

World Heritage in the UK 2022 – 23

The following projects are examples of the work undertaken across the UK's UNESCO World Heritage Sites, during the year April 2022 to March 2023.

Cornish Mining WHS

The Tavistock Guildhall lies within Area A10 of the **Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site** (CMWHS), specifically 'The Tamar Valley Mining District with Tavistock' and in 2022 was awarded Key Centre status.



The Guildhall is a Grade II* Listed building and has recently undergone extensive renovation to conserve and restore its historic structure and form, thanks to grants from a number of funders including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Tavistock Town Council, and the CMWHS Partnership. The renovations have included an extensive overhaul of the visitor facilities, resulting in a brand-new immersive range of interpretation covering the building and the surrounding areas' mining history, the development of the town, crime and punishment, its connections with Dartmoor and much more. The building has also been upgraded with the addition of lifts and accessible entrances, allowing greater access for all members of the public.

The CMWHS Partnership Board awarded Key Centre status to the Guildhall following an assessment to determine its ability to meet the aims set out within our World Heritage Site interpretation strategy. There are three Key Centres located across the Site - Tavistock Guildhall in the east, Heartlands (or Robinson's Shaft, South Crofty) in the middle and Gevor Mine in the west. The Key Centres are gateways into other Areas of the World Heritage Site and provide information and interpretation to support discovery and understanding by residents and visitors alike. These offer a network of local facilities, features and events that relate to specific or local aspects of mining heritage as well as signposting to the wider Site. The new interpretation and renovations allow the Tavistock Guildhall to tell not only its own fascinating story, but also that of the wider A10 Area of the World Heritage Site and the Areas beyond.

You can learn about Area A10 of the World Heritage Site at [Cornish Mining WHS - Tamar Valley Mining District with Tavistock](#)

The Guildhall opening times and visiting information can be found at <https://tavistockguildhall.org/>

Derwent Valley Mills WHS

At the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdowns in 2020, the **Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site** saw the closure of the Masson Mills working textile museum, and the shopping outlet which helped to sustain it. The owner indicated there were no plans to re-open, and the shopping outlet area was cleared. Thankfully, in 2022 new owners came forward and began work to restore and refresh the museum and buildings.



The new owners already run hydro-electric turbines in the former wheel-pits of the Belper and Milford Mills (and those at Masson as well) so are no strangers to the Derwent Valley Mills or the World Heritage Site, its attributes and the necessary conservation considerations for the buildings. They hope ownership will allow them more opportunity to highlight the benefits and options relating to hydropower, which ties in well to the WHS Statement of OUV and related stories.

Group bookings to the site have begun, with plans for wider public access to follow. As the only textile museum in the WHS with working machinery, Masson provides a significant contribution in conveying through experience the look and feel of the cotton industry in the Derwent Valley.

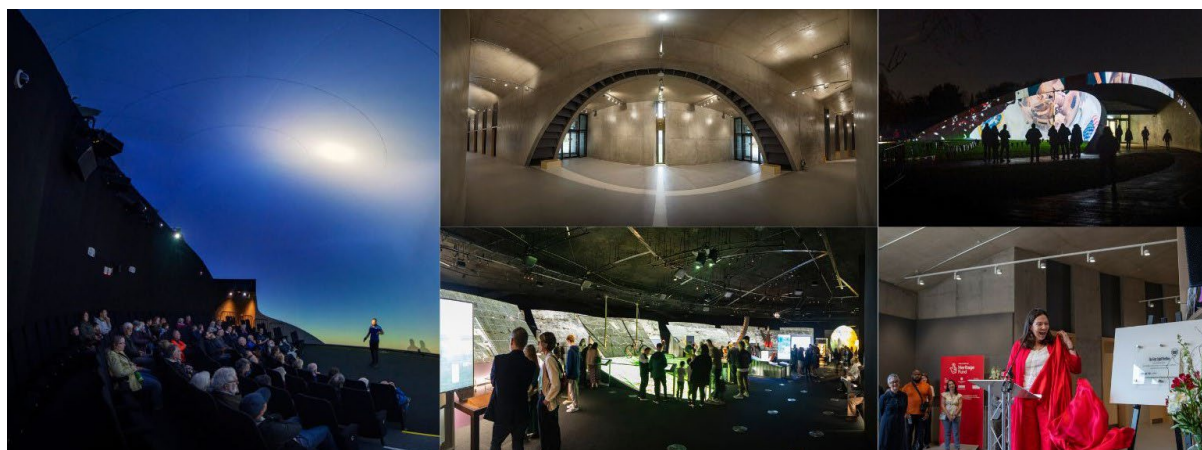
The re-opening and re-use, but retaining the museum and its collection, has ensured a long-term future for one of the key mill sites within the Derwent valley Mills WHS. Although the re-opening doesn't significantly impact on the 2020-25 management plan for the Derwent Valley Mills WHS, as the closure wasn't foreseen before the pandemic, delivery will be more successful now the new ownership has been established.

www.derwentvalleymills.org

Jodrell Bank WHS

2022 was a landmark year for Jodrell Bank, with the opening of our new First Light Pavilion.

