstanding example of a building of its period and partially built with stone from the Abbey. It has a distinctive Elizabethan facade and is enhanced by a formal garden with shaped hedges. The interior of the Hall has been adapted for successive uses, including a courthouse.

St. Mary's Church: an outstanding example of High Victorian Gothic architecture by one of its leading exponents, William Burges, in 1871, and considered to be one of his finest works. A building of importance in its own right, it has also been successfully integrated into the landscape of the Park. The church is one of a pair: its twin is Christ the Consoler at Skelton-on-Ure. They were both designed by Burges and built using the same craftsmen.

Criterion (i): Studley Royal Park including the ruins of Fountains Abbey owes its originality and striking beauty to the fact that a humanised landscape was created around the largest medieval ruins in the United Kingdom. The use of these features, combined with the planning of the water garden itself, is a true masterpiece of human creative genius.

Criterion (iv): Combining the remains of the richest abbey in England, the Jacobean Fountains Hall, and Burgess's miniature neo-Gothic masterpiece of St Mary's, with the water gardens and deer park into one harmonious whole, Studley Royal Park including the ruins of Fountains Abbey illustrates the power of medieval monasticism, and the taste and wealth of the European upper classes in the 18th century.

Criteria for Inscription

Criterion (i): *represent a unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of human creative genius*

Studley Royal Park, including the ruins of Fountains Abbey owes its originality and striking beauty to the fact that a humanised landscape was created around the largest medieval ruins in the United Kingdom. The use of these features, combined with the planning of the water garden itself, is a true masterpiece of human creative genius.

Criterion (iv): *be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural ensemble which illustrates a significant stage in history*

Combining the remains of the richest abbey in England, the Jacobean Fountains Hall and Burgess miniature neo-Gothic masterpiece of St Mary's, with the water gardens and deer park into one harmonious whole, Studley Royal Park including the ruins of Fountains Abbey illustrates the power of medieval monasticism, and the taste and wealth of the European upper classes in the eighteenth century.

Integrity 2011

The Studley Royal Park was at its most extensive under the ownership of William Aislabie in the latter part of the 18th century. It is one of the few great 18th century gardens to survive

substantially in its original form. The landscape design has been little altered by subsequent owners, who mainly respected and only modestly enhanced the original designs by their additions. However, many landscape features disappeared and the maintained part of the gardens contracted due to lack of maintenance. A number of decaying buildings and landscape features from the late 18th century were also removed and parts of the estate were sold into different ownerships. Despite the changes to the estate, the attributes which express the Outstanding Universal Value remain intact and are still evident today. The integrity and authenticity of the ruins of Fountains Abbey is high as is that of St Mary's Church and Fountain's Hall.

The World Heritage Site boundary largely follows the area in National Trust ownership rather than the extent of the historic estate. Therefore some important elements of the designed landscape lie outside the World Heritage Site boundary and may be vulnerable to change. The proposed buffer zone, arising out of the Management Plan process, would protect the integrity of the wider historic estate. World Heritage Committee approval is required for any proposed changes to the World Heritage Site boundary and any buffer zone.

Authenticity 2011

The property as a whole has high authenticity in terms of form and design, materials, function, location and setting of features of the great 18th century designed landscape. However, in common with many other cultural sites, particularly those that develop in an organic way such as parks and gardens, both the fabric and design of the landscape at Studley Royal have been continually altered, first throughout the period of inception (up to c. 1781) and thereafter by a mixed process of maturity, modification, aging and decline. Natural growth, impact of climatic events and development can have both positive and negative impacts on the landscape, as can later design interventions and alterations to its physical fabric.

The National Trust manages the site in partnership with English Heritage. Both these organisations place a high priority on retaining the authenticity of the gardens and historic features. However, there have been numerous conservation interventions since inscription which were necessary to ensure the Outstanding Universal Value of the property was maintained. Conservation works in the garden, to the many garden buildings and to the Abbey and other buildings have adhered to good conservation practice and have been thoroughly researched and documented. Fountains Hall, Porter's Lodge and the Cistercian Water Mill have been sensitively reused to enhance visitor enjoyment of the site. The water garden has been affected by climatic events, such as flooding, and pragmatic modifications, such as the use of modern engineering technology, has enabled conservation of the water garden design.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The UK Government protects World Heritage Sites in England in two ways. Firstly individual buildings, monuments, gardens and landscapes are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act and secondly through the UK Spatial Planning system under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

National guidance on protecting the Historic Environment (Planning Policy Statement 5) and World Heritage (Circular 07/09) and accompanying explanatory guidance has been recently published by Government. Policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance World Heritage Sites, their settings and buffer zones can be found in regional plans and in local authority plans and frameworks. World Heritage status is a key material consideration when planning

applications are considered by the Local Authority planning authority. The Harrogate Borough Council Local Development Framework contains policies to protect the Property.

