

Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site Annual Report 2019



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Durham Castle and Cathedral
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List in 1986

Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site Annual Report 2019

Welcome

- To the third annual report – since our new Management Plan was approved by UNESCO. To see our plan in full, please go to <https://www.durhamworldheritagesite.com/> and click on “Documents and Research” at the bottom of the page)
- A lot has happened in the past year. Our Action Plan (which you can see in more detail in the Management Plan) has 6 key aims, underpinned by supporting objectives:
 1. *Protecting the Site’s Outstanding Universal Value and setting*
 2. *Conserve and enhance the Site and its setting*
 3. *Support understanding and awareness of the Site and its Outstanding Universal Value and of World Heritage*
 4. *Support communities in realising the economic, social and cultural opportunities and benefits World Heritage Status can bring*
 5. *Support visitor and communities’ access to and their enjoyment of the Site and its benefits*
 6. *Support and demonstrate exemplary WHS management to deliver all aims*
- We hope this Report will tell you about some of the activities delivered over the past year in support of these Aims.
- 2019 saw the retirement of four members of the WHS Coordinating Committee : Professor David Cowling (Durham University), Barbara Hooper (Historic England), Dr Douglas Pocock (City of Durham Trust) and Martin Roberts (representing ICOMOS UK) The Committee would like to register their thanks to these Committee members for their work in support of the WHS over the past years.
- With the retirement of Professor David Cowling the position of Chair of the WHS Coordinating Committee passed to Liz Waller, Director of Library and Collections and University Librarian, Durham University.

Liz Waller Chair of WHS Coordinating Committee

Jane Gibson, WHS Coordinator

Who we are

The WHS is managed with the support and advice of the WHS Coordinating committee, whose members are:

Liz Waller, Director of Library and Collections and University Librarian, Durham University

Reverend Charlie Allen, Canon Chancellor, Durham Cathedral

Dr Anne Allen, Deputy Principal, St John's College

Steve Bhowmick, Environment and Design Manager Durham County Council

Mike Collins, Historic England

John Lowe, The City of Durham Trust

John Pendlebury, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) UK

Jane Robson, Assistant Director (Estates Operations), Durham University

Aim 1 Protect the Site's Outstanding Universal Value and Setting



CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROPOSAL

2019

- **The Planning environment** - The WHS Coordinator worked closely with the Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Site and its immediate setting have been fully supported in the finished Neighbourhood Plan
- **The County Durham Plan** (Durham's Local Plan) reached its examination stage in 2019. The WHS Management Plan (WHS MP) was accepted as a key supporting document. The WHS Coordinator offered comments on the WHS policy and, together with other submissions, this has resulted in a more detailed policy statement. There are now further changes required by the planning inspector dealing with the plan. These are awaited but the references to the World Heritage Site and its Management Plan should now remain unchanged. They reinforce the validity of our plan and its action points.
- **World Heritage Site boundary revision** – 2019 saw the completion of a thorough programme of stakeholder and wider public consultation. The finished proposal to expand the WHS Boundary, to include the River Wear surrounding the peninsula and its outer banks, was submitted to UNESCO at the end of the year, pending presentation at the 2020 June/July World Heritage Committee meeting in Fuzhou, China.



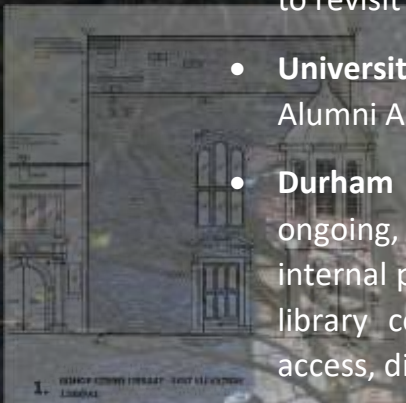
Durham Castle and Cathedral
World Heritage Site

Submission for Minor Extension of
the Site Boundaries

Aim 2 Conserve and enhance the Site and its Setting

- **WHS Setting** – The Cathedral have developed a new section in their Contractors' Handbook covering management of the riverbanks and non-native species management.
- **Visit County Durham** hosted a cross-stakeholder workshop to revisit future options for the Old Fulling Mill.
- **University College** carried out tree works, funded by their Alumni Association which have enhanced views of the Site
- **Durham University Cosin's Library** major works are ongoing, with external repairs to the walls and roofs and internal plasterwork, with the aim of returning the historic library collections to the building for improved public access, display and interpretation
- **Cathedral** – In a busy year for the Property Team, works were completed on surveying, consolidation and repair of the Medieval North and South doors to the Cathedral in advance of installation of new storm porches.
- **Cathedral Archaeological investigations** and excavations have been carried out across the site, including the preparatory work for the North and South doors of the Cathedral, Prebends Walk, the Deanery Dining Room and the Works Yard.
- **A second Cathedral Mason** was accepted onto the Cathedral Workshop fellowship programme and one of the Mason Apprentices completed the first year of his college programme.

