

Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site

Annual Report 2018



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Durham Castle and Cathedral
inscribed on the World Heritage
List in 1986

Welcome

To the second 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. *Protect 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 some of the activities we have delivered over the past year in support of these Aims.

In particular, 2017 saw the retirement of Canon Rosalind Brown, Chair of the WHS Coordinating Committee. The Committee would like to register their thanks to Canon Brown for all her work in support of the WHS over the past 11 years.

With the retirement of Canon Brown and in accordance with the Terms of Reference, the Chair of the WHS Coordinating Committee passed to Durham University and has been taken up by Professor David Cowling, Pro Vice Chancellor, Arts and Humanities.

Professor David Cowling 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:

The Reverend Canon Rosalind Brown, Nave Canon and Canon Librarian, Durham Cathedral and Chair of Durham WHS Coordinating Committee to July 2018

Professor David Cowling, Pro Vice Chancellor, Arts and Humanities, Durham University and Chair of Durham WHS Coordinating Committee from July 2018

Reverend Charlie Allen, Canon Chancellor, Durham Cathedral

Steve Bhowmick, Environment and Design Manager, Durham County Council

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

Barbara Hooper, Historic England

Dr. Douglas Pocock, The City of Durham Trust

Martin Roberts, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) UK

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

- **Foundation 2020** 2018 saw the launch of a major fundraising programme by Durham Cathedral to establish a £10 million fund to support maintenance and repair work, investing in building and landscape conservation programmes to safeguard the Cathedral for future generations. This Endowment Fund will form a strong foundation to build for the future by maintaining, developing and enhancing the fabric of the Cathedral. The project also plans to train a new generation of talented crafts people such as masons, joiners and embroiderers to keep centuries of tradition alive.

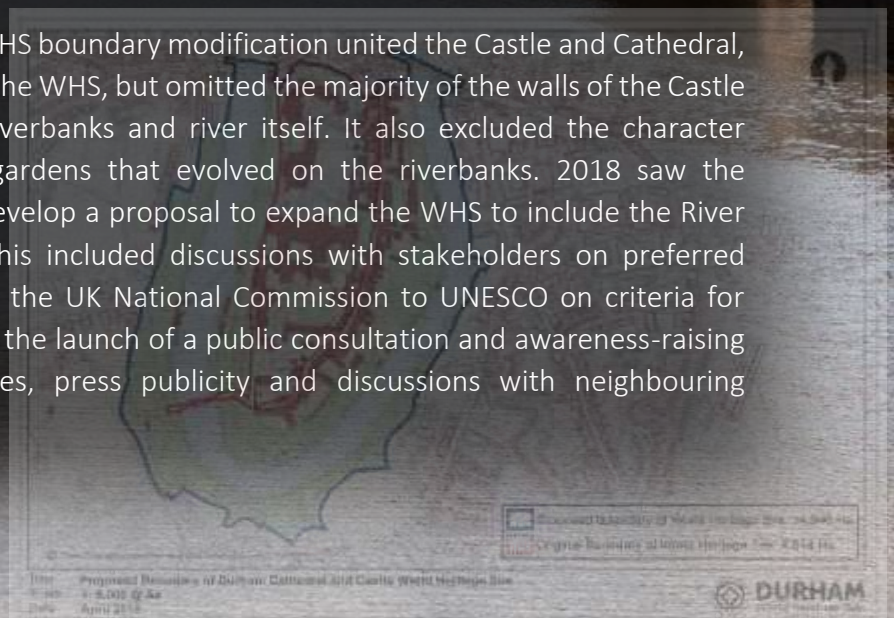


Photograph Credit: Durham Cathedral

- **The Planning environment** Durham WHS hosted a Historic England Local Management (HELM) workshop, "Understanding and Managing World Heritage Sites". The course provided delegates with a better understanding of UNESCO and the value it provides. This included an awareness and better knowledge of the World Heritage Convention and its relevance in England, the ability to implement, and fully appreciate the nomination process for World Heritage status and an understanding of the benefits and challenges arising from World Heritage status, including the legislation surrounding the status.

