



## UK Tentative List of Potential Sites for World Heritage Nomination: Application form

Please save the application to your computer, fill in and email to:  
[UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk)

The application form should be completed using the boxes provided under each question, and, where possible, within the word limit indicated.

Please read the [Information Sheets](#) before completing the application form. It is also essential to refer to the accompanying [Guidance Note](#) for help with each question, and to the relevant paragraphs of UNESCO's *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, (OG) available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines>

Applicants should provide only the information requested at this stage. Further information may be sought in due course.

### (1) Name of Proposed World Heritage Site

Island of Saint Helena

### (2) Geographical Location

Name of country/region

Saint Helena Island, South Atlantic Ocean

Grid reference to centre of site

Lat 16' South Long 5'45' West

Please enclose a map preferably A4-size, a plan of the site, and 6 photographs, preferably electronically.

### (3) Type of Site

Please indicate category:

Natural  Cultural  Mixed  Cultural Landscape

### (4) Description

Please provide a brief description of the proposed site, including the physical characteristics. 200 words

Saint Helena sits in the Atlantic trade winds, over 1,200 miles from the nearest landmass. Once a vital staging post to India and the British Empire, by the late 18th century the island was perhaps the most impregnable place on earth. Today a string of impressive fortifications survive along its rugged coastline, forming a network of cliff top batteries and fortresses. The island's capital, Jamestown, forms the centre of a virtually complete East India Company landscape. The island played a significant part in the Anglo-Boer War and the suppression of slavery, with large cemeteries of both Boer Prisoners and Freed Slaves.

The spectacular rugged scenery of Saint Helena, shaped by volcanic activity 16 million years ago, has fascinated visitors since its discovery. The island is ringed by precipitous cliffs that give no hint of the lush, forested mountainous interior. It is an island of contrasts, including barren deserts, pastureland and cloud forest. Acknowledged by Darwin as having no biological parallel anywhere in the world, the island has a unique flora and fauna including over 400 endemic plants and invertebrates and the Wirebird.

The proposed site includes the fortifications, Jamestown, colonial houses and the island's unique varied habitats and spectacular scenery.

### (5) History

Please provide a short summary statement of any significant events in the history of the site. 200 words

The Portuguese discovered Saint Helena in 1502, but its location was kept secret as a vital stopping off point for vast treasure fleets from the east. By 1659 the English had occupied the island in the name of "His Majesty Richard Cromwell" and have held it, aside from six months of Dutch rule in 1673, for the subsequent three centuries.

The heyday of the island saw a thousand ships a year calling at Jamestown, bringing explorers such as Captain Cook, Charles Darwin and Edmund Halley. In 1815 the Northumberland arrived with the island's most famous resident, the exiled Emperor Napoleon.

The abolition of slavery in the empire led to the establishment of an Admiralty Court on St Helena; close to 30,000 slaves were freed and their captors put to trial. With the opening of the Suez Canal in 1856 Saint Helena slipped into relative obscurity.

In 1502 Saint Helena was a pristine wilderness, with six endemic land birds and extensive forests of endemic plants. Within a century much of it had been denuded by settlers and wild goats. The past three decades have been marked by concerted efforts to conserve the remaining endemics and restore tracts of native forest.

**(6) Why do you think this site should be inscribed as a World Heritage Site?**  
Give reasons. 200 words

Due to its remoteness Saint Helena has retained an internationally important wealth of history and biodiversity over its 47 square miles, including its extensive coastline fortifications, its well preserved Georgian capital, its plantation houses, its rugged scenery and its hundreds of unique endemics. In addition the Napoleon connection has given the island near-global ubiquity by association. Saint Helena has played a key role as a stepping stone between empires and as a crossroads between cultures - the ancestors of today's Saints came from three continents. Today the island is one of the few remaining living links between the modern world and the age of maritime empires that preceded it. For this reason alone it is indescribably precious and merits inscription as a World Heritage Site.

In any other location Saint Helena would be a thriving tourist destination, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors a year. Yet the very remoteness of the island and its continuing inaccessibility ensure that its attractions remain relatively unknown and unvisited. World Heritage Site status would ensure that the island has much wider recognition as a tourist destination, leading to increased numbers of seaborne visitors. This would give a much-needed economic driver to heritage and natural protection on Saint Helena.