Image courtesy of GSS Architecture /Durham University



Images courtesy of Purcell/Durham Cathedral

Aim 3 Support understanding and awareness of the Site and its Outstanding Universal Value and of World Heritage

- **Durham University's Archaeology Department** launched a public on-line teaching course based on the history, archaeology and science of the Scottish soldiers from the Battle of Dunbar that were imprisoned in Durham Cathedral and whose remains were discovered and excavated under Palace Green Library.
- **World Heritage Day 2019** celebrated the natural aspects of World Heritage Sites. The WHS's Young Heritage Ambassador group in collaboration with the Cathedral's Young Curators created and delivered a month-long exhibition in the WHS Visitor Centre, with artworks highlighting the natural aspects of the WHS and hosted a weekend of activities on the theme to mark World Heritage Day itself.
- **Durham University, Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies** launched a Fellowship scheme to enhance understanding and awareness of the WHS and its tangible and intangible heritage, with an emphasis on piloting innovative research methodologies. The first fellowship focused on documenting existing heritage routes and processions which connect the WHS, the city and surrounding communities in Durham and County Durham.
- **Open Treasure**, the museum of Durham Cathedral, continued to deliver an exciting programme of temporary exhibitions, drawing on the collections of the Cathedral and enhanced by loans from regional and national partners. Among highlights for 2019 were 'Feasting and Fasting: The Great Kitchen at Durham Cathedral', which included a 12th century manuscript from Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge: originally part of Durham Priory Library, it features the oldest known medieval recipes in existence.



Images courtesy of Durham University



Image courtesy of Durham Cathedral



Images courtesy of Durham Cathedral

DURHAM WORLD HERITAGE SITE
RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

Aim 4 - Support communities in realising the economic, social and cultural opportunities and benefits of World Heritage status

- **Durham University through the Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, the Department of Archaeology and Durham's UNESCO Chair** hosted a second fellowship with a visiting academic from Egypt, comparing the tourist experience between heritage sites in Egypt with those in Durham WHS. With reference to the heritage retail souvenir market, the project highlighted the challenges many handicrafts producers face, such as rising raw material costs, a lack of support in marketing them, and the lack of a new generation of artisans learning traditional skills.
- **England's Northern World Heritage Collection** programme was launched, delivering high quality tourist packages focussed on the Northern WHSs of Durham, Hadrian's Wall, The Lake District, Saltaire, Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal and Liverpool. The package has been showcased at Tourism Fairs in the USA and Ireland.
- **The WHS Annual Lecture Series** delivered a programme of seven lectures on the theme of the wider range of UNESCO designations, including talks on the Geopark and Biosphere programmes, the Memory of the World, the work of the UK National Commission for UNESCO and Cities of Culture.
- **Visit County Durham** is the Destination Management Organisation for our region and a key partner in the World Heritage Site Coordinating Committee. Their Durham Tourism Management Plan (DTMaP) is recognised across the county as the plan for developing the visitor economy. The WHS is a key part of its Action Plan and we benefit from their support in research, access to data and partnerships in support of their priorities. Over the past year these have included ongoing support and input to Visit England's "Northern World Heritage Collection" project, the development of a Riverbanks Stakeholder group and the development and delivery of the six Northern Saints Trails in support of Pilgrimage 2020.



Image courtesy of Durham University

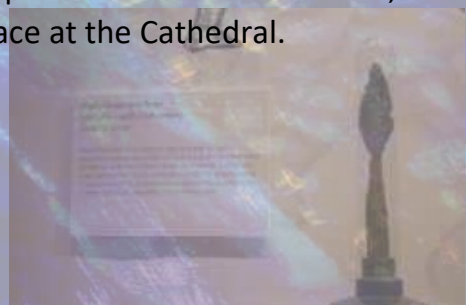
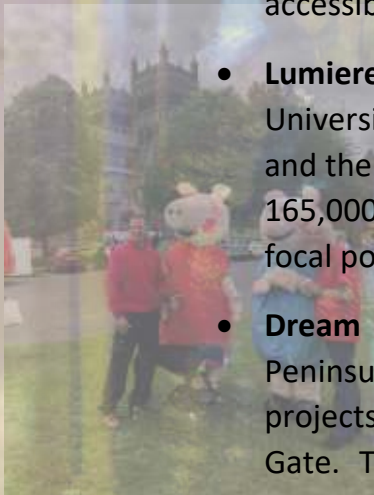
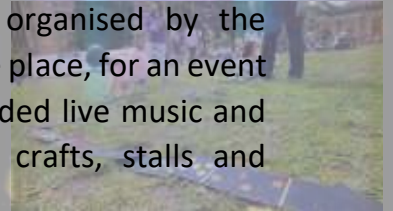


