Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site

Management Plan 2017 - 2023

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Foreword

Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site (WHS) was one of the first in the UK to be inscribed and has taken its place among the most famous and popular heritage sites in the world. This recognition brings with it considerable responsibility for its stewardship. Durham Cathedral, the University of Durham and St John's College as the landowners, along with Durham County Council, are answerable through the UK Government to UNESCO as well as to the wider international community for its conservation and sharing of the WHS with present and future generations. To assist in this, a Management Plan for the Durham World Heritage Site was prepared in 2006. Ten years later, this revision to the Management Plan has been prepared following extensive consultation with organisations and individuals who have an interest in the well-being of this much loved WHS. It has been approved by the Durham WHS Coordinating Committee whose membership includes representatives of the landowners, the County Council, Historic England, UNESCO and the local community. It carries with it the good of the WHS.

Durham is a living WHS as a place of residence and work for many people, as well as a place of pilgrimage and historic interest for visitors from around the world. As this Management Plan makes clear, the fact that this is a living WHS with many organisations and other stakeholders engaged with the Site brings with it both opportunities and challenges as we work together to maintain the Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) of Durham WHS and to ensure a coordinated approach to the site's management, conservation and protection in years to come.

As Chair of the Durham WHS Coordinating Committee, I am confident that this Management Plan provides an excellent focus for such collaboration to ensure the Durham WHS continues to be so special for so many people, whether local resident or visitor from the other side of the world. Our aim is to manage Durham WHS to the very high standards befitting its designation as a World Heritage Site.

I would like to take this opportunity to record my special thanks to the community in and around Durham and the numerous partners who have all played an essential part in the production of this plan, especially those members of the Coordinating Committee who have willingly given up their time to inform and steer this Management Plan to fruition.

The Revd Canon Rosalind Brown

Canon Librarian, Durham Cathedral,

Chair of Durham World Heritage Site Coordinating Committee.

January 2017.

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I. What is World Heritage?

World Heritage status is the designation for places in the World which are of outstanding universal value to humanity, form part of the common heritage of mankind and have been inscribed on the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage List to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. At the time of writing there are 1052 WHSs on the UNESCO List, of which 30 are in the United Kingdom and its dependent territories.

UNESCO's stated mission is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration between nations through education, science and cultural understanding. World Heritage Sites are ideally placed to contribute to this mission and the Durham WHS Management Plan has been led by these principles.

The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972-

(see <u>http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/</u>).

The UK ratified the Convention in 1984. Guidance on the Convention is produced by UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (*see <u>http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines</u>)* in collaboration with its advisory bodies, the International Committee on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Centre for the Study and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). These advisory bodies also produce guidance and develop policy on World Heritage issues. By signing up to the World Heritage Convention, the UK Government promised to promote, interpret and protect World Heritage Sites and their Outstanding Universal Value and to transmit them on to future generations. The Department of Culture Media and Sport is the lead government department on World Heritage in the United Kingdom and works closely with UNESCO, with other parts of the UK government and the Devolved Administrations.

II. How does Inscription Work?

World Heritage Status is not automatically bestowed on a property by UNESCO. All World Heritage Sites must be able to make a clear case for Outstanding Universal Value in order to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The usual route to inscription in the UK is for a local partnership to come together around a common belief that a place or area has the potential to be a World Heritage Site and then work with the Government and its agencies to get a place on the UK's Tentative List for Nominations (see www.whc.unesco.org or www.culture.gov.uk for details of Tentative Lists). They then develop and submit a nomination to UNESCO, for the World Heritage Committee to make the decision to Inscribe at their Annual Meeting. This process was followed by Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site for Inscription in 1986 (For more detail see the first Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site Management Plan, 2006

<u>https://www.durhamworldheritagesite.com/research/</u> world-heritage-site-management-plan-2006).

III. The World Heritage Convention

This defines the mandate for managing World Heritage Sites and a number of key Articles have influenced the development of this Plan, in particular:

World Heritage Convention

Article 4: Each State Party to this Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage belongs primarily to that State. It will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources.

Article 5: To ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory, each State Party to this Convention shall endeavour, in so far as possible, and as appropriate for each country:

to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes

Article 27: The States Parties to this Convention shall endeavour by all appropriate means, and in particular by educational and information programmes, to strengthen appreciation and respect by their peoples of the cultural and natural heritage of the Durham World Heritage Site. This system is founded on partnership working and strong community engagement, allowing agreement on a common Vision for the Site. The UK Government also requires all UK World Heritage Sites to have a Management Plan which follows the advice contained in the UNESCO Operational Guidelines and the United Kingdom's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (<u>https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/</u> <u>system/uploads/attachment_data/</u>

file/6077/2116950.pdf). As with most World Heritage Sites, responsibility for management and ownership of the Site is shared by a number of partners and so a Management Plan is a vital tool for strategic co-ordination and monitoring. The Durham WHS and its setting are subject to a range of challenges and opportunities which require a Management Plan to manage these effectively for the long -term protection of the Site.

V. Summary of the process undertaken

This document (2017) is the first revision of the Plan submitted to UNESCO in 2006 and represents the consensus view of the Durham WHS Coordinating Committee (for terms of reference and composition of the Committee see Appendix 1). It builds upon the objectives and actions set out in the preceding plan, reinforcing and continuing actions which worked well, addressing areas where need for improvement has been identified and identifying and reacting to issues which have developed since the previous plan. As highlighted in UNESCO's Operational Guidelines, successful delivery will depend on all partners working together in support of the plan. This work has been overseen by the Durham WHS Coordinating Committee, supported by the WHS Co-Ordinator and a process of extensive public consultation during February to April 2016 (for details and outcomes of the Public Consultation process see Appendix 2).

This new Plan comprises of four sections:

IV. The function of the Management Plan

The UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (<u>http://</u> <u>whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/</u>) state that "each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which must specify how the Outstanding Universal Value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means". The need for an appropriate and robust management system is vital for the protection and development

- Justification for World Heritage Status
- Site Protection and Management
- Challenges and Opportunities affecting the Site
- An Action Plan to address the Challenges and Opportunities

VI. Review of the last Management Plan period 2006 to 2017

Achievements arising from the 2006 Management Plan have included:

Site Management

- The World Heritage Site (WHS) Coordinating Committee has been established and a WHS Coordinator employed.
- The Site boundaries were expanded in 2008 to include Palace Green and the buildings surrounding it
- A WHS website was launched and a WHS guidebook and a children's activity book have been published
- The former Almshouses on Owengate were restored and converted into the WHS Visitor Centre
- The WHS Visitor Centre is staffed by 2 paid members of staff, supported by c.50 volunteers, who engage with the site, and share their knowledge and enthusiasm for Durham with visitors and local residents alike
- A full range of seminars, events, events and exhibitions have been organised and assistance given to WHS and Castle tours and the WHS has been the venue for hundreds of cultural events.
- Numerous institutional links have been established, including direct collaboration with UNESCO other World Heritage Sites in the UK and worldwide, professional visits from key cultural heritage managers and other Universities working on heritage issues
- The exterior floodlighting of the Castle and Cathedral was replaced by a scheme which is more energy efficient and brings out the details of the architecture more effectively
- A City Centre Conservation Area Appraisal including the Peninsula has been undertaken by Durham County Council
- Conservation Management Plans have been produced for the Castle and Cathedral and buildings on Palace Green and a conservation statement has been produced for the church of St Mary the Less

Academic

- The Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies (IMEMS) was formally launched as a Durham University research centre and includes the WHS as one of its key research themes
- A new MA programme in International Cultural Heritage Management has been established by the University, using the World Heritage Site as a key case study

Castle and University

- The Castle was successfully removed from Historic England's Buildings at Risk Register and continuing repair work is being undertaken on the Castle stone
- Extensive refurbishment was undertaken in the Castle's Great Hall, keep, bar, kitchen and servery and Tunstall Chapel
- Palace Green Library has been refurbished to create gallery and exhibition spaces and is also now home to the University's Museum of Archaeology and its displays.
- Conservation heating and a programme of conservation has been introduced in John Cosin's 17th century library
- Several of the other buildings on the WHS have been restored, including the Bishop's Court building on North Bailey and several adjacent properties
- The University's Institute of Advanced Study was established and located in the restored 'Cosin's Hall' on Palace Green.

Cathedral

- The Open Treasure project has been completed restoring the fabric of the medieval buildings and creating new exhibitions about the Cathedral
- The WHS treasures exhibition was converted into a new Cathedral Shop and the Cathedral Restaurant has been refurbished, reinstating the visual unity of the medieval undercroft
- The Chapel of the Holy Cross has been dedicated in the refurbished Deanery undercroft
- Continuing repair work has been undertaken on the Cathedral stone including the Chapel of the Nine Altars
- Girls have joined the Cathedral Choir for the first time in 600 years extending the historic tradition
- The Cathedral installed a large new stained glass window in memory of Archbishop Michael Ramsay
- The Chorister School celebrated 600 years of education in the WHS
- The provision of new interpretation in the Cathedral is being implemented

VII. Delivering the Plan 2017 to 2023

This section describes the detail of what the WHS Committee hopes to achieve in the management of the WHS. The introductory part identifies factors that have informed the development of the vision, aims and actions, in particular the context of the World Heritage Convention. This is followed by the Vision Statement for the Site and the six long-term aims that have been developed and which demonstrate the aspirations of the Site on behalf of "all of the peoples of the world". The action plan details how the management plan will be delivered.