Since 1983, the Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Estate has been owned and managed by the National Trust in partnership with English Heritage. English Heritage is responsible for conservation of the abbey under a guardianship agreement. St Mary's Church is owned by the State and managed by the National Trust under a local management agreement. Whilst currently not within the World Heritage Site boundary later land additions to the National Trust estate hold significant historical features that had become isolated, including the Swanley Grange part of the monastic grange complex and How Hill, a scheduled monument, which also contains one of John Aislabie's earliest 18th century eye catchers.

There are a range of statutory and non-statutory designations on the property. Fifty four buildings and structures on the site have been listed under the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990 as buildings of special architectural and historical interest. The abbey and its surrounds is a scheduled monument. The whole site is Grade 1 on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens in England. The majority of the site also lies within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Detailed protection of the site is also provided by Harrogate Borough Council's Local Development Framework. A proposal arising out of the Management Plan is being progressed to create a buffer zone to protect the setting of the World Heritage Site. Additional non-statutory protection is afforded by the Nidderdale AONB Management Plan, the Environment Agency's Catchment Flood Management Plans and Harrogate Borough Council's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation designation.

Protection of the estate's artefacts and chattels collection is currently provided by various agencies. Other than the Trust, the main repositories are English Heritage and North Yorkshire County Council.

The World Heritage Site Management Plan for Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal has been recently reviewed and updated. A wide audience was involved in developing the Plan. The key priorities set out in the plan include the restoration of the garden and parkland, production of a Conservation Management Plan, protecting the setting of the World Heritage Site through a buffer zone, water management and adapting to climate change, promoting sustainable management, improving environmental performance, engaging people and partnership working.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Tower of London UK

Date of Inscription	1988
Approved Statement of Significance	2008
Date of Draft SOUV	2011

Brief Synthesis 2011

The Tower of London is an internationally famous monument and one of England's most iconic structures. William the Conqueror built the White Tower as a demonstration of Norman power, siting it strategically on the River Thames to act as both fortress and gateway to the capital: it is the most complete example of an 11th century fortress palace remaining in Europe. A rare survival of a continuously developing ensemble of royal buildings, from the 11th to 16th centuries, the Tower of London has become one of the symbols of royalty. It also fostered the development of several of England's major State institutions, incorporating such fundamental roles as the nation's defence, its record-keeping and its coinage. It has been the setting for key historical events in European history, including the execution of three English queens.

The Tower of London has Outstanding Universal Value for the following cultural qualities:

Its landmark siting, for both protection and control of the City of London: As the gateway to the capital, the Tower was in effect the gateway to the new Norman kingdom. Sited strategically at a bend in the River Thames, it has been a crucial demarcation point between the power of the developing City of London, and the power of the monarchy. It had the dual role of providing protection for the City through its defensive structure and the provision of a garrison, and of also controlling the citizens by the same means. The Tower literally 'towered' over its surroundings until the 19th century.

As a symbol of Norman power: The Tower of London was built as a demonstration of Norman power. The Tower represents more than any other structure the far-reaching significance of the mid-11th century Norman Conquest of England, for the impact it had on fostering closer ties with Europe, on English language and culture, and in creating one of the most powerful monarchies in Europe. The Tower has an iconic role as reflecting the last military conquest of England.

As an outstanding example of late 11th century innovative Norman military architecture: As the most complete survival of an 11th-century fortress palace remaining in Europe, the White Tower, and its later 13th and 14th century additions, belong to a series of edifices which were at the cutting edge of military building technology internationally. They represent the apogee of a type of sophisticated castle design, which originated in Normandy and spread through Norman lands to England and Wales.

As a model example of a medieval fortress palace which evolved from the 11th to 16th centuries: The additions of Henry III and Edward I, and particularly the highly innovative development of the palace within the fortress, made the Tower into one of the most innovative and influential castle sites in Europe in the 13th and early 14th centuries, and much of their work survives. Palace buildings were added to the royal complex right up until the 16th century, although few now stand above ground. The survival of palace buildings at the Tower allows a rare glimpse into the life of a medieval monarch within their fortress walls. The Tower of London is a rare survival of a

continuously developing ensemble of royal buildings, evolving from the 11th to the 16th centuries, and as such has great significance nationally and internationally.

For its association with State Institutions: The continuous use of the Tower by successive monarchs fostered the development of several major State Institutions. These incorporated such fundamental roles as the nation's defence, its records, and its coinage. From the late 13th century, the Tower was a major repository for official documents, and precious goods owned by the Crown. The presence of the Crown Jewels, kept at the Tower since the 17th century, is a reminder of the fortress's role as a repository for the Royal Wardrobe.

