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Introduction

This short guide is intended as an introduction to World Heritage related matters in Scotland. It aims to explain what World Heritage status is and what it means, to summarise the key concepts associated with the World Heritage Convention, outline the responsibilities and benefits attendant upon achieving World Heritage status and summarise current approaches to the protection and management of World Heritage Sites in Scotland.

This World Heritage in Scotland guide is accompanied by Site-specific short guides for each of Scotland’s five World Heritage Sites.

More information can be found via the Further Information and Contacts section.
World Heritage in Scotland: Key Facts

- **World Heritage Sites (WHS)** are exceptional places of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) described by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as belonging to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located.

- The UK currently has 28 WHS of which five are in Scotland: the Heart of Neolithic Orkney; St Kilda; Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Antonine Wall; New Lanark; and The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh.

- Four of Scotland’s WHS are inscribed under cultural criteria, while St Kilda is inscribed under both natural and cultural criteria.

- The Antonine Wall and Hadrian’s Wall are part of a single transnational Site, the Frontiers of the Roman Empire, which also includes the Upper German-Raetian Limes.

- The Forth Bridge was put forward for nomination to the World Heritage List in 2014.

- Once a WHS is inscribed on the World Heritage List under the World Heritage Convention, States that have ratified the Convention have a duty to protect, conserve and present the Sites for future generations.

- Each WHS has a Management Plan that is reviewed every five years as recommended by UNESCO’s *Operational Guidelines for World Heritage Sites*.

- National guidance requires that planning authorities protect World Heritage Sites and their settings from inappropriate development.

St Kilda, view from Village Bay
UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention

THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world that is considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty, the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage adopted by UNESCO in 1972. Usually referred to as the World Heritage Convention, it was ratified by the UK Government in 1984. Governments of countries that have ratified the Convention are referred to as States Parties. They identify and nominate sites to the World Heritage Committee to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

WHS are cultural and/or natural sites considered to be of “Outstanding Universal Value” which have been inscribed on the World Heritage List by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the Convention. It meets once a year and consists of representatives from 21 of the States Parties to the Convention elected by their General Assembly.

The Committee determines whether a site is inscribed on the World Heritage List. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed Sites and asks States Parties to take action when these Properties are not being properly managed. It also decides if Sites should be added to the List of World Heritage in Danger or, in rare cases, deleted from the World Heritage List. It is supported by the World Heritage Centre which acts as its Secretariat.
UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention

ADVISORY BODIES

Three international non-governmental or inter-governmental organisations advise the World Heritage Committee:

ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) provides evaluations of cultural and mixed properties proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List. It is an international, non-governmental organisation which works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places based on the principles enshrined in the 1964 International Charter on the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (known as the Venice Charter).

ICCROM (The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) is an inter-governmental body which provides expert advice on how to conserve Sites, as well as training in restoration techniques.

IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) is an international non-governmental organisation that provides technical evaluations of natural heritage properties and, through its worldwide network of specialists, reports on the state of conservation of listed Sites.
UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention

THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

The World Heritage Committee has developed Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. They detail the criteria under which OUV is assessed in order for a property to be inscribed as a WHS. In addition to meeting at least one of these ten criteria a Site must also demonstrate ‘authenticity’ and ‘integrity’ as defined in the Guidelines. The Guidelines also describe procedures for the protection and conservation of WHS. They are aimed at the States Parties to the Convention, Site managers, and partners and stakeholders involved in the protection of World Heritage Sites. These Guidelines include:

- The production of a Management Plan for each World Heritage Site to bring together all responsible parties and ensure a coordinated approach to its management.
- Legislative and regulatory measures at national and local levels that assure the survival of the Site and its protection against development and change that might negatively impact the OUV, or the integrity and/or authenticity of the Site.
- Where deemed necessary for the proper protection of the inscribed Site, an adequate Buffer Zone be provided.
- That States Parties submit Periodic Reports to UNESCO on their implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the state of conservation of the World Heritage Sites on their territories.
Outstanding Universal Value

WHS are inscribed on the World Heritage List because they are deemed to have OUV: that is, they have been judged to be of such importance to all humanity that they transcend national boundaries. This is a high accolade that brings with it responsibilities and international scrutiny. OUV is a cornerstone of the protection of WHS for UNESCO and for States Parties, and protection of OUV is now built into UK guidance systems for heritage protection.

