

Wider value of UNESCO to the UK

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The UK National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC) is the focal point in the UK for UNESCO-related policies and activities. As an independent civil society organisation the UKNC brings together a network of nearly 250 experts from across the UK in the fields of education, culture, sciences and communication. Working in partnership with UK Government and UK civil society the UKNC aims to:

- provide expert advice to UK Government on UNESCO related matters
- develop UK input into UNESCO policy making and programme implementation
- promote reforms within UNESCO
- encourage support in the UK for UNESCO's ideals and work

The UK benefits from its membership in UNESCO, not only in terms of furthering its international development and foreign policy objectives, but also through domestic benefits to its citizens, communities and UK-based institutions. This report sets out several examples of this wider value of UNESCO to the UK, drawn from existing research from independent and government sources.

This document focuses primarily on the direct and indirect financial benefits of the UK's membership in UNESCO. It should be emphasised that this is only one, partial approach to assessing this relationship. UNESCO's mission and work contributes to the UK in many other ways, including:

- furthering aspects of the UK's foreign policy agenda, including human rights, democracy and transparency
- furthering the UK's international development agenda, including the coalition Government's development priorities and agreed international goals such as EFA and the MDGs
- supporting cultural diversity, dialogue and community cohesion, both in the UK and internationally
- fostering a sense of identity and community pride among citizens in the UK
- a proven channel for UK expertise to influence and benefit global programmes in education, science, culture and communication
- conflict prevention through international cooperation and dialogue
- championing freedom of expression and access to information in countries where these rights are suppressed
- protecting civilians (including teachers, medics and journalists) in war and conflict zones

It should also be emphasised that although DFID acts as the lead department, UK interests in UNESCO extend across much of government including DCMS, FCO, BIS, DfE, DEFRA, DECC, DoH, MoD, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Executive.

UNESCO in the UK

There are a **large number of UNESCO designations in the UK** and Overseas Territories, including:

- 28 World Heritage properties
- 8 Biosphere Reserves
- 3 UNESCO Creative Cities
- 15 UNESCO Chairs and 3 UNITWIN Networks at UK Higher Education Institutions
- 1 Water Law, Policy and Science (Category II) centre
- 15 Memory of the World inscriptions (including the 1215 Magna Carta)
- 66 UNESCO Associated Schools
- 8 Geoparks (assisted by UNESCO)

Since the first of these UNESCO designations and programmes was introduced in the UK, they have generated both direct and indirect economic, social and environmental benefits for the UK.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

1. World Heritage (WH) status is a catalyst for more effective conservation, partnerships, civic pride, social capital, learning and education and for securing additional funding and investment. A [recent study](#) has also identified 12 distinct types of socio-economic benefit which can be generated as a result of WH status.¹ These benefits are best realised when the WH designation is combined with coordinated efforts to achieve targeted change.
2. The UNESCO World Heritage Site designation, when used effectively, can be a catalyst for generating **economic benefits** for local communities in the UK. For example:

- Following the designation of Blaenavon Industrial Landscape in Wales as a World Heritage Site in 2000, **property values in the area increased over 300% in 5 years**, above the UK average. Other benefits included a **100% rise in visitor levels** over 5 years, over 100 jobs in construction created annually, 65 FTE jobs in tourism created or safeguarded, the outworn fabric of **500 properties made good**, 75% of town centre dereliction made good, new businesses created and significant improvements in the environment and local facilities.²

As part of the World Heritage Site's regeneration, the Blaenavon Big Pit Museum was restored. It is estimated that the overall annual economic impact of the museum alone is now **£4.93 million in terms of visitor spend**, which supports 140 FTE jobs and contributes around **£3.25 million in respect of GVA**.³ There has been a major shift in perception of Blaenavon and in community pride, helping the area address serious economic and social challenges following its industrial decline.

