



Bluebells

Section 2

2.a UNESCO Requirements

1. World Heritage Properties must have Outstanding Universal Value. The 2008 Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Centre require each World Heritage Property should have an appropriate Management Plan or other documented management system which specifies how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means. The Guidelines say that an effective management system should include:

- A thorough shared understanding of the property by all stakeholders
- A cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback
- The involvement of partners and stakeholders
- The allocation of necessary resources
- Capacity building and
- An accountable, transparent description of how the management system functions.

2.b UK Government policy

2. Although no additional statutory controls yet follow from the inclusion of a Property in the World Heritage List, *Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning for the Historic Environment* indicates that World Heritage Properties are a key material consideration in the determining of planning applications and listed

building consent applications. The guidance says that local authorities should formulate specific policies for protecting these Properties and should ensure that comprehensive management plans are in place. Both the Regional Spatial Strategy *The London Plan* and the London Borough of Bromley's Unitary Development Plan contain policies for the protection of World Heritage Properties.

3. The government intends to introduce statutory recognition for World Heritage Properties as part of new heritage legislation. A draft Heritage Protection Bill was published for pre-legislative scrutiny in April 2008 and the Bill itself will be introduced at the earliest legislative opportunity.

4. Other proposed provisions for the better protection of World Heritage Properties are dealt with below. The Bill will introduce a unified statutory Heritage Register which will merge the categories of listed building and scheduled monument to form a single category which in the future will be subject to a single process of Heritage Asset Consent. Historic battlefields, historic parks and gardens and World Heritage Properties will be given statutory recognition though they will continue to be protected primarily through the spatial planning system as now. The listed buildings, scheduled monuments and registered historic parks and gardens in the nominated Property will be automatically transferred to the new register when it comes into effect. Local authorities will be required to have regard to the special interest of all entries on the Register, including World Heritage Properties, when determining planning applications.

5. Heritage asset control will be operated by the relevant local authority. This is already the case for listed buildings but will be new for scheduled ancient monuments transferred to the new register. After enactment of the Bill, consent for all works to heritage assets which were previously subject to Scheduled Monuments Consent (SMC) or class consent will no longer be a matter for the Secretary of State but for Bromley. The Bill also introduces the concept of Heritage Partnership Agreements. These will be agreements between a landowner or site manager and the local authority to agree specifications for routine and repetitive tasks to be carried out within a specific period without requiring numerous consent applications. Agreements will need to be tailored to the specific circumstances of each designated asset and owner and will probably be most suitable for major landowners with large numbers of designated sites. There could be potential for the use of Heritage Partnership Agreements within the nominated Property where there are minor repetitive works on designated assets such as scrub clearance on Scheduled Monuments or agreeing an overall specification for works for a phased programme of repair over several years

6. The White Paper also recommended specific provisions for the improved protection of World Heritage Properties. Their statutory recognition by inclusion in the new Register of Historic Assets is covered above. These comprise three changes to planning policy advice: a change to call-in regulations; the inclusion of World Heritage Properties in Article 1(5) Land in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (GPDO) and; the development of a new planning circular. This will further recognise in national policy the need to protect World Heritage Properties as sites of Outstanding Universal Value, and that Regional and Local Authorities should include policies in Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks to protect World Heritage Properties and to depict World Heritage boundaries including, where needed, the delineation of a buffer zone around it.

7. The new Call-In Regulations were published for public consultation in January 2008 and, once in force, will introduce a requirement for local authorities to refer to the Secretary of State for Communities development proposals where English Heritage have objected on the grounds that a proposed development could have an adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value and significance of a World Heritage Property or its setting, and have been unable to withdraw that objection after discussions with the local planning authority and the applicant. The Secretary of State will take into account the views of English Heritage in deciding whether or

not to call in any applications referred for this reason. Publication of the new regulations is expected shortly.

8. Article 1(5) of the GPDO restricts certain permitted development rights within areas it covers. Areas currently covered include National Parks, Areas of Outstanding National Beauty and conservation areas. Article 1(5) restricts the size of extensions to houses and industrial buildings which can be built without specific planning consent. It also covers matters such as cladding of buildings. Parts of the nominated Property already fall within Article 1(5) land because they are within conservation areas. The changes to the GPDO would bring the whole nominated Property into Article 1(5) if it were to be inscribed. The changes to Article 1(5) came into effect on 1 October, 2008.

