

# Nominated World Heritage Property

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## Management Plan 2009-14







*The Sand-walk: Darwin's "Thinking Path"*

# Section 1

## Introduction

### 1.a The World Heritage Convention

1. The history of international involvement in conservation goes back to the first Hague Conventions in the early 20th Century. Following the Second World War, the establishment of UNESCO created a body with an international remit for culture, including heritage. Since its creation, UNESCO has developed a number of Conventions dealing with heritage. Of these, the best known is the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention.)

2. The World Heritage Convention came into force in 1975 to establish an effective system for collective protection of the world's natural and cultural heritage. The best known feature of the Convention is the World Heritage List of properties of Outstanding Universal Value for all humanity.

### 1.b What is a World Heritage Property?

3. The World Heritage Convention defines World Heritage Properties as 'places or buildings of Outstanding Universal Value, recognised as constituting a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to cooperate'.

4. The decision to place or 'inscribe' a Property on the World Heritage List is taken by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee after nomination by the relevant national government. In placing Properties on the World Heritage List, governments undertake to protect, conserve, present and transmit such places to future generations. There are two categories within

this list: Cultural Heritage includes monuments, groups of buildings and sites (the works of man or the combined works on man and nature, and areas including archaeological sites) of Outstanding Universal Value; and Natural Heritage includes physical, biological, geological and physiographical formations, habitats of threatened species of animals and plants, and natural sites or areas of Outstanding Universal Value

5. There are currently 878 Properties inscribed on the list, including 679 cultural Properties, 174 natural Properties and 25 mixed Properties, from 145 State Parties. The last meeting of the Committee was held in Canada in 2008 and 27 new properties were added to the list.

### 1.c The UK World Heritage Tentative List 1999

6. The United Kingdom ratified the World Heritage Convention in 1984 and the first tentative list of possible World Heritage Properties was submitted two years later. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is responsible for the UK's implementation and compliance with the Convention and submits nominations for the UK, Crown dependencies and overseas territories. There are currently 24 Properties located in the UK on the World Heritage List together with three in British Overseas Territories.

7. The 1999 UK Tentative List consists of 26 Properties, many of which have been subsequently inscribed including the Dorset and East Devon Coast and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. The basis of the 1999 Tentative List was to select Properties of relevance to all of humanity, with Properties selected to represent

themes and topics in which the UK, in whole or in part, has made outstanding contributions to the world's heritage'.

8. Darwin's Home and Workplace was included on the Tentative List to recognise the importance of the site for science and culture; the nomination of Darwin's Landscape Laboratory as a World Heritage Property builds on that previous work and further highlights the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property for all humanity in culture and science. The landscape, grounds and house provided much of the evidence, material and inspiration for Darwin's revolutionary insights into the natural world, ecology and biodiversity, which continue to have international significance today. The surrounding countryside that inspired Darwin has changed little today and much of the flora and fauna that he observed can still be seen and studied there. Evidence of his experiments and adaptations remain, such as the worm-stone, greenhouses and the Sand-walk, strengthening the authenticity and value of this landscape.

### 1.d Process of inscription and timetable

9. The United Kingdom Government selected Darwin's Landscape Laboratory to be the 2009 submission, consisting of a Nomination Document supported by this Management Plan. Properties are nominated by countries or member states of UNESCO. Over an 18 month period candidate Properties are then assessed by UNESCO advisers: ICOMOS on cultural Properties; and IUCN (World Conservation Union) on natural Properties. For the Darwin's Landscape Laboratory bid, ICOMOS may seek the advice of the IUCN. Decisions on whether to inscribe Properties in the World Heritage List are made by the Committee at their annual meeting.

10. The Committee comprises representatives of 21 of the member states, each serving normally for four years. It is serviced by UNESCO's World Heritage Centre in Paris. The role of the Centre includes advising on the preparation of Properties nominations, organising technical assistance on request and coordinating and reporting on threatened sites and taking emergency action when needed. In addition, it administers the World Heritage Fund to which member states contribute.

End of public consultation period for Management Plan & Nomination Document	Oct 2008
Nomination Document and Management Plan submitted by Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) to World Heritage Centre	January 2009
ICOMOS Site visit and assessment	Sept - Oct 2009
ICOMOS make recommendation to the World Heritage Committee	May 2010
World Heritage Committee considers the Nomination and decides on Inscription	June/July 2010