- A study assessing the economic impact of the proposed Cornwall and West Devon Mining WHS (subsequently inscribed in 2006) projected a **10% increase in visitor levels**.⁴
 - There are an estimated 12–15 million visitors to the Jurassic Coast annually⁵. While no comprehensive data on tourism is available for the Jurassic Coast as a whole, a growing body of qualitative and quantitative evidence is emerging which suggests businesses and communities believe WH status to be having significant impacts on influencing tourism footfall. For instance, in the 2008 Jurassic Coast WHS Stakeholder Survey **75% of respondents felt that tourist numbers had increased** since the WHS designation.⁶
 - The development and sale of education products provides some WH sites with additional economic opportunities. For example, Jurassic Coast WHS has a growing reputation as a leading UK destination for school trips on the 'earth sciences'. A [recent evaluation](#) revealed **200,000 educational bed nights per annum** with more than **300 teachers** using the site in their curriculum. **80%** of those surveyed in the education sector **believed that the market had grown since inscription as a WHS and that this was highly attributable to WHS status**.⁷ Educational visits are particularly prevalent during the non-peak tourism season.
 - There is a strong correlation between a site's motivation for seeking WH status and the benefits derived from this status. Research reveals that socio-economic motivations for WH inscription are relatively recent in origin, namely since the mid-1990s.⁸ This trend points to the potential of an even greater economic impact of WH designations in the UK in the future.
3. World Heritage status provides **enhanced leverage to pull in funding** for a wide range of purposes and can galvanise local residents and businesses towards creating effective funding bids and investments. One recent study states, "It is, we believe, now proven beyond reasonable doubt that WHS status can, and often does, positively influence funders to invest in sites to a greater extent than they would in non-WHSs. Evidence from [...] Blaenavon, Hadrian's Wall, Jurassic Coast and a host of other sites has persistently revealed this."⁹ Examples include:

¹ Rebanks Consulting Ltd & Trends Business Research Ltd, World Heritage Status: Is there Opportunity for Economic Growth (2009a), pp. 2

² *ibid.*, p. 50

³ National Trust, *Valuing the Welsh Historic Environment* (2010)

⁴ Atlantic Consultants, *Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Bid Economic Impact Assessment* (2003), pp. 80

⁵ Jurassic Coast World Heritage Team, *Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site: The First Five Years December 2001-December 2006* (2007), pp. 15

⁶ Jurassic Coast WHS, *An Economic, Social and Cultural Impact Study of the Jurassic Coast: A Summary of Key Findings* (2009) pp. 9

⁷ *ibid.*, pp. 16

⁸ *ibid.*, pp. 2

⁹ *ibid.*, pp. 59

- In 2009-10 financial year, for every **£1 of funding given to Edinburgh World Heritage Site from the City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh WHS levered in a further £6** and for every **£1 of funding from Historic Scotland, they levered in an additional £4**. This additional funding came from private sources including sponsorship, donations, grants and property owners. This equates to a base spend of £1.1 million levering in an actual spend of **£7.2 million**, benefiting over 170 households and organisations.¹⁰
 - Following its WH designation, Blaenavon has secured over **£30.5 million for regeneration projects** from the European Regional Development fund, the Welsh Assembly and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), among others. One study finds that, “According to several of these funding bodies, World Heritage Status was a factor in the decision to provide funding to the site. [...] On balance we believe that it would be reasonable to assume that WHS has had a significant impact on the level of funding gained by the site.”¹¹
 - In its first five years as a WHS Jurassic Coast pulled in over **£9 million in investment from over 60 partners**. Some of the more significant investments include £600k from SWRDA, a £7.1m funding agreement with SWRDA over five years as part of a coast-wide funding framework agreement, £750k from HLF for a variety of projects along the Jurassic Coast, £650k from the Department for Transport over three years, over £100k from the Fine Family Foundation, £56k from Arts Council South West and £40k from JNCC¹². Research notes that for the Jurassic Coast, “WHS status does appear to generate a substantial amount of additional investment for the site through the status it brings.”¹³
 - After Derwent Valley Mills was designated a World Heritage Site in 2001 a project to restore and renovate the historic environment of the town was developed. More than **£2 million** was secured through various funders including the Heritage Lottery Fund, Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership and local businesses and residents.¹⁴
4. For some UK sites, World Heritage status is viewed by **local residents and business** as having real socio-economic and cultural value. For instance:
- **79% of local businesses** say that Hadrian’s Wall WH status is very important for their business success.¹⁵
 - In a survey of local residents and businesses **82%** stated that the new Jurassic Coast identity has had a **positive impact on confidence in the area and the local economy**.¹⁶ In the same survey a significant majority of respondents valued the WH brand, its influence on visitor profile, its ability to stimulate business, its impact on sustainability and its role in attracting additional investment.¹⁷
5. The WHS designation has also had a strong influence on **conservation practice of the historic environment** both in the UK and abroad.
- WH status is felt to result in greater focus, planning care and investment of resources resulting in good conservation of sites. The research ‘tends to strongly support with evidence this area of WHS benefit’ as the ‘quality of development around such sites may be superior’.¹⁸
 - UNESCO works, often using UK experts, to raise awareness and develop capacity to manage the historic environment across the world. Durham University is for example one of the key implementing partners in a three year project with a budget of **\$800,000 USD** to strengthen the conservation and management of Lumbini, the Birthplace of Lord Buddha, World Heritage Site in Nepal. The project is funded by the Japanese Government and managed by the UNESCO office in Kathmandu in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre.