As the setting for key historical events in European history: The Tower has been the setting for some of the most momentous events in European and British History. Its role as a stage upon which history is enacted is one of the key elements which have contributed towards the Tower's status as an iconic structure. Arguably the most important building of the Norman Conquest, the White Tower symbolised the might and longevity of the new order. The imprisonment in the Tower of Edward V and his younger brother in the 15th century, and then, in the 16th century, four English queens, three of them executed on Tower Green – Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and Jane Grey – with only Elizabeth I, then Princess Elizabeth, escaping, shaped English history. The Tower also helped shape the story of the Reformation in England, as both Catholic and Protestant prisoners (those that survived) recorded their experiences and helped define the Tower as a place of torture and execution.

Criterion (ii); *Have exerted great influence over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts or town planning and landscaping*

A monument symbolic of royal power since the time of William the Conqueror, the Tower of London served as an outstanding model throughout the kingdom from the end of the 11th century. Like it, many keeps were built in stone, e.g. Colchester, Rochester, Hedingham, Norwich or Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight.

Criterion (iv); *Be an outstanding example of a type or building or architectural ensemble which illustrates a significant stage in history*

The White Tower is the example par excellence of the royal Norman castle in the late 11th century. The ensemble of the Tower of London is a major reference for the history of medieval military architecture.

Integrity 2011

All the key Norman and later buildings, surrounded by their defensive wall and moat, are within the Property boundary. There are few threats to the Property itself, but the areas immediately beyond the moat and the wider setting of the Tower, an ensemble that was created to dominate its surroundings, have been eroded.

The Tower's landmark siting and visual dominance on the edge of the River Thames, and the impression of great height it once gave, all key aspects of its significance, have to some extent been eroded by tall new buildings in the eastern part of the City of London some of which predate inscription. Some of these have to a degree had an adverse impact on the Property's visual integrity.

The Tower's physical relationship to both the River Thames and the City of London, as fortress

and gateway to the capital, and its immediate and wider setting, including long views, will continue to be threatened by proposals for new development that is inappropriate to the context. Such development could limit the ability to perceive the Tower as being slightly apart from the City, or have an adverse impact on its skyline as viewed from the river.

Authenticity 2011

The role of the White Tower as a symbol of Norman power is evident in its massive masonry; and it remains, with limited later change, as both an outstanding example of innovative Norman architecture and the most complete survival of a late 11th century fortress palace remaining in Europe. Much of the work of Henry III and Edward I, whose additions made the Tower into a model example of a concentric medieval fortress in the 13th and early 14th centuries, survives. The Tower's association with the development of State institutions, although no longer evident in the physical fabric, is maintained through tradition, documentary records, interpretative material, and the presence of associated artefacts, for example, armour and weaponry displayed by the Royal Armouries. The Tower also retains in their original relationship the physical elements that provided the stage for key events in European history – the scaffold site, the Prisoners', or Water Gate, the dungeons - even though the wider context, beyond the moat, has changed.

Its form, design and materials remain intact and legible as at the time of inscription, accepting the fact that extensive restoration had been undertaken during the 19th century by Anthony Salvin in a campaign to 're-medievalise' the fortress. The Tower is no longer in use as a fortress, but its fabric still clearly tells the story of how the monument was used and functioned over the centuries. The fabric also continues to demonstrate the traditions and techniques that were involved in its construction. The ability of the Tower to reflect its strategic siting and historic relationship to the City of London is vulnerable to proposals for development that does not respect its context and setting.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The UK Government protects World Heritage Sites in England in two ways. Firstly, monuments, individual buildings and conservation areas are designated under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, and secondly, through the UK Spatial Planning system under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

National planning policy guidance on protecting the historic environment (Planning Policy Statement 5) and World Heritage (Circular 07/09) and accompanying explanatory guidance have been recently published by Government. Policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance World Heritage Sites, their settings and buffer zones, can be found in regional plans and in local authority plans and frameworks.

Regional policy on World Heritage Sites in London is set down in the London Plan (Consolidated with Alterations since 2004), which is under a regular cycle of review. The London View Management Framework (July 2010) provides Supplementary Planning Guidance to the London Plan, including protected view of the Tower of London from the south bank of the River Thames. Locally, the Tower of London falls within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and is adjoined by the City of London and the London Borough of Southwark. Each of these Local Planning Authorities has an adopted Unitary Development Plan containing specific policies relating to the Tower of London. These adopted plans are now being replaced by the authorities' Local Development Frameworks (the Core Strategies of which are either adopted or approaching

adoption), which provide a comprehensive framework of policies concerning the Tower of London.

All UK World Heritage Sites are required to have Management Plans which set out the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the measures in place to ensure it is conserved, protected, promoted and enhanced. Relevant policies in Management Plans carry weight in the UK planning system.

