



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

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

The Fountain Cavern - Anguilla, British West Indies

(2) Geographical Location

Name of country/region

Anguilla, / Caribbean

Grid reference to centre of site

18°15'02.91" N 63°02'07.05" W

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

Fountain Cavern is an exceptionally well-preserved pre-Columbian archaeological site located 250 m inland from lower Shoal Bay East on the northeast coast of Anguilla. The site lies within the boundary of Fountain Cavern National Park at a depth of 20 m below ground surface within a two-chambered limestone cave approximately 50 x 30 m in size. Fountain Cavern features a unique assemblage of Amerindian rock art and archaeological deposits associated with a subterranean freshwater pool. The rock art features, including a large stalagmite statue, are illuminated by natural light from the six m² entry hole in the cave's ceiling. Pitch apple (*Clausia*) and Fig (*Ficus*) tree roots like those growing down from the entrance today likely provided the means of access in PreColumbian times (a steel ship's mast ladder was installed in 1953). Archaeological excavations indicate that Amerindians first utilized the site for ritual purposes around A.D. 400 and continued using the cave until at least AD 1200. Based on this evidence Fountain Cavern is the oldest known and longest used ceremonial cave site in the entire Caribbean. As such, Fountain Cavern represents an extraordinary example of Amerindian cultural heritage.

(5) History

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

Fountain Cavern was first recognized as a highly significant pre-Columbian archaeological site in 1979. The Government of Anguilla (GOA) designated the site and surrounding area as a National Park in 1985. In 1986, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History conducted the first systematic archaeological investigation and the National Speleological Foundation studied the viability of developing it as a “show cave.” That year, the GOA and the Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS) also constructed a grate over the cave opening to protect the resource and permit resident bats to come and go freely. In 1996, the GOA established the Fountain National Park Corporation and made the Anguilla National Trust (ANT) the sole shareholder with responsibility for development of the site. In 2006, an international panel of experts assembled by UNESCO World Heritage ranked the site as one of the 10 most important rock art sites in the Circum-Caribbean region. In 2007, as part long-term planning, the University of Vermont initiated laser mapping of the cave with support from GOA, AAHS and ANT. In 2009, the GOA passed the Anguilla National Trust Act and the Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act., both of which add protection to the site.

(6) Why do you think this site should be inscribed as a World Heritage Site?

Give reasons. 200 words

Fountain Cavern demonstrates the artistic capabilities and spirituality of the Amerindian people who resided in Anguilla and broader Caribbean prior to the arrival of Europeans and Africans. As such, the site is a monument to the peoples and cultures destroyed within a century of European Contact. There are no other archaeological sites like Fountain Cavern known in the eastern Caribbean/Lesser Antilles and less than a handful of comparable sites are recorded in the islands of the western Caribbean/Greater Antilles. In fact, at one of the only other comparable sites in Cuba, a carved statue head like the one preserved in Fountain Cavern was cut off and carried away to a foreign museum in the 1920s. Presently there are no sites in the region on the World Heritage List that pay tribute to indigenous cultural heritage and very few worldwide that recognise the contributions of smaller societies to human prehistory. The nomination of Fountain Cavern would therefore help address both an underrepresented world region on the list and an underrepresented scale of society. In addition, nominating Fountain Cavern would have a major educational benefit in the eastern Caribbean by acknowledging the international value of the region’s cultural

heritage.

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

Fountain Cavern bears exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition that has disappeared as a unique window into the spiritual tradition of indigenous Caribbean peoples. Spanish chronicles document that the culturally related Taíno people of the Greater Antilles believed that the sun, the moon and the first people all emerged from caves. They built shrines in ceremonial caves to induce rainfall and buried elite individuals within them. Fountain Cavern's stalagmite statue places the site within the Taíno mythological realm. A masterwork within its cultural context, the head of the statue is carved into a likeness of "Yucahú," the "God of Yuca" (cassava), a spirit of fertility. Amerindians used the natural space and geologic formations of Fountain Cavern to reveal and engage with the supernatural world. The three-dimensional statue overlooking the freshwater pool, associated artefact deposits and the gallery of at least 12 other petroglyphs establish that Fountain Cavern was a highly significant place of worship. Fountain Cavern has outstanding universal value as a monument to Amerindian religion and spirituality and as the earliest known site of its kind in the Caribbean. As such, Fountain Cavern represents the cultural equivalent of a listed site such as the Catedral Primada de America, the oldest cathedral in the New World.