Costs associated with World Heritage Status

6. There are a variety of costs associated with both bidding for and managing WH status.
- Research undertaken on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) found that the limited research available on the subject suggests that the costs of inscription of a UK site may be up to £400,000.¹⁹

¹⁰ Edinburgh World Heritage, *Edinburgh World Heritage Annual Review 2009-10* (2010), pp. 12

¹¹ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, *The Costs and Benefits of World Heritage Site Status in the UK: Case Studies* (2007b), pp. 32

¹² Jurassic Coast World Heritage Team (2007)

¹³ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (2007b), pp. 14

¹⁴ *ibid.*, pp. 67.

¹⁵ *ibid.*, pp. 27.

¹⁶ Jurassic Coast World Heritage Team, *An Economic, Social and Cultural Impact Study of the Jurassic Coast: Summary of Findings* (2009), pp.

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¹⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁸ DCMS – News Release – Summary of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP WHS study, 02/12/2008

- While the costs of inscription are substantial, they should be considered within the context of potential long-term benefits. For instance, a relatively small shift of 1% in the visitor profile of a potential World Heritage Site like the English Lake District with its 8-9 million visitors could result in an absolute economic impact of up to **£20 million per annum**.²⁰
- Part of the above-mentioned costs are incurred in the production of relevant documents and strategies such as a World Heritage Site Management Plan. Production of a management plan also helps sites set out a co-ordinated set of actions to conserve and utilise the designation as well as providing an effective bidding support document to secure additional funds.

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves

7. **UNESCO Biosphere reserves** are recognised by Defra as 'living laboratories' for addressing the issues of sustainable development on regional scales. The MAB programme has been at the cutting edge of developing new approaches to conservation and sustainable development, some of which are only just being introduced to mainstream thinking in the last year or two. Benefits of Biosphere Reserve status include: globally respected quality assurance, additional funding and investment, joint management benefits and income generation, marketing opportunities for sustainably produced products and sustainably managed environments, conflict and resource management resolution, added value to existing projects and international networks through which to share experiences and develop partnerships.
8. Defra recently completed a positive ten-year periodic review of biosphere reserves in the UK²¹. The review highlights that **the UNESCO biosphere reserve label is the only global designation – or accreditation – for an area demonstrating excellence in sustainable development in practice** and that it is one of the few tools we have to promote sustainable development in practice.
9. The same Defra-commissioned review notes that successful implementation of the Biosphere Reserve (BR) concept contributes to a very large range of UK and devolved administration policies and suggests that **“it is hard to find a policy to which a successful BR would not contribute”**²². BRs have “significant potential” to contribute to policy aspirations for, for instance, sustainable development, sustainable communities, mainstreaming the ecosystem approach, engagement of local people in decision-making, participation in planning and management, developing a robust evidence base.
10. A recent independent [study](#) undertaken by economists Mackay Consultants, of the proposed SW Scotland UNESCO biosphere reserve, concluded that the **value of a Biosphere Reserve in the region was £56m (base case) - £80m (optimistic case) over 10 years** and that it “would result in very substantial economic, environmental and other benefits for the proposed area”²³. This equates to a **return or leverage of 6:1 (base case) or 9:1 (optimistic case)**. The report notes that there will also be non-quantified environmental and other benefits in addition to these benefit:cost ratios.
11. As part of the Biosphere Reserve bottom-up approach and local community engagement, Biosphere Reserves **work with local businesses** which need support to make a transition to becoming more environmentally friendly and to find niche markets. For example, there are some **2,100 business within North Devon’s Biosphere Reserve (NDBR)**. NDBR has introduced a green tourism business scheme which, among other things, provides environmental advice to local businesses enabling them to make environmentally friendly cost-savings and to develop new green markets. A recent estimate indicates that advice given to 650 SMEs resulted in estimated **£2.5 million benefits, averaging £3,846 per business per year**²⁴.
12. UK tourism is often stimulated by the landscape and environment. Biosphere reserves promote and demonstrate a **balanced relationship between people and nature**. For example, in North Devon 80% of visits are stimulated by the landscape and environment. As one component, the surfing industry has an estimated value of **£55million** and relies on good quality environment²⁵. North Devon’s Biosphere Reserve works to ensure sustainability. Its catchment sensitive farming initiative saves local farmers an average of £5,000 a year each, contributing to sustainable livelihoods and helping to ensure the good quality of the water.