This £21.5m development is a new visitor facility, part of our National Lottery Heritage Fund project, First Light at Jodrell Bank. The building is a 76m diameter grass-topped dome that mirrors the shape and scale of the dish of the Lovell Telescope. It has been created to open up the site's inspirational heritage and houses a state-of-the-art permanent exhibition and a 130-seat immersive auditorium. The building also evokes the ancient structures, such as Stonehenge and Newgrange, that allowed our ancestors to mark the movement of the sun throughout the year, emphasising Jodrell's place in a long history of humans looking up at the sky.



Since opening in June (with the official opening on the 21st, the summer solstice) we have welcomed 120,000 public visitors, all experiencing the unique heritage of Jodrell Bank.

With the new building we have relaunched our education and engagement programme, with new events such as the winter solstice extravaganza in December, new artist-led exhibitions and 15,000 school children visiting and taking part in the relaunched school programme.

2022 also saw the return of our bluedot festival after a two-year pandemic hiatus. Over one weekend in July 20,000 visitors came to the site to celebrate science, music and cosmic culture, and were treated to a stellar line up: Music headliners included Björk and The Halle Orchestra, Mogwai, Groove Armada and Metronomy and science headliners included astronaut Tim Peake, Professor Jim Al-Khalili and Professor Brian Cox.

Less intense, but no less enjoyable, we hosted the WHS UK conference here at the Jodrell Bank Centre for Engagement in October. It was a great opportunity for us, WHS UK's newest members, to meet colleagues, engage in lively discussion and really feel part of this sector.

Live science of course continues at the observatory, as the Lovell and other telescopes continue to study the depths of the universe.

www.jodrellbank.net

Photos:

First Light Exterior_2 (c) Andrew Brooks: The First Light Pavilion © Andrew Brooks

Space Dome 2 (c) Andrew Brooks: Planetarium show inside the Space Dome © Andrew Brooks

Exhibition (c) Andrew Brooks: Inside the Story of Jodrell Bank exhibition © Andrew Brooks

26_official opening: Ambassador of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to UNESCO Laura Davies opens the First Light Pavilion on the Summer Solstice 2022 © Andrew Brooks

20_winter solstice: Projections on the First Light Pavilion for the Winter Solstice 2022 © University of Manchester

Durham Castle and Cathedral WHS

Work started on conserving and improving the oldest standing building in Durham City – the 11th century Norman Chapel inside Durham Castle. The project will not only conserve this important building for future generations as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site but will also improve the visitor experience for the thousands of tourists who visit Durham Castle on guided and self-guided tours each year.



Over the last 200 years, the ground levels outside the Chapel have risen making the Chapel accidentally subterranean and as a result water from the soil is causing damage to the sandstone walls. The conservation work ensures that this process is stopped and this important historic building with its many original features is preserved.

The work also includes improvements to the visitor experience with the addition of interpretation and displays in a newly refurbished entrance area of the Chapel. New lighting inside the Chapel highlights the carvings at the top of the pillars, and enable visitors to see more of the detail of the chapel.

The conservation work ensures that the many original features within the Chapel are preserved. These features include sandstone pillars with iron threaded through which gives the appearance of marble, and unique stone carvings at the top of the pillars. These carvings include men, lions, snakes, and even a mermaid. The mermaid is thought to be the earliest depiction of a mermaid in England.

The carving depicting a man with two dogs hunting a stag tells an interesting story. It is thought that this is a representation of St Eustace, who is said to have converted to Christianity when he had a vision of a cross between the horns of a stag he was hunting. Eustace subsequently faced many misfortunes but clung on to his faith. He and his family were later killed by the Emperor Hadrian for refusing to make pagan sacrifices and he became the patron saint of anybody facing adversity.