Image courtesy of Cumbria Tourism

Image courtesy of Visit County Durham

Aim 5 Support visitor and communities' access, their enjoyment of the Site and its benefit

- **Durham University** hosted a Community Fun Day, centred on Palace Green. Over 1,000 people visited the marquee on Palace Green, Durham, bringing as many of the huge variety of inspiring activities organised by the University's staff and students as possible together in one place, for an event which was free and open to all to enjoy. Activities included live music and theatre, sports, dancing, hands-on science, arts and crafts, stalls and exhibitions
- **The WHS Young Heritage Ambassadors** worked with Durham City Access Group to develop guided tours of the Site with a focus on increasing accessibility to wider audiences.
- **Durham County Council** delivered a programme of improvements to the riverbanks walks adjacent to Elvet Bridge, making the riverside path more accessible and enhancing the public realm.
- **Lumiere 10th Anniversary Edition** - The Dean and Chapter and Durham University again hosted a range of lighting installations across their buildings and the riverbanks. Despite poor weather, attendance was good, attracting 165,000 visitors overall and the sound and light show at the Cathedral was a focal point.
- **Dream Community** – a community-based heritage charity, organised a Peninsula visit in June and wishes to continue with interest in practical projects - possibly on the Riverbanks Gardens area or the site of the North Gate. The WHS Coordinator has supported their interest. They have also organised a course held in The College to learn about Latin medieval manuscripts and how to translate them.
- **Open Treasure's summer exhibition**, 'The Vikings in Northumbria', was particularly aimed at attracting a family audience and increasing the activities available to them at the Cathedral. Themed events and workshops were held over the holiday period, together with self-led trails and activities within the exhibition spaces. The Education team also worked with artist Wendy Stoker in local schools to produce a linked exhibition, displayed within the Community Gallery space at the Cathedral.



Images
courtesy of
Durham
University

Images courtesy of Durham Cathedral

Ship on loan from National Museums Scotland

Image courtesy of
North East Tourism



Aim 6 Support and demonstrate exemplary WHS management to deliver all aims

- **Durham WHS** hosted World Heritage: UK's two-day summer workshop on the theme of community engagement in WHSs, welcoming over 84 delegates from WHS's across the UK.
- **The WHS Visitor Centre** was awarded a silver award for North East Tourism's Visitor Information provider of the Year for a second year
- **The WHS Coordinator** built on the work of last year with Canterbury Cathedral WHS sharing best practice in the development of WHS Management Plans and WHS Site management and coordination

Image courtesy of WHUK



2020

At the time of consolidation of the 2019 Annual Report the world was entering the COVID-19 emergency. During the past months, we have seen this spread to the United Kingdom and currently (April 2020) Durham WHS is in lock-down, but essential activity (both physical and virtual) continues across the WHS to ensure its safety and the safety and wellbeing of the communities who live, work and enjoy this special place. Our plans for 2020 are listed below and our stakeholders are already working to ensure that we will be ready to deliver these as soon as possible and welcome everyone back to Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site as soon as allowed:

- Progression of the WHS's boundary revision proposal to UNESCO's 2020 WHS Committee for approval and launch of the updated WHS Activity Plan in support of this
- Pilgrimage 2020 a programme of new art installations and celebrations centred on Durham Cathedral's Shrine of St Cuthbert and the rich pilgrim traditions of Durham and the wider North East of England
- Launch of the Northern Saints Trails, six new, long-distance walking trails based on ancient pilgrimage routes and centred on Durham Cathedral
- Completion of the Cathedral's North and South Porches project
- Commencement of the Cathedral's Cloister Project
- Commencement of the delivery phase of the major conservation works to Durham Castle's Norman Chapel and its immediate surroundings

We would also like to send our thanks to all the essential workers who have given service above and beyond the call of duty throughout this emergency and who are ensuring that we will be ready to return to full operational status when the time comes.



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