Each WHS has a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV). This Statement provides a clear, shared, understanding of the reasons for the Site’s inscription on the World Heritage List, and of what needs to be managed in order to sustain the OUV for the long term. The Statement of OUV underpins the management and conservation of the Site.

For the World Heritage Committee and the Advisory Bodies, the SOUV is an essential reference point for monitoring, Periodic Reporting, possible inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger and deletion from the List.
Buffer Zones

When necessary for the proper protection of the WHS, UNESCO require that an adequate buffer zone should be provided. A buffer zone is an area surrounding the WHS that gives an added layer of protection to the Site. This should include the immediate setting of the inscribed Site, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the Site and its protection. However, the buffer zone does not form a part of the WHS property.

UNESCO’s Operational Guidelines state that a buffer zone is an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property. Buffer zones can be used to highlight an area where potential impacts need to be given careful consideration by developers and decision-makers.

Please see the Site-specific short guides for information about buffer zones associated with individual Sites.

Heart of Neolithic Orkney, landscape around Ring of Brodgar; image © Kieran Baxter
Planning and World Heritage

Both the Scottish Government and Local Authorities have key roles to play in realising the aims of the World Heritage Convention. While no additional statutory controls result from World Heritage designation, national guidance requires planning authorities to establish specific policies to assist in managing development both within the Sites themselves and in their wider setting.

**Relevant Legislation**

**National Policy and Strategy**
The *Scottish Planning Policy* (SPP) sets out Scottish Government policy on nationally important land use. It requires that planning authorities protect WHS and their settings from inappropriate development by including relevant policies in the Local Development Plan. Where a development proposal has the potential to affect a WHS, the planning authority should protect and preserve its OUV. All five current World Heritage Sites incorporate scheduled monuments, the setting of which is a material consideration for Local Authorities when determining applications for planning permission. In all cases where a proposed development may impact upon the setting of a scheduled monument, Historic Scotland must be consulted.

The *Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP)* sets policy specifically for the historic environment. *Our Place in Time – The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland* provides a framework for all parts of the historic environment sector (and beyond) to work in partnership to deliver positive outcomes for our historic environment. It sets out a vision, definition and desired outcomes, as well as overarching principles and strategic objectives by which we will understand, protect and value our historic environment.

A UK Marine Policy Statement covers marine matters across the UK and a National Marine Plan (NMP) for Scotland is currently in development. The NMP will set out national policies for the sustainable development of Scotland’s seas and will sit alongside and overlap with terrestrial planning policy.

**Local Development Plans and Supplementary Guidance**
Supplementary Guidance (SG) can be issued by a planning authority in support of a Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP establishes the main principles of the policies to protect WHS and their settings from inappropriate development which are covered in more detail in the SG.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) is the precursor to SG adopted as part of an LDP. SPG has been produced for the Antonine Wall and adopted formally by all partners; the five Local Authorities are now in process of producing revised Strategic Plans and LDPs and the SPG will then be readopted by them as SG as part of this process.
Planning and World Heritage

Supplementary Planning Guidance is in place for the Heart of Neolithic Orkney and following full adoption of the new LDP will become statutory SG. See Site-specific sheets for more information on relevant LDP policies and SG/SPG.

Setting and World Heritage Sites
The setting of a World Heritage Site supports its Outstanding Universal Value. Monuments, buildings, gardens and settlements were not constructed in isolation. They were often deliberately positioned with reference to the surrounding topography, resources, landscape and other monuments or buildings. These relationships will often have changed through the life of a historic asset or place.