The Norman Chapel has survived practically intact which is unusual for religious spaces such as this, which were often remodelled to reflect changes in fashion. It is believed that the Chapel probably owes its survival to the fact that there was difficult access to the chapel when Bishop Hatfield

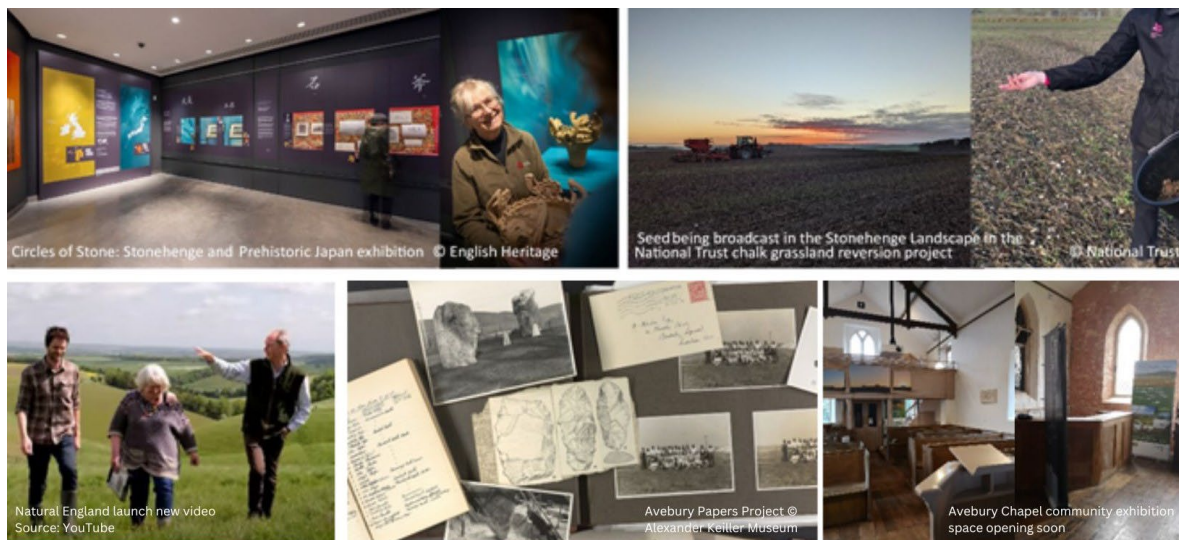
enlarged the Castle Keep in the 14th century, saving this Norman structure from substantial medieval and post-medieval alterations.

The first phase of the project costs £2.6 million with £80k provided by the Wolfson Foundation towards the cost of restoration and interpretation of the Norman Chapel at Durham Castle.

www.durhamworldheritagesite.com

Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites WHS

This year has seen many highlights in World Heritage protection, conservation and management across the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site.



At the Stonehenge visitor centre, English Heritage opened exhibition ‘Circles of Stone: Stonehenge and Prehistoric Japan’ featuring ancient Japanese artefacts – none of which have been displayed in Britain before – including a 5,000 year-old Jomon Flame Pot. Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan were inscribed as a Unesco World Heritage Site in 2021, and the exhibition reveals remarkable parallels between prehistoric cultures 6,000 miles apart.

Martin Allfrey, Senior Curator for English Heritage said: “Exploring what is happening elsewhere in the prehistoric world is key to understanding the significance of Stonehenge. Equally intriguing is the fact that William Gowland’s experience working on archaeological sites in Japan at the end of the 19th century helped him to develop the first scientific study of Stonehenge and to formulate new theories about the building of Stonehenge and its alignment with the sun.”

In response to priority one of the Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Management Plan (2015) to 'Protect Buried archaeology from ploughing and enhance the setting of monuments by maintaining and extending permanent wildlife rich chalk grassland' the National Trust has commenced a new phase of grassland reversion in the Stonehenge landscape. This project secures land use and management change over 168 hectares of land containing 60 archaeological sites, including a substantial part of the Stonehenge Avenue, Coneybury Henge, the Coneybury Anomaly, Neolithic burials and occupation sites, and numerous Bronze Age round barrows which were all under risk of further damage or loss due to ploughing. Using seed harvested from the ancient chalk grasslands of Salisbury Plain, the capital works delivery is now underway to restore this land from intensive arable to species rich chalk grassland - protecting archaeological remains, enhancing the biodiversity and improving access for people.