VIII. Background to the development of vision, aims and action plan

These have been developed over the lifetime of the previous Management Plan and have been informed by:

- Lessons learned from delivery of the last version of the Management Plan (see above)
- The Site's OUV and attributes (see Chapter 1)
- The current state of the Site's management and protection (see Chapter 2)

IX. Vision and Aims

The Vision for the WHS is a statement of ambition, based on the aspirations as set out in the World Heritage Convention. The vision for the Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site is that:

Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site aims to be a welcoming and inclusive place with a vibrant community which takes its inspiration from its past, whilst planning for a sustainable future and striking an effective and creative balance between a place to live, work, worship, learn and visit, and;

Durham WHS aspires to be a place where World Heritage significance is fully acknowledged, appreciated and understood by present and future generations. It will strive for the highest standards of conservation, protection and interpretation for a sustainable future for the Site.

The Aims of this Management Plan are to:

Protect the Site's Outstanding Universal Value and setting;

Conserve and enhance the Site and its setting;

Support understanding and awareness of the Site and its Outstanding Universal Value and of World Heritage;

Support communities in realising the economic, social and cultural opportunities and benefits World Heritage status can bring;

Support visitor and communities' access, their enjoyment of the Site and its benefits;

Provide WHS management to deliver all aims.

<complex-block>

As described in the introduction, Sites must have Outstanding Universal Value for inclusion on the World Heritage List. This is defined by whether a site meets one or more of UNESCO's Site *Criteria*. Furthermore, it must meet conditions of *integrity*, *authenticity* and must have an adequate *protection and management system* to ensure its safeguarding. This is summarised below.

1.1. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Durham Castle and Cathedral was first inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986 (for the original SOUV see Management Plan 2006). An updated Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was produced in December 2010, put forward for public consultation, assessed by ICOMOS UK, and approved by the World Heritage Committee in June 2013 (Decision WHC – 37COM 8E – Adoption of Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value)



1.2. Brief Synthesis (the full inscription can be found at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/370/)

Durham Cathedral was built between the late 11th and early 12th century to house the bodies of St. Cuthbert (634-687 AD) (the evangeliser of Northumbria) and the Venerable Bede (672/3-735 AD). It attests to the importance of the early Benedictine monastic community and is the largest and finest example of Norman architecture in England.



The innovative audacity of its vaulting foreshadowed Gothic architecture. The Cathedral lies within the precinct of Durham Castle, first constructed in the late eleventh century under the orders of William the Conqueror.

The Castle was the stronghold and residence of the Prince-Bishops of Durham, who were given virtual autonomy in return for protecting the northern boundaries of England, and thus held both religious and secular power.

Within the Castle precinct are later buildings of the Durham Palatinate, reflecting the Prince-Bishops' civic responsibilities and privileges. These include the Bishop's Court (now a library), almshouses, and schools. Palace Green, a large open space connecting the various buildings of the site once provided the Prince Bishops with a venue for processions and gatherings befitting their status, and is now still a forum for public events.



The Cathedral and Castle are located on a peninsula formed by a bend in the River Wear with steep riverbanks constituting a natural line of defence. These were essential both for the community of St. Cuthbert, who came to Durham in the tenth century in search of a safe base (having suffered periodic Viking raids over the course of several centuries), and for the Prince-Bishops of Durham, protectors of the turbulent English frontier.

The site is significant because of the exceptional architecture demonstrating architectural innovation and the visual drama of the Cathedral and Castle on the peninsula, and for the associations with notions of romantic beauty in tangible form. The physical expression of the spiritual and secular powers of the medieval Bishops' Palatinate is shown by the defended complex and by the importance of its archaeological remains, which are directly related to its history and continuity of use over the past 1000 years. The relics and material culture of three saints, (Cuthbert, Bede, and Oswald) buried at the site and, in particular, the cultural and religious traditions and historical memories associated with the relics of St Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede, demonstrate the continuity of use and ownership over the past millennium as a place of religious worship, learning, and residence in tangible form. The property demonstrates its role as a political statement of Norman power imposed on a subjugate nation and as one of the country's most powerful symbols of the Norman Conquest of Britain.



Figure 1.5 View of the Cathedral from Palace Green, 18th century (Durham University Library)



Figure 1.6. Map of Durham by John Speed, c.1611



Figure 1.7. Aerial view of the Durham Peninsula. Castle Walls Survey—With thanks to Purcell and Network Mapping

1.3. Criteria

There are ten criteria by which sites are assessed to determine whether they are worthy of inscription on the World Heritage List. Sites must meet at least one of these to be eligible. According to the World Heritage Committee, Durham meets the following three criteria:

> **Criterion (ii):** "to 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,"

> Durham Cathedral is the largest and most perfect monument of 'Norman' style architecture in England. The small astral (castle) chapel for its part marks a turning point in the evolution of 11th century Romanesque sculpture.

Criterion (iv): "to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history" Though some wrongly considered Durham Cathedral to be the first 'Gothic' monument, this building, owing to the innovative audacity of its vaulting, constitutes a type of experimental model which was far ahead of its time.

Criterion (vi): "to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria)"

Around the relics of Cuthbert and Bede, Durham crystallized the memory of the evangelising of Northumbria and of primitive Benedictine monastic life.

1.4. Integrity

The physical integrity of the property is well preserved. However, despite a minor modification of the property's boundaries in 2008 to unite the Castle and Cathedral sites, the current boundary still does not fully encompass all the attributes and features that convey the property's Outstanding Universal Value. The steep banks of the River Wear, an important component of the property's defensive role, and the full extent of the Castle precinct still lie outside the property boundary.

There are no immediate threats to the property or its attributes. The visual integrity of the property relates to its prominent position high above a bend in the River Wear, and there is a need to protect key views to and from the Castle, Cathedral and town, that together portray one of the best known medieval cityscapes of Europe.







1.5. Authenticity

The property has remained continually in use as a place of worship, learning and residence. Durham Cathedral is a thriving religious institution with strong links to its surrounding community. The Castle is accessible through its use as part of the University of Durham, a centre of excellence for learning.

A series of additions, reconstructions, embellishments, as well as restorations from the 11th century onward have not substantially altered the Norman structure of Durham Cathedral. The monastic buildings, grouped together to the south of the Cathedral comprise few pristine elements but together make up a diversified and coherent ensemble of medieval architecture, which 19th century restoration works, carried out substantially in the chapter house and cloister, did not destroy.

The architectural evolution of the Castle has not obscured its Norman layout. Within the Castle, the astral chapel, with its groined vaults, is one of the most precious testimonies to Norman architecture circa 1080 AD. The slightly later Norman Gallery at the east end has retained its Norman decoration of a series of arches decorated with chevrons and zigzags.

The siting of the Castle and Cathedral in relation to the surrounding city has been sustained, as has its setting above the wooded Wear valley, both of which allow an understanding of its medieval form.





1.6. Management and Protection

The UK Government protects World Heritage properties in England in two ways. Firstly, individual buildings, monuments, gardens and landscapes are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act and secondly, through the UK Spatial Planning system under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts.

Government guidance on protecting the Historic Environment and World Heritage is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and Circular 07/09 (Superseded, see National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012, Department for Communities and Local Government) . Policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance World Heritage properties, their settings and buffer zones are also found in statutory planning documents. World Heritage status is a key material consideration when planning applications are considered by the Local Authority planning authority. The City of Durham Local Plan contains saved policies to protect, promote, conserve and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the Durham World Heritage property and its setting.

Both the Castle and Cathedral are protected by designation as Grade 1 listed buildings. The whole property lies within the Durham City Centre Conservation Area.

A Durham World Heritage Site Management Plan (2006) was produced by the property's key stakeholders. A Coor-

dinating Committee oversees the implementation of the Management Plan by the World Heritage Coordinator. This review of the Management Plan recommends a minor boundary revision to include river banks and walls.

The property lies within a conservation area and care is given to preserving views to and from the property, in particular from the Prebends' Bridge, where the Castle and Cathedral dominate the steeply wooded banks forming part of an 18th century designed landscape. Given the topography of the site, and the conservation area surrounding it, the preservation of key views is important. There is a need to ensure the protection of the immediate and wider setting of the property and the highly significant profile of the Castle, Cathedral and city and its distinctive silhouette visible day and night. This is addressed by examining planning proposals for their potential impact on views to, from and of the property, rather than just their proximity to the property itself.

Tourism Management has been an important focus for the landowners and other institutional stakeholders over the last few years, with numerous initiatives being put in place to improve the quality of the tourist offer without compromising any of the property's values or its ability to function. The property's approach to tourism is one of maintaining similar levels of tourism but providing better and greater intellectual and physical access to the site, as well as delivering a varied programme of world class cultural events that bring larger numbers of people to the proper-

ty on occasion.

The property faces no serious threats. The main objectives are to continue to maintain the architectural fabric, to ensure integration of the property's management into the management of the adjoining town and wider landscape, to assess and protect key views into and out of the property and to improve interpretation, understanding and to encourage site-specific research. (*Please note that legislation has been changed since the original Inscription and more recent planning guidance can be found in Chapter 2 of this Plan*)





Figure 1.13. Durham Cathedral Plan





1.7. Attributes of the Site and the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (for

more detailed examination of Attributes see Appendix 3)

This section sets out the attributes from the SOUV. Attributes are elements of the site, tangible and intangible, which make clear the authenticity and integrity of the site. The purpose of having clear and detailed attributes of OUV is to help promote a better understanding of the WHS and to relate the SOUV to the physical aspects of the site that are capable of being preserved and protected.