¹⁹ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, *The Costs and Benefits of UK World Heritage Site Status: A literature review for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport* (2007a), pp. 35

²⁰ Rebanks Consulting Ltd & Trends Business Research Ltd, *World Heritage Status: Is there Opportunity for Economic Gain: Preview study* (2009b), pp. 13

²¹ Hambrey Consultants, *The potential for Biosphere Reserves to achieve UK social, economic and environmental goals* (2008)

²² *ibid*, pp. 8

²³ Mackay Consultants, *The Socio-Economic Potential of the Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve* (2008), pp. 4

²⁴ *ibid*, pp. 45

²⁵ <http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/>, accessed on 7 Nov 2010

13. Biosphere Reserves demonstrate sustainable development in action. For example, in North Devon's Biosphere Reserve the rebuild of Bideford College as carbon neutral was stimulated by being in the Biosphere Reserve and is an award-winning design²⁶.
14. Biosphere Reserves undertake good value, high quality research. Recent coastal research undertaken by North Devon's biosphere reserve cost local authorities **£100,000 less than if employed a consultant**.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network

15. The UK's **three Creative Cities** are currently Edinburgh City of Literature (est. 2004), Glasgow City of Music (est. 2008) and Bradford City of Film (est. 2009). Norwich and York are currently developing bids for City of Literature and City of Media Arts respectively.
 - One of Edinburgh City of Literature's four key objectives is to develop and co-ordinate Edinburgh's literary tourism and to promote Edinburgh as a global city of literature. According to preliminary estimates, the Edinburgh City of Literature designation is expected to generate approximately **£2.2m a year for the city and £2.1m to the rest of Scotland**.
 - In the 2009-10 financial year Edinburgh City of Literature Trust **raised nearly £65,000 and leveraged some £200,000 from sponsoring organisations** in support of its work to promote Scotland's literature, develop and co-ordinate Edinburgh's literary tourism, promote excellence in literature in Scotland and develop Edinburgh's leading role in the International Creative Cities network.²⁷
 - Bradford is home to one of Europe's fastest growing creative and digital industries with around 100,000 local people work in the sector already, translating into a GDP of £10.5bn. In 2006 Glasgow employed 24,412 people in the creative sector, equivalent to 6.2% of the City's workforce and contributed an estimated £707 million to the Glasgow economy.

UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks Programme

16. The **UK has established 15 UNESCO Chairs and three UNITWIN Networks** at Higher Education Institutions in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland which undertake a wide range of activities including training, research, information sharing and outreach. The UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme advances research, training and programme development in higher education by building university networks and encouraging inter-university cooperation. The Chairs and Networks focus on a range of interdisciplinary areas including HIV/AIDS Education and Health Security in Africa, Gender Research, ICT for Development, Political Economy of Education and Information and Computer Ethics. Under the aegis of the UNITWIN UNESCO Chairs Programme they join over 600 Chairs and 60 Networks around the world involving 750 institutions and 125 countries.
17. UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks **bring in research and other income**. For example:
 - The UNESCO Chair in Education for Pluralism, Human Rights and Democracy at University of Ulster secured income for the five-year period (2002-07) of **£5,820,305**, funding over 30 projects to completion.
 - The UNESCO Chair in HIV/AIDS Education and Health Security in Africa secured a **Euros 2.35 million grant** (2009-2012) for the European Research Council to examine the global governance of HIV/AIDS; it is believe this is the largest ERC grant for several years in the field of Political Science/International Relations.

UNESCO Memory of the World Programme

18. The UK currently has **15 Memory of the World designated items and collections** from 14 UK museums, archives and libraries. The Memory of the World (MoW) designation is a accolade for documentary heritage of outstanding universal value and significance to its country of origin and/or the world. As part of the larger Memory of the World (MoW) programme, this helps promote preservation of and access to the world's archive holdings and library collections.