**(7) Please say why the site has Outstanding Universal Value and specify the main features which underpin its importance. 200 words**

Saint Helena includes a heritage of international importance. It represents a living relic of the now-vanished age of maritime empires. At one time it was on the motorway of world history, with a thousand ships a year, and the authentic wealth of fortifications and historic infrastructure remaining bears living testament to that significance.

The island is synonymous with the concept of remoteness and separation, most famously as the place of exile for Napoleon. That physical inaccessibility has contributed to the remarkable preservation of the island's historic monuments, many of which possess the sense of having just been abandoned. The island's significant role in the fight to end global slavery is another important aspect of its universal significance, linking it closely to Africa and the New World.

Saint Helena is repository to some of the world's rarest biodiversity, including species that have been dramatically rediscovered in recent decades. It is an outdoor museum which retains the unique evolutionary characteristics that led Darwin to deem it without parallel in the natural world.

The island's physical isolation has also preserved a unique cultural heritage, including its own customs and patois. Today visitors must still make the long journey by ship, retaining that unique and defining sense of remoteness and separation.



### (8) Outstanding Universal Value

Please state which of the [10 UNESCO criteria for Outstanding Universal Value](#) the proposed site meets, and describe briefly why the criteria were chosen. Please see criteria note at the end of the form.

UNESCO criterion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Why was this criterion chosen? 100 words
(i)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(iii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(v)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(vi)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saint Helena remains a living testament to the zenith of the vanished great age of seafaring, and the heyday of the British Empire. The island was a vital stepping stone to the great maritime empires: the Portuguese, Dutch and French all coveted the island and the East India Company turned it into a 47 square mile fortress. Napoleon was exiled to Saint Helena because of its remoteness, and his six-year stay on the island has become a famous episode in world history: Saint Helena and Napoleon are now synonymous in the universal psyche, impossible to separate. The liberation of tens of thousands of slaves was another key event.
(vii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(viii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ix)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

UNESCO criterion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Why was this criterion chosen? 100 words
(x)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darwin said that 'St Helena versus the world would perhaps be the first division of a phytogeographical system', recognition of the unique evolutionary conditions derived from the island's remoteness. Today the island remains a treasure trove of endemic biodiversity, with over 400 known globally unique species in its 47 square miles, including tree ferns, giant tree daisies and desert-dwelling nocturnal spiders. Yet due to habitat loss much of this extraordinary biodiversity is now restricted to a handful of fragments, with a high proportion extremely endangered and species only kept from extinction by continued conservation effort.

### **(9) Authenticity (for cultural or mixed sites only)**

Authenticity concerns the current state of conservation of a cultural or mixed site; especially whether its importance, its Outstanding Universal Value, is still obvious from its physical condition. Please outline the condition of the site. 200 words

A long sea journey is the only way to access to Saint Helena, as it was at the time of the island's discovery in 1502. Towering cliffs, a steep sided valley with a fortified settlement nestling in its base - this is the same spectacular vista that has greeted visitors from Halley and Darwin to the present day. The very physical sense of remoteness is as strong today as it has ever been.

Jamestown is a remarkably well preserved Georgian town with an original East India Company Wharf, all immediately recognisable from late 18<sup>th</sup> century depictions. Across the island there are dozens of historic structures that have the sense of just having been abandoned: clifftop batteries still have their cannons in place; Napoleon's house is exactly as it was on the day of his death.

A remarkably high proportion of the known endemic species have managed to survive the ravages of man and feral goats, albeit in much reduced numbers. Diana's Peak National Park still contains areas of original cloud forest. The island's biodiversity hotspots are currently the subject of concerted conservation action by the Government conservation section, the St Helena National Trust and international organisations such as RBG Kew and RSPB.

### **(10) Integrity**

For cultural or mixed sites, please state how much original fabric is included in the proposed site, and its condition. For guidance on how the test of integrity is met for natural sites under criteria (vii) – (x), please refer to the OG 90-94. Information Sheet 6 also provides help on this point. 200 words

All of the key historic sites - including the fortifications, slave depot, plantation houses and Jamestown itself - are included in the proposed site. The remoteness of Saint Helena, and relatively low development pressure, has ensured that many of the historic sites closely resemble their physical state from two hundred years ago. The structural integrity of the important sites is therefore high, with a few notable exceptions (sections of wall have collapsed at High Knoll and Banks Battery).

The area of pristine native habitat on Saint Helena is a fraction of what it would have been at the time of its discovery by man. Yet much of the known diversity remains, albeit in small isolated pockets. The Peaks hosts much of the plant and invertebrate interest, including a large proportion of the 400 known endemics: this area will be included in the proposed site, as will the island's other proposed National Protected Areas.

**(11) Are there other examples of this kind of site already on the World Heritage List?**

Yes  No

If yes, please list. 100 words

**(12) What distinguishes this site from other similar sites?**

150 words

Saint Helena is distinguished by the extraordinary diversity of built and natural heritage within its 47 square miles. Batteries, forts and cannons, an intact Georgian working town, trading and military history, Napoleonic heritage, historic country houses, slave graves, the Boer cemetery, endemic flora and fauna, scenery which includes cloud forest, desert, sculpted volcanic rocks, woodland and staggering coastal scenery - it could rightly be termed a mini-continent on account of all this. To have so much wealth in such a small area is truly remarkable.

The condition of much of this heritage is striking: an authentic wealth of touch it feel it historic monuments which feel as if they have just been abandoned.

The remoteness and physical inaccessibility of the island remains one of Saint Helena's defining attributes, as it has been for the past five hundred years. There are few inhabited places left that are linked to rest of the world only by ship.

**(13) How does the site contribute to meeting UNESCO’s priorities for a balanced World Heritage List?**

200 words

Saint Helena is a rare example of a mixed site where both the historic and natural significance are worthy of World Heritage Site status in their own right. The extent and scale of the island's fortifications is unparalleled in the British Empire; the island also has dozens of critically endangered endemic plants found nowhere else in the world. The inclusion of Saint Helena as a mixed site would therefore help to increase this under-represented category.

Saint Helena has always been a unique crossroads between the cultures of the Far East, Africa, Europe and the Americas. The unique customs, patois and vernacular architecture of the island all reflect this diverse cultural heritage.

Sites in the UK Overseas Territories have been prioritised for special attention where they 'fall in areas which are under-represented or in need of international support' (DCMS consultation paper). Currently only three Overseas Territories have the designation. Saint Helena would be a rare example of a mixed site. Its inclusion would also increase representation from the Southern hemisphere.

**(14) What benefits do you think World Heritage Site inscription would bring?**

Please indicate the main opportunities and benefits.

Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regeneration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe. 100 words.

If Saint Helena was more accessible, and located in the Mediterranean rather than the South Atlantic, it would be attracting hundreds of thousands if not millions of visitors per year. World Heritage Site inscription would significantly increase awareness of this neglected gem, increasing seaborne access from cruise ships and yachts. Increased tourism would provide a strong economic stimulus, which in turn would increase local support for protecting the built and natural heritage, and the provision of Government resources for conservation.

**(15) Are there any known threats to the proposed World Heritage Site?**

Yes  No



Please indicate any proposed developments, or other potential impacts on the site.

Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Please describe.</b> 100 words for each issue.
Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Poor access is contributing to economic stagnation and depopulation on Saint Helena. External investment has been secured from the EU and DFID to improve access and stimulate economic activity on the island.
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The majority of factors which originally contributed to biodiversity loss on Saint Helena - deforestation, feral goats, erosion - are no longer a threat. However invasive species remain a significant problem, especially in some of the island's biodiversity hotspots. A recent 3-year project developed control methods for the most pernicious invasive species, and funding has been allocated to implementing these. However the scale of the task is significant and the island's conservation resources are already stretched.
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The lack of economic opportunities on Saint Helena has led to significant emigration in the past decades. From a high point of over 6,000, the island's population has recently sunk to 4,000. This places an increasing strain on the remaining inhabitants, as the essential services still need to be maintained. To address this efforts have recently been made to increase local conservation capacity, including heritage skills training and a new conservation apprenticeship scheme.

**(16) Legal Protection**

Please list any legal and other protections, including cultural and natural designations, which cover the whole or part of the proposed site. 200 words

A Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance was enacted in 2007. This legislation includes provision for the preparation of a development plan which includes 'the designation of any area as being an area which, for environmental, ecological, aircraft, safety or other similar reasons should not be developed' and 'proposals for the preservation of buildings for architectural, cultural or historical reasons'. It also includes provision for Building Preservation Orders and the establishment of conservation areas. The requirements for Environmental Impact Assessment are also outlined.

The natural environment receives protection under the National Parks Ordinance. Diana's Peak National Park - which is the key natural site on the island - is thereby protected. 14 additional sites have been proposed as National Protected Areas and their designation is being progressed by Government and other key stakeholders such as the National Trust. The endemic flora and fauna is protected by Plant Protection and Endangered Species Protection Ordinances.