In Avebury, the National Trust are collaborating with Bournemouth University and the University of York on an ambitious project to analyse and digitise the Alexander Keiller Museum Archive. The Avebury Papers is a four-year research project funded by UKRI and supported by English Heritage, Historic England, and the Archaeology Data Service. Researchers from Bournemouth and York are creating a new catalogue and photographing finds and documents to enable anyone to explore and reuse the Avebury archive anywhere with an internet connection, and are conducting new analysis of the archaeological finds and historical documentation with a focus on the 1930s excavations in the Henge and West Kennet Avenue. This work will shed new light on the origins of Avebury and its changing use over time, as well as tell the 20th century story of the people who made Avebury what we see today - putting the excavations into wider cultural-political contexts. The outputs of the project include a digital archive, and a series of archaeological publications. The digitisation activity is taking place at the museum with the support of 27 National Trust volunteers, and students from Bournemouth and York. Volunteers are supporting the research in a variety of ways, and helping reveal Avebury's many stories. To find out more, visit aveburypapers.org or follow @aveburypapers on Instagram.

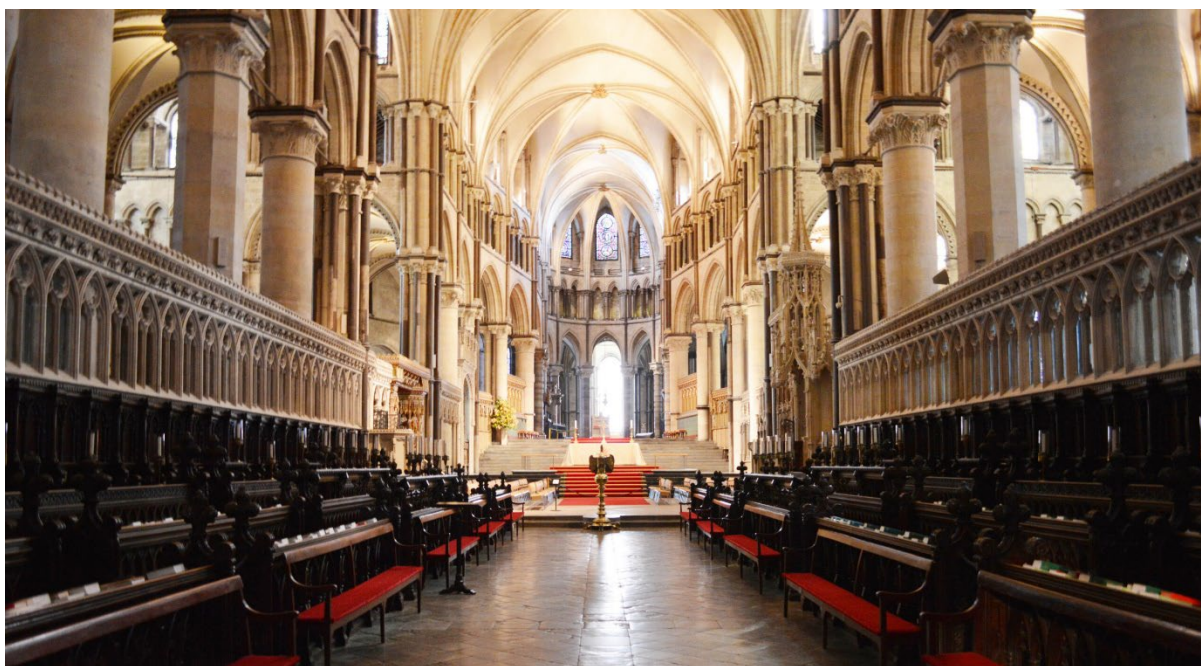
Also at Avebury, the National Trust are celebrating 300 years of William Stukeley with an exhibition in the Avebury Barn and a number of Stukeley-themed activities throughout the summer.

A new community exhibition space is preparing to open in Avebury Village. Leased by Avebury Parish Council, the 18th century chapel hosts talks once a month with 'A Living Landscape' displays by partners including North Wessex Downs AONB and Avebury and Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group (ASAHRG). The Chapel plans to open on weekends over the summer with volunteer support.

To highlight the historic environment and integrated landscape scale environmental outcomes which can be achieved and funded via agri-environment schemes, Natural England has produced a video with a landowner in the Avebury landscape and Historic England. The video demonstrates how agencies work together, how agreements are worked up, the value of advice, and what inspires/ enables farmers/ landowners.

