
THE ENGLISH
LAKE DISTRICT
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

**A short introduction to
The English Lake District World Heritage Site**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



- **The English Lake District**
- inscribed on the World
- Heritage List in 2017
-

What is World Heritage?

- UNESCO's aim is "to contribute to the **building of peace**, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and **intercultural dialogue** through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information."
- "Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable **sources of life and inspiration.**"
- "What makes the concept of World Heritage exceptional is its universal application. **World Heritage Sites belong to all** the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located."

What are World Heritage Sites?

- There are four different categories of World Heritage Sites: **natural**, **cultural**, **mixed** (both natural and cultural) and **cultural landscape**
- As of summer 2018, there are a total of 1,092 World Heritage Sites located in 167 different countries
- Of these sites, 845 are cultural, 209 are natural and 38 are mixed properties
- Within the 845 cultural properties, 102 are cultural landscapes, a category only introduced in 1992

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Great Barrier Reef



Central Amazon Basin



Great Smokey Mountains NP



Dorset & East Devon Jurassic Coast

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Memphis & the Pyramid Fields



Taj Mahal



Venice and its lagoon



Frontiers of the Roman Empire

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Tasmanian Wilderness



Machu Picchu



Mount Perdu



St Kilda

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Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras



The Causses & Cévennes



Blaenavon



English Lake District

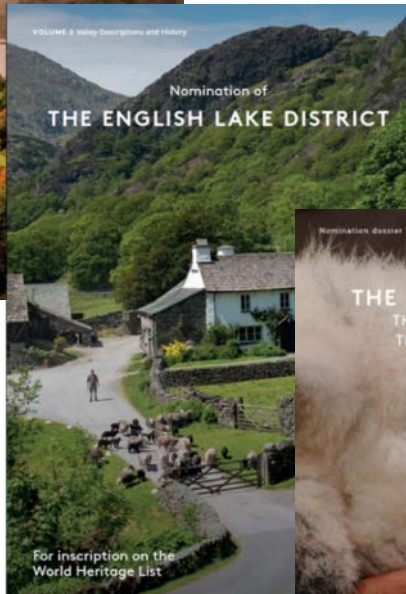
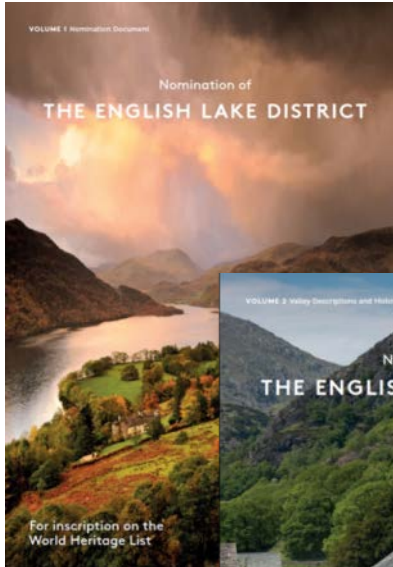
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Lake District's pathway to inscription

- 1986 – nominated by UK as a '*mixed*' World Heritage Site
- 1989 – the Lakes nominated by UK as a '*cultural*' site
- 1992 – a new category of '*cultural landscape*' developed
- 1999 – included in the UK's revised Tentative List of WHSs
- 2001 – Steering Group was formed
- 2007 – World Heritage Site Coordinator appointed
- 2009 – study commissioned on economic opportunities
- 2010 – draft Nomination Document completed
- 2011 – included in revised UK Tentative List of WHSs
- 2012 – Technical Evaluation submitted, deferred till 2013
- 2013 – Technical Evaluation submitted to the DCMS for a second time
- 2014 – Government decides that the Lakes is the UK's WH nomination in 2016
- 2016 – Lakes' bid submitted to UNESCO
- 2016 – an assessment visit to scrutinize the Lake District's bid is undertaken by experts from ICOMOS on behalf of UNESCO
- 2017 – Lake District is announced as the UK's newest World Heritage Site at UNESCO annual meeting in Krakow

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- Big and complicated...
- UK's 31st and largest WHS
- Covers area 221,000 ha (as per 1951 National Park boundary)
- Population of ~41k, with 61% working and 25% retired
- There are ~23k homes with 68% owner occupied
- 42k ha of SSSIs, 36k ha of SACs and ~2k ha NNRs
- There are 16.5k archaeological sites and monuments including 333 scheduled ancient monuments, and ~1,800 listed buildings
- There are 2,200 km of public footpaths and 121,000 ha of open access land
- Tourism #s ~19m visits, worth £1.24bn (2015), and growing?

How does UNESCO decide how somewhere's special enough to be a WHS?

- To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of **Outstanding Universal Value** (OUV) and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria as defined in UNESCO's Operational Guidelines...the Lakes meets three...
- Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) means cultural and/ or natural significance which is so exceptional as to *“transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity”*...or those reasons why the Lakes is so internationally important...

Why are the Lakes a World Heritage Site?

