



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 01	Month 04	Year 2021		Day 31	Month 03	Year 2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name World Heritage UK

Other names charity is known by WH UK

Registered charity number (if any) 1163364

Charity's principal address World Heritage UK
 c/o The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
 Coach Road, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire
Postcode TF8 7DQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tony Crouch	Chair		
2	Ian Wray	Vice-Chair		
3	Sam Rose	Treasurer and Founding Chair		
4	Gillian Clarke	Secretary		
5	Jane Gibson			
6	Max Bryant			
7	Lesley Garlick			
8	Don Gobbett			
9	David Holroyd			
10	Graham U'ren		From April to December	
11	Stephen Ratcliffe			
12	Justin Scully		From December 2021	
13	Jane Masters		From December 2021	
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20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	The Trustees are elected by the membership

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote the conservation and protection of the UK's World Heritage Sites for the benefit of the public, defined as those places considered by the United Nations Educational Cultural and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) as having such Outstanding Universal Value that they warrant being inscribed on the World Heritage List through the powers of the international Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972, in particular but without limitation to the following:-

- Supporting for the benefit of the public the development of

World Heritage Site nominations for the UK's Tentative List Sites, defined as Sites on the UK Government's official Tentative List for nomination for World Heritage Status;

- **Advancing the education of the public in general in respect of the significance and values of the UK's World Heritage Sites and Tentative List Sites, as defined above;**
- **Undertaking effective advocacy at all levels for the joint benefit of the UK's World Heritage Sites and for the World Heritage Convention;**
- **Facilitating and encouraging networking between organisations and individuals that play a role in the management of the UK's 28 WH Sites, and Tentative List Sites (as defined in the objects) be that at the Site, agency, NGO, government, corporate or individual level, for the collective benefit of the Sites' management. This may involve: bringing people together; sharing good practice; exchanging information;**
- **Dissemination of information;**
- **Undertaking joint project and initiatives;**
- **Providing a platform for partners to access the UK World Heritage Community;**
- **Linking internationally, where appropriate, and**
- **Promoting the UK's World Heritage Sites, in collaboration with key partner agencies, to a national and international audience so as to allow more people to experience the Sites in ways that are appropriate to their different situations and pressures, and which enable the general public to better find out about, experience, access and enjoy them."**

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

In April 2021 we saw the beginning of the easing of the Pandemic restrictions on numbers meeting together and social distancing. WH UK remained pragmatic and cautious however and continued to hold all meetings on-line. Board meetings continued regularly as well as general and network meetings. In spite of these restrictions WH UK has been able to build on its stated aims of Advocacy, Learning and Engagement and Promotion of World Heritage ideals. At all times the Charity Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

The NHLF funded resilience project which started in 2020 has been completed with all the deliverables achieved and is a good example of the fund providing vital and timely support.

The revised website re - presents the World Heritage of the UK. It provides a members section enabling improved interaction and networking between members-

The Business Plan in particular highlighted ways to improve the efficiency of the organisation and as a result we have appointed a General Manager, a post with enhanced responsibilities building on the previous post of the Operations Director.

The Resilience Project has also resulted in an increase in the breadth of the organisation and to cope with the expanded activity new sub committees have been set up dealing with Risk and Resources, Events planning, and Funding opportunities.

Our links with other related organisations in the field of world heritage have been strengthened. In February a Memorandum of Understanding between WHUK and ICOMOS UK was signed, an action designed to improve collaboration and avoid duplication.

Our newsletter has been a great benefit in this period of restrictions on meeting and has been continued on a regular basis. It not only informs readers of World Heritage news but also brings together news from other relevant sources including the Heritage Alliance, Association of Leading Visitor Attractions and the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Professional development has continued with the important and successful series of member-focused Co-ordinator meetings. These ensure that Site managers can keep in touch with colleagues and share best practice. These meetings are supported by regular attendance of representatives from the national heritage agencies, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the UK National Commission for UNESCO who all helped to keep us up to date with the latest high level information from their perspectives. A total of four such meetings were held during the year, interspersed with open meetings.

We held three webinars during the year. In May Dr David Jaques, a landscape historian and conservationist who was instrumental in revising the Unesco criteria to include cultural landscapes, presented a lecture titled 'The Changing Nature of World Heritage Designed Landscapes'. Feedback was positive with some 40 attendees.

The summer meeting explored the very topical issue 'Reopening of WHSs to New and Existing Audiences'. The meeting was supported by the Lake District National Park Authority and hosted by Steve Ratcliffe from the Lake District and WHUK Board. Speakers included representatives from Derwent Valley Mills, the Wordsworth Trust and the National Trust. WHUK is very grateful to the help and support from Mairi Lock and Jamie Lund from the Lake District.

The main event of the year was the ambitious three-day Conference on 'Climate Change and World Heritage (September 21-23). It was supported by Cadw and Heritage Environment Scotland. Speakers were informative and varied, presenting on the climate emergency at all levels. We are grateful to the Climate Change group chaired by Don Gobbett (Board member) and Chris Mahon (Operations Director).

A meeting of WH Steering Group Chairs was held in November and our President, Chris Blandford, is now planning to approach some of the Chairs individually to potentially recruit them as influential 'Champions' for World Heritage UK.

WHUK also supported and contributed to Newcastle University's "World Heritage and Peace" project.

Work on advocacy and promotion of World Heritage with Government is still a priority, but it has been difficult to engage with the focus still on Covid issues. We look forward to resuming face-to-face meetings which can be much more productive.

Finally, we are currently seeking to spread our membership outside the immediate heritage interests. WHUK secured funding from 'Steps to Sustainability' a NHLF funded project to research potential new audiences from within defined sectors, in particular of tourist boards, local enterprise partnerships and the Universities.

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Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

World Heritage UK would not survive without the volunteer effort of the Trustees and the President.

We do not currently give grants

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

World Heritage UK has continued the aim to promote the conservation of the UK's world heritage sites through education and advocacy.

Outreach and networking with Site co-ordinators has been maintained and enhanced by organising on-line meetings dealing with technical matters, and engagement with the national heritage agencies.

Our open meetings have covered a broad range of topics, from Climate Change and its impacts on heritage, the place of designed landscapes in World Heritage, and the issues arising from greater numbers visiting World Heritage sites following the strictures of the pandemic.

Resulting from the NHLF Resilience project we have a more streamlined organisation. A General Manager has been appointed and a comprehensive Business Plan is in place. We have an improved website and overhauled the accounting systems to be more efficient.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We aim to hold £15,000 in reserves at the end of each financial year

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Tony Crouch	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	07 December 2022	