The setting of a Site is not directly analogous to any Buffer Zone, which it can overlay but may extend beyond. SPP and SHEP emphasise that setting is more than simply the immediate surroundings of a site. Historic Scotland’s guidance on managing change in the historic environment notes that setting often extends beyond the property boundary, or ‘curtilage’, of an individual historic asset into a broader landscape context and considers the elements that contribute to an understanding of setting.

The guidance states that planning authorities must take into account the setting of historic assets or places when drawing up Development Plans and guidance, when considering various types of environmental and design assessments/statements, and in determining planning applications.
Key Organisations, Roles and Responsibilities

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is responsible for the UK’s general compliance with the UNESCO World Heritage Convention and for nominating sites. It acts as the UK State Party. This means that the World Heritage Committee channels all communication through DCMS. English Heritage advise DCMS on cultural World Heritage issues. As an international convention, the World Heritage Convention is a reserved matter under the Scotland Act 1998 (Schedule 5, Part 1 Paragraph 7) and as the responsible UK Government department DCMS acts as the UK State Party. However, under the post-devolution concordat, DCMS looks to Scottish Ministers to ensure compliance with the Convention in relation to Sites in Scotland, and to identify Scottish Sites that should be on the UK Tentative List for possible nomination as WHS.

The mechanisms in place to protect Scottish WHS are devolved matters, and any enquiries from the World Heritage Committee in relation to existing Scottish Sites are passed on by DCMS.

In Scotland Strategic Policy for World Heritage sits within the Directorate for Culture and Heritage in the Scottish Government, who carry out Scotland’s State Party function on behalf of Scottish Ministers and liaise with DCMS, the UK Commission for UNESCO and ICOMOS UK.

Historic Scotland (HS) is an executive agency of the Scottish Government charged with safeguarding the nation’s historic environment and promoting its understanding and enjoyment on behalf of Scottish Ministers. HS is a Management Plan partner for all five Scottish WHS. The HS World Heritage Team handles coordination issues for the Antonine Wall, Heart of Neolithic Orkney and New Lanark, and works with and supports the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh and St Kilda.

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) is a body sponsored by the Scottish Government to identify, survey and analyse the historic and built environment of Scotland; to preserve, care for and add to the information and items in its national Collection; and to promote understanding, education and enjoyment through interpretation of the information it collects.

HS and RCAHMS are merging to become a new non-departmental public body, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), a process scheduled to be completed in 2015. Operational World Heritage functions will remain within HES.

Proposals for natural WHS designations are made via the Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) by the Scottish Ministers, supported by advice from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). SNH is funded by the Scottish Government and promotes care for and improvement, responsible enjoyment, greater understanding and awareness and sustainable use of the natural heritage.

ICOMOS UK, the UK National Committee of ICOMOS, is an independent charity with a UK wide and international mission to promote and support best practice in the conservation, care and understanding of the historic environment. They advise on aspects of World Heritage and sites for nomination across the UK.
Key Organisations, Roles and Responsibilities

**Local Authorities** are key partners in the protection and management of all Scottish WHS, both through the development and implementation of planning policy and through their engagement in Site-specific Management Plans.

A number of Trusts and Charities have direct responsibility for the management and protection of part or all of some WHS, while others are partners in Management Plans.

**Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH)** is a charity funded by donations, the City of Edinburgh Council and HS, with the role of protecting, conserving and promoting the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh WHS.

**The National Trust for Scotland (NTS)** is a conservation charity established in order to protect and promote Scotland’s natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy. It owns St Kilda WHS and works in partnership to manage it with SNH, the Ministry of Defence and HS.

**New Lanark Trust** was formed as an independent charity dedicated to the restoration and development of the historic village. The Trust aims to preserve New Lanark WHS as a sustainable community.

**Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)** is the country’s largest conservation charity conserving biodiversity and the environment. The RSPB own and manage the Brodgar Reserve which lies around the Ring of Brodgar, part of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney WHS.

