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World Heritage UK

September 2026 newsletter



2026 Annual Conference - book now!

This year's WHUK Annual Conference is on **Monday 5 & Tuesday 6 October**. The conference will be held in Portrush, Northern Ireland, just down the coast from [Giant's Causeway WHS](#).

This year's conference theme is "***Connections through World Heritage***". Speakers include the National Trust's Director General, the International National Trust Organisation, the European Network of World Heritage Associations, the Great Spa Towns of Europe WHS, Queen's University Belfast, Ireland's National Monument Service, Frontiers of the Roman Empire, plus more. In-person delegates will also enjoy site visits to the Giant's Causeway and [Gracehill Moravian Church Settlements](#) WHSs.

As the conference will involve travel by air or sea for most, WHUK do

In-person and digital conference tickets are now both available. Prices reflect the additional financial burden of attending in person. To book and for suggestions for accommodation in Portrush and information on travel please go to [World Heritage UK 2026 Annual Conference](#) | [World Heritage UK](#)

We hope to see you there, and help to celebrate Giant's Causeway's 40th anniversary as a WHS, along with the other six Sites that were the first wave of UK Sites to be inscribed back in November 1986.

Image: gluseppe-milo



World Heritage Webinars - Seats of Power & Influence

World Heritage UK's autumn 2026 webinar series explores those UK World Heritage Sites that have and continue to hold power and influence – geographically, militarily, politically or scientifically.

- Tuesday 22 September – **Hadrian's Wall**
- Tuesday 13 October – **Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd**
- Tuesday 20 October – **Tower of London**
- Tuesday 10 November – **Blenheim Palace**
- Tuesday 24 November – **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**
- Tuesday 08 December – **Heart of Neolithic Orkney**

As usual, webinars will run 7 to 8pm UK time, and will be on Zoom.

All webinars will be recorded and uploaded to WHUK's private YouTube account.

All ticket holders will be provided the link later in the week after the webinar.



Visiting WHSs by Rail Map - 2026 Version

Back in April 2024, World Heritage UK with support from [Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership](#), launched a guide to visiting the UK's World Heritage Sites by sustainable transport.

Since that publication, the UK has welcomed [The Flow Country](#) and [Moravian Church Settlement Gracehill](#) to the World Heritage family. So an updated version of the map has been long overdue.

The original idea came from the Hadrian's Wall Youth Ambassadors. During a workshop run by the Partnership with the Ambassadors, the young people came up with lots of ideas to promote rail travel to and around World Heritage Sites. Encouraging people to use public transport rather than the car to visit Sites supports UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals to build sustainable communities and taking climate action. This spurred TVCRP back in 2024.

In 2026, rail partners from The Flow Country took up the mantle and supported WHUK in developing a second and updated edition. The Flow Country partners are [The Far North Line Community Rail Partnership](#), [The Friends of the Far North Line](#), [Venture North](#), and the [Flow Country Partnership](#). WHUK thanks our new partners for their support.

To access and download a copy of the 2026 World Heritage Sites by Rail map, please 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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