SIGNIFICANCE 1: The Site's exceptional architecture demonstrating architectural innovation

The architectural design and construction techniques of the nave of Durham Cathedral.

In architectural terms, Durham Cathedral reflects the ambitions of its patrons wishing to outshine the buildings of near contemporaries, to place the cult of St Cuthbert on a par with that of St Peter in Rome, and to incorporate exotic elements from afar in its construction.

Durham Castle's Norman Chapel

Durham Castle's Norman Chapel is an unusually well-preserved example of Norman architecture that provides an important reference for the form, design, and iconography of early Norman religious buildings in England. **SIGNIFICANCE 2**: The visual drama of the Cathedral and Castle on the peninsula and the associations with notions of romantic beauty.

The dramatic, dynamic skyline of Durham Cathedral and Castle

The Cathedral and Castle tower over the city, riverbanks and river, visually uncontested by more recent urban development.

The Cathedral and Castle and their immediate setting

i) The romantic setting: The immediate setting is provided by the undeveloped stretch of river, the steep, forbidding, mature tree lined river banks, the remaining stretches of the Castle Walls and the way in which they have been partially covered by the vegetation and eroded by time, and Prebends' Bridge and the view it provides of this ensemble of nature and buildings.

ii) The scale of the Cathedral and Castle:
The massiveness of the Cathedral and Castle
is appreciated in comparison to the frag mented nature of the surrounding land scape.

iii) The Pilgrimage Routes to the Cathedral: The Cathedral's relationship to its surrounding fabric is unlikely to have changed much since the Middle Ages due to the Cathedral's physical dominance with regards other buildings. The Cathedral towers appear and disappear depending on one's location along the limited number of routes leading to the building, and this must have been a significant feature for the large number of pilgrims who would have travelled from afar to get to Durham.



Figure 1.17. The WHS dominates the silhouette of Durham City

Setting of the World Heritage Site

The inner setting of the World Heritage Site is formed by an 'inner bowl' contained by nearby ridges and spurs incised by the meandering River Wear, and a more diffuse wider setting ('outer bowl') contained by more distant high ground including the limestone escarpment to the east and south, and higher spurs and ridges to the west. These form important horizons and skylines in the backdrop of many views of, from and within the WHS, and contain important vantage points from which the WHS is viewed.

The visual appeal of the site in its context

i) Form, colour, and materials: The honeycoloured stone of the Cathedral & Castle and Prebends' Bridge contrasts with the greenery of the trees and shrubs along the river; and the earthy river banks; and the reflection of these in the river.

ii) The patina of history: This is expressed in the weathered, variegated quality of the Ca-thedral and Castle stonework.

iii) The site by night: The visual presence of the Cathedral and Castle by night contrasts with the darkness of the river, riverbanks and sky.

iv) The site in changing climatic conditions:The character of the site changes as weather and season impact on views

v) The routes to Palace Green and the visual unfolding of the site: The relationship between the Castle, Cathedral and Palace Green on one hand, and the rest of the city on the other, offers a dynamic visual experience to the viewer.

vi) The visual relationship between the Cathedral and Castle and the surrounding landscape: The sight of monumental historic buildings towering over the landscape and cityscape has inspired visual artists for centuries. vii) The site's key views: The views of the Castle and Cathedral are world-renowned not just in terms of the city, but in terms of the county as well.



Figure 1.18. View to the Cathedral and Galilee Chapel 1930's

SIGNIFICANCE 3: The physical expression of the Spiritual and Secular Powers of the medieval Bishops Palatine that the defended complex provides.

The scale of the spaces and buildings The massive scale of both the Cathedral and the Castle, and the dwarfing effect they have says much about the status of the Prince Bishops.

The grandeur and richness of the spaces of the WHS The grandeur of the Cathedral's interior spaces contribute to the physical expression of the secular and spiritual powers of the Medieval Bishops Palatine. With respect to the Castle, its role as the Bishop's palace since the Norman period is reflected in the scale and decoration of spaces. Other

interior spaces in the World Heritage Site combine architectural 'wealth' with the notion of cultural wealth, such as John Cosin's 17th century library.

Architectural symbols of power There are also actual symbols of power, the most notable being the Cathedra (throne) constructed in the Cathedral by Bishop Hatfield in the 14th century.

The quality of the workmanship and the status and reputation of the craftsmen commissioned by the Prince Bishops The level of architectural patronage and the long history of the Prince Bishops commissioning work from nationally-renowned craftsmen and designers is indicative of the Bishops' role in society at a national level.

The range of buildings reflecting the different powers and responsibilities of the Prince Bishops The combination of historic religious buildings, grand residential buildings, defensive buildings and structures and administrative buildings, and the fact that they have not been overshadowed by modern construction and development, reflects the pre-eminence of the prince-bishopric as the most important position in Durham's history.

Buildings intended to dominate the landscape Apart from the visual pre-eminence of the Cathedral and Castle, the fact that they were designed to dominate the landscape is

Figure 1.19. View of the World Heritage Site from the West

evident through the views to and from them.

The defensive nature of the site The River Wear was the Castle's initial line of defence. The Peninsula, with its steep river banks was well chosen, and the construction of the Cathedral within the Castle precinct would have been especially significant for the community of St. Cuthbert, whose history until the 10th century was one of persecution at the hands of Viking raiders.



The economic value and significance of some of the bishops' constructions The two medieval bridges (Framwellgate and Elvet) are reminders of the economic dimension of the medieval bishops' power. As key points used to control access to the city centre. they would have also been used for the imposition of tolls. Moreover, the fact that Elvet Bridge was lined with shops (of which some still remain) meant that it constituted a commercial street over water, reflecting the fact that the Bishopric was not just a religious, or a political establishment, but an economic one as well. The 15th century chancery and exchequer building on Palace Green dealt with legal issues related to the Bishops' property, and managed his revenues. The Bishop's Mint, was another of the Bishop's income-generating institutions, and stayed in operation until it was shut

down by Henry VIII.

The site's intellectual importance across the ages The Cathedral Library and Bishop John Cosin's Library are physical manifestations of the intellectual importance of Durham. The Cathedral archives and Library represent the largest medieval collection in the country still in its original location. Durham's importance as a place of learning dates to at least the 11th century with the founding of the Benedictine Monastery by Bishop William of St. Calais. Durham's links with other educational establishments were strong from an early age, both to other religious establishments, as well as to centres of learning, like Oxford University, where the Durham monks founded Durham Hall in 1291, now part of Trinity College.

Figure 1.21. Durham College, Oxford (now Trinity), by John Bereblock in 1566. (Courtesy of Trinity College)







Figure 1.23. St. Cuthbert's Shrine, Cathedral



Figure 1.24. Venerable Bede's Tomb—Galilee Chapel

SIGNIFICANCE 4: The relics and material culture of the three saints, (Cuthbert, Bede, and Oswald) buried at the site

St Cuthbert's Shrine & Relics The sanctity of St Cuthbert's Shrine is emphasised by the combination of its elevated position above the floor level of the Chapel of the Nine Altars and the side aisles; the historic building fabric and objects, as well as by the modern furnishings of the well-maintained shrine emphasising the continued importance of St Cuthbert. The continued existence of many of St Cuthbert's relics in Durham Cathedral is notable. The sense of ownership of St Cuthbert by local people is a remarkable and significant element of the Cathedral's life.

The Tomb of the Venerable Bede The importance afforded to Bede's tomb is emphasised through the combination of the Frosterley marble cenotaph, the epigraphic sculpture about Christ the Rising Star, the candelabra, and the pew with its cushion produced by the Cathedral broderers, and the careful creation of an implicit curtilage area around the cenotaph itself.

SIGNIFICANCE 5: The Continuity of use and ownership over the past 1000 years as a place of religious worship, learning and residence

The continued function of the Cathedral and Norman Chapel as religious establishments The Cathedral's role as the seat of the Bishop and centre of the Diocese of Durham, and as one of the most important centres for Christian worship in Britain, through dedicated regular congregations, and civic and diocesan services. Durham Castle's Norman Chapel also continues in use as a place of worship to the present day.





Figure 1.27. Cosin's Library today

The use of the buildings (old and new) of the World Heritage Site by Durham University and Durham Cathedral for the purposes of learning, scholarship and education These uses are extensive, and integral to the life of the site. They include the use of the Castle as a Durham University college, the use of Cosin's Library and its annexes as a university library, the use of Cosin's grammar school as an academic department (music), the use of part of Cosin's almshouse/educational complex as a lecture room/ study space and the use of Divinity House as the Department of Theology. Also children have been educated on the site for at least 600 years, currently expressed in the existence of the Cathedral Chorister School, and the continued tradition of musical education and performance. There are also the Cathedral and University Education departments, both located on the site, and responsible for educational outreach to both children and adults.

The use of the buildings of the World Heritage Site for residential purposes Demonstrated by use of the Castle and buildings on Owengate and North Bailey for student accommodation. The houses within the Cathedral College remain in use for residential purposes and most of the residents are associated with/ employed by the Cathedral.

The use of the buildings of the site for administrative purposes The Cathedral Office on the site, continues the running the Cathedral's affairs from the site, as has been the case at least since the late eleventh century.