The Tower of London World Heritage Site Management Plan was adopted in 2007. Its implementation is integrated into the activities of Historic Royal Palaces, the independent charity responsible for caring for the Tower of London. The Tower of London World Heritage Site Consultative Committee, a group consisting of on-site partners, local authorities and heritage specialists, monitors implementation and review of the plan and provides a forum for consultation on issues affecting the Tower of London and its environs.

The most significant challenges to the property lie in managing the environs of the Tower of London so as to protect its OUV and setting. At a strategic level, these challenges are recognised in the London Plan and the Boroughs' emerging Local Development Frameworks. These documents set out a framework of policies aimed at conserving, protecting and enhancing the OUV of the Tower and its setting. The challenges are also identified in the World Heritage Site Management Plan, which defines the local setting of the Tower and key views within and from it. Objectives in the Plan to address the challenges are being implemented (for example, through a study of the local setting), although pressures remain significant. Wider views are identified in and protected by the London View Management Framework.

Other challenges include pressures on funding. However, Historic Royal Palaces has put in place robust measures to ensure that the Tower of London is properly protected, interpreted and conserved in accordance with its key charitable objective. These include long-term conservation plans, prioritised and funded according to conservation need, and cyclical maintenance plans. Plans for the visitor experience respond to Historic Royal Palaces' Cause – to help everyone explore the stories of the palaces - and are subject to rigorous evaluation. All plans are regularly monitored and reviewed.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey, and St Margaret's Church (UK) 1987

Date of Inscription	1987
Approved Statement of Significance	2008
Date of Draft SOUV	2011

The following factual corrections have been made with replacements being underlined here for ease of reference:

Paragraph 4 "and the inspiration for the work of Barry and Pugin" with for replacing of"

Paragraph 7 "The church of St Margaret, a charming perpendicular style construction, continues to be the parish church of the Palace of Westminster and has been the place of worship of the Speaker and the House of Commons since 1614"

Paragraph 12 "Whether one looks at the royal tombs, the Chapter House, the remarkable vastness of Westminster Hall"

Brief Synthesis 2011

The Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church lie next to the River Thames in the heart of London. With their intricate silhouettes, they have symbolised monarchy, religion and power since Edward the Confessor built his palace and church on Thorney Island in the 11th century AD. Changing through the centuries together they represent the journey from a feudal society to a modern democracy and show the intertwined history of church, monarchy and state.

The Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church continue in their original functions and play a pivotal role in society and government with the Abbey being the place where monarchs are crowned, married and buried. It is also a focus for national memorials of those who have served their country whether prominent individuals or representatives such as the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Abbey, a place of worship for over 1000 years, maintains the daily cycle of worship as well as major national celebrations and cultural events. The Palace of Westminster continues to be the seat of Parliament.

The iconic silhouette of the ensemble is an intrinsic part of its identity recognised internationally with the sound of Big Ben being broadcast regularly around the world.

(Statement of Significance 2008)

Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey, and St Margaret's Church together encapsulate the history of one of the most ancient of parliamentary monarchies of present times and the growth of parliamentary and constitutional institutions.

In tangible form Westminster Abbey is a striking succession of the successive phases of English Gothic art and the inspiration for the work of Barry and Pugin on the Palace of Westminster.

The Palace of Westminster illustrates in colossal form the grandeur of constitutional monarchy and the principle of the bicameral parliamentary system, as envisaged in the 19th century, constructed by English architectural reference to show the national character of the monument.

The Palace is one of the most significant monuments of neo-Gothic architecture, as an outstanding, coherent and complete example of neo-Gothic style. Westminster Hall is a key monument of the Perpendicular style and its admirable oak roof is one of the greatest achievements of medieval construction in wood. Westminster is a place in which great historical events have taken place which have shaped the English and British nation.

The church of St Margaret, a charming perpendicular style construction, continues to be the parish church of the Palace of Westminster and has been the place of worship of the Speaker and the House of Commons since 1614 and is an integral part of the complex.

Criterion (i): *Represent a unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of human creative genius*

Westminster Abbey is a unique artistic construction representing a striking sequence of the successive phases of English Gothic art.

Criterion (ii): *Have exerted great influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts, or town planning and landscaping*

Other than its influence on English architecture during the Middle Ages, the Abbey has played another leading role by influencing the work of Charles Barry and Augustus Welby Pugin in Westminster Palace, in the "Gothic Revival" of the 19th century.

Criterion (iv): *Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural ensemble which illustrates a significant stage in history*

The Abbey, the Palace, and St Margaret's illustrate in a concrete way the specificities of parliamentary monarchy over a period of time as long as nine centuries. Whether one looks at the royal tombs, the Chapter House, the remarkable vastness of Westminster Hall, of the House of Lords, or of the House of Commons, art is everywhere present and harmonious, making a veritable museum of the history of the United Kingdom.