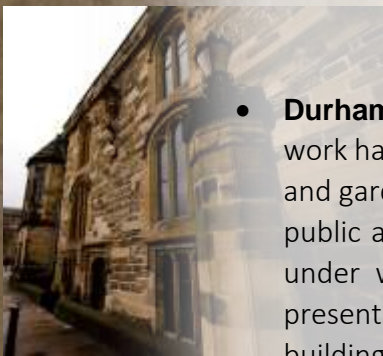
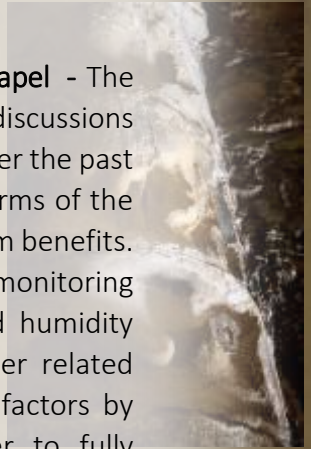


- **Boundary revision** The 2008 WHS boundary modification united the Castle and Cathedral, by bringing Palace Green into the WHS, but omitted the majority of the walls of the Castle Precinct and the defensive riverbanks and river itself. It also excluded the character defining woods, walks and gardens that evolved on the riverbanks. 2018 saw the commencement of work to develop a proposal to expand the WHS to include the River Wear and its outer banks. This included discussions with stakeholders on preferred options, Historic England and the UK National Commission to UNESCO on criteria for minor boundary revisions and the launch of a public consultation and awareness-raising programme, including lectures, press publicity and discussions with neighbouring landowners and residents.

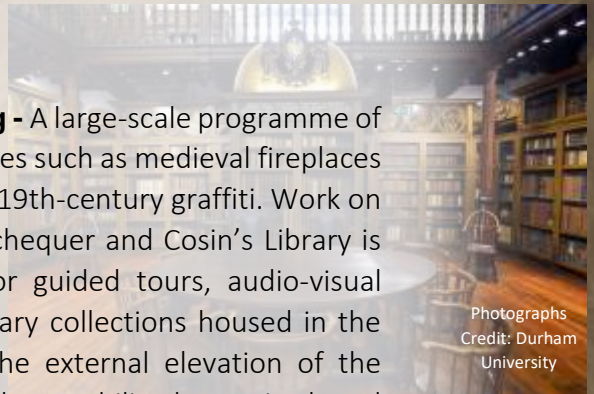


Aim 2 Conserve and enhance the Site and its Setting

- **Durham University, The Castle - The stonework of the Norman Chapel** - The stonework of the chapel is affected by damp. Pre-application discussions have been held between the University and the Heritage Team over the past 3 years in order to ascertain the most appropriate solution in terms of the approach, methodology and level of intervention to gain maximum benefits. Phase 1 of the full conservation programme involved a 12-month monitoring of the environmental conditions, mapping liquid moisture and humidity levels and ambient and surface temperatures testing and other related activities. This initial stage also involved investigating external factors by undertaking trial excavations on the North Terrace in order to fully determine the current arrangement for carrying water away from the light-wells and to aid an understanding of the Chapel's external wall construction.



- **Durham University, Exchequer Building** - A large-scale programme of work has improved visibility of early features such as medieval fireplaces and garderobes as well as revealing some 19th-century graffiti. Work on public access and presentation to the Exchequer and Cosin's Library is under way. This includes preparation for guided tours, audio-visual presentation and explanations of the library collections housed in the building. The Neville Coat of arms on the external elevation of the Exchequer building has been conserved – stabilised, repaired and repainted.



Plaster-stripping in the Exchequer building's former Strong Room revealed a bricked up fireplace, left, a wall cupboard and a radical change in floor level



- **Durham Cathedral** - One Cathedral mason completed conservation-led training with the Cathedral Workshop Fellowship. Another mason was accepted as a Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings Fellow in 2018, for a nine month travelling course focussing on conservation principles, sympathetic materials and techniques. The repair of the historic fabric on central tower was completed and the removal of the protective wrapping and scaffold began in December 2018.



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

- **The First WHS Annual Report** was produced to provide an update of World Heritage Site activity and progress on the action plan.