The continued existence of buildingrelated trades and crafts on the site Craftsmen with traditional skills such as stonemasonry and joinery are still employed by and on the site on a permanent basis and are integral to the maintenance and preservation of the historic building fabric. The Cathedral and University each have a stonemasons' yard, and building traditions are passed on from one generation to the next through the traditional system of apprenticeship.

The records documenting the use of the site across the ages Extensive documentary evidence in the Cathedral and University archives chronicles the use of the site, works undertaken, people associated with it, activities and events.

SIGNIFICANCE 6: The Site's role as a political statement of Norman power Imposed upon a subjugate nation, as one of the country's most powerful symbols of the Norman Conquest of Britain

The Cathedral and Castle as a monumental ensemble whose original functions are immediately recognisable, even from a distance The view of the massive ensemble of the Cathedral and Castle, especially from the west, and the way in which they tower over the city, river and landscape is an uncontested symbol of power. SIGNIFICANCE 7: The Importance of the Site's archaeological remains, which are directly related to its history and continuity of use over the past 1000 years

The continuum of significant archaeological/historical information offered by the site Durham is especially fortunate to have extensive archival material which contributes greatly to shedding light on the social, political, religious, cultural and economic context that shaped its buildings. The existence of Durham University's Archaeology Department and the fact that Durham Cathedral has a resident archaeologist on its staff also means that on-site archaeological work, research and analysis is ongoing.



SIGNIFICANCE 8: The cultural and religious traditions and historical memories associated with the relics of St Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede, and with the continuity of use and ownership over the past millennium. The continued veneration of Cuthbert and Bede

> This is expressed in the continuity of local, site-specific traditions developed over time by the Cathedral community and clergy, by the University, and by community groups such as miners' lodges, school groups and others.

The site's importance as cornerstone of Community identity and as a rite of passage This includes the use of the Cathedral for services and events and Durham Castle for important University and civic functions. The processional route into the Cathedral is of continued importance and the presence of community memorials acts as focus for community identity.

The site's multi-functionalism and adaptability of use The primary use of the buildings of the World Heritage Site for a multitude of non-tourist-related functions and their ability to continue to serve their community while remaining important visitor attractions says much about their versatility.

The continuity of ownership The ownership of the site by institutions that evolved from the original community of St Cuthbert, such as the Chapter of Durham Cathedral and, in turn, Durham University and its independent colleges, demonstrates an evolving, yet unbroken chain of ownership over the





UNESCO state that the "Protection and management of World Heritage properties should ensure that the outstanding universal value, the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity at the time of inscription are maintained or enhanced in the future".

This chapter outlines how this is undertaken for Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site and describes how the Coordinating Committee works in partnership with all those who have a stake in the WHS. It draws on international, national and local planning legislation and guidance to protect the Site's OUV. It details structures and mechanisms for managing and protecting the WHS and refers to all the relevant planning policies relating to the Site.

2.1. Boundaries

Boundaries are essential for establishing effective protection of World Heritage Sites and they need to be drawn to ensure the "full expression of the outstanding universal value and the integrity and/or authenticity of the property". (Para 99 Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention). The boundaries of the Durham WHS were originally drawn and agreed in 1986 to comprise the Cathedral with its ancillary buildings and Prebends' Bridge and the Castle and its precincts. This reflected the priority given to the built environment in considerations of World Heritage status at that time and the levels of understanding of the Site. Subsequently, based on increased understanding of the full extents of fortifications and natural boundaries to the Site, a recognition of the need to include ancillary buildings in order to preserve the full OUV and an increasing recognition of the importance of the intangible heritage of the Site, the site boundaries were expanded in 2008 to include Palace Green and the buildings surrounding it.

2.2. Setting and Buffer Zone



Figure 2.2. Inner Setting View from the North East Frankland Lane

There is need to protect an area around the WHS that includes the "immediate setting" and the "important views and other areas or attributes" (*Para 104 Op. Guidelines*) that help make the site what it is and emphasise its importance. Guidance from UNESCO states that "Properties must be protected from all threats or inconsistent uses. These developments can often take place beyond the boundaries of a property. Intrusive development can harm its setting, or the views from it or of it." (UNESCO Guidelines on nominations of cultural or natural properties on the WH list). In general terms, the setting of a historic feature is defined by Historic England as "the surroundings in which a place is experienced, its local context, embracing present and past relationships to the adjacent landscape".

Historic England Conservation principles, see: https:// www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructiveconservation/conservation-principles

In terms of UK Government guidance, the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) that accompanies the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) refers to a section entitled "How is the setting of a World Heritage Site protected?" and states that "The UNESCO Operational Guidelines seek protection of the 'immediate setting' of each World Heritage Site of 'important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property".

A buffer zone is defined as an area immediately surrounding the World Heritage Site which has complementary legal restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the WHS. The buffer zone forms part of the setting of the WHS". (Guidance, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. UK Planning Portal). The creation of such a zone needs to be considered as part of assessing the setting of the WHS or of proposing any amendments to the WHS boundary.

However, UNESCO and UK Planning Guidance allows for an alternative where, as in the case of Durham, a buffer zone is not proposed: "It may be appropriate to protect the setting of World Heritage Sites in other ways, for example by the protection of specific views and viewpoints. Other landscape designations may also prove effective in protecting the setting of a World Heritage Site".

It is not considered that the protection offered by a buffer zone is necessary in Durham providing there is sufficient understanding of the site's significance and the contribution made by the setting to that significance. In particular, adequate protection of views of the WHS should be ensured. This should also be reinforced by an appropriate boundary for the WHS area that ensures protection of the OUV and this will be reviewed as a separate exercise based on this management plan (see Plan 1 below for suggested extension). A future boundary modification will need to consider inclusion of all the fortifications, the river and outside river bank. This approach to protection would be subject to appropriate approval of any WHS expansion proposals by UNESCO after DCMS approval and will need reassessment if expansion does not prove possible.



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Plan 1



Frankland Lane



The ridges and hill tops surrounding the historic core of the city provide a clear physical framework enclosing the inner setting in which the WHS sits. There is scope to use topographical analysis and WHS building heights to describe the inner setting (see **Plan 2** for suggested extents) which, in turn, will assist with assessment of development proposals that might be affected by the site's significance and OUV.

It is less easy to describe the outer setting but useful guidance in relation to views can be given. There are views including the Cathedral from many directions that are of significance both in visual and historical terms and these must be protected. Therefore, greater emphasis will need to be placed on the possible negative impact on the setting of the WHS arising from development within the outer setting area. Conserving the significance of the outer setting will need to be dealt with by the planning system when new development proposals are evaluated.



Figure 2.5. Distant View from the South East



Plan 2





2.3. Ownership

The Cathedral Chapter and Durham University are the two key landowners and managers of the historic estates on the WHS. St John's College and Durham County Council (DCC) also have ownerships and DCC is responsible for the public highway and much of the public realm. These partners sit on the WHS Coordinating Committee and the Cathedral and University liaise as the principal landowners. There are no other landowners within the current inscribed area.



Figure 2.6. St. Cuthbert's Day Procession

2.4. Stakeholders

In addition to the landowners, a wide range of other stakeholders have an engagement with the WHS at different levels. Included in the Coordinating committee are representatives of:

- St. John's College (minor landowner)
- Historic England
- A representative appointed by UNESCO, currently a representative of ICOMOS
- A representative from a local group with an historical and environmental focus, currently from the City of Durham Trust

(For further details and structure and Terms of Reference for the WHS Coordinating Committee see Appendix 1)

A wide range of communities of interest are affected by the WHS on a daily basis and the public consultation process for this Management Plan has provided an opportunity to build levels of engagement with many of these groups and individuals. This process is detailed in Appendix 2 (*The responses can be found on the WHS website* https://www.durhamworldheritagesite.com/).



2.5. Conservation status

Over the lifetime of the previous Management Plan, a number of documents were produced in support of the effective management of conservation across the WHS.

Conservation Management Plans have been produced for:

- Cathedral and Claustral Buildings (Purcell Miller Tritton, 2011)
- Castle
- Palace Green

Underpinning these documents, historic building appraisals and condition surveys have been completed and include:

- Castle Walls
- Riverbanks

Out of these frameworks, appraisals and surveys have come complementary action plans which are being progressed by the relevant landowners of the properties, however a site-wide overview and insight into proposed actions and delivery is not currently in place.

2.6. Management System

The Management Plan is designed to assist partnership working with the UK Government to adhere to the terms of the World Heritage Convention, with particular regard to Article 4. "Each State Party to this Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Article 1 and 2 and situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State. It will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain".

Management responsibility for the Durham WHS resides with the Principal Landowners Group. All strategic issues relating to the management and protection of the site are overseen and coordinated by the WHS Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee's primary function is set out in the Terms of Reference (see Appendix 1), with a key function being the oversight and delivery of this Management Plan, which sets out the UK Government's commitment to meet its obligations to the World Heritage Convention with respect to this WHS. Because the Coordinating Committee has no executive powers, the primary means of ensuring the delivery of the Management Plan is through its individual and collective member activity and through inspiring, influencing and lobbying others.