For more information and news from the Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage Site partnership visit www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org or follow @StoneAveWHS on Twitter

Canterbury Cathedral WHS



The Canterbury WHS partnership, with support from Historic England, was able to raise funds to commission a new Management Plan. Purcell's were appointed to write the plan and a first draft has been delivered to the partners for comment. Public consultation events are being planned for the second half of 2023, in partnership with the Canterbury Society, and this will be the first time that the WHS partnership has engaged with the wider Canterbury community for over a decade. We have also started work on developing new governance for the partnership to put it on a stronger footing going forward and to ensure that it will be less impacted by personnel changes at key partners.

www.canterbury-cathedral.org

Birkenhead Park, the pioneering People's Garden (Tentative List site)

2022-23 has been a busy and exciting year for Birkenhead Park. From already being a well-renowned historic British public park, it is now officially a prospective applicant for the UNESCO World Heritage status!



For several years, it has been an ambition of Wirral Council and partners to seek UNESCO's WHS recognition for the Park and its immediate surroundings. Back in 2017, at the initiative of the Friends of Birkenhead Park, a 'World Heritage' Steering Group was constituted to oversee the drafting of a preliminary nomination document. This collaborative exercise helped in fully understanding the

Park's potential OUV and what is uniquely special about the place. The following year, the Council recruited a team to prepare for a potential World Heritage Site nomination journey.

After two years of COVID-19 and associated challenges for the local authority, this long-term aspiration seemed to have become a far-off dream. But in April 2022, while the Park was beginning its 175th anniversary celebrations, the UK Government announced its review of the Tentative List of potential future World Heritage Sites, inviting applications from cultural and natural sites from across the UK. Although the application window was fairly short – submissions required by July 2022 – Birkenhead Park's Steering Group mobilised quickly to identify what needed to be done.

As it turned out, the 175th anniversary celebrations – a yearlong programme of events and activities – proved perfect timing, providing great opportunities for sharing the Park's World Heritage ambitions with community groups, park visitors and local residents. The celebrations not only focused on the Park's history, but also what it represents for people today, as well as thoughts for the future.

While waiting for the outcome of the application, the Park's team continued to develop valuable partnerships at local, national and international levels, and fruitful relationships with organisations such as Liverpool University, WHUK, the Central Park Conservancy in New York, and the Large Urban Park Committee (sub-committee of the World Urban Parks Association).

So, on Monday 10th April 2023, as the Park closed out its anniversary year, it became official that Birkenhead Park would be included on the UK Tentative List for potential nomination for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. While inclusion on the Tentative List does not guarantee that the Park will progress to be nominated to UNESCO, Birkenhead Park's inclusion on the Tentative List is still a significant step towards acknowledging how essential 'urban public parks' are, and demonstrating the role the UK has contributed to the health and wellbeing of modern society throughout the world.

www.birkenhead-park.org.uk

Saltaire WHS

This year Saltaire implemented a trial Active Travel Neighbourhood (Low Traffic Neighbourhood) and the next stage will be the analysis of data and consultation to decide whether it should be retained, modified or removed. The Shipley Active Travel Hub has been set up to promote walking, cycling and other active travel in the area.

There have been a number of fruitful collaborations including working closely with University of Bradford on 3D recording of heritage in Saltaire. This has involved working closely with community groups including Saltaire Collection, Saltaire History Club, Saltaire Festival and Saltaire Inspired.



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Visualising Heritage: A Saltaire experience

Scan this QR code for a digital guide, where you will find a map, heritage archive images and videos from sites around Saltaire.

Individual places around Saltaire have QR codes too, linking to digital heritage and artwork which explores the village and surroundings through narratives connecting people, heritage and place.

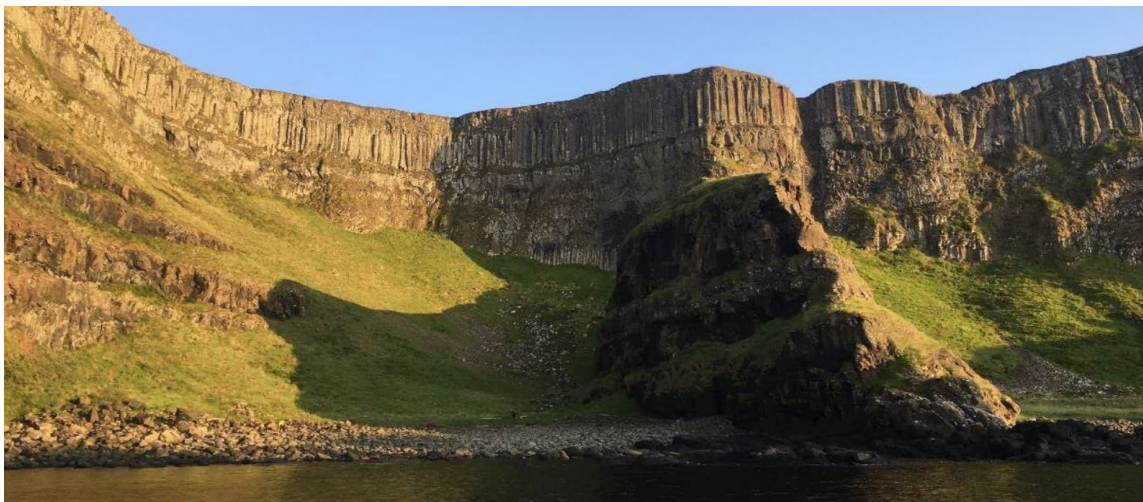
There may be more here than can be tackled in one visit, but we hope that it helps to put the world heritage site in context and offers up inspiration for future exploration – so please come and visit again!