²⁶ <http://www.linux.bideford.devon.sch.uk/blogs/newschool/>, accessed on 7 Nov 2010

²⁷ Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust, *Edinburgh City of Literature Director's Report 2009-10* (2010)

- In July 2009 the four surviving copies of **1215 Magna Carta** held at the British Library, Lincoln Cathedral and Salisbury Cathedral, were awarded Memory of the World status. In June 2010 a reproduction of the Lincoln Cathedral Magna Carta went on display as part of the Memory of the World exhibition at the International Archival Culture Exhibition in Seoul, South Korea. Over **50,000 people visited the exhibition** over four days.
- Libraries, archives and museums with items and collections on the **UK Memory of the World Register** have already seen results since being awarded in July 2009 including increased volunteer levels, raised profile of the collection within their organisation, including additional funding commitments, visits from local politicians and MPs and newly-inspired staff and volunteers. This designation is also being used to support their funding bids.

Water Law, Policy and Science (Category II) centre

19. The International Hydrological Programme – Hydrology, Environment, Life and Policy (IHP-HELP) Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee operates under the auspices of UNESCO and is a UNESCO Category II Centre. It is the Regional Coordination Unit for Europe under IHP-HELP, for UNESCO. An interdisciplinary Centre, it addresses global water issues with a specific focus on: water regulation; security; conflict prevention; and international development. The IHP-HELP Centre works to overcome the law-science gap that results in barriers to the uptake and implementation of good science and the development of effective laws. Its legal and scientific research excellence helps set the agenda for water issues globally.
- The Centre promotes effective water management that helps prevent water disputes and alleviates poverty at national, regional and global levels, assisting national governments and international agencies in meeting the UN's Millennium Development Goals, and in developing innovative models and practices for Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).
 - The Centre uses **strong external partnership working** (e.g. with Global Water Partnership, the Asian Development Bank, the World Wildlife Fund and our fellow UNESCO Centres around the world) to the achievement of its goals.
 - The IHP-HELP Centre has **142 peer-reviewed academic publications** listed under the University of Dundee's Discovery online database of publications.
 - The Centre's work is said to be greatly enhanced by its UNESCO status, as it allows access to vital contacts globally without whose active support the Centre's work would, of necessity, be greatly denuded in terms of practical delivery.

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

20. The UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission has lead responsibilities within the intergovernmental system on a number of aspects of oceans and marine sciences which affect the UK including especially: (1) coordination of the Global Ocean Observing System which contributes to the UN Convention on Climate Change; (2) the International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project which includes research on the effects of ocean acidification on marine organisms; and (3) helping countries implement ecosystem-based management of their coastal zones through, for example, marine spatial planning initiatives, capitalising in part on work underway in UK waters.

In addition, through its Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea, IOC provides a unique forum for bringing together experts in marine science and Law of the Sea which is important for ensuring that future policies on our use of the oceans are based as far as possible on sound science and that research itself is appropriately regulated.

UNESCO Associated Schools

21. **67 schools** and education institutions with a total of **55,400 pupils and students** are members of UNESCO Associated Schools in the UK. Part of the global network of UNESCO Associated Schools, the teaching materials and events delivered by the UK network help deliver the national curriculum in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The UK network supports the integration of international perspectives in schools and promotes the values of UNESCO, including human rights, peace, tolerance and sustainable development and cultural diversity.

UNESCO Conventions

22. The UK has ratified **15 UNESCO Conventions**, including:

- *1970 Convention on Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Property*
- *1972 Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage*
- *2005 International Convention against Doping in Sport*
- *2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*

23. The UK has also signed the *1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*, but has yet to pass domestic legislation which will enable the Government to ratify the Convention and its two protocols.

Research and Policy

24. UNESCO produces **leading research and statistics** in its areas of competence which are used by UK Government to inform its policy formulation