To support the Coordinating Committee on day to day issues, there are a number of sub-committees, which currently include:

- Heritage, Buildings and Collections
- Culture, Events and Programmes
- Research

The work of the Committee and sub-committees is supported by the WHS Co-ordinator. Details of membership and terms of reference are included in **Appendix 1.**

Figure 2.9. View from the North East from the Former Racecourse



2.7. Planning Environment

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012

The NPPF acts as guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers, both in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications. It sets out the Government's planning policy on World Heritage Sites and further guidance is given in the Planning Practice Guidance - Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, for further details see: http://

planningquidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/policy/ achieving-sustainable-development/delivering-sustainable -development/12-conserving-and-enhancing-the-historicenvironment/.

The NPPF is under review, and the NPPG has been designed as a web-based tool specifically so that it can be regularly updated. The website should be checked for the current government guidance, see . <u>http://</u> <u>planningguidance.communities.gov.uk</u>

There are a number of paragraphs in the NPPF which relate both generally to heritage assets and specifically to WHSs. One of the core planning principles (para 21) is to:

> "conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations.

World Heritage Sites have the highest level of national protection in the NPPF, in particular paragraph 132 which states that:

"When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification... Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional".

In addition to the protection policies, in para 137, the NPPF states that:

"Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites and within the setting of heritage assets to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset should be treated favourably".

It should be noted that para 138 states that:

"Not all elements of a World Heritage Site or Conservation Area will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 133 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 134, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole".

This revised management plan will assist in ensuring that appropriate information is made available to make assessments of significance.

Historic England produces a range of advisory information made available through its website. Examples are the Good Practice Advice notes which can be found at <u>https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/pps-practice-guide/</u>:

- Historic Environment Good Practice Advice Note 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans
- Historic Environment Good Practice Advice Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment
- Historic Environment Good Practice Advice Note 3. The Setting of Heritage Assets
- Advice note 3: Making Changes to Heritage Assets

2.8. Environmental Impact Assessments

World Heritage Sites are classed as sensitive areas for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2011 (Interpretation section, para ref 2 (1) "sensitive areas" (d)) and PPG Environmental Impact Assessment para 32. EIAs for development in World Heritage Sites should consider the cultural impact of the proposal on the World Heritage Site and its outstanding universal value. Further details for EIAs can be found at <u>http:// planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/ environmental-impact-assessment/</u>

2.9. Design and Access Statements

Design and Access Statements (DAS) are required for a range of planning applications under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2010. A DAS is required with planning applications for major development – both full and outline. Lower thresholds apply in conservation areas and World Heritage Sites, where some smaller applications must also be accompanied by a DAS. Listed building consent (LBC) applications must also include a DAS. Further details for DAS can be found at <u>http://planningquidance.communities.gov.uk/</u> <u>blog/guidance/making-an-application/validation-</u> requirements/national-information-requirements/ <u>#paragraph 029</u>

2.10. Heritage Statements/Heritage Impact Assessments

Paragraph 128 of the NPPF states that in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and an assessment made of potential harm or other impacts caused by the development proposal. ICOMOS has produced useful guidance at <u>http://www.icomos.org/world_heritage/HIA_20110201.pdf</u>



2.11. Local Planning Policy

2.11.1. City of Durham Local Plan

The 2004 planning reform introduced a new planning policy framework across the country. Furthermore, Local Government reorganisation has created a new unitary council, Durham County Council which, as sole Local Planning Authority for County Durham, is preparing a new plan for the County including the City of Durham. The new planning system made provision for the existing Local Plans to be 'saved' and the development plan for the area comprises the saved Policies of the City of Durham Local Plan 2004. Available at: <u>http://www.durham.gov.uk/media/3396/City</u> <u>-of-Durham-local-plan-saved-policies/pdf/</u> <u>CityOfDurhamLocalPlanSavedPolicies.pdf</u>).

Policies relevant to the WHS, and to which weight can be afforded in the determining planning applications, include:

E3 World Heritage Site - Protection

POLICY: Durham Cathedral and Castle World Heritage Site and its setting will be protected by:

1. Restricting development to safeguard local and long distance views to and from the cathedral and castle and Peninsula in accordance with policies E1, E5, E6, E10, E23 and E24; and

2. Applying policies E1, E5, E6, E10, E21, E22, E23 AND E24 relating to green belt, landscape setting, conservation areas, listed buildings, and archaeological remains; and

3. Seeking the conservation and management of buildings, Archaeological remains, woodland and open spaces which make up the world heritage site and its setting.

World Heritage Site E4 - Extension

POLICY: the Council will seek an extension to the Inscribed area of the Durham Cathedral and Castle World Heritage Site.

For further details see <u>http://www.durham.gov.uk/</u> media/3396/City-of-Durham-local-plan-saved-policies/ pdf/CityOfDurhamLocalPlanSavedPolicies.pdf

2.11.2 County Durham Plan (under development)

At the time of writing, Durham County Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the County in accordance with National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (see next column). Once adopted, this will replace the current City of Durham Local Plan.

NPPG advice applicable to local plans is:

"When developing Local Plan policies to protect and enhance World Heritage Sites and their Outstanding Universal Value, local planning authorities should aim to satisfy the following principles:

•protecting the World Heritage Site and its setting, including any buffer zone, from inappropriate development

•striking a balance between the needs of conservation, biodiversity, access, the interests of the local community, the public benefits of a development and the sustainable economic use of the World Heritage Site in its setting, including any buffer zone

•protecting a World Heritage Site from the effect of changes which are relatively minor but which, on a cumulative basis, could have a significant effect

•enhancing the World Heritage Site and its setting where appropriate and possible through positive management

•protecting the World Heritage Site from climate change but ensuring that mitigation and adaptation is not at the expense of integrity or authenticity Planning authorities need to take these principles and the resultant policies into account when making decisions."

Figure 2.12. View of Cathedral, Sparrow 1775



2.11.3. Durham City Conservation Area

Since 1967 local authorities have been able to protect areas with special architectural or historic interest by designating them as a Conservation Area.. General advice is to be found on the Historic England website https:// *historicengland.org.uk/advice/*. Historic England guidance on conservation areas is relevant and can be found at: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/ conservation - areas/. The City Centre Conservation Area was first designated in 1968 and was enlarged in 1980. It surrounds the WHS and incudes the majority of the historic city area. Durham County Council are producing Conservation Area Appraisals that will help raise awareness of their special character and interest. These documents recommend ways to improve and to manage change as well as providing an interesting history and snapshot of the area. At the time of writing this plan, the Conservation Area Appraisal for the Peninsula (which includes the WHS) has completed its public consultation process and is under revision prior to release. Details can be found at http:// www.durham.gov.uk/media/7931/Durham-City-Conservation-Area---Peninsula/pdf/ DurhamCityConservationAreaCharacterArea-Peninsula.pdf

2.11.4. Durham City Neighbourhood Plan

Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum was established in 2014 and has provided input to this Plan through the public consultation process. More information about its work can be found at <u>http://npf.durhamcity.org.uk/</u>

2.12. Statutory Designations

The combination of WHS status with the numerous statutory designations across the site (Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Area) provides a high level of control over alteration and new development in the WHS.

2.13. Risk management

Risk assessment is a key mechanism for ensuring that the aim of protecting the site is achieved. At present risks to the World Heritage Site are generally handled by individual land and property owners and managers by risk planning relating to those individual buildings or risk areas. In a site such as Durham this is the most pragmatic way forward as it would not be possible to formulate one plan that accounts for all possible risks. However, it is important to ensure that the individual plans relate to one another where appropriate and that risks arising across the whole site are taken into account.

Figure(s) 2.13. Durham Cathedral Shop and Restaurant







Figure 3.1 .Joseph Mallord William Turner, Durham Cathedral from Prebends' Bridge (Extract)

As part of the development process for this Management Plan the aims, policies and achievements of the last Management Plan have been reviewed along with a review of the current and anticipated environment in which the Durham WHS operates. As a result, this chapter identifies new challenges and opportunities, existing challenges with ongoing concerns and areas where changes have happened since the last Plan which have an impact on the way in which the Site is managed. These challenges and opportunities have informed the Action Plan as set out in the section following this chapter.

3.1. Integration of the WHS Management Plan into the planning system

The UK planning system has undergone significant reform during the life of the previous Plan. Decentralisation of control from the Localism Act (2011) has led to the emergence of Local Plans and Neighbourhood Planning. The emergent nature of Durham County Council's Local Plan means that partnership working through the WHS Coordinating Committee will be needed to ensure the developing policies support the OUV of the site. UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation (<u>http://</u>

whc.unesco.org/en/activities/638) will provide a valuable resource in progressing this opportunity. Discussions with the Neighbourhood Forum, opened through the Public Consultation phase of development of this Plan, will also need to continue in order to monitor impact of Local Plans on the WHS.

In addition to the above changes, the streamlining of the NPPF is the most significant change to planning policy in a generation. In general terms, the OUV of the WHS is no less protected under the new Framework and may arguably be deemed to be more so, given its clear integration into the Framework, afforded Designated Heritage Asset status and a statement that any damage to such assets should be wholly exceptional. The impact of the new framework and Local Plans in terms of planning applications that might impact on the OUV of the WHS is only just beginning to be tested. The WHS Coordinator will work closely with partners from the local authority and statutory agencies when a threat is predicted or identified. This will be all the more challenging when those impacts emanate from the wider setting of the WHS. The clarification and recognition of this wider zone of impact is a key issue to be addressed during the delivery period of the Action Plan.