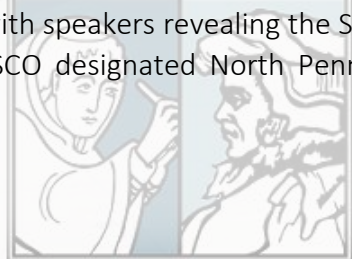
- **Durham University's Bodies of Evidence** exhibition and events programme at Palace Green Library showcased the research of the Archaeology Department, telling the story of the Scottish soldiers from the Battle of Dunbar who were imprisoned in Durham Cathedral and whose remains were discovered and excavated during Library developments. The exhibition and engagement programme attracted a wide range of visitors, including descendants of the soldiers. The discovery and subsequent research added significantly to our knowledge of Durham during the Civil War period. The book to accompany the exhibition, "Lost Lives New Voices" won Best Archaeological Book at the biennial British Archaeological Awards 2018

Graphics & Photographs
Credit: Durham University and
North News and Pictures

- **Durham Cathedral's Open Treasures exhibition programme** saw three temporary exhibitions, bringing the Cathedral's archives to a wider audience and shedding light on the Cathedral's influence on lives in our region and further afield. **Tudors: the family and faith in Durham** took a local focus by examining some powerful members of Durham Cathedral during this time, drawing on the Cathedral's impressive collections of archives and early-printed books. **Miners: Pitmen, Pride and Prayer** explored how centuries of coal mining have shaped the North East and how mining heritage is still alive to this day in local communities. **Armistice: Living with the Peace** focused on the impact that the armistice had on the North East community. Documents, newspapers and diaries from the Cathedral's archive captured the moment of Armistice and its aftermath from the Cathedral's perspective.

Images Copyright Chapter of Durham
Cathedral

- **The WHS Annual Lecture Series /World Heritage Day 2018** was marked with a Heritage Buildings Skills Fair and the opening the Cathedral's Works Yard for guided tours to raise awareness of conservation work with the general public. Activities included stonework demonstrations, a showcase for specialist suppliers and contractors, plus lectures given by the Contracts Manager, Cathedral Archaeologist and Head of Property on how to maintain historic fabric, finishing with a public lecture on the restoration of the Exchequer Building. The annual WHS Lecture Series delivered a programme of seven lectures on the theme of Durham WHS in its wider context, with speakers revealing the Site's connections to the upper Wear Valley, the neighbouring UNESCO designated North Pennines Geopark and the natural setting of our cultural WHS.



Institute of Medieval
& Early Modern Studies

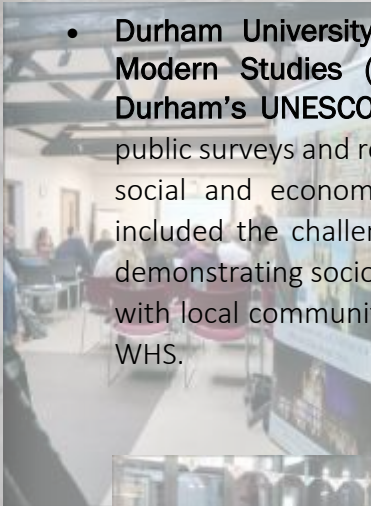
HERITAGE SITE 2018
LECTURE: A SENSE OF
LACE? PILGRIMAGE AND
THE SENSES, PAST,
'PRESENT' - AND FUTURE

PALACE GREEN LIBRARY
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Logo and Graphics with Thanks to
IMEMS

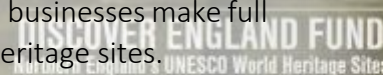
Aim 4 - Support communities in realising the economic, social and cultural opportunities and benefits of World Heritage status

- **Durham University**, through the **Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies (IMEMS)**, the **department of Archaeology** and **Durham's UNESCO Chair** delivered a programme of workshops and public surveys and research towards developing a toolkit to evaluate the social and economic contributions of World Heritage Sites. Topics included the challenges of demonstrating impact, new approaches to demonstrating socio-economic impact, and workshops and focus groups with local community groups on their opinions and expectations of the WHS.