Integrity 2011

The Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's church, which together make up the Property, represent the intertwined history of monarchy, church and state and the journey from medieval feudalism to a system of modern universal democracy. The Property contains the key attributes necessary to convey its Outstanding Universal Value. In 2008 a minor boundary modification was approved to join the existing component parts of the Property into a single ensemble, by including the portion of the road which separated them. There are associated attributes outside the boundary which could be considered for inclusion in the future.

The instantly recognisable location and setting of the Property in the centre of London, next to the River Thames, are an important part of the Property's visual integrity. This place h

as been a centre of government and religion since the days of King Edward the Confessor in the 11th century and its historical importance is emphasised by the buildings' size and dominance. Their intricate architectural form can be appreciated against the sky and make a unique contribution to the London skyline.

The distinctive skyline is still prominent despite the presence of a few tall buildings as part of the Property's. The most prominent of these – Millbank Tower and to some extent Centre Point, now protected in their own right – were both extant at the time of inscription. However the visual integrity of the Property is vulnerable to development projects for tall buildings. Work is underway to examine whether a buffer zone is required to ensure that the skyline of the Property and its overall prominence is sustained, and key views in and out of the property need to be protected.

The buildings are all in their original use and are well maintained to a high standard. There has been little change to the buildings since the time of inscription although external repairs continue and security measures have been installed at the Palace of Westminster to protect against attacks.

The heavy volume of traffic in the roads around the property does impact to a degree on its internal coherence.

Authenticity 2011

The power and dominance of state religion, monarchy and the parliamentary system is represented tangibly by the location of the buildings in the heart of London next to the River Thames, by the size of the buildings, their intricate architectural design and embellishment and the high quality materials used. The Palace of Westminster, the clock tower and "Big Ben's" distinctive sound have become internationally recognised symbols of Britain and democracy. All the buildings maintain high authenticity in their materials and substance and in their Form and design.

The property maintains its historic uses and functions completely. The Gothic Westminster Abbey, a working church, continues to be used as a place of daily worship. It remains the Coronation church of the nation and there are frequent services to mark national significant events as well as royal weddings and funerals and for great national services. Many great British writers, artists, politicians and scientists are also buried or memorialised here. The Palace of Westminster continues to be used as the seat of the UK's two-chamber system of democracy. St Margaret's church, now part of Westminster Abbey, remains at heart a medieval parish church ministering to Members of both Houses of Parliament.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The UK Government protects World Heritage Sites in England in two ways. Firstly individual buildings, monuments and landscapes are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act and secondly through the UK Spatial Planning system under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts. The individual sites within the property are protected as Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

National guidance on protecting the Historic Environment (Planning Policy Statement 5) and World Heritage (Circular 07/09) and accompanying explanatory guidance has been recently

published by Government. Policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance World Heritage Properties, their settings and buffer zones, where appropriate, can be found in statutory planning documents.

The Greater London Authority's London Plan 2008 provides a strategic social, economic and environmental framework for London and its future development and this contains policies to protect and enhance the historic environment in general and World Heritage Sites in particular. The Plan is regularly reviewed and a Replacement Plan is due to be published in autumn 2011. The London View Management Framework Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has been published by the Greater London Authority to protect important designated views many of which focus on the Westminster World Heritage Site. A new view focusing on views from Parliament Square is proposed.

The City of Westminster also has policies in its Core Strategy to protect the historic environment generally and the Property specifically. A recent conservation area audit identifies key local views and important buildings. The Palace of Westminster has drawn up a Conservation Plan for the Palace of Westminster. One of the adjacent boroughs – Lambeth – has a policy in its Core Strategy to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property and its Setting.

All UK World Heritage Sites are required to have Management Plans which set out the OUV and the measures in place to ensure it is conserved, protected, promoted and enhanced. Relevant policies carry weight in the planning system. World Heritage Sites should have Steering Groups which are made up of key local stakeholders who oversee monitoring, implementation and review of the Management Plans. The Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan was published by the Property's Steering Group in 2007 and implementation of key objectives is underway although there is no coordinator. A Dynamic Visual Impact Study looking at key views associated with the Property is in preparation.

Westminster School can trace its origins back to 1178 and refounded by Queen Elizabeth 1 in 1560. It is located within Little Dean's Yard.

There are continuing pressures for development and regeneration in the area around the Property and this includes proposals for tall buildings which could impact on its visual integrity.

As one of London's most famous sites and a key tourist attraction, the Property receives high numbers of visitors who require proactive management to minimise congestion and careful visitor management to protect the fabric and setting of the Property. The protection and enhancement of the public realm and better traffic management, particularly in the quiet spaces adjacent to the Property are also important in protecting its setting. To address these issues, an overall visitor management strategy and a traffic management strategy are needed together with greater protection of the setting of the Property and its key views.