See Chapter 2 and Action 1.1.1



3.2. Alterations and approaches to new development

Where alteration and new development in the WHS does occur it has the potential to have a significant impact on the character of the WHS. It is necessary to understand the asset so that its significance and integrity are not negatively harmed in the process of change. The level of investigation and recording will depend on the nature of proposed intervention and the significance of the asset. Guidance on levels of appropriate recording and reporting are set out in Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Practice (Historic England 2006) together with a comprehensive range of other advice available to download at https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/). Nevertheless, there is still scope for sensitive change that is thoughtfully informed by, and does not detract from the OUV of the site and its deeper heritage values. The identification of key factors in establishing the character and significance of the WHS is a valuable way of understanding the impact of new work and improving site-wide quality. Developing and encouraging the use of conservation plans, design and access statements and ICOMOS Heritage Impact Assessments for alterations and new developments in the WHS will also support this. There is also a potential conflict between the practical and utilitarian nature of some modern facilities across the WHS and the historic fabric. This is illustrated by recently inserted or refurbished kitchens, WCs, offices etc. within ancient spaces. On the other hand, the new WHS Visitor Centre and Cathedral shop illustrate the potential for sensitively designed new fabric in historic settings. Such interventions must be built upon the foundations of understanding and appreciating the special qualities of the WHS.

See Actions 1.1.2, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.2.3, 2.2.4 and 2.2.5

3.3. Risk Preparedness and Emergency Planning

Any World Heritage Site can be affected by natural or manmade emergencies. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee have requested that WHS Management Plans should assess the possible impact of climate change and the likely risk of flood, fire and other emergencies and should prepare appropriate mitigation strategies. Through the Heritage, Buildings and Collections sub-committee, the WHS Coordinating Committee will consult closely with the relevant Regional Resilience authority and with County and Local Authority emergency planners and liaise with and support partners within the World Heritage Site to develop a coordinated emergency plan for the Site.

See Action 2.1.1

3.4. Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

With the now mainstream recognition of the impact of climate change, it is clear that increasing extreme weather events will have an effect on the WHS. At the core of the existing Site, it has long been recognised that the stone used in the construction of the main buildings is susceptible to erosion by wind and rain, requiring an ongoing programme of conservation, repair and replacement. With the effects of climate change and increasing frequency of storm events, this programme will need to be regularly reviewed and be responsive to increased rates of attrition. Maintenance of drainage across the site and the prevention and remediation of wind-damage to buildings will also need to respond to these changes in climate patterns. Although at an elevated level from the River Wear, the increasing potential for impact from flooding and riverbank erosion will need to be closely monitored and planned for, particularly if it is decided to progress the expansion of the WHS to include the riverbanks.

In addition to the specific challenges and opportunities outlined above, climate change and environmental sustainability are key issues which impact on all aspects of this Management Plan, its aims and action plan. The plan should address the need to both mitigate for and adapt to climate change. This is as much about the carbon footprint of the activities as any direct physical changes which might be required and will vary from project to project. Working in partnership, the stakeholders of the WHS aim to take a leadership role in working within the challenges set by a changing climate.

See Actions 2.1.1, 2.1.7, 2.2.6



3.5. Ownership and Management

The overall scale and complexity of the multiple management regimes on the WHS has in the past resulted in a communication network that is not always effective. This sometimes leads to confusion when planning and executing events and works, and a lack of consistency in the approach to wider management challenges. Communication between the stakeholders of the WHS Coordinating Committee has improved in recent years and will be strengthened by the sub-committees of the WHS Coordinating Committee. Sharing of learning and best practice with other regional, national and international WHSs and World Heritage UK will also address this challenge.

See Actions 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.2.1, 6.2.2, 6.2.3 and 6.3.1



3.6. Boundaries, Settings and Buffer Zone

In Chapter 2 Setting and Buffer Zone, the need to expand the WHS and establish the significance of the inner and wider settings is identified. Appendix 4 details the starting point for consideration by the Heritage, Buildings and Collections sub-committee. Further useful research and insight into how the WHS has influenced the wider landscape and socio-economic changes over time would also be valuable in discussions with DCC over the emergent Local Plan for the wider county.

See Actions 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.3



3.7. Conservation Philosophy

It is essential that an overarching conservation philosophy exists for the WHS to develop consistency of care, expectation and aspiration across the site during programmes of repair by the landowners. Inconsistency of approach, workmanship and/or materials in the past has at times detracted from the architectural, historical and aesthetic significance of the WHS. This situation can be addressed by identifying, providing and monitoring staff training needs with the aim of raising the awareness of the significance of the historic fabric, the constraints imposed by the various local and statutory designations and the risks to the visual character of the WHS from modern unsympathetic interventions. The conservation management plans and frameworks adopted by the Cathedral and University have advanced the appropriate conservation of historic assets.

See Actions 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.2.4 and 2.1.6



3.8. Conservation of the Fabric

3.8.1. Management of works to the Building Fabric and Building Maintenance

Specialist stonemasons, joiners and other craftsmen are available within the in-house teams at the Cathedral and the University to help keep the buildings in good repair. Much good work was achieved during the lifetime of the previous Management Plan, but it should be noted that the Castle Wall behind the North Bailey remains on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. However, the teams are presently too small to deal with large and complex issues, and insufficient funding and a lack of downtime are site-wide issues that constrain regular proactive maintenance and repair of many of the buildings. This situation has resulted in significant condition issues and the erosion of historic detailing across the Peninsula, which is a threat to the historical and aesthetic heritage values of the WHS. The stonework in all these locations would benefit from a thorough and long-term programme of careful conservation and repair. While this has long been recognised as a major need, there is the ongoing problem of being able to deliver such works given the intense use and physical constraints of the site

A final area of fabric management that demands consideration is regular care and planned maintenance. While some reactive maintenance will always be inevitable, the lack of proactive maintenance triggers ad hoc works. Since reactive work is more difficult to budget for and is almost always more expensive than proactive planned maintenance, this system also puts pressure on finances and upon the ability to undertake planned works. There is a need for the implementation of a planned cyclical maintenance regime, as well as funds and sufficient craft-based resources to address conservation issues. Both the senior management teams at the University and Cathedral have made significant advances in their planned maintenance regimes by investing in suitably qualified staff to quantify properly the scope of works necessary over a 20-year period but acknowledge that there will be significant challenges to overcome to ensure delivery – not least the successful raising of finance. There is a need to deliver a costeffective planned programme of remediation which will deal with the long-term decay.

See Actions 1.2.2, 2.1.1, 2.1. and 2.1.3

3.8.2. Materials

In the past, modern materials have sometimes been specified which are either inappropriate aesthetically or compromise the performance of the buildings. Occasionally, historic windows have been replaced with unsympathetically designed double-glazed units and some chimneys and chimneys pots removed. Other common problems are inappropriate materials being used for temporary repairs that become permanent, pot holes in the road, pavements in poor condition that become dangerous, badly finished repairs, and dangerous access for disabled people over uneven surfaces. Advice on an appropriate palette of materials for use in the WHS should form part of the education materials readily available for landowners and managers



See Actions 2.1.4 and 2.1.5

3.8.3 Lack of specialist training

There has been a lack of training amongst some internal staff or contractors involved with caring for the historic fabric. These kinds of issues are of concern across the WHS but particularly in relation to non-designated heritage assets which are generally perceived as less worthy of appropriate treatment than the Listed Buildings. Improvements to this situation are being addressed by the University and Cathedral through the development of apprenticeship programmes to train new practitioners and the provision of access to training opportunities for existing staff in traditional and conservation building skills.

See Action 2.1.6

3.8.4 Education and Understanding

There is increasing understanding of the historic development of the WHS, its current character and significance, and individual components. This has been helped by research, exhibitions within the Cathedral and Palace Green Library, lectures given at public archaeology days, published works and unpublished grey literature. However, gaps and blind spots in understanding remain. This is due, in part, to the accrual of a piecemeal and complicated archive of information which is dispersed across multiple repositories including the spendement, No.5 The College, Palace Green Library, the National Archives, the National Monuments Record, the County Record Office and the HER Office. Funding constraints also prohibit detailed studies and analysis on a building-by-building basis. Therefore, the understanding of the minutiae of the WHS fabric is still to be achieved

See Actions 3.1.1 and 3.1.2

3.8.5 Recording of Works

The below-ground remains in the WHS, the structures, the collections and archives are critical resources that are vulnerable to physical loss and deterioration. Methods must be in place to safeguard the fabric and any interventions must be carefully considered, with building recording and archaeological monitoring deployed during work where appropriate and records uploaded to the Historic Environment Database. The statutory planning process requires that relevant repair works are appropriately monitored and supported and changes recorded.

See Actions 1.2.3, 1.3.1, 1.3.2



3.9. Access and Traffic Management

Equality of access is an issue throughout the World Heritage Site. This encompasses the private and publicly-owned assets and within and around the historic buildings themselves. There has been progress, particularly when extensive development programmes for the Palace Green Buildings and the Cathedral have incorporated improvements. The WHS and its historic buildings can be challenging for those with limited mobility but improvements in equality of access and increasing diversity on a wider scale are also part of ensuring access. The government's Culture White Paper (March 2016) highlighted the importance of this within the heritage sector.

3.9.1. Traffic, Parking and Public Transport

Parking in the WHS is not permitted, except for University and Cathedral permit holders or by prior arrangement with the relevant landowner. A Cathedral Bus transports visitors along the route from the railway station and from the Sands Car Park to Palace Green but limited hours and the apparent difficulty in running to time reduces the effectiveness of this service. With only a single road on and off the Peninsula the stakeholders are endeavouring to reduce vehicular traffic. A Congestion Charge is levied by DCC in support of this aim but there are significant numbers of exempt vehicles and purposes and lists will need to be monitored regularly to ensure they are kept up to date.