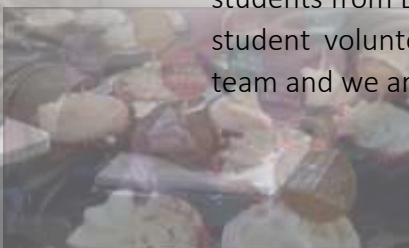
Photographs with Thanks to IMEMS

- **Durham WHS** Joined Cumbria Tourism's "England's Northern World Heritage Collection" project, part of the £250,000 Discover England Fund programme. The project aims to develop high quality tourist packages focussed on the Northern World Heritage Sites of Durham, Hadrian's Wall, The Lake District, Saltaire, Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal and Liverpool, Maritime Mercantile City. In order to help local businesses clustered in and around the World Heritage Sites, the project has worked with the World Heritage coordinators and commissioned a series of business engagement toolkits designed to help local businesses make full use of their connections to their respective world heritage sites.



Logos with thanks to
Cumbria Tourism

- **Durham WHS Volunteers** The WHS Visitor Centre on Owengate, depends on a skilled and highly dedicated team of volunteers to present the story of our WHS and provide a welcome and range of services to visitors. This year we have developed our team of volunteers, with students from Durham University joining us. After hosting a stand at the student volunteering fair, 5 new student volunteers have joined our team and we are benefitting from their fresh outlook on the Site.



Photographs with thanks to
J.Shoebridge & WHS Centre

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

- **Saint John's College Chapel, the Church of Saint Mary the Less**, part of Durham WHS was founded in around 1140, extensively renovated in 1847, and acquired by St John's College in 1919. This 'hidden gem' church with links to the Royal family is now open to the public on a regular basis for the first time in decades, supported by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable group of volunteer stewards.
- **Durham County Council completed its major works programme to improve access via Owengate** – with the replacement and resetting of the granite road setts in a self-levelling matrix, greatly improving the journey for the visitor shuttle bus services and for visitors using mobility scooters to access the site, whilst maintaining the historical setting of the WHS.
- **Durham Cathedral's augmented reality App** has brought heritage to life. Produced by the England's Heritage Cities Consortium, with funding secured from the Discover England Fund, the ground-breaking new AR experience consists of an app and videos that transport the user back in time to unveil the hidden lives of some of history's most fascinating characters. The AR experience brings the story of the historic Cathedral to life through a set of trigger points inside the iconic building. Through the app, visitors discover the earliest stirrings of recorded English history, meet the Venerable Bede and experience a rare glimpse into the enigmatic and scholarly lives of the Benedictine monks, making its fascinating heritage more accessible.

<https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/news/ehcapp>

Launch of augmented reality project set to bring new life to Durham's heritage

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

- **Durham WHS** was invited by the UK National Commission to represent the UK at a UNESCO international workshop in Palermo on The Role of Visitor Centre in UNESCO Designated Sites. Representatives from 20 Designated Sites across Europe, came together to share best-practice and work on the development of a toolkit to help other sites in planning their visitor engagement. Topics covered included tourism, sustainability and visitor management; interpretation and educational services; and community engagement and community-oriented services

Images with thanks to
J.Shoebridge and
Conference Committee

- **The Visitor Centre** Was awarded a silver award for North East Tourism's Visitor Information provider of the Year. The North East England Tourism Awards play a major role in showcasing the fantastic range of high quality experiences we offer for visitors here in the North. The awards have had a hugely positive impact on tourism in the North East, providing a benchmark for all businesses to aspire to and delivering significant benefits to shortlisted and winning businesses alike, improving business performance in terms of turnover, profitability, quality, sustainability, staff morale and customer satisfaction.



- **The WHS Coordinator** was invited to a workshop with Canterbury Cathedral WHS to share best practice in the development of WHS Management Plans and WHS Site management and coordination. The workshop offered an opportunity to share the partnership model for the management of Durham WHS with Canterbury WHS's stakeholders and build contacts with the management committee there for future projects.



Logos with thanks to Canterbury Cathedral

Looking forward to 2019

- The completion and submission to UNESCO of the Durham World Heritage Site Boundary Revision to include the River Wear and its outer banks within the World heritage Site
- Hosting World Heritage UK's Summer workshop on the theme of World Heritage Sites and Community Engagement
- WHS Lecture series 2019 – The range of UNESCO designations beyond World Heritage Sites
- A Research project in preparation for Durham Diocese's Pilgrimage 2020 celebrations. Looking at World Heritage Sites with pilgrimage as part of their attributes in preparation for an exhibition in the Visitor Centre in January 2020.



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