Any amendments to extend the boundary or to create a buffer zone will be undertaken as part of the next management plan review in 2012-13.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site UK

Date of Inscription: 1986

Date of Draft SOUV 2011

Brief Synthesis

The Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site is a spectacular area of global earth science interest straddling the north coast of Northern Ireland. It includes sea cliffs, shoreline features and undersea boulder fields. Celebrated in the arts and in science, it has been a visitor attraction for at least 300 years and has come to be regarded as a symbol for Northern Ireland.

The site's accessible array of curious geological exposures and polygonal columnar formations formed over 60 million years ago, make it a 'classic locality' for the study of Palaeogene (formerly referred to as Tertiary) basalts. The Giant's Causeway site, and in particular the strata exposed in the cliff faces, have been key to shaping the understanding of the sequences of activity in the Earth's geological history.

Criterion viii (formerly 1986 natural criterion i): *be outstanding examples representing the major stages of the earth's evolutionary history;*

The geological activity of the Tertiary era is clearly illustrated by the succession of the lava flows and interbasaltic beds which are in evidence on the Causeway Coast. Interpretation of the succession has allowed a detailed analysis of Tertiary events in the North Atlantic. The extremely regular columnar jointing of the Tholeiitic basalts is a spectacular feature which is displayed in exemplary fashion at the Giant's Causeway. The Causeway itself is a unique formation and a superlative horizontal section through columnar basalt lavas

Criterion vii (formerly 1986 natural criterion iii): *contain superlative natural phenomena, formations or features, for instance, outstanding examples of the most important ecosystems, areas of exceptional natural beauty or exceptional combinations of natural and cultural elements;*

The cliff exposures of columnar and massive basalt at the edge of the Antrim Plateau present a spectacle of exceptional natural beauty. The extent of visible rock sections and the quality of the exposed columns in the cliff and on the Causeway combine to present an array of features of considerable significance.

Integrity 2011

In 1986, IUCN identified the key attributes of the Property which conveyed the Outstanding Universal Value, assessed the integrity of these attributes and confirmed that the Property met the criteria for inscription. It also evaluated the site in comparison with other sites in different parts of the world offering similar natural formations.

The Site's integrity has not been compromised since inscription. The cliff exposures and causeway

stones, which are held to be the key attributes, are protected by ownership in perpetuity by The National Trust. The removal of 'souvenir' stones from the Causeway, which occurred before the Site was protected, has long since ceased.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The UK Government protects World Heritage Sites and their settings under the spatial planning system through a hierarchy of regional and local policies and plans. Strategic plans 'protect the World Heritage Site of the Giant's Causeway...respecting and protecting its setting, conserving its physical features, managing change, and controlling access and tourism impacts in a sensitive way'. The surrounding Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) provides the Site with additional incidental policy protection. Planning Policy Statement 6 Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage provides recognition of WHSs and their settings in Area Development plans.

There is a presumption in favour of the preservation of the Property. Within the Site and in the surrounding 'setting' (as defined through the planning system) restrictive policies on development apply, with 'development which would adversely affect such sites or the integrity of their settings ...not permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances.'

Besides the World Heritage inscription, the Property benefits from several other designations for its outstanding conservation interest. Virtually all of the terrestrial area of the WHS falls within the North Antrim Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive (Natura 2000): for this designation, the key feature is the vegetated sea cliffs. Other nature conservation designations contributing to the protection of the area include the Giant's Causeway National Nature Reserve (NNR), and the Giant's Causeway and Dunseverick Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI).

The National Trust holds most of the land in inalienable ownership, with approximately 5% of the Site remaining in private ownership. The Crown Estate is considered the legal owner of all lands between high and low water mark and it has rights over the sea bed within territorial waters. In 2012, the National Trust will open a new world-class visitor centre at the Site, at the same time improving both the visitor experience and the integration of visitor facilities into the landscape.

An update of the World Heritage Site Management Plan (2005-11) is currently being prepared. The drafting of the management plan, and its subsequent implementation, is overseen by a World Heritage Management Group comprising relevant stakeholders. This management framework marries the integrity management requirements for the Property arising from all the various designations with the delivery of a world-class visitor experience.

The Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site Management Plan acknowledges that the continuing effects of natural erosion will gradually alter the cliff exposures, and that path routes (and perhaps even site boundaries) may need to be changed to accommodate the effects of this process. Changes in sea level or an increased frequency of storm events may also, in the future, affect the degree to which the causeway is accessible or visible. The current Management Plan includes monitoring of climate change and erosion.