Access by large vehicles is an issue along the narrow roads especially early in the morning. The problems include traffic congestion, broken kerbs from vehicles mounting the pavement, disturbance to residents, as well as the slow and progressive damage caused to the stonework from vehicle emissions. There have also been incidents of large vehicles colliding with projecting elements of build-



ings and cracking pavements. The landowners and neighbouring Colleges will explore the feasibility of offloading goods from larger lorries, outside the Peninsula, into smaller vehicles which, where possible, combine loads for onward transport onto the Peninsula.

From time to time requests are made for road closures on the WHS to accommodate special events. This requires the opening of Prebends' Bridge by the Cathedral to provide an alternative access. The Cathedral's insurers have now ruled that, because of the condition of the Bridge which needs repair, it can only be used on 12 days a year and with a reduced weight limit of two tonnes. Liaison arrangements have been put in place to determine which events justify a road closure and in principle where an event requiring a road closure is agreed by the landowners in consultation with partners including the Council, alternative access for essential vehicles will be provided over Prebends' Bridge for the duration of the approved closure of Saddler Street and North Bailey. Where there is no essential reason for an event to pass through or be held in the WHS, an alternative route or location for the event needs to be found and no road closure will be permitted. It is not possible to close the Peninsula completely to vehicular traffic as this makes normal life impossible to maintain.

See Actions 1.4.2, 5.4.1, 5.4.2 and 5.4.3

3.10. Historic Buildings

The historic buildings on the Peninsula were built before



the age when ample regard was given to people with limited mobility and many of the entrances to the historic buildings lack level access. Once inside the buildings there are often marked changes of level. The constraints imposed by the importance of the historic fabric are problematic when considering the installation of lifts and internal ramps.

See Action 5.4.1

3.11. Collections



The Cathedral and University historic collections form an extremely valuable complement to the architectural heritage of the site, providing a wealth of information and artefacts relevant to its history, and to its continued flourishing as a place of scholarship and worship over the centuries. Significant investment has recently been undertaken to improve access and interpretation of the historic collections and, with the completion of the final stages of the refurbishment of Palace Green Library and the Cathedral's Open Treasure Project, the World Heritage Site will be in a very strong position to offer a unified top-rate experience of heritage buildings and collections. There are significant opportunities for the Cathedral and the University to continue to work collaboratively to benefit from the respective expertise and assets of the two institutions, and to make more of the collections accessible to visitors and residents, and deliver an engaging multifaceted interpretation programme. This includes the pigment analysis and digitisation projects for the Priory collection. The provision of world class exhibition facilities at the Cathedral and University, and the excellent experience of the Lindisfarne Gospels Exhibition in 2013 have proven Durham's ability to deliver first rate heritage exhibitions drawing upon the Durham collections and using them to showcase the outstanding history of the site.

See Actions 1.2.3, 5.2.2, 5.3.1 and 5.3.2



3.12. Public Realm and Landscapes

3.12.1. Trees and Vegetation

Although inscribed as a cultural World Heritage Site, Durham is still a very green place, from Palace Green and the Castle and Cathedral's gardens and grounds at the heart of the WHS to the wooded riverbanks surrounding the Site. These green areas provide a vital part of the character of the WHS as a whole and merit recognition, care and conservation and a greater understanding and celebration of their importance to the Site. In addition to the overall green spaces, the Site also plays host to a wide range of fauna and flora, some of which are protected by statutory legislation.

Trees and greenery provide an important contribution to the urban landscape of the WHS. The riverbanks provide an expansive area of woodland where tree and vegetation management is variable. The care and definition of the Cathedral's riverbanks has benefited from a recent HLF grant. Conversely, the riverbanks under the ownership of St John's and St Chad's Colleges (which were historically gardens and managed earthworks) are subject to a very low level of management, resulting in overgrown vegetation, invasive tree growth and associated episodes of antisocial behaviour. These areas form part of the area for review as part of an expanded WHS and will require the development of partnership working and resources to create a strategy for more proactive tree management along the riverbanks and upon the Peninsula in order to reduce the effect of excessive growth.

See Actions 2.2.6, 2.2.7 and 2.3.2

3.12.2. Green Landscapes

The gardens of the Master's House, Fellows' Garden and the grass sward on Palace Green, Monk's Garden, Cloister Garth, the College and North Churchyard are well maintained. The overgrown land below the north terrace was formerly designed garden land, but is now unmanaged. The Research Framework will provide rewarding documentary evidence in support of the conservation and restoration of these historic Green Landscapes.

See Actions 2.3.2



3.12.3. Hard Landscaping

Maintenance, refurbishment and replacement of paving and surfaces across the WHS require a more consistent approach. There is a strong presumption against the replacement of setts with asphalt surfacing even as a temporary measure and a programme of restoration should be implemented. A programme of pothole repair and broken paving maintenance needs to be maintained. Consideration must also be given to improving access for people with mobility challenges to and around the WHS.

See Actions 1.2.1, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.6 and 5.4.1



Figure 3.14. Palace Green and Cathedral new Lighting Scheme

3.12.4. Lighting

Durham City benefits from a 'Strategy for Lighting and Darkness' (Spiers & Major, 2007). The effects of the new lighting schemes at the Castle and Cathedral (2012) add a new dimension to the visitor experience. Palace Green has been deliberately kept dark and is only lit via four standard lamps which are intended for way-finding along the footpaths only. This contributes to the atmospheric 'darkness' at the Green in the evenings. New lighting schemes should seek to reveal and enhance the WHS site at night, but without detriment to ecology, including bat habitats. Appropriateness of lighting is an issue inside many of the buildings, where modern strip lighting prevails and hinders the appreciation of the value and interest of the historic décor of the spaces. Improved lighting schemes should be researched and promoted when building improvements are programmed.

See Actions 2.1.4 and 2.1.5



3.13. Community engagement and volunteering

The World Heritage Convention states that a World Heritage Site must have a "function in the life of the community". Diversifying engagement and ensuring equality is a part of widening access to the WHS. Community engagement across the WHS takes place in a variety of ways:

- all publicly accessible sites on the WHS (Cathedral, Palace Green Library and the WHS Visitor Centre) are heavily reliant on the help and support of volunteers;
- the education programmes of both the Cathedral and PGL engage with school groups drawn from the immediate vicinity and further afield both in the wider setting of the WHS and beyond it;
- community-led events have had their focus on the Cathedral and Palace Green for many centuries.

However, evidence suggests that many of the communities engaging with the WHS tend to be drawn from families and individuals from higher socio-economic groups although the Open Treasure outreach programme is engaging many new and hard to reach groups. In addition, engagement with young people (16-25 years old, excluding the University student community), people with disabilities, families from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups (BME) and disenfranchised sectors of the community remains inadequate. A greater understanding needs to be developed of the potential motivations for these groups to become more engaged with the Site and a prioritisation of actions to increase engagement where most beneficial. In light of the fact that the University is a key stakeholder in the WHS, development of a focussed engagement programme for young people would be particularly rewarding. The WHS is currently working with Blaenavon WHS on the UNESCO-sponsored Young Heritage Ambassadors Programme.

See Actions 4.1.1, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3 and 5.3.4



3.14. Audience development

Durham World Heritage Site has a particularly wide ranging and multifaceted set of audiences. This is because it is a site that has been in continuous use for over 1000 years and a destination for visitors, from pilgrims to tourists, for a similar period. However, the associations of 'Durham' with Durham Cathedral (both as a building and an institution), of Durham Castle (as a building) and of Durham University still supersede the public's association of Durham as a World Heritage Site. The Durham World Heritage Site Visitor Centre is the place where the staff and the resources that support the World Heritage Site are located.


(https://www.durhamworldheritagesite.com/)

is the main source of information for visitors of all kinds.

As a context for the audience development plan, the visitor economy is currently worth over £191 million to Durham City, attracting over 4.1 million visitors per annum and supports over 2,700 people. Current statistics show that c.720,000 of these visitors include Durham Cathedral in their visit and over 100,000 visit the WHS Visitor Centre each year. The focus of the WHS audience development plan is to develop new audiences and better satisfy existing audiences who are not resident on the site but 'visit' it for a range of purposes. This plan is designed principally to help Durham's World Heritage Site increase the number of people who know about, understand and appreciate its significance. This is an aim that is valid in its own right and is one of the requirements of UNESCO for inscribed cultural sites.

Harnessing partners' resources in the medium term will increase the reach of the audience development work. This includes on-line and marketing resources and the venues where WHS interpretation can be located including the Palace Green Library, Cathedral Visitor Desk, Cathedral Shop and Restaurant, Heritage Centre, the Café on the Green, Palace Green Library, the Assembly Rooms and the Chorister School. The production of a comprehensive interpretation strategy will revise the communications approach and impact on all areas of audience development. Physical development, particularly the Cathedral's Open Treasure project, the riverbanks project, any changes to access and usage at Durham Castle as well as the programming at Palace Green Library should then take note of the interpretation strategy at the planning and delivery stages. Longer term infrastructure development across the site will provide new resources and facilities for all audiences. It will encompass implementation of the physical aspects of the interpretation strategy such as signage and also any physical access improvements.