### **(17) Ownership**

Please list the main owners of the site, where possible.

The majority of the historic sites are owned by Saint Helena Government, with the exception of the Napoleonic properties (owned by the French Government).

The key natural areas (Diana's Peak National Park, the coastal zone natural areas) are all owned by Saint Helena Government.

Do the owners support the application? Yes  No

A statement of support from the principle owners of the proposed site should be attached to the application, preferably electronically.

### **(18) Local Authority support for the site**

Please list all Local Authorities with an interest in the proposed site.

Saint Helena Government is also the Local Authority for the purposes of this application. Their Statement of Support thus covers this aspect too.

Does the proposed site have local Authority support? Yes  No

Please attach a statement of support from each one in relation to the application.

Please indicate whether the site is included in the local plan/s by specific policies.

Yes  No  Partly

Please describe. 200 words.

The St Helena Land Development Control Plan (2007) includes protections for the main historic fortifications (T4,5) and Napoleonic sites (T6), with specific policies for Listed Buildings (CB1-8,11) and Conservation Areas (CB9-11) including Jamestown.

The Plan protects the natural environment under its Green Heartland (GH1-9) and Coastal Zone (CZ1-7) policies. Specific protection for the natural environment is found in policies CN1-3 (the areas protected are included in a Proposals Map).

Development which detracts from views of tourist attractions is also discouraged under the Plan's Tourism policies (T7,8).

### **(19) Stakeholders**

Please list the main parties with an interest in the site. 100 words

Saint Helena Government (particularly the Crown Estates and Agriculture and Natural Resources departments), is the major stakeholder in the proposed site, along with the Saint Helena National Trust, which is tasked with the protection of the built and natural environment. Other stakeholders include the private landowners Solomons and Thorpes.

### **(20) How will the Site be managed?**

Please outline the management arrangements for the proposed World Heritage Site, including where the responsibilities lie. 200 words

Responsibility for management of the major historic sites currently lies with Crown Estates (a department of SHG). In the longer term management of some of these sites may be transferred to Saint Helena National Trust (SHNT). A committee of key stakeholders (including SHG, SHNT, the Tourism Association and the Development Agency) could be set up to oversee management of the major sites.

A Historic Environment Record project has been developed to carry out an audit of all heritage sites, assessing their current condition and prioritising their restoration and maintenance. Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) are also being developed for all of the major historic sites. High Knoll and the Round Tower already have CMPs, whilst CMPs for Lemon Valley and Banks Battery will be completed in the next couple of years. The Napoleonic sites have their own management regime under the care of the French Properties.

A Protected Area Management Plan already exists for Diana's Peak National Park and additional management plans are being developed for two other proposed National Protected Areas – High Peak and Blue Point Ridge. Responsibility for management of these sites currently lies with the Government's Agriculture and Natural Resources Department, with close cooperation from SHNT.

### **(21) Funding: the nomination**

Please indicate how the preparation of the nomination would be funded.  
100 words

A £1.2 million funding package for tourism development on Saint Helena has recently been announced by the Department for International Development (DFID). This Tourism Development Plan includes World Heritage Site status as one of its priorities for development. Additionally the Friends of Saint Helena and the Saint Helena National Trust would expect to launch a fundraising campaign to secure any shortfall, with support from active conservation NGOs such as Kew and RSPB. The inclusion of the Liberated African Slave Depot in the proposed site will create significant interest from Afro-Americans and opens up additional avenues for private investment.

### **(22) Funding: management**

Please outline how the future management would be funded. 100 words

Ongoing DFID support for tourism development could provide some of the funding necessary for managing the major historic sites. Additional funding would be secured by the National Trust for its own historic and natural sites. The inclusion of the Liberated African Slave Depot in the proposed site will create significant interest from Afro-Americans and opens up additional avenues for private investment. Saint Helena has a good track record of attracting external grant funding (eg OTEP, Darwin) for conservation work on the island.

### **Name and Contact Details of Applicant**

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Completed applications should be forwarded, preferably in electronic format, to the World Heritage Team, Department for Culture, Media and Sport at the following email address: [UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk)

Any material that cannot be sent electronically should be sent to the following address:

World Heritage Team, Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1 5DH

The closing date for applications is 11th June 2010

## UNESCO's criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value (para 77 of the Operational Guidelines)

- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.
- (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- (viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- (x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.