- The **Education for All Global Monitoring Report (GMR)** is an authoritative reference used by governments, donors, researchers and civil society groups to enhance policy and set priority areas for action in EFA. For instance, in its most recent White Paper, DFID referenced the GMR five times. In a recent DFID Media Release on World Statistics Day, underlining how statistics are “vital to our [DFID’s] work in developing countries”, 20% of figures cited were from the GMR.²⁸
- Good data supports good governance and helps partner governments to develop policies which meet the needs of their populations.
- The **UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)** produces policy-relevant, timely, and trusted statistics in the fields of education, science and technology, culture and communication which are regularly used by the UN system, national governments, donors and non-governmental organizations. It works directly with ministries, statisticians and policy-planners in more than 200 countries and territories
- The UIS is the **official data source for the education-related targets of the Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs 2 and 3). It is the **main source of education and literacy statistics** for the major databases and publications used to establish and monitor international development goals, including the EFA Global Monitoring Report (UNESCO), World Development Indicators (World Bank), Human Development Report (UNDP) and the State of the World’s Children (UNICEF).
- In 2010, there was over **20,000 downloads** of UNESCO publications from the UK via the organisation’s online database. In the same year, there was nearly **1 million UK visits** to the UNESCO website domain unesco.org.²⁹

Scholarships and Sponsorship

25. Since 2007 the UNESCO L’Oreal For Women In Science Programme has given **£160,000** to outstanding women scientists in the UK in the early stages of their careers. Within 18 months of being awarded one of these Fellowships, **72% of scientists went on to receive other notable awards, grants and distinctions.**

UK National Commission for UNESCO

26. Through its National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC), each year the UK government and civil service receives over **£1.4 million in free services** from leading professionals in education, culture, sciences and communication.³⁰

- This includes expert advice to support the UK Government in fulfilling its obligations under relevant conventions and treaties, including the *1972 Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural*

²⁸ DFID Media Release, 20 Oct 2010, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/Features/2010/World-Statistics-Day-2010/>

²⁹ UNESCO website tracking

³⁰ Oct 2010 internal survey and assessment of the contributions of the UKNC’s approximately 250 volunteer experts

Heritage, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and UN Security Council Resolution 1738 on protection of journalists. The UKNC also provides expert advice to Government on UNESCO conventions which the UK has yet to ratify, including the *1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* and the *2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage*.

ANNEX 1

UK institutions with established ties to UNESCO:

There are currently 86 UK-based institutions with formalised ties to UNESCO. When expanded to include the membership of management and stakeholder structures, this number is far greater.

World Heritage Sites

There are currently **28 World Heritage Sites** in the UK and its Overseas Territories:

- Avebury (As part of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites)
- Blaenavon Industrial Landscape
- Blenheim Palace
- Canterbury Cathedral, St. Augustine's Abbey and St. Martin's Church
- Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd
- City of Bath
- Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape
- Derwent Valley Mills
- Dorset and East Devon Coast
- Durham Castle and Cathedral
- Edinburgh Old and New Towns
- Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast
- Gough Island Wildlife Reserve
- Hadrian's Wall
- Heart of Neolithic Orkney
- Henderson Island
- Historic Town of St George, Bermuda
- Ironbridge Gorge
- Liverpool
- Maritime Greenwich
- New Lanark
- Pontcysyllte Aqueduct
- Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew
- Saltaire
- Stonehenge
- Studley Royal Park, including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey
- St. Kilda
- Tower of London
- Westminster Abbey and Saint Margaret's Church
- Westminster Palace

A single World Heritage Site involves multiple government, private and third sector partners in its management and development. For instance, the **Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site (Jurassic Coast) Steering Group**, which has responsibility for management of the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site, involves the following 26 partners:

- Devon County Council
- Dorset County Council
- Dorset Coast Forum
- Natural England
- Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS)
- Jurassic Coast World Heritage Team
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- Government office for the South West
- East Devon District Council
- West Dorset District Council
- Purbeck District Council
- Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- East Devon AONB Team

- Dorset AONB Team
- National Trust
- Ministry of Defence Estates
- Jurassic Coast Trust
- Devon Maritime Forum
- Country Land and Business Association
- Dorset Geologist Association and RIGS
- South Devon and Dorset Coastal Action Group
- South West Regional Development Agency
- Arts Council England, South West
- South West Tourism

Biosphere Reserves

There are currently **8 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves** in the UK, including two 'new style' Biosphere Reserves:

- Biosfer Dyfi Biosphere (Wales) (extended 2009)
- North Devon's Biosphere Reserve (England) (extended 2002)
- Beinn Eighe Biosphere Reserve (Scotland)
- Cairnsmore of Fleet & Silver Flowe - Merrick Kells Biosphere Reserve (Scotland)
- Loch Druidibeg Biosphere Reserve (Scotland)
- Moor House - Upper Teesdale Biosphere Reserve (England)
- North Norfolk Coast Biosphere Reserve (England)