Tell us what you think – we really value your feedback:

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Saltaire Inspired and Bradford Council hosted visitors on the BeCultour European programme during the Saltaire Inspired Arts Trail weekend. The Arts Trail and Makers Fair were community-led events that brought Saltaire alive, by opening historic houses to the public while displaying art for sale. Visual arts' displays included photos of mill conversions and their developers, textiles, sustainability and other arts and crafts. The University of Bradford also displayed school art and 3D images in their Visualising Heritage dome in Salts Mill over the weekend. Saltaire World Heritage Site provided the setting for art and craft displays and sales, gathering, understanding what is special about the place, providing a source of pride, identity and belonging.

Giant's Causeway WHS



A number of projects were initiated in 2022/23 in order to strengthen and protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS. These were largely facilitated by the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT), which is principally funded by DAERA NIEA with the co-operation of the National Trust.

WHS Resilient Farms Project: this project's aim is to help increase engagement with farmers/residents within the WHS surrounding protective zone known as the Distinctive Landscape Setting. Resilient farm plans focus on improving farm businesses sustainably. The results have been positive with 6 farms signed up and committed to a more environmentally sensitive approach to their land whilst improving productivity. The more engagement between the CCGHT and

landowners, the better the prospect of protecting the OUV of the WHS and ensuring a sensitive buffer around the boundary.

Coin Lodgement Pilot: following WHS Steering Group concern the British Geological Society were brought in to consider the impact of hammering coins into the cracks/joints of the causeway stones. Oxidising, corroding and expanding adds pressure on joints, while the chemical reactions are creating acids that can pit and weaken the rock faces further. The issue is causing unsightly discolouration of the stone in the affected areas. Evidence that visitors are using loose rocks to hammer coins in with force, causing more damage. The Steering Group agreed to focus resource on scoping/developing an options study to look at feasibility of coin removal, including any designation permissions required. The aim is to run pilot of coin removal with the permission of the landowner, the National Trust.

WHS Marine Cleans: over the year substantial amounts of litter has been removed from WHS bays and recycled where possible. One event was filmed and a set of videos produced promoting the event and the WHS for general and social media use. In May 2022 a cave clean removed over 10 tonnes of marine litter from the otherwise inaccessible cave. Great support was received from the landowner, NT and Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

Uncharted Histories of the Causeway Coast: Uncharted Histories focused on the Causeway Coast AONB and WHS areas, bringing together heritage actions for both areas. CCGHT worked with a consultant to deliver community engagement and outputs included a digital heritage map. The Uncharted Histories Digital Map is an interactive platform which shares lesser-known histories from the Causeway Coast. This free digital resource brings together photos, audio and video telling the stories of people and place, showcasing information put forward by the local community.

The Giant's Causeway Citizens' Observatory: The Geological Survey of NI (GSNI) have been developing the Giants Causeway as a Citizens' Observatory through EU Interreg funding. The project will help gain a better understanding of the landslides (mostly rock fall and debris flows) that frequently affect the site. This will be achieved through site monitoring by the GSNI as well as encouraging the public to contribute through the use of an app when visiting. This information will be combined with landslide information held by the NT to increase the knowledge on not only the hazards that impact upon the site but also on the factors that may trigger these. The WHS is one of five pilot sites involved in the Atlantic Geohazard Risk Management (AGEO) project which aims to establish Citizens Observatories for geohazards, engage citizens in risk prevention, and to work with local stakeholders to improve risk management. It is hoped an early warning system for landslides will be developed, supporting safe site management. The project was completed in December 2022 but the on-site monitoring will continue indefinitely.