See Actions 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 5.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3

(For more information on the WHS's evolving Audience Development Plan, see **Appendix 5**)

3.15. Uses and events

The WHS is home to the University and Cathedral and is a place of scholarship, worship and pilgrimage. It is also a popular leisure and visitor destination with a growing number of public events such as conferences, weddings, corporate dinners and public markets. It is very much a living site, balancing public contemplative areas and busy civic spaces, wildlife habitats (especially along the riverbanks), workplaces, homes and local businesses. A range of commemorative events take place on the site. There is common recognition that a careful balance needs to be sought between the different uses and the requirement for on-going adaptation to ensure the WHS has a viable and sustainable future. There is also serious recognition of the need for 'downtime' to create breathing space for planned maintenance, conservation and redecoration.

See Action 1.4.2





3.16. Intangible heritage

In a time of global concern about cultural distinctiveness, the conservation of intangible heritage is increasingly important. To conserve intangible heritage is to conserve the vulnerable indicators of culture; the cultural stories through which our global diversity is transferred from generation to generation. Durham WHS is rich in intangible historical values, which have not only moulded the physical form of the Site but are globally significant in their own right. The intangible qualities of Durham WHS are as significant as the tangible in making it what it has been in the past and is today and include:

- The importance of the Northern Saints, the presence of the two shrines, and the tradition of pilgrimage to Durham;
- The Site's origins and continued use as a place of Christian spirituality and sacredness;
- The tradition of community outreach, and the notion that Durham Cathedral has always been a place of welcome as expressed in the Rule of St Benedict;
- The site's historic associations with sanctuary, and the contemporary role of the Cathedral as a place of spiritual refuge, reconciliation, and remembrance;
- The English Christian musical tradition of the site;
- The long tradition of education on the site, marked in 2016 by the Chorister School's 600th anniversary, and in 2007 by the University's 175th anniversary;
- The social traditions associated with the University;
- The civic functions of the Castle, and its role as a symbol of political power;
- The site's collections and their importance as records of the site's history, and its values across the ages;
- Skills and trades related to the history of the site, kept alive by the continued maintenance of its buildings, furnishings, and collections and the continued provision of apprenticeships;
- The creative opportunities the site has always offered in terms of the commissioning and creation of new works of art, crafts, literature and music;
- The value of the site as a cornerstone of community identity;
- The site's tradition of innovation and the drive to excel;
- The meanings the site carries for people as a place of memory-making, for students, visitors, miners, the DLI, and others.

This intangible heritage is to continue to be valued and held in trust by all who inhabit and have responsibility for the WHS, and will be actively conserved, enhanced and passed on to future generations.

See Actions 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 3.3.1

(For a more detailed analysis of the WHS's intangible heritage, see Appendix 6)



3.17. Research environment

With a University at the heart of the WHS, a strong research environment is a key opportunity. The Durham World Heritage Site Research Framework has two primary objectives:

Objective 1: To place academic research at the core of future management, conservation, interpretation and investigation of the Durham World Heritage Site.



Objective 2: To explore and prioritise key avenues for further work, presenting a strategy through which this research can be taken forward.

Only through rigorous, academically informed research can our understanding and appreciation of the Cathedral, Castle and their environs be progressed. By advancing a robust framework, this document contributes actively to the improved appreciation of the rich archaeological, architectural and historical record of the WHS. The need for a more structured approach to the management of World Heritage Site has arisen out of two parallel developments in the ecology of the UK heritage sector: firstly, the changes in the planning system over the last generation and secondly shifting perspectives about the management of World Heritage Sites. More information about these can be found in the complete report in the Documents and Research section of the WHS website: <u>https://</u>

www.durhamworldheritagesite.com/research. Given the scale of the task, the initial work on the research framework has been focussed on the physical heritage above and below ground. However, the intangible heritage of the Durham WHS is equally important and further work will be undertaken to develop a Research Framework for the intangible elements, on which research will continue to be encouraged in the meantime.

3.18. Resources to deliver the Management Plan

In the early stages of the development of the WHS, public funding via One North East (ONE) was particularly important. With the abolition of ONE, funding has had to be sought to compensate for this loss. Over the lifetime of the previous plan the majority of resources to support the Site management function have continued to come from the three major partners (University, Cathedral and County Council). However, the economic context at the time of writing, particularly with regards to public sector funding is still difficult and only likely to get worse over the lifetime of this Plan. Although all core funders express their commitment to the Site, there may come a point where they are simply unable to support it to the degree they would like, so finding alternative models of resourcing the function are imperative over the lifetime of this Plan such as grants and private sector donations. All the landowners have development departments working on fundraising.

See Actions 1.2.4 and 6.1.4

See Actions 3.1.1, 3.2.1 and 3.3.1

(For more information on the WHS's 2015 Research Framework, see: <u>https://www.durhamworldheritagesite.com/</u> <u>research</u> }





Figure 3.24. Castle and Cathedral from Bishops View (Station Approach)

1.Protect the Site's Outstanding Universal Value And Setting

Objectives within this section set out the parameters for clear, unambiguous, long-term protection for the WHS and setting through integration in the planning system. The emphasis is on prevention of activities that might negatively affect the OUV and integrity of the Site, or the mitigation of the negative impact of activities which are unavoidable. This Aim relates not only to the Site itself, but to activities in the setting that might have an impact on the Site's OUV or integrity, or might damage the setting itself.

Objective	Action	Leader	Timescale	Monitoring & Evaluation
1.1 Ensure the protection of the OUV through planning policy and processes	1.1.1 Liaise with County Durham/ Neighbourhood Plan teams to ensure they accurately reflect the SOUV and attributes of the Site in Local Plans	WHS Co- ordinator	Yr1	Recognition of WHS OUV in CDP, Neighbourhood Plan and any SPD
	1.1.2 Assess and provide feedback on the impact of planning applications on the OUV of the Site, its attributes and the objectives set out in this Plan	WHS Co- ordinator	Ongoing	Report to WHS Co-ordinating Committee on appli- cations commented upon
	1.1.3 Build relationships with DCC/ statutory agencies to ensure that key as- pects of significance are used to under- stand the impact of development pro- posals and provide a basis for develop- ment that enhances the WHS and sup- ports its OUV	WHS Co- ordinator	Yr1	Development decisions include reference to OUV of WHS where relevant
1.2 Ensure that all elements of the WHS mentioned in the SOUV are adequately conserved	1.2.1 Develop and disseminate a conservation philosophy for the WHS	Heritage, Build- ings & Collec- tions sub- committee	Yr1	Conservation philosophy agreed and produced
	1.2.2 Develop and disseminate conserva- tion statements for all WHS buildings and open spaces and ensure all works take these into account	Heritage, Build- ings & Collec- tions sub- committee	Yr1-6	Yr1 List existing statements; gap analysis; Yr2 plan to fill gaps; Yr3-6 dissemination programme delivered

1. Protect the Site's Outstanding Universal Value And Setting

Objective Action Leader Timescale **Monitoring & Evaluation 1.2 (Continued) Ensure that all elements** 1.2.3 Raise awareness of the OUV of the Research sub-Annual report of activity tabled to WHS Co-Ongoing WHS and collections held across the Site committee ordinating Committee of the WHS mentioned in the SOUV are and ensure adequate access. Develop adequately conserved programmes to digitise collections and inventories Annual report of funding secured to WHS Co-**1.2.4** Develop and co-ordinate funding All/WHS Co-Ongoing plans to support action plan ordinator ordinating Committee **1.3 Develop and implement the high** Heritage, Build-List existing reports; plan and deliver reports on **1.3.1** Expand archaeological investigations Ongoing across the WHS as opportunities arise and ings & Collecupcoming opportunities; annual report on deposits quality management of the WHS's ardeposit all new research and recording tions subto HER chaeological and architectural history information at the Historic Environment committee and collections resources Record 1.3.2 Facilitate and support best practice Heritage, Build-Annual report on collections management activities Ongoing in collections management across WHS ings & Collecand best-practice stakeholders tions subcommittee **1.4.1** Promote the continuing primary Annual state of health report on primary use activi-1.4 Preserve the intangible heritage of Culture, events Ongoing uses of the WHS for Christian worship and and proties across WHS the WHS education grammes subcommittee **1.4.2** Regulate the frequency, nature and Yr 1-2 Agreed procedure for co-ordinating and Yr1-2 Culture, events impact of events and the numbers in visand promanaging major event requests grammes subiting tour groups and other parties in or-Annual report on events. der to protect the historic fabric and amcommittee bience of the WHS. Achieve joint decision making on major events and road closures to ensure that all events in the WHS enhance its character as a living, working site

2 Conserve and Enhance the Site and its Setting

This aim relates to positive actions for improvements in terms of the Site's OUV, integrity and condition. Objectives within this aim will cover a range of areas relating to conserving the heritage assets.

 Objective	Action	Leader	Timescale	Monitoring & Evaluation
2.1 Conserve the assets of the WHS	2.1.1 Develop and disseminate emergency plan for the WHS	Heritage, Build- ings & Collec- tions sub- committee	Yr2	Emergency Plan published and held on WHS web- site
	2.1.2 Develop and implement planned maintenance programmes to implement the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plans and Historic Buildings Appraisals and monitor and update on a five-yearly basis. Build in down time from events and activity programmes to allow for works	Heritage, Build- ings & Collec- tions sub- