



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

England's Lake District

(2) Geographical Location

Name of country/region

UK, North West

Grid reference to centre of site

329956 509269

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

The Lake District is England's largest National Park. It is a compact, glaciated upland landscape of radiating U-shaped valleys – many of which contain long narrow lakes. The Lake District is home to Scafell Pike, England's highest mountain, and Wastwater, its deepest lake as well as thriving small communities in Keswick and Ambleside. Rocky mountain tops, open fell pasture and heather-covered slopes contrast with the native woodland, exotic plantations and stone-walled fields in the valley bottoms. The dominant land use is upland pastoral farming, often based on the local Herdwick sheep. The distinctive farming system, developed over a millenia, reached a peak of prosperity in the 17th and 18th centuries when a tradition of independent farming emerged. The resulting landscape has a distinctive aesthetic unity marked by contrasts in detail: mountains, moors, lakes, woods, streams, fields, stone walls, farms, villages and small scale industry, which reflect its relative geographical isolation and gradual development since the 12th century.

(5) History

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

Humans have settled in the Lake District since the end of the last Ice Age. In the medieval period, fields in the valley bottoms were separated from the open grazing on the fells and this basic pattern continues today. In the 17th century farmhouses were rebuilt in stone and the stonewalled field systems we see today had been largely completed by the end of the 18th century. In the 18th century the Lake District became a destination for those in search of the Picturesque while the farming landscape and its indigenous community provided inspiration to the Romantic Poets, Wordsworth, Coleridge and others. The perceived relationship between farmers and the environment led the Lakes Poets to an early formulation of the concept of human ecology. The threat of industrialization sparked a popular movement to protect the landscape beauty of the Lake District which in turn played a crucial role in the formation of the National Trust at the end of the 19th Century and the case for National Parks in the UK in the first half of the 20th century. In the late 20th century the Lake District informed the development of the UNESCO Cultural Landscape category.

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

Give reasons. 200 words

The Lake District has been on the UK tentative list since it began and is a deferred UNESCO application, having gone to the committee twice before in 1986 & 89. The Lake District has played a crucial role in the development of the international landscape conservation movement. The key developments have been the development of the National Trust; the establishment of English National Parks as a model of live-in, protected areas; and the influence of the Lake District on the creation of UNESCO's category of Cultural Landscape.

We believe the UK's significant contribution to the practice and theory of landscape conservation around the world should be recognised with the listing of the Lake District as a World Heritage Site. Designation will strengthen partnerships, enhance management planning and value the living working landscape that exists today.

The Lake District already has an international profile because of the role it has played in the landscape conservation movement. This leads to a responsibility beyond that of a National Park, because of its undoubted OUV. WHS will open up access to international networks and bring official recognition which in turn will add to the range of tools for managing this extraordinary landscape.

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

The Outstanding Universal Value is expressed in four principal themes: the Lake District rural landscape and farming traditions; the development of the Picturesque aesthetic; the cradle of Romanticism; and the landscape conservation movement. These four themes form a 'chain' of Outstanding Universal Value and the special significance of the Lake District lies in the interaction between social, economic, cultural and environmental influences.

The Lake District's special significance was launched by a remarkable alliance between the aesthetic appeal of its natural environment and unique character of its indigenous farming culture with the output of writers and artists who, inspired by the landscape, showed how it could appeal to the higher senses and be accessible to all. This was accompanied by the development of a conservation movement to protect this highly-valued cultural landscape.

The fusion of aesthetics and practical land management triggered a cultural and political movement based on two strands – the power of working cultural landscapes to inspire and the idea that a partnership could be created between those who work the landscape and those who take their leisure in it so that future generations can continue to benefit from this special place.

(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The design of the Lake District landscape exhibits an important interchange of human values not only because of the impact of a significant agricultural tradition but also because of important influences resulting from the picturesque aesthetic and the early conservation movement.
(iii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Lake District Landscape bears a unique testimony to cultural traditions both living and disappeared. It's a cultural landscape which to this day is shaped by upland farmers whose continuing traditions stretch back for generations. It is predominately these traditions which make farming this challenging environment possible.
(iv)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Lake District holds the physical remains of a unique story of how the human view of landscape has developed. The foundation is a farming tradition that developed in a beautiful natural setting which in the 18th century led to interest from the picturesque movement and a crucial influence on the Romantic view of landscape. Concern for protection of the Lake District in the face of industrial pressures led to the early landscape conservation movement, including the internationally significant National Trust.
(v)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(vi)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Lake District is associated with ideas as well as artistic and literary works. Its special significance was launched by a remarkable alliance between the aesthetic appeal of its environment and unique character of its indigenous farming culture with the output of writers and artists for example William Wordsworth who, inspired by the landscape, showed how it could appeal to the higher senses and be accessible to all. This was accompanied by the development of an internationally significant conservation movement to protect this highly-valued cultural landscape
(vii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(viii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ix)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(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

Across the National Park there are extensive archaeological remains of the prehistoric, Roman and early medieval periods. Medieval origins can still be traced in the existing stonewalled field systems, village plans and ecclesiastical architecture. The farming landscape of the 18th century with its distinctive farmhouses, barns, field walls and native woodland survives along with the remains of important local industries. The tradition of upland hill farming based on the indigenous Herdwick sheep survives to the present day. There are a number of important examples of villas and designed landscapes built following the Picturesque interest in the Lake District. The farming landscape and stunning natural features which inspired the Romantic poets have survived alongside a number of key residences associated with them, for example Wordsworth's Dove Cottage. The successes and failures of early environmental battles to protect the Lake District can be seen in the present day landscape. The National Trust owns and manages 25% of the National Park which includes some of the Trust's earliest acquisitions. The 1951 Park boundary encompasses all the attributes which exemplify OUV and all the features which formed the basis of our 1980's WHS nominations also survive.

(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

Since the early nominations of the 1980's the integrity of the Lake District Cultural Landscape has been maintained and improved through significant investment via agri-environment schemes and an emphasis on native woodland rather than forest plantations. Many of the key archaeological sites are designated as Scheduled Monuments or have been taken into guardianship by the state and are in good repair. The stonewalled field systems dating from the medieval period to the end of the 18th century survive largely intact due to agri-environment grants and the application of traditional skills. Vernacular farm buildings have also benefitted from private sector and agri-environment investment. Many key Herdwick farms are owned by the National Trust which has helped to underpin the continuation of upland farming traditions.

The enduring popularity of the Lake District has ensured that the villas and landscapes of the Picturesque have largely survived as do many residences and places associated with the Romantic poets and later conservationists such as John Ruskin and Beatrix Potter. Those features of the landscape that attest to the environmental battles of the 19th and early 20th century remain today and the National Park which was established in 1951 exists as the modern expression of environmental protection.

(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

In April 2009 EUROPARC Consulting GmbH undertook an international comparative analysis of over 850 UNESCO World Heritage sites, non WHS sites & other upland areas of Britain. The analysis reveals the unique role played by the Lake District in the development of ideas and beliefs about landscape which formed the pattern for both a way of valuing this type of cultural landscape and the political movement for their conservation. This had a strong international dimension, from early influence on John Muir and his colleagues through to the role played by the Lake District in debates within IUCN and UNESCO about Category V protected areas and Cultural Landscapes. Aspects of this story were played out in many other places. But no single place was so influential and nowhere can you better see today, study and enjoy the physical lineaments of that story than in the Lake District National Park.

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

200 words

Buildings and monuments or places celebrating our commercial or industrial past are very well represented on the UK's list of sites. There are no World Heritage landscapes in the UK which explore the continuing relationship between people and place. This isn't unusual as there are few sites on the World Heritage List itself which represent living cultures. The Lake District is a remarkable example of human coexistence with the land, a relationship which has not only shaped the landscape over millennia but created an inspirational and for some a spiritual site of significant value. That living culture exists today and the relationship between people and landscape remains, we believe this could be a new kind of UK site as it is about a living culture which shares some of the characteristics of the more dynamic sites around the world. The Lake District will diversify the UK list and contribute to UNESCO's aims.

(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.

Cumbria has an ambition to deliver real and lasting socio-economic benefits to its 495,000 residents and its visitors through World Heritage Inscription. It is recognised that WHS status is a means to an end and not an end in itself. OUV can be a powerful stimulus and a “place making” catalyst, however this will not happen automatically and partners are working hard to learn from other places and develop actions which can offer opportunities for all. Commissioning extensive research over the last 6 years Cumbria has taken this issue very seriously to ensure we understand the work that needs to be done.

(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"/>	National Grid are considering routing options for the upgrade of the existing 132 kv power network in Cumbria to 400kv, this may require line upgrades within or near the south west and southern boundary of the site. The National Park Authority and other organisations are working closely with National Grid to ensure there is minimum impact to the National Park landscape and communities.
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Possible impacts of climate change are the same for the Lake District as they are globally; extreme weather events, migration of habitats to higher altitudes; loss of indigenous species and an increase in non natives; changes to lake water levels and quality; changes to woodland through storm and drought; drying of peat and accelerated erosion and landslips. The response to climate change offers opportunities. The first is adaptation and work is underway to integrate this into organisational strategies and the second is to encourage residents, businesses and visitors to reduce carbon emissions and again there are strategies and initiatives being developed.

Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Farming and particularly upland farming often faces uncertainty either through changes to European agricultural policy, global market conditions, currency fluctuations or issues around bio-security. All of these external factors can exert downward pressure on farm income. Agriculture is also characterized by an ageing workforce with younger people attracted by higher earning potential in other industries; this in turn can lead to a loss of traditional skills. The effects of all of these pressures are being monitored and the Lake District National Park Partnership is working on actions to deliver sustainability.</p>
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(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

National Park Designation covers the whole of the proposed site, a total area of 229,200 hectares. Within the Park there are:

36,420 hectares of European sites designated for their biodiversity
41,810 hectares of SSSI with 86.1% in good or improving condition
14,080 hectares of Local sites including 132 RIGS
16 European Protected Species in the Park
275 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
22 Conservation Areas
1,200 hectares National Nature reserves
1756 Listed Buildings (31 at Grade 1)

(17) Ownership

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

The National Park Authority owns approximately 4% of the National Park. The rest is owned by the National Trust (25%), United Utilities (19%), Forestry Commission/Forest Enterprise (3.5%) and a rich mosaic of other private landowners including farmers, hoteliers, private residents and local authorities.

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.

Cumbria County Council
The Lake District National Park Authority
Allerdale Borough Council
Copeland Borough Council
Eden District Council
South Lakeland District Council

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 site would be covered by the Lake District National Park LDF Core Strategy. This is due for adoption by the Authority in October 2010. It has progressed through it's Hearing and the Inspectors report is pending. All of the policies in the Core Strategy are pertinent to the World Heritage Site. Policy CS1 of the Core Strategy sets the context by stating:

We will recognise the national significance and unique character of the Lake District National Park.

All development proposals should

- Be consistent with National Park purposes and duty; and
- Conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park.

In cases of acute conflict between National Park purposes, we will give the highest level of protection to landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage.

We will work with others to influence their plans, strategies and proposal to ensure that development outside the Lake District National park does not damage its setting, or otherwise prejudice the achievement of National Park purposes.

Policy CS27: The acclaimed historic environment illustrates our commitment to protecting the Site by stating: "We will protect the internationally acclaimed historic environment of the Lake District National Park

(19) Stakeholders

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

The Lake District National Park Partnership is responsible for the management of the site. Stakeholders are represented by a variety of agencies and organisations. They are: Actions with Communities in Cumbria; five Local Councils; Country Land and Business Association, Cumbria Association of Local Councils; Cumbria County Council; Cumbria Tourism; Cumbria Vision; Cumbria Wildlife Trust; English Heritage; Environment Agency; Forestry Commission; Friends of the Lake District; Government Office NW; Lake District National Park Authority; NFU; National Trust; Natural England; NWDA; RSPB

(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

As a National Park the site has been and will continue to be managed according to the statutory purposes of all National Parks in England and Wales which are: to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of National Parks; and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Parks by the public

The special qualities of the National Park reflect the identified OUV for World Heritage Status. Since 2006 this management process has been strengthened through extensive partnership working. There is now a National Park Partnership of 22 Organisations and Agencies, the majority of which have a statutory responsibility to deliver public services. The National Park Authority leads the Partnership which meets quarterly. The Partnership has a 30 year Vision for the Park which includes WHS and the first Joint Management Plan will be published in September 2010. The Lake District National Park Authority is responsible for planning control and planning policy is guided by the emerging Local Development Framework and national policy.

(21) Funding: the nomination

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

The Lake District World Heritage Project has a steering group of over 30 organisations and is Chaired by Lord Clark of Windermere. Since the partners agreed to go forward in 2005 work has been undertaken to make an application to UNESCO. The nomination materials are almost complete and have already been funded by a wide range of private and public sector partners since August 2007.

In parallel, work has also been undertaken to complete a management plan with the Lake District National Park Partnership. No new funding is required to complete a nomination.

(22) Funding: management

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

Management of the National Park as a World Heritage Site would be undertaken by existing agencies and funds. It is not envisaged that any extra funds or management would be required when the site is inscribed.

Name and Contact Details of Applicant

Name	Michael Clarke
Status	Director, Lake District World Heritage Project
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Telephone	01539 792633
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.