(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Within its cultural context the stalagmite statue in Fountain Cavern is a masterpiece of creative genius. Amerindian sculptors transformed a speleothem in the center of the cave into the personification of the deity Yucahú, a spirit of fertility. Carving a face into the head of the stalagmite, Amerindians memorialized a supernatural revelation in a three-dimensional statue. The imposing manifestation of Yucahu overlooks the pool in the chamber, presiding over a (rare) life-giving source of freshwater within the sacred subterranean context of a cave. For Amerindians, participating in rituals or collecting water, the statue was undoubtedly awe-inspiring. |
| (ii) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fountain Cavern was utilized as a ceremonial site for more than 1,000 years and as such, the monumental art in the form of the stalagmite statue of the fertility god Yucahú represents the interchange of cultural values relating to the peoples' origin mythology and spirituality. As a portal into the underworld, the cave served as a ceremonial center for Amerindians in the region, a place where cultural values were shared and reaffirmed. |
| (iii) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>The Fountain Cavern bears exceptional testimony to the cultural traditions of indigenous Amerindian populations that disappeared soon after European contact. The support for this criterion exists in the form of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) well-preserved rock art, including iconic representations of deities, and associated archaeological deposits within a natural cavern "cathedral;" 2) the context of the site within a subterranean cave as related to Amerindian origin mythology and portal of access to the supernatural realm; and 3) the cultural context of the site as a ceremonial centre for Amerindian populations on Anguilla and other islands within the Eastern Caribbean. |
| (iv) | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| (v) | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| (vi) | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| (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 type="checkbox"/> | |

(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

Fountain Cavern retains all of what made the site important to Amerindians and all of the features that contribute to its outstanding universal value as a cultural site. The petroglyphs, stalagmite statue are in excellent condition. Aside from salvage collection of artifacts by the Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS) and limited systematic excavation nearby, archaeological deposits remain intact, associated with the freshwater pool and other areas in their original context. The natural environment of the cave, so critical to its cultural meaning, has remarkable authenticity as well, including the pool and living examples of the tree root access and bat population. A steel ship's mast ladder, installed in 1953 and still present could easily be removed to return the cave to an even more Pre-European state. Entering the site today, and viewing the statue or other rock art, the power of the sacred setting created by Amerindians is unmistakable. Above ground, with the exception of the protective grate over the opening, the area surrounding the cave entrance retains its authenticity within a protected National Park, the boundaries of which extend to the sea, preserving the traditional setting of the cave within its natural island environment.

(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

Integrity is one of Fountain Cavern's strongest attributes. The site is remarkably well-preserved as a result of its relatively recent discovery as an archaeological site and subsequent efforts by governmental and non-governmental organizations to protect the site from vandalism and over development. Prior to the closure of the site to the public in 1986, Anguillians used the cave as a water source with very limited impact, largely confined to a path connecting the While a minute amount of graffiti within the cave predates and post-dates the construction of the protective grate at the entrance, the 2005 refurbishment of the grate has prevented further unauthorized access and vandalism. None of the historic graffiti interferes with or is close to any of the rock art in the cave.

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

Yes No

If yes, please list. 100 words

There are several caves with rock art on the List, the most notable being those of the Vézère Valley in France and the Cave of Alta Mira in Spain. The only rock art cave site in the Western Hemisphere on the list is Cuevo de las Manos in Argentina.

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

150 words

There are no other known archaeological sites like Fountain Cavern in the eastern Caribbean/Lesser Antilles and less than a handful of comparable sites exist in the islands of the western Caribbean/Greater Antilles. Of those known, Fountain Cavern is the oldest. At one of the only other comparable sites located in Cuba, a carved statue head like the one preserved in Fountain Cavern was cut off and carried away to a foreign museum in the 1920s.

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

200 words

The nomination of Fountain Cavern would help broaden the List geographically by adding a cultural site to those already on the list representing the Caribbean region. Most importantly, Fountain Cavern would address UNESCO's prioritization of prehistoric sites for nomination. In 2009, the site was featured as an example of a prehistoric site on a tentative list at the UNESCO World Heritage International Meeting on Prehistoric Sites, Kingdom of Bahrain.