In summary, the main risks to the Outstanding Universal Value of this WHS are through :attrition of natural features through natural processes such as cliff erosion or sea level change and monitoring of erosion events is ongoing; through damage to natural features through human impact and this is mitigated by legal control and management by the National Trust and by

Culture Team

damage to the setting through human impact through inappropriate development or land use and this is mitigated through legal and spatial planning control measures.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal value

St Kilda

Date of Inscription	1986
Date of Draft SOUV	2011

Brief synthesis 2011

The tiny archipelago of St Kilda is breathtaking. Formed from the rim of an ancient volcano associated with the opening up of the North Atlantic some 65-52 million years ago, the intensely dramatic, jagged landscape of towering cliffs – the highest sea cliffs in Europe – and sea stacs, present stark black precipitous faces plunging from steep grass-green slopes in excess of 375m. Scenically every element appears vertical, except the smooth amphitheatre of Village Bay on Hirta with its relict historic landscape. Exposure to some of the greatest wave heights and strongest wind speeds in Europe plays a major role in shaping the coastal ecology.

With nearly one million seabirds present at the height of the breeding season, St Kilda supports the largest seabird colony in the north-east Atlantic, its size and diversity of global significance, making it a seabird sanctuary without parallel in Europe. The very high bird densities that occur in this relatively small area, conditioned by the complex and different ecological niches existing in the site and the productivity of the surrounding sea, make St Kilda unique. Of particular significance are the populations of northern gannet *Morus bassanus*, Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica* and northern fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis*. The sight and sound of these myriad seabirds adds significantly to the scenic value and to the experience of the archipelago during the breeding season.

The islands' isolation has led to two outstanding examples of remote island ecological colonisation and subsequent genetic divergence in the two endemic sub-species, the St Kilda wren *Troglodytes troglodytes hirtensis* and St Kilda fieldmouse *Apodemus sylvaticus hirtensis*. The feral Soay sheep, so much a feature of the landscape, represent an ancient breed, descendents of the most primitive domestic sheep found in Europe. They provide a living testament to the longevity of human occupation of St Kilda and in addition, are a potentially significant genetic resource. The combination of oceanic influences (proximity of deep ocean currents along the continental slope, extreme exposure to waves and oceanic swell, high water clarity) and local geology around the archipelago has created a marine environment of unparalleled richness and colour. The seabed communities are outstanding in terms of biodiversity and composition, including 'northern' and 'southern' species at the extremes of their range. The plunging underwater rock faces are festooned with sea life – a kaleidoscope of colour and form kept in constant motion by the Atlantic swell, creating an underwater landscape of breathtaking beauty. The complex ecological dynamic in the marine environment is essential to maintenance of both the terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

Overlaying the spectacular natural landscape and giving scale to it all, is a rich cultural landscape that bears exceptional testimony to over two millennia¹ of human occupation. The landscape

¹ Recent research indicates that St Kilda has been occupied on and off for over 4000 years, not the 2000 years as believed at the time of inscription

including houses, large enclosures and cleits – unique drystone storage structures found, in their hundreds, across all the islands and stacs within the archipelago - culminates in the surviving remains of the nineteenth and twentieth century cultural landscape of Village Bay. The time depth, preservation and completeness of the physical remains, provides a tangible and powerful link to the islands' past history, its people and their way of life, a distinctive existence, shaped by the St Kildan's response to the peculiar physical and geographic setting of the islands. The islands provide an exceptionally well preserved and documented example of how, even in the most extreme conditions of storm-swept isolated island living, people were able to live for thousands of years from exploiting natural resources and farming. They bear physical witness to a cultural tradition that has now disappeared, namely reliance on seabird products as the main source of livelihood and sustenance, alongside subsistence farming. These age-old traditions and land uses that have so shaped the landscape, have also unquestionably contributed to its aesthetic appeal.

St Kilda represents subsistence economies everywhere – living off the resources of land and sea and changing them over time, until external pressures led to decline, and, in 1930, the evacuation of the islands.

The poignancy of the archipelago's history, and the remarkable fossilised landscape, its outstanding and spectacular natural beauty and heritage, its isolation and remoteness, leave one in awe of nature and of the people that once lived in this spectacular and remarkable place.

Criterion (iii): *bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared*

St Kilda bears exceptional testimony to over two millennia of human occupation in extreme conditions.

Criterion (v): *Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures) or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change*

The cultural landscape of St Kilda is an outstanding example of land use resulting from a type of subsistence economy based on the products of birds, cultivating land and keeping sheep. The cultural landscape reflects age-old traditions and land uses, which have become vulnerable to change particularly after the departure of the islanders.