**World Heritage Site Coordinators**, and the NTS Western Isles Manager for St Kilda, coordinate and drive forward the implementation, monitoring and revision of Site Management Plans, promote the OUV and public benefit of the WHS, increase awareness and understanding among partners, stakeholders and the public, and provide a central point for advice. They represent Site and partners’ interests and promote best practice in the management of the WHS, locally, nationally and internationally, and produce and coordinate the **Periodic Report** to UNESCO.

For more detail about the roles and responsibilities of specific agencies and organisations in the management of the individual WHS, please see the Site-specific guides or **Further Information and Contacts**.
# Key Organisations, Roles and Responsibilities

## WORLD HERITAGE GOVERNANCE IN SCOTLAND

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| Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Antonine Wall | East Dunbartonshire Council  
Falkirk Council  
Glasgow City Council  
North Lanarkshire Council  
West Dunbartonshire Council | Historic Scotland  
RCAHMS                        |
| Heart of Neolithic Orkney               | Orkney Islands Council                                       | Historic Scotland  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
Scottish Natural Heritage |
Historic Scotland             |
| New Lanark                              | South Lanarkshire Council                                    | Historic Scotland  
New Lanark Trust               |
| St Kilda                                | Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council)             | Historic Scotland  
Ministry of Defence  
National Trust for Scotland  
Scottish Natural Heritage     |
Key Organisations, Roles and Responsibilities

WORLD HERITAGE GOVERNANCE IN SCOTLAND

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

ENGLISH HERITAGE

DCMS

ICOMOS

SCOTTISH MINISTERS

DIRECTORATE FOR CULTURE & HERITAGE (Strategic Policy)

HS WORLD HERITAGE TEAM

ICOMOS UK

WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING/MANAGEMENT GROUPS

COORDINATOR:
City of Edinburgh Council

EDINBURGH OLD & NEW TOWNS

COORDINATOR:
National Trust for Scotland

MANAGER:
National Trust for Scotland

ST KILDA

COORDINATOR:
Historic Scotland

COORDINATOR:
Historic Scotland

ANTONINE WALL (FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE)

COORDINATOR:
Historic Scotland

HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY

COORDINATOR:
NEW LANARK

World Heritage in Scotland
Management Plans

In order to remain on the World Heritage List, States Parties must ensure that the OUV of the Sites for which they are responsible is maintained and preserved for present and future generations for the benefit of all humanity. UNESCO requires that Management Plans be produced for each WHS to bring together all responsible parties and ensure a coordinated approach to management of the Site. The Management Plan is also the means by which it can be demonstrated to UNESCO that the WHS has adequate management mechanisms in place to ensure its conservation. The starting point for the vision and long-term aims of each Management Plan are our international obligations to uphold the World Heritage Convention.

Management Plans serve as framework documents designed to preserve OUV. They help to set out clearly the special qualities and values of the Site, to establish a framework for decision making, and to provide information on threats and opportunities for each Site, so that it can be managed in a sustainable manner. As recommended in UNESCO’s Operational Guidelines, Management Plans are reviewed approximately every five years.

All of Scotland’s WHS have a number of partners involved in their management. The success of a WHS (in terms of its promotion, protection and conservation) depends upon the input and shared vision of these partners. It is the responsibility of each WHS Steering Group or Management Board to decide how they want their Site to develop and move forward, and it is therefore critical that all partners understand the responsibility that they have and are prepared to commit time and resources to ensure the success of the Management Plan.

Each WHS is unique, and each Management Plan has to address the specific character and needs of the Site. Please see the Site-specific guides for more information about the management of individual WHS.

Management Plans recently published for the Antonine Wall and Heart of Neolithic Orkney
Periodic Reporting

Every six years, the States Parties are responsible for submitting a Periodic Report on the application of the World Heritage Convention, including the state of conservation of all the WHS located on its territories, to the World Heritage Committee. The last Periodic Report from the UK State Party was completed in July 2013 as part of the European regional cycle of reporting.