(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 type="checkbox"/> |
| Conservation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Protection | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other benefits | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Please describe. 100 words.

A main benefit of inscription would be the education of Anguillians, West Indians in the region, and people worldwide about the lives of the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean. Acknowledgement of Fountain Cavern's significance would generate a long-lasting sense of national pride in Anguillians and encourage them to learn more about their island's heritage and cultural and environmental conservation. Additionally, Anguilla lacks land resource attractions for its visitors upon whom our economy depends. Inscription of the site would stimulate the country's economy and provide needed employment opportunities.

(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"/> | Please describe. 100 words for each issue. |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Factors potentially affecting the property include a roadway that passes near the southern margin of the property and development of neighboring parcels. Present conservation plans, however, call for the relocation of the roadway away from the site in the near future. Development of adjacent parcels, which could affect the structural integrity of the cave, the freshwater aquifer exposed in its pools, and its aesthetic setting, is actively monitored by Government. The GOA is committed to the conservation of the site and its nearby environment. |
| Environmental | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

(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

In 2004, the Department of Environment of the GOA secured funding to incorporate a comprehensive piece of environmental legislation which will include protected areas and national parks sections in the Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act 2009 (BHCA). The BHCA 2009 has been approved by House of Assembly and will come into force in August 2010 following Executive Council's approval of the regulations. Section 12 of the BHCA provides the appropriate and adequate conservation and protection for the Fountain Cavern. The BHCA gives the power the the Department of Environment to conserve and preserve the site appropriately.

(17) Ownership

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

The Government of Anguilla.

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.

The Government of Anguilla
The Department of Environment- Anguilla
The Department of Education - Anguilla
The Anguilla National Trust (ANT)
The Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS)
The Anguilla Tourism Board
The Anguilla Hotel and Tourism Association

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 FountainCavern site will be given more prominence and full intergrated into the new Anguilla's National Tourism Master Plan and supported by the Anguilla Tourism Policy. Additionally this developmenyt fits in well withthe proposed land use plan for the island as developed by the Department of Physical Planning. Lastly the National Environmental Management Strategy Strategy 37 and activities 1, 2 and 3 which speaks to protection of cultural and natural heriatge will be addressed and implemented.

(19) Stakeholders

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

The Government of Anguilla
The Department of Environment- Anguilla
The Department of Education - Anguilla
The Anguilla National Trust (ANT)
The Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS)
The Univeristy of Vermont
The Anguilla Tourism Board
The Anguilla Hotel and Tourism Association

(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

The Government of Anguilla established the Fountain National Park Corporation in 1996 with the Anguilla National Trust (ANT) as the sole shareholder. The Anguilla National Trust is mandated by law to carry out national heritage protection of the Anguilla's natural and cultural resources and in partnership with the Department of Environment will manage the conservation and preservation of the cavern. Since 1985, the site has been secured and access limited to scientists and authorized personnel representing the GOA, the AAHS, and the ANT. Management of the site will be outlined in a comprehensive management plan that will focus on the preservation of the site. The Government of Anguilla wants the site to be co-managed. The ANT will carry out the principle day to day management of the site but where research, development, organisational and or programmatic decisions are to be taken, the GOA - Ministry of Environment will be the decision makers with input from other relevant stakeholders. It will limit insitu usage by resident and visitors to the island.

(21) Funding: the nomination

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

The nomination of the Fountain Cavern would be funded mainly by the Government of Anguilla with support of the Anguilla National Trust and the Anguilla Archaeological Society. Local private sector institutions will also contribute resources to the nomination process.

(22) Funding: management

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

Funding for future management of the site would be sourced mainly from the Government of Anguilla and a number of other private sector sources. While some of the costs are expected to be offset by visitor fees and by merchandise sales, management costs will be provide by the from the Government of Anguilla through a management subvention. External funding will be sourced from appropriate international donor agencies to assist with small scale site development and wise use preservation initiatives.

Name and Contact Details of Applicant

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Name | Mr. Merwyn F Rogers and Mr. Karim V D Hodge |
| Status | Permanent Secretary, Environment & Director, Environment |
| Address | Ministry and Department of Environment Ministry fo Home Affairs and Environment Building The Secretariat , P.O.Box 60, The Valley, AI 2640 Anguilla, B.W, I |
| Telephone | |
| Email | |

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

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.