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World Heritage UK

February 2025 newsletter



WHUK's Spring 2025 Workshop

Dates - **Wed 30 Apr** (from 12.30pm) & **Thu 01 May** (all day)

Venue - Local Government Association Head Office, 18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

Theme - **Climate Change & WHS Management**

Programme - Hear speakers from ICOMOS International, IUCN, the National Trust, English Heritage, Historic England, NLHF, Edinburgh and Hadrian's Wall WHSs, UKNC and more. For the full programme, use the link below.

Tickets details are:

- WHUK members - in-person £150 each and digital £120 (via YouTube) each

And are available from [WHUK 2025 Spring Workshop | World Heritage UK](#)

Please note that in-person tickets are capped to 70 in total, and are available on a first come first served basis.

Details of the Wed night advocacy event will be announced soon.



World Heritage UK's 2025 World Heritages & Climate Action webinar series

The next series of webinars continues as we hear from a number of World Heritage Sites on how they are working to mitigate and adapt for the impacts of climate change. The series features:

- **The Flow Country**, on Tuesday 21st January (YouTube recording)
- **Studley Royal & Fountains Abbey**, on Tuesday 18th February
- **The Old & New Towns of Edinburgh**, on Tuesday 11th March
- and **The English Lake District**, on Tuesday 15th April

The webinars all run from 7 to 8pm, and are on Zoom.

Tickets for individual webinars are £5 each. Or a series ticket for all 4 webinars is just £15.

You can book your ticket(s) by clicking [here](#).

All talks are recorded. These recordings are then uploaded to WHUK's YouTube channel. Attendees will be provided with a link to the webinar recording. Series ticket holders will receive links for all 4.

Images: Andy Hay RSPB Images; National Trust; Connor Mollison; and Lake District National Park Authority



World Heritage & Peace

World Heritage Sites could and should play a more active role in promoting a vision of global peace, heritage experts at Newcastle University say.

A report published by the UNESCO Chair team in [Cultural Property and Protection and Peace at Newcastle University](#), highlights that World Heritage Sites could increase the range of activities they carry out that formally reference **UNESCO's founding objective of contributing to world peace** through education, science, and culture, rather than focusing solely on their history or archaeology.

The research was carried out between 2019 and 2024 through a desk-top analysis of WHSs globally and then focusing on all 35 WHSs in the UK. It found that while a minority acknowledged UNESCO's founding principle in their

This was then followed by interviews with representatives from 16 Sites, which revealed that while most were aware of UNESCO's founding principle, few were making any public reference to it or carrying out activities in support of it. However, many did express interest in exploring examples of best practice from other WHSs.

Among the recommendations made in the report is that an international project be set up to improve awareness and understanding of how WHSs can act as 'ambassadors for peace'. As part of this, resources developed to assist UK Sites would be tested in a wide variety of situations and, if necessary, modified for local audiences to help them understand what UNESCO is and does, what WHSs are, and issues such as how World Heritage relates to UNESCO's primary objective of promoting peace.

The UNESCO Chair Report '**World Heritage Sites as Ambassadors for Peace**' is jointly published by the UNESCO Chair at Newcastle together with the UK National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC) and World Heritage UK (WHUK).

Click [here](#) to download the report (for web).

Click [here](#) to download the report (4.3 Mb).

Click [here](#) to access the e-book version.



London Heritage – 2025 Conference @ Greenwich WHS

Wednesday 25th – Friday 27th June 2025

Architecture Media Politics Society (AMPS) are holding an international Conference, **London Heritages – 2025**, hosted by the Captivate Heritage Laboratory, University of Greenwich at the [Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site](#), from 25-27 June this year.

Using the World Heritage Site of Maritime Greenwich as a point of departure, the conference seeks to explore the critical questions for the heritage sector today from various disciplinary perspectives. Whether they come from the fields of art and architectural history, cultural studies, digital heritage, social history or landscape and urban planning. Seeking to position the site, its difficulties and successes in a global context, the conference also welcomes international case studies that explore the varied and complex components of heritage, conservation and preservation, as both a tangible and intangible phenomenon in different cultures, climates and socio-political contexts.

Abstracts are requested by 10 April 2025.

Click [here](#) for full details.

Any queries about the conference or its content should be directed to Simon Withers at S.Withers@greenwich.ac.uk and/or Professor Stephen Kennedy S.Kennedy@greenwich.ac.uk from the Captivate Heritage Laboratory, University of Greenwich.

Image: Visit Greenwich



Restoring OUV in the English Lake District WHS

Rare slate fences unique to the [English Lake District World Heritage Site](#) have been restored.

More than 300m of interlocking shard fencing was reinstated in the upper Lickle Valley and on footpaths in Hawkshead.

The [Lake District National Park Authority](#) (LDNPA) said while shard fencing was found in other parts of the UK, interlocking fencing was exclusive to the National Park and WHS.

The project was granted £116,707 by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) [Farming in Protected Landscape](#) fund, through the LDNPA.

At Jackson Ground, in the upper Lickle Valley, 853ft (260m) of the fencing was reinstated, with some of the shards measuring 5ft (1.5m) in height. In Hawkshead, six sections were restored, including 209ft (64m) of new shards by a footpath between Hawkshead and Roger Ground, and the boundary to Dolly's Orchard. The fences are a testament to the Lake District's long-standing pastoral farming traditions, which have helped secure its UNESCO World Heritage status.

supports local biodiversity".

LDNPA area ranger Sara Spicer said shard fencing was an *"incredible blend of practicality, heritage, and ecological value"*.

"For farmers, it provides a durable boundary for livestock. For wildlife, the accompanying hedgerows act as vital corridors, enhancing biodiversity. And for visitors, these fences offer a glimpse into the traditional ways this land has been managed for centuries."



Images: LDNPA



World Heritage Day, or International Day of Monuments and Sites (IDMS), is on **Friday 18th April**.

This year's theme is "**Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts: Preparedness and Learning from 60 years of ICOMOS Actions**".

At the 2023 ICOMOS General Assembly in Australia, *Disaster and Conflict Resilient Heritage – Preparedness, Response and Recovery* was selected as the theme for their Triennial Scientific Plan (TSP) 2024-2027. The first year of the plan focuses on how ICOMOS and its partners can prepare for possible disasters, through the prevention and mitigation of hazards, improving resilience, as well as by preparing for conflicts that threaten the planet's cherished heritage resources.

In this context, ICOMOS asks in 2025: ***How can its members, constituent Committees and World Heritage Sites better prepare for these disasters? What role can everyone play collectively, and what does everyone need to be effective in that work?***

To find out more and to get involved, click [here](#).

Please support the work of World Heritage UK

WHUK is a small but unique charity. We're always looking for new members or donations.

If you aren't a member, or know someone who would like to be a member, please go to our [Membership page](#) to join.

If you or a friend or colleague would like to make a donation to WHUK, please go to our [Donation page](#), to help us support the UK's WH community.

Thank you!



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