Periodic Reporting is intended to provide: an assessment of the application of the Convention by the State Party; an assessment as to whether the World Heritage values of the Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List are being maintained over time; updated information about the WHS to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the Sites; and a mechanism for regional cooperation and exchange of information and experiences between States Parties concerning the implementation of the Convention and World Heritage conservation.

A final European Regional State of the World Heritage Report will be prepared for presentation to the World Heritage Committee from the information collected through the Periodic Reporting exercise. This Report will form the baseline for the development of targeted Action Plans at national and regional levels which will respond to the needs, challenges, threats, strengths and opportunities identified and presented as a result of the Periodic Reporting exercise.

The Antonine Wall
Further Information and Contacts

**Historic Scotland World Heritage Team**

E: worldheritage@scotland.gsi.gov.uk  
Tel: 0131 668 8763

**Historic Environment Policy Unit, Directorate for Culture and Heritage, Scottish Government**

Policy Manager - Andrew Burke  
E: andrew.burke@scotland.gsi.gov.uk  
Tel: 0131 244 7764

**Key Links**

Directorate for Culture & Heritage, Scottish Government:  
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/People/Directorates/Culture-Digital

Historic Scotland World Heritage pages:  
http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/worldheritage.htm

Scottish Natural Heritage World Heritage information:  
http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/protected-areas/international-designations/heritage-sites/

UNESCO World Heritage Centre:  
http://whc.unesco.org/
Glossary of Terms

**Authenticity**
Depending on the type of cultural heritage, and its cultural context, properties may be understood to meet the conditions of authenticity if their cultural values (as recognised in the nomination criteria proposed) are truthfully and credibly expressed through a variety of attributes including: form and design; materials and substance; use and function; traditions, techniques and management systems; location and setting; language, and other forms of intangible heritage; spirit and feeling; and other internal and external factors.

**Buffer Zone**
For the purposes of effective protection of the nominated property, a buffer zone is an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property. This should include the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection. The area constituting the buffer zone should be determined in each case through appropriate mechanisms.

**Criteria for Selection of World Heritage Sites**
To be included on the World Heritage List, Sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria. These criteria are explained in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention which, besides the text of the Convention, is the main working tool on World Heritage. The criteria are regularly revised by the Committee to reflect the evolution of the World Heritage concept itself.

**ICOMOS**
The International Council on Monuments and Sites, a non-governmental organisation, was founded in 1965 after the adoption of the Charter of Venice, in order to promote the doctrine and the techniques of conservation. ICOMOS provides the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of properties with cultural values proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List, as well as with comparative studies, technical assistance and reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties.

**ICOMOS UK**
ICOMOS UK is the UK national committee of ICOMOS and is an independent charity that advises on aspects of World Heritage and sites for nomination across the UK. It promotes and supports best practice in the conservation, care and understanding of the historic environment.

**Inscription**
The formal process through which the World Heritage Committee decides whether a property should or should not be added to the World Heritage List. When deciding to inscribe a property on the World Heritage List, the Committee, guided by the Advisory Bodies, adopts a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property. At the time of inscription, the Committee may also make other recommendations concerning the protection and management of the World Heritage property.

**Intangible Cultural Heritage**
Intangible cultural heritage is the practices, expressions, knowledge and skills that communities, groups and sometimes individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage.
Glossary of Terms

Also called living cultural heritage, it is usually expressed in one of the following forms: oral traditions; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship.

Integrity

Integrity is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes. Examining the conditions of integrity, therefore requires assessing the extent to which the property: includes all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value; is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property’s significance; suffers from adverse effects of development and/or neglect.

Limes

The Latin term for ‘frontier’.

Nomination

Countries (or States Parties) that have signed the World Heritage Convention, pledging to protect their natural and cultural heritage, can submit nomination proposals for properties on their territory to be considered for inclusion in UNESCO’s World Heritage List. Nominations to the World Heritage List are not considered unless the nominated property has already been included on the State Party’s Tentative List. If the Committee determines, based on the recommendations of its Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS and IUCN), that the nomination meets at least one of the necessary criteria, then the property proposed by the State Party is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Outstanding Universal Value

Outstanding Universal Value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole. At the time of inscription of a property on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee adopts a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value which will be the key reference for the future effective protection and management of the property.