Those reasons are three intertwining and interdependent themes that reflect the criteria for inscription and attributes:

- **Identity** – a landscape of exceptional beauty, shaped by farming traditions and local industry for over 1,000 years, which give it special character
- **Inspiration** – a landscape which has inspired artistic and literary movements and generated ideas about landscapes that have had global influence
- **Conservation** – a landscape which has been the catalyst for key developments in the national and international protection of landscapes

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Identity – natural ‘canvas’

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**Identity – artefacts now part
of the landscape**

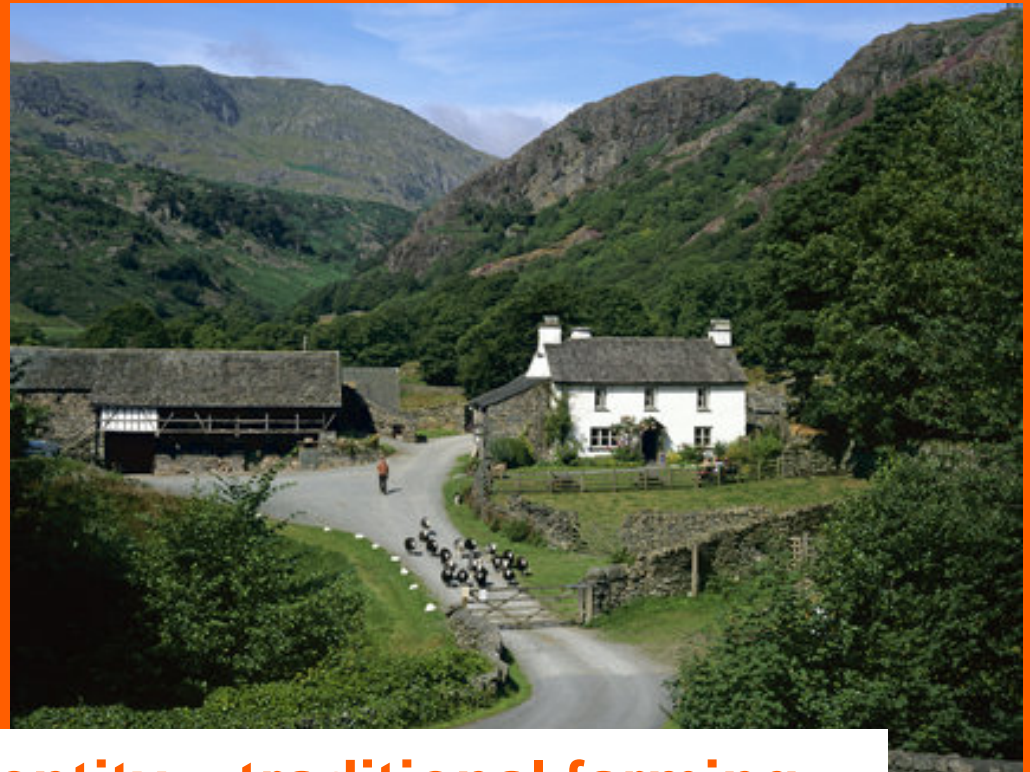


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Identity – traditional farming

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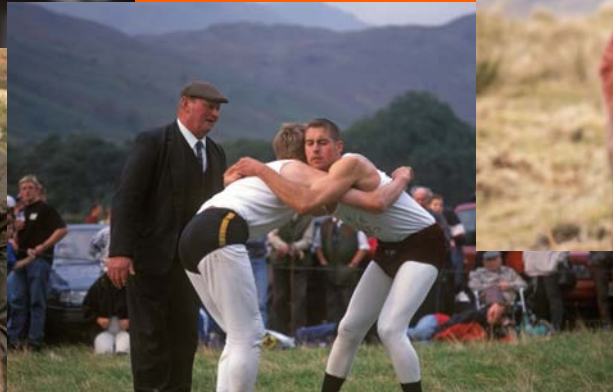
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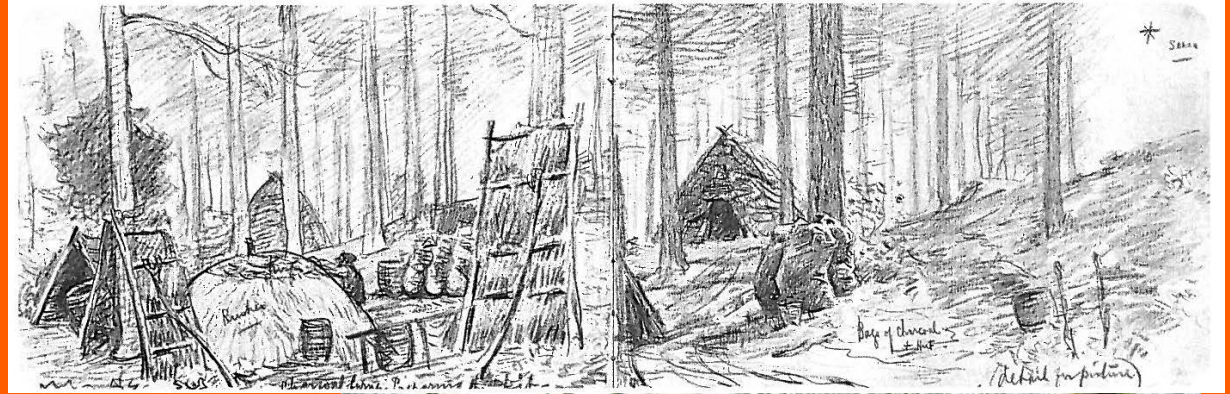
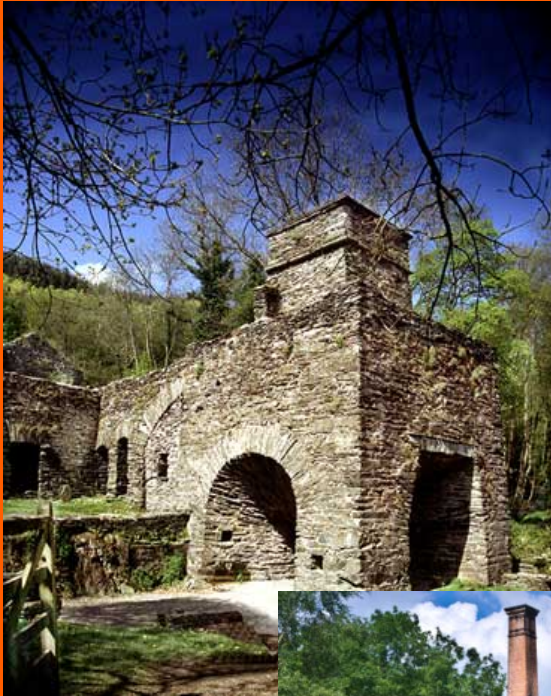
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Identity – mining and quarrying

