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World Heritage in the
United Kingdom



**World
Heritage UK**

World Heritage in the UK 2021-22

The following projects are examples of the work undertaken across the UK's UNESCO World Heritage Sites, during the year April 2021 to March 2022.

English Lake District World Heritage Site

A key highlight and achievement for the English Lake District WHS during 2021-22 was the participation in a £8 million **Historic Building Restoration Grant Pilot**. This project is a collaboration project between Natural England, Historic England, Rural Payments Agency and five National Parks, including the Lake District.

The aim of the pilot is to bring life back to **traditional agricultural buildings**, by restoring them for continued agricultural use, using traditional methods and materials, resulting in an enhancement of the landscape for public enjoyment and habitat for wildlife, and for the Lake District, conserving a key element of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), **vernacular farm structures**. Traditional farm buildings are an integral part of the Lake District's working landscape and this scheme recognises the significant heritage value that these buildings have for communities and for World Heritage Site status.



1741 Arklid Bank
Barn, Longsleddale,
with owner farmer
Andrew Sutton

91 expressions of interest from farmers and landowners were initially received. 11 buildings were selected to participate in the pilot scheme. 7 barns have been fully restored at a cost of £¾m with a further 4 due for completion shortly, representing a further £½m investment.

The benefits to the WHS include: repaired properties being reusable; important heritage assets (including listed buildings) continuing to contribute to the Site's OUV; continued support for intangible assets like skills and knowledge used within conservation work; heritage restoration supporting not just heritage but also nature, tourism, construction and economy; and strengthen partnership working. The pilot not only provided important heritage conservation but also provided the foundation for further conservation under the Lake District's Farming in Protected Landscapes project.

Protecting
THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

City of Bath World Heritage Site



The headline achievement for the City of Bath for this period was the successful **inscription of the Great Spa Towns of Europe** nomination at the July 2021 UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The nomination celebrates the unique places created by the spa culture which swept Europe from 1700-1930. For all 11 partners it is the culmination of more than a decade's work in bringing forward the **first transnational serial nomination to contain multiple urban centres**. For Bath it means the City now has two UNESCO World Heritage inscriptions and becomes one of only 22 places worldwide with this accreditation. A new chapter of work now begins in managing this exciting but complex inscription.

A number of long-term major heritage projects also reached completion. These included multi-million pound works at **Bath Abbey**, the **Roman Baths**, **Sydney Gardens**, **Cleveland Pools** and **Prior Park Gardens**. The Bath Abbey scheme stabilised the floor (at risk of subsidence due to a high number of historic burials), provided a first-class performance venue and used overflow thermal water from the adjacent Roman Baths to heat the building. Successful delivery of these (and other) capital schemes throughout the challenging times of Covid lockdowns helps ensure the fabric of the site remains in good condition and is ready to welcome back visitors. In summer 2021 Bath also became the first city outside of London to introduce a '*Clean Air Zone*', which is part of a wider package delivering actions in the Management Plan to reduce the impact of vehicular traffic and address the climate emergency.

Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site

The Cornish Buildings Group (CBG) presents awards for the best in good design in Cornwall, as illustrated through new projects and the conservation of historic buildings.

In 2020 CBG and the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS) commenced an **awards partnership** with the aim to grant special awards to **highlight excellence in new buildings or restorations** that have enhanced the WHS. The WHS is concerned with conserving the Outstanding Universal Value (international importance) of the Site, which dates principally from 1700 to 1914 as the period during which the most significant industrial and social impacts occurred. The ten separate areas of the WHS together form a unified, coherent cultural landscape and share a common identity as part of the overall exploitation of metalliferous minerals here from the 18th to 20th centuries. Both organisations (CBG and WHS) have a shared goal in encouraging sustainable, heritage-led regeneration, both through conservation of historic buildings and the development of high quality, energy-efficient new structures that demonstrate how they take inspiration from our internationally important historic mining landscapes.



Old Chapel at Godolphin Cross has preserved a historic feature relating to the WHS whilst maintaining a defined community use.



Chy Winder received the WHS Best New Building award for the way in which the building blends into the surrounding mining landscape.

Award entrants range from individually owned private dwellings to community use properties. WHS awards encompass Best Conservation of an Historic Building, Best New Building and commendations for Conservation of an Historic Building.

The partnership with the CBG allows the WHS to actively celebrate and promote good design and conservation of historic buildings within the WHS and its setting to a wider audience, encouraging developers to see the value in supporting the Status.

Tower of London World Heritage Site

A key project and highlight for The Tower of London WHS was the Superbloom project.

The **Superbloom project** has transformed the Tower moat in a way not done since the Duke of Wellington completed its draining in 1845. Created to mark the occasion of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, the new landscape will stay permanently, evolving year on year into a new biodiverse habitat for nature and visitors to enjoy.