The **management of each Biosphere Reserve** involves multiple government, private and third sector partners. For instance, **North Devon's Biosphere Reserve Partnership**, which is the body responsible for coordinating, on behalf of the constituent local authorities and stakeholders, the management of the Biosphere Reserve, includes:

- Christie Devon Estates
- Ministry of Defence
- Cevon Cuncy Council, Torridge, North and West Devon Councils
- North Devon Coast AONB Partnership
- Taw Torridge Estuary Forum
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- South West Regional Development Agency
- Educational institutions
- National Park Authorities
- Representatives from northern Devon commerce and industry
- Farmers and fishermen
- National Trust

Geoparks

There are currently **8 Geoparks** in the UK, all of which are members of the European Geoparks Network and the Global Network of Geoparks assisted by UNESCO:

- English Riviera Geopark (Torbay, South West England)
- Fforest Fawr Geopark (South Wales)
- GeoMôn Geopark (Anglesey, Wales)
- Lochaber Geopark (Highlands of Scotland)
- Marble Arch Caves Geopark (Northern Ireland)
- North Pennines A.O.N.B. Geopark (Northern England)
- North West Highlands Geopark (Highlands of Scotland)
- Shetland Geopark (Shetland Islands, Scotland)

UNESCO Creative Cities

There are currently 3 cities in the UK which are members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network:

- Edinburgh City of Literature
- Glasgow City of Music
- Bradford City of Film

UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks

There are currently **18 UK Higher Education Institutions** with established UNESCO Chairs or UNITWIN Networks:

- University of Edinburgh – UNESCO Chair in International Development
- University of Hertfordshire – UNESCO Chair in Information and Computer Ethics
- Cardiff University – UNESCO Chair in The Development of a Sustainable Geoenvironment
- UHI Millennium Institute – UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Mountain Development
- University of Bradford – UNESCO Chair in Africa Peace and Conflict Studies
- Lancaster University – UNESCO Chair in Gender Research
- Royal Holloway, University of London – UNESCO Chair in ICT for Development
- Aberystwyth University – UNESCO Chair in HIV AIDS Education and Health Security in Africa
- University of Nottingham – UNESCO Chair in Political Economy of Education
- University of Oxford – UNESCO Chair in Education as a Humanitarian Response
- University of Bath – UNESCO Chair in Higher Education Management
- Institute of Education, University of London – UNESCO Chair in Intercultural Studies and Teacher Education
- University of Ulster – UNESCO Chair focuses on Education for Pluralism, Human Rights and Democracy
- University of Birmingham – UNESCO Chair in Interfaith Studies
- City University London – UNESCO Chair in Information and Communication Engineering
- School of Pharmacy, University of London – UNITWIN Network in Global Pharmacy Education Development
- Bangor University – UNITWIN Network in Marine Biology and Sustainable Development for East Africa
- University of Strathclyde – UNITWIN Network in Entrepreneurial Education

Memory of the World inscriptions

There are currently **14 libraries, archives and museums** with items or collections inscribed on the UK or International Memory of the World registers of outstanding documentary heritage:

- British Library
- Lincoln Cathedral
- Salisbury Cathedral
- Hereford Cathedral
- BBC Sound Archives
- Imperial War Museum
- City of London Corporation
- University of Manchester
- WRVS Archives
- Liverpool Record Office
- National Library of Wales
- Royal Bank of Scotland Group
- National Library of Scotland
- National Screen & Sound Archive, National Library of Wales

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

There are currently **4 organisations** with headquarters or a substantial presence in the UK which have established Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNESCO. These agreements formalise how these organisations will work with UNESCO, share information and contribute expertise to advocacy and efforts in agreed priority areas.

- British Council
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- BBC
- Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT)

UNESCO Patronage

UNESCO's patronage lends the organisation's name and visibility to worthy initiatives, free of charge. Over the past five years, there have been **9 events and projects** in the UK under UNESCO's patronage:

- 2012 Jurassic Coast Earth Festival, including the Lyme Regis Fossil Festivals
- Tate Modern: "The Unilever Series – turbine generation 2010-2013"
- Inaugural conference of the Federation of International Human Rights Museum in Liverpool
- Gaia Education's Eco-Village Design Curriculum (publication)

- Jurassic Coast Earth Festival taking place at Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site
- Hay Festival 2009 “Earth, Wind, Fire and Water” at Brecon Beacons
- “1001 Natural Wonders You Must See Before You Die” (publication)
- Encyclopaedia of Life Support Systems, EOLSS
- “KFK Wonders of the World” (publication)

UNESCO Associate Centres

There is currently **1 UNESCO Associate Centre** at the University of Worcester, Institute of Sport and Exercise Science.