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Identity – other industries

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Inspiration – Picturesque



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Inspiration – Picturesque



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Inspiration – villa building



Inspiration – designed landscapes

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Inspiration – Romanticism

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Conservation – Crow Park



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Conservation – Thirlmere

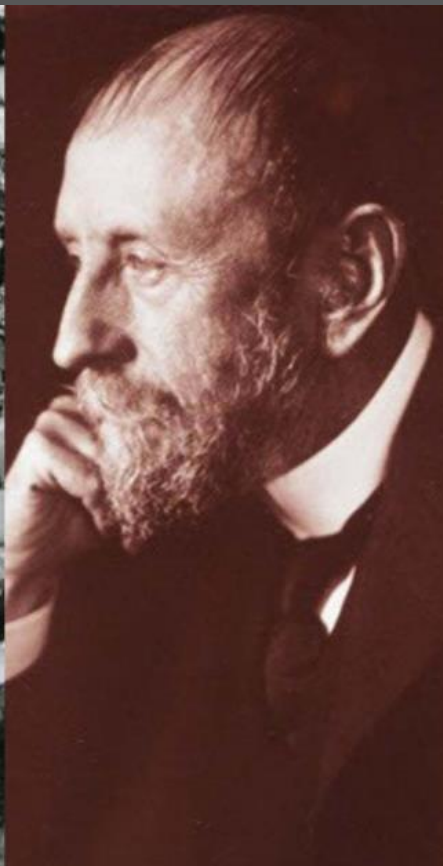


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Conservation – protection through legislation

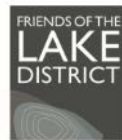
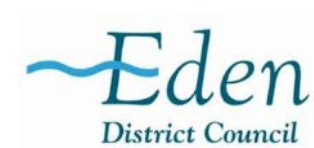
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Conservation – protection through ownership

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Managing an evolving masterpiece...



...via the Lake District National Park Partnership

Managing the World Heritage Site

- Governance and structures
- Working groups – marketing, technical advisory group, funding, other non official groups...
- Management Plan
- Work programmes and projects
- Monitoring the WHS
- WHS Coordinator
- WHS Engagement Officer





Benefits

- Stronger, more joined-up Lakes-wide partnership
- Platform for conversations, discussions and solutions
- Global spotlight, recognition and awareness
- Competitive advantage
- Increase in international visitors and revenues
- Leverage for funding
- New Lakes stories to tell; new interpretation strategy
- WHS Branding

Challenges

- Tourism impact
- Threats to OUV – managing developments
- It's not 'Culture vs. Nature'
- Infrastructure pressures
- Brexit
- CAP
- Partners not working in a partnership
- Addressing UNESCO's recommendations



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If you have questions or want more information...

- UNESCO <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>
- English Lake District World Heritage Site
www.lakesworldheritage.co.uk
- Lake District National Park Authority www.lakedistrict.gov.uk
- National Trust www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out/regionnorthwest/lake-district
- Cumbria Tourism (for visitors) www.golakes.co.uk
- Cumbria Tourism (for businesses)
www.cumbriatourism.org/what-we-do
- World Heritage UK www.worldheritageuk.org
- Twitter: @EnglishLakesWHS
- Email: lakeswh@lakedistrict.gov.uk