9. The draft Planning Circular recognises further in national policy the need to protect World Heritage Properties as sites of Outstanding Universal Value, and the role of management plans for each World Heritage Properties, including, where needed, the delineation of a buffer zone around it, has also been published for public consultation. It is supported by an English Heritage Guidance Note.

10. Applications within World Heritage Properties are also subject to;

- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) since World Heritage Properties are included within Schedule 2 of the EIA regulations. This means that Environmental Impact Assessments for development proposals within World Heritage Properties should consider the impact of the proposal on the Property and its Outstanding Universal Value. Location within the Property should also be a matter taken into account by local authorities when screening development proposals for the need for EIA.
- Design and Access Statements which are required for Development proposals within World Heritage Properties.

11. Taken as a whole the changes in national planning policy and advice relating to World Heritage Properties will strengthen the procedures for the protection of the nominated Property.

2.c Purpose of the Management Plan

12. The Management Plan is designed to help achieve the World Heritage Convention's aims of sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property. The development of a Management Plan

is primarily a consensus building exercise involving landowners, partners, stakeholders and managers who come together to form the priorities and mechanisms for managing, conserving and enhancing the World Heritage Property. The life cycle of this Management Plan will run from 2009 to 2014 and it replaces an earlier version 2005- 2009, which has been used to manage the nominated area. It is expected that revisions and modifications will need to be made to the plan in the future as changes arise and the nominated Property develops and evolves and tasks on the annual Action Plan are undertaken.

13. The Management Plan is built around the notion of achieving sustainable development to protect the nominated Property and conserve its Outstanding Universal Value whilst allowing for an evolving landscape within which people live and work. Consideration of the Securing the Future – UK Government’s Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) has been taken in the formulation of the aims and objectives of this Management Plan.

14. The principle objectives of the Management Plan are:

- To protect, conserve and enhance the inspirational landscape important to Charles Darwin’s scientific ideas on the understanding of the natural world and humankind’s role
- To promote the importance of the Property to local, national and international audiences
- To realise the educational potential of the Property for people of all ages and backgrounds
- To promote and implement sustainable development within the Property
- To work in partnership with organisations and stakeholders involved in the World Heritage Property.

2.d Preparation of the Plan

15. The Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with the general procedures and requirements published in 1998 by ICCROM, ICOMOS and UNESCO. The plan also takes into consideration the Nara Document on Authenticity (1994) and the Oxford Declaration on Landscape (2000), which was ratified by amongst others English Nature, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

16. Recent World Heritage Property Management Plans for the UK (including Cornwall and West Devon

Mining Landscape, Maritime Mercantile City Liverpool, and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) were consulted when preparing this Management Plan. Other World Heritage Properties identified as similar in terms of the type of management required include Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal (inscribed in 1986) and Hadrian’s Wall (1987).

Members of the Steering Group

17. The preparation of this Plan has been guided by a Steering Group consisting of representatives of the following bodies:

- The nominated Property is located in the London Borough of Bromley (LBB). Located in the south east of the capital, Bromley is the largest London Borough. Around 45% of the site, including farms, is owned by the Council which also has varied responsibilities for town planning, highways, education, working with the community and management of the environment. The World Heritage Team responsible for the production and implementation of the Management Plan and Nomination Document is employed by the London Borough of Bromley.
- The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is responsible for Government policy on various cultural and sporting matters including the historic environment. It represents the UK Government on world heritage issues including the submission of UK World Heritage Property nominations.
- English Heritage (EH) is the Government’s statutory advisor on the historic environment in England. The National Heritage Acts (1983 and 2003) give it responsibility for the conservation, protection and enhancement of the historic environment, increasing people’s understanding of the past and broadening public access to the heritage. It opens over 400 historic properties to the public, one of which is Down House. The World Heritage and International Policy team of English Heritage advises DCMS and others on all aspects of World Heritage Properties and the application of the World Heritage Convention. Statutory matters are dealt with by London Region and London and South East Region Visitor Operations staff manage the Down House visitor attraction. Separate departments look after research, landscape, conservation and education issues.