UK institutions with open bids to UNESCO:

There are currently 44 UK-based institutions which are currently in the process of applying to UNESCO programmes or designations.

UK World Heritage Site Tentative List

The UK Government is preparing a new Tentative List of natural, cultural and mixed sites for potential nomination for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, to be submitted to UNESCO in 2011, with a view to putting forward nominations to the World Heritage Committee from 2012. There are currently **38 sites** being reviewed for potential inclusion on the UK’s new Tentative List:

- Arbroath Abbey (Scotland)
- The Birmingham Jewellery Quarter (England)
- The Birth of the Railway Age serial nomination (England)
- Blackpool (England)
- The heroic period of civil and marine engineering in England 1822-1866, Bristol (England)
- Bronte Landscape and Haworth Village (England)
- Brunel’s Great Western Railway (England)
- Buildings of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Glasgow (Scotland)
- Chatham Dockyard and its Defences (England)
- Chester Rows (England)
- Colchester, Camulodunum and Colonia Victricensis (England)
- Creswell Crags (England)
- The Hill of Derry (Northern Ireland)
- The Dover Strait (England)
- The Flow Country (Scotland)
- The Forth Bridge (Scotland)
- The Fountain Cavern (Anguilla)
- Gorham’s Cave (Gibraltar)
- Gracehill Conservation area (Northern Ireland)
- Jodrell Bank Observatory (England)
- The Lake District (England)
- The Laxey Valley (Isle of Man)
- Historic Lincoln (England)
- Malone and Stranmillis Historic Urban landscape (Northern Ireland)
- Merthyr Tydfil (Wales)
- Merton Priory (England)
- Mousa, Old Scatness and Jarlshof: The Crucible of Iron Age Shetland (Scotland)
- The Royal Sites of Ireland – Navan Fort (Northern Ireland)
- The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads (England)
- Slate Industry of North Wales (Wales)
- Offa’s Dyke (England/Wales border)
- St Andrews, Medieval Burgh and Links (Scotland)
- Island of Saint Helena (Saint Helena Island, South Atlantic Ocean)
- Turks and Caicos Islands (Caribbean)
- Tynwald Hill and environs – Norse assembly sites of North West Europe (Isle of Man)
- Former RAF Upper Heyford (England)
- Wye Valley and Forest of Dean (England/Wales border)
- City of York (England)

UNESCO Creative Cities

There are currently **2 UK cities** preparing bids to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network:

- Norwich (Creative City of Literature)
- York (Creative City of Media Arts)

UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks

There is currently one **1 UK Higher Education Institution** with pending UNESCO Chair status:

- University of Bedfordshire – UNESCO Chair in New Media Forms of the Book

UK Memory of the World Nominations

The UK currently has **3 nominations** under review for the International Memory of the World Register and **25 nominations** under review for the UK Register. The nominating institutions for the International Register are:

- British Library
- National Archives
- Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

The nominating institutions for the UK Register are:

- British Library
- Heritage Collections and Culture Services
- Liverpool University: Special Collections and Archives
- Gloucestershire Archives
- West Yorkshire Archive Service
- The Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford
- The Royal Bank of Scotland
- Yorkshire Archaeological Society
- Parliamentary Archive
- National Library of Scotland
- Jersey Heritage
- Lothian Health Services Archive (LHSA)
- Amber Film & Photography Collective
- Edinburgh City Libraries
- Museum of Edinburgh
- Hampshire Record Office
- Norfolk Record Office
- British Film Institute (BFI)
- BT Heritage
- British Postal Museum and Archive
- The Wedgwood Museum
- The Women's Library and the Parliamentary Archives
- The Children's Society's
- Office for National Statistics (ONS) Library and Information Service

UNESCO World Capital Bid

Oxford is currently bidding for UNESCO World Book Capital City 2014. The bid Committee includes:

- Oxfam
- Oxford University Press
- Blackwell's Publishers
- Oxford Inspires (Oxfordshire cultural development agency)
- The Bodleian Libraries
- The Story Museum
- Oxford Literary Festival
- University of Oxford
- Oxford Brookes University
- Oxford City Council
- Oxfordshire County Council

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