Partner

Organisations that have formally agreed to work together to deliver the WHS Management Plan.

Periodic Reporting

States Parties are requested to submit reports, every six years, to the UNESCO General Conference through the World Heritage Committee on the legislative and administrative provisions they have adopted and other actions which they have taken for the application of the Convention, including the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties located on their territories. Periodic Reporting serves four main purposes: to provide an assessment of the application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party; to provide an assessment as to whether the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List is being maintained over time; to provide up-dated information about the World Heritage properties to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the properties; to provide a mechanism for regional cooperation and exchange of information and experiences.
Glossary of Terms

between States Parties concerning the implementation of the Convention and World Heritage conservation.

Significance
Importance, distinctiveness, why a place is valued.

Stakeholder
A person/organisation/business with an interest or concern in the WHS.

States Parties
States Parties are countries which have ratified the World Heritage Convention. They identify and nominate sites on their national territory to be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List. States Parties have the responsibility to protect the World Heritage values of the sites inscribed and report periodically on their condition.

Tentative List
The first step a States Party must take in proposing a site for the World Heritage List is to make an inventory of the important natural and cultural heritage sites located within its boundaries, that it considers to be of outstanding universal value. This is known as the Tentative List, and provides a forecast of the properties that a State Party may decide to submit for inscription in the next five to ten years and which may be updated at any time. It is an important step since the World Heritage Committee cannot consider a nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List unless the property has already been included on the State Party's Tentative List.

Transnational Property
A nominated property may occur on the territory of all concerned States Parties having adjacent borders. Extensions to an existing World Heritage property located in one State Party may be proposed to become transboundary properties.

UNESCO
United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) was founded on 16 November 1945. UNESCO has 195 Members and eight Associate Members. As defined by the Constitution, the purpose of the Organization is: “to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations”.

World Heritage Centre
The World Heritage Centre is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Convention and for the administration of the World Heritage Fund.

World Heritage Committee
The World Heritage Committee meets once a year, and consists of representatives from 21 of the States Parties to the Convention elected for terms of up to six years. The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, allocates financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund and has the final say on whether a site is inscribed on the World Heritage List. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed Sites and decides on the inscription or removal of Sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
Glossary of Terms

**World Heritage Convention**

The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage is an international agreement that was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972. It is based on the premise that certain places on Earth are of outstanding universal value and should therefore form part of the common heritage of mankind. The countries who ratify the Convention (States Parties) have become part of an international community, united in a common mission to identify and safeguard our world’s most outstanding natural and cultural heritage. While fully respecting the national sovereignty, and without prejudice to property rights provided by national legislation, the States Parties recognise that the protection of the World Heritage is the duty of the international community as a whole. The UNESCO World Heritage Convention is a treaty that has become, over the past 30 years, the foremost international legal tool in support of the conservation of the world’s cultural and natural heritage. Today, 187 countries (called States Parties) have ratified the Convention, making it an almost universally accepted set of principles and framework of action.

**World Heritage List**

In general, the World Heritage Committee adds about 25-30 Sites per year to the List. As of 2013 there were 981 Sites on the List, located in 160 countries around the world, including 28 in the UK.
List of Abreviations

CEC     City of Edinburgh Council
DCMS    Department for Culture, Media and Sport
EWH     Edinburgh World Heritage
FRE:AW  Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Antonine Wall
HONO    Heart of Neolithic Orkney
HS      Historic Scotland
ICCROM  The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
ICOMOS  International Council on Monuments and Sites
IUCN    International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LDP     Local Development Plan
NTS     National Trust for Scotland
OUV     Outstanding Universal Value
RSPB    Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SHEP    Scottish Historic Environment Policy
SNH     Scottish Natural Heritage
SPP     Scottish Planning Policy
SOUV    Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
UNESCO  United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHC     World Heritage Committee
WHS     World Heritage Site(s)

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