- Natural England (NE) is a Government agency working towards the delivery of four strategic outcomes, which together deliver on its purpose to conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations:
 1. A **healthy** natural environment - England's natural environment will be conserved and enhanced.
 2. People are inspired to **value and conserve** the natural environment - more people inspired to enjoy, understand and act for the natural environment.
 3. **Sustainable** use of the natural environment - the use and management of the environment is more sustainable.
 4. A **secure** environmental future - decisions which collectively secure the future of the natural environment.
- Created by the Greater London Authority Act 1999, the Mayor of London and the London Assembly constitute a strategic city wide Government for London implemented through the London Plan.
- The London Development Agency (LDA) prepares the Mayor's business plan for London by mobilising the support and resources of hundreds of partner organisations.
- ICOMOS UK provides advice and support for proposed World Heritage Properties, advises on the World Heritage Committee's operational guidelines and is part of ICOMOS International.
- The Charles Darwin Trust was set up in 1999 to develop Darwin's historic and theoretical legacy and to promote understanding of and debate about science through education and the media.
- The Natural History Museum, London, provides expert advice on biodiversity and delivering interpretation and education. Educational and research links have been established between the nominated Property and the Darwin Centre. The Darwin Centre is a major new development at The Natural History Museum. It provides world-class storage facilities for precious collections, new laboratories for Museum scientists, and access behind the scenes for visitors.
- London Wildlife Trust is one of 47 Wildlife Trusts, which form a nationwide network of local nature conservation charities. These trusts take action to protect the UK's natural world in town and country. The Wildlife Trusts care for almost 2,500 nature

reserves. Within the nominated Property, London Wildlife Trust manages part of the Downe Valley.

- Kent Wildlife Trust was established in 1958 to promote and protect the wildlife of the county. It achieves this through managing 7000 acres (3000 ha) of around 55 reserves, through an active education and community role and by influencing strategic and development planning. It is member-led with 23,000 members. It owns and manages the Downe Bank reserve in the nominated Property.
- Downe Residents' Association
The Residents Association aims to protect the rural nature of Downe Village and environs
- Lyulph Lubbock
John Lubbock descendant with access to the Lubbock archive, including scientific relationships with Darwin.

18. Many stakeholders were consulted in the process of producing the Management Plan as their advice and opinions were considered to be essential. Co-ordination was needed between local communities and organisations to produce a plan that was both practical and could be easily implemented to manage the Property in a consistent manner for its long-term future.

19. Various studies were commissioned by the London Borough of Bromley to aid the preparation of the Nomination Document and Management Plan: an Interpretation Strategy, a Rural Access Study; a Visitor Management Study; and a Historic Landscape Characterisation Study in conjunction with English Heritage.

2.e Structure of the Plan

20. The Management Plan will follow the structure as presented below:

Section 1: Introduction

21. Brief description of UNESCO's involvement and the history of the World Heritage List and the process and timetable for inscription.

Section 2: Purpose of the Management Plan

22. Explanation of why the Management Plan is needed and which organisations are involved in the bid process and production of the Management Plan and Nomination Document.

Section 3: Description of Property

23. A description of the essential features, values and significance of the nominated Property. Describes the location and areas of significance in the Property.

Section 4: Current Management and Ownership of the Property

24. Looks at current owners and management of the Property and the planning and policy framework.

Section 5: Management Issues

25. The core analytical part to the plan recognising current and future management issues facing the Property.

Section 6: Management Aims and Policies

26. Achievement of the World Heritage Property Vision will be through a series of policies which help guide the future management of the Property and address the issues outlined in Section 6. Sustainable management and promotion of the nominated Property through the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Values

Section 7: Implementation

27. An outline of the Strategic Action Plan demonstrating how the aims and policies of the World Heritage Property will be implemented. An agreed management framework and implementation strategy to be achieved over the short, medium and long term.

Map showing the boundaries of the nominated Property and buffer zone