Criterion (vii): *contain superlative natural phenomena, formations or features for instance, outstanding examples of the most important ecosystems, areas of exceptional natural natural beauty or exceptional combinations of natural and cultural elements (formerly natural iii)*

The scenery of the St Kilda archipelago is particularly superlative and has resulted from its volcanic origin followed by weathering and glaciation to produce a dramatic island landscape. The precipitous cliffs and sea stacks as well as its underwater scenery are concentrated in a compact group that is singularly unique.

Criterion (ix): *be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing geological processes, biological evolution and man's interaction with his natural environment; as distinct from the periods of earth's development, this focuses upon ongoing processes in the development of communities of plants and animals, land forms and marine and freshwater bodies (formerly natural criteria ii)*

St Kilda is unique in the very high bird densities that occur in a relatively small area which is

conditioned by the complex and different ecological niches existing in the site. There is also a complex ecological dynamic in the three marine zones present in the site that is essential to the maintenance of both marine and terrestrial biodiversity.

Criterion (x): *contain the most important and significant natural habitats where threatened species of animals or plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of sciences or conservation still survive (formerly natural criteria iv)*

St Kilda is one of the major sites in the North Atlantic and Europe for seabirds with over 1,000,000 birds using the island. It is particularly important for gannets, puffins and fulmars. The maritime grassland turf and underwater habitats are also significant and an integral element of the total island setting. The feral Soay sheep are also an interesting rare breed of potential genetic resource significance.

Integrity 2011

The islands encompass exemplary and well preserved remains of the distinctive way of life that persisted in this remote area, unaltered after the St Kildans abandoned the islands. They encompass the complete fossilised cultural landscape. The natural heritage of the archipelago is the result of natural processes coupled with its long history of human occupation and, more recently, external human influences. The marine environment is largely intact.

Ownership and stewardship of the archipelago by the National Trust for Scotland; the statutory designations in place; the archipelago's remote location; the difficulty of accessing it and human activities almost entirely centred upon Hirta, have significantly contributed to retaining the integrity of the archipelago's heritage.

However, both natural and cultural attributes are threatened to a degree by a range of remote and local environmental and anthropogenic factors such as climate change and unsustainable tourism. Climatic conditions and coastal erosion remain the main threat to the abandoned houses, cleits and other archaeological remains across the archipelago. Large scale off-shore developments could pose a potential threat to the pristine setting of the islands. Accidental introduction of invasive species poses a significant threat to the natural heritage and probably the most severe potential threat to the integrity of the marine environment comes from variations in the marine ecosystem, especially the plankton, caused by climate change. Lack of strong protection of the marine environment, unsustainable fishing methods and oil spills also pose a threat to the marine environment and seabird colonies.

Authenticity 2011

The challenge for conservation of the cultural landscape is to keep a balance between the principle of minimum intervention and active conservation work necessary to minimise decay, whilst keeping records of all the work that is done. With few exceptions this has meant re-using fallen materials, with little introduction of new materials. Where new materials have necessarily been required these have largely, and as far as possible, been like-for-like replacements. A representative sample of the 1400 cleits is monitored and actively maintained. The modern installations, the radar base and related buildings, associated with the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) operations on Hirta, take up a relatively small footprint, although they do still have an impact on the landscape, as do the coastal defences.

Protection and Management Requirements 2011

The primary legislation that protects the archipelago and surrounding seas and their key attributes are: The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & C.) Regulations 1994, as amended; The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; The Land Reform Act 2003; Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004; The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006; and The Environmental Liability (Scotland) Regulations 2009. The Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) sets out the primary policy guidance on the protection and management of the historic environment in Scotland.

The archipelago and surrounding seas are protected by a number of national and international designations, both statutory and non statutory. For the natural environment the property is designated as a Special Area of Conservation; Special Protection Area; National Nature Reserve; Site of Special Scientific Interest; National Scenic Area; Marine Consultation Area and Geological Conservation Review Site. For the cultural environment, selected areas of Hirta are designated as Scheduled Monuments. These designations are backed up by UK, Scottish and local policies, plans and legislation.

The National Trust for Scotland (NTS), a charity, owns and manages the archipelago of St. Kilda. Management is guided by a Management Plan which is approved by and implementation overseen by the major stakeholders.

Currently the MOD have the only full time presence on the islands, although NTS and other conservation bodies/researchers are there for a significant part of the year. The current management regime is vulnerable to the withdrawal of the MOD and to resource constraints within the Trust.

Management of the cultural heritage will proceed on the basis of the minimum intervention required to sustain the attributes of OUV, underpinned by the recent intensive and systematic archaeological survey of the whole archipelago, carried out by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland. Conservation of the marine environment, at present, lacks the strong protection of the terrestrial heritage and ensuring its greater protection in the future, will be critical. Management of the natural heritage is and will continue to be one of non-intervention, allowing natural processes to take their course, except where a feature of greater heritage significance is under threat.