This ambitious project was conceived by Historic Royal Palaces as a response to marking the Platinum Jubilee, in a tradition set by the Poppies display in 2014. Nearly 3 years of planning, 10,000 metric tonnes of soil, paths and even a slide later, we sowed **20 million seeds** in late March 2022 to create this **spectacular flower display** which ran from June to September. Over the duration of the project nearly 300,000 visitors have been through the moat, and during our peak period we welcomed 30,000 a week. It was a very challenging year to undertake this bold project as we suffered a serious drought, but the visitor income and sponsorship we generated, has meant the majority of the project has paid for itself, and there is significant legacy infrastructure including a new accessible ramp which is here to stay.



Our main collaborators were landscape architects Grant Associates and Horticulturalist Professor Nigel Dunnett who worked as part of a larger team including a range of creative minds from scientists to artists. Between us we brought to life a vision of a new moat landscape in the heart of the City of London. A flat mown grassland of limited biodiversity has been transformed into a thriving and literally buzzing new environment, which is attracting millions of pollinators. The 13th-century moat that was designed to keep people out, is now responding to new threats in the 21st century, to our natural world.

We hope that the iconic Tower of London will act as an inspiration for people and organisations to transform their own green spaces with something as simple as a handful of seeds. One of the outcomes of the project that we are deeply proud of is the collaboration with schools, 1,500 of whom have joined in with the project to grow their own mini superblooms from the Shetland Islands to the Channel Islands. The legacy of the Superbloom project, on the occasion of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, will last for decades, perhaps centuries, as the planting scheme evolves into a sustainable and beautiful new setting for the Tower of London. Providing enjoyment to both visitors and nature for years to come, this is a fitting tribute in such a momentous year.

Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal WHS



In 2021 the National Trust in partnership with Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was successful in a grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for £1.4M to deliver the **Skell Valley Project**. The project is all about finding a sustainable management approach to addressing **challenges to people, nature and heritage** in the Skell Valley in North Yorkshire.

The Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal World Heritage Site (WHS) lies in the Skell Valley in and is one of the most spectacular water gardens in England. At its heart is the river Skell whose natural course was landscaped to create cascades, moon-shaped ponds and lakes. Regular **flooding damages the ruins of Fountains Abbey and the water garden** and the silt deposited in the river threatens the outstanding universal value of the WHS and the river's ecology.

Preparation of the World Heritage Management Plan in 2015 was the initial driver for the project, bringing together Historic England, the Environment Agency, Nidderdale AONB and the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust to look at **management solutions to address the threats to the WHS from flooding and siltation**. Following discussion with partners and communities the aims of the scheme have broadened to address wider challenges around climate change, decline in nature, threats to heritage and the barriers people face to accessing nature and the outdoors.

The Skell Valley Project is made up of 15 individual projects which all fit together to form a clear and ambitious vision for the river and the landscape.

We're currently working with around 15 farmers upstream of the World Heritage Site to deliver **Natural Flood Management (NFM)** measures which are part of the '*Healthy Land Healthy River*' project. These include tree planting, woody debris dams and ponds to slow the flow of water into the river during periods of heavy rainfall and reduce flooding downstream. Many of these NFM measures are good for nature and improve water quality. Funding for these measures is supported by the European Regional Development Fund. We're also looking at ways to connect the farmers upstream to the businesses and people benefiting from the NFM measures downstream.



The project also seeks to empower local communities living and working along the Skell and the city of Ripon to care for the landscape. Our '*Hug an Ancient Tree*' and '*Watery Wildlife*' projects involve local families and school children in recording ancient trees and monitoring the river and its wildlife. The project will be delivered by the 16 organisations that make up the Skell Valley Partnership and aims to provide a sustainable future for the WHS and wider Skell Valley.

Derwent Valley Mills WHS



2021 was an important year for Derby Silk Mill, the southern gateway to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. As well as **celebrating 300 years since the mill was first built** in 1721, the year saw the opening of the new **Museum of Making**, providing a civic focal point to celebrate the area's rich heritage of making and manufacturing and to inspire future generations of makers.

The £17 million redevelopment programme to reinvigorate the Silk Mill site began in October 2016, reinventing the museum for the 21st century, incorporating the principles of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM).

Opening in May 2021, the Museum of Making had welcomed over 52,000 visitors through its doors by the end of the year. In September 2021 the official opening ceremony was performed by the Duke of Devonshire.



The Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill



The Duke of Devonshire opens the Museum of Making with Hannah Fox, Director of Projects and Programmes, Derby Museums. Image: Derby Museums

The Museum has already been recognised for its achievements in the **Constructing Excellence Awards** (East Midlands) where it scooped five awards – Building Project of the Year, Conservation and Regeneration Award, Innovation Award, People Development Award and Winner of Winners Award. Since then, it has also won accolades as the **Project of the Year** (under £20m) in the Construction News Awards and at the National Building Awards as **Refurbishment Project of the Year** (non-office).

The completion of the project ensured delivery of a number of key actions within the 2020-25 management plan for the Derwent Valley Mills WHS, including provision of a Southern Gateway to the World Heritage Site.

Maritime Greenwich WHS



2021-22 saw significant progress in the implementation of a post Covid-19 pandemic recovery initiative in Maritime Greenwich following an estimated loss of £900m tourism spend and a threat to up to 17,000 jobs in the borough. As a result, our visitor economy has recovered well and we are now back at 75% of 2019 levels in terms of tourism value and volume. We have been focussing more on local and domestic markets, demonstrated by a **new events and lighting programme** partly enabled by a successful bid for funding from the GLA's High Streets for All (HSFA)* programme at the turn of the year.

HSFA funding, topped up by Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) funding enabled us to create an inspiring **Festival of Diwali 'Light Up'** at the World Heritage Site to recognise and celebrate our cultural diversity and the 25th anniversary of the inscription of Maritime Greenwich as a World Heritage Site. We plan further events including a "*Luna New Year*" Light Up and other new experiences have been created including; hosting an Alexander McQueen fashion show, return of Museum of the Moon to the Painted Hall at the Old Royal Naval College and a new climbing rig at The Cutty Sark.

The key highlight for Maritime Greenwich this year was undoubtedly the "*Light Up*" based on the popular Hindu Festival of Lights, planned throughout the earlier part of the year as a collaboration between WHS partners organisations including **Old Royal Naval College** and **Royal Museums Greenwich**, and brought to fruition in October. The festival featured a free programme of events – demonstrations, curator talks and tours, family drumming, rangoli and goddess-inspired jewellery-making workshops, incense sampling, sari draping demonstrations, pop up international food markets and a lantern parade culminating in a spectacular light show.

The Old Royal Naval College colonnades and iconic domes were lit and shining beams of light projected into the air and across other classical buildings. Community-sourced film made up of kaleidoscopic '*rangolis*' - a colourful art form originating in the Indian subcontinent - created by local schools, families and other community groups was projected onto the Queen's House along with a show created by Bishi, the singer, electronic rock sitarist, composer and producer. Between 75,000 and 100,000 people from largely local audiences packed into Greenwich Town Centre and along the Thames riverside to enjoy Greenwich's rich and diverse cultural heritage presented in an imaginative and enjoyable way as well as boosting the local economy and raising the profile of Greenwich.

*The High Streets for All Challenge invited local partnerships from every London borough to bring forward and co-design innovative high street recovery strategies and proposals. Each strategy addresses common and local challenges and underpin the public re-imagining of high streets and town centres across London. Strategies can support actions across an entire high street, or focus on an innovative exemplar high street recovery project.

Saltaire World Heritage Site



The Saltaire World Heritage Management Plan incorporates a Delivery Plan which includes an objective (4) to “*Develop, promote and support environmental sustainability across all activities in Saltaire, its immediate setting and Buffer Zone*”. To achieve this objective, the Plan included an action (4.1) to “*develop and implement a sustainable travel plan for the WHS to include travel by residents and visitors*”.

The **travel plan** is a long-term management strategy that seeks to deliver **sustainable transport objectives** through action and articulated in a document that is regularly reviewed. A travel plan involves identifying an appropriate package of measures aimed at **promoting sustainable travel**, with an emphasis on reducing reliance on single occupancy car journeys.

Travel plans can assist in increasing accessibility whilst reducing local air pollution, greenhouse gases and noise. Importantly, in increasing accessibility in a sustainable and efficient way, travel plans are widely recognised for **contributing to economic vitality through transport improvements**, better use of existing capacity, behavioural change and enabling clean and inclusive growth and promoting health and wellbeing.



The **Saltaire Travel Plan** is primarily focused on travel to, from and within the World Heritage Site itself, not its buffer zone. It covers travel by residents, visitors and employees within the World Heritage Site. Alongside the Saltaire Travel Plan there is also a proposal to trial Saltaire as an **Active Travel Neighbourhood (ATN)** as a result of Bradford Council successfully securing £2m from the second tranche of the Active Travel Fund. ATNs are areas where a number of residential side streets are closed to motorised vehicles and other measures introduced to discourage non-local traffic from using these streets to cut through an area. Consultation was launched in July to give local residents, businesses and users of the area to opportunity to identify local traffic issues and have their say on the proposals.

Giant's Causeway WHS

During the year, volunteers have been getting stuck in with marine cleans at the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast UNESCO WHS. Local volunteers have been gathering rubbish from the Causeway's stunning bays and outcrops. Four **marine cleans**, coordinated by Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT), celebrated the 35th anniversary of the site's inscription onto the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Rope, plastic containers, beer bottles, gas canisters and other household and shipping waste have been removed. Sea2It, a local environmental group focused on tackling marine waste, are running the events taking volunteers by boat to the otherwise inaccessible bays.



Nikki Maguire, CCGHT Project Manager, said: *'It is fantastic to see local volunteers tackling the serious issue of marine litter along our coastlines. We have some of the most stunning and internationally significant coasts on the island of Ireland, such as the World Heritage Site, but our wildlife can be harmed by pollution. This rubbish shouldn't be here, everyone needs to take action and play our part in protecting our natural assets.'*

Graham Thompson, CCGHT Chief Executive, added: *'We are delighted to celebrate 35 years of World Heritage Site status for the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast. It has been a privilege to put these events together with partners and volunteers and use this milestone celebration to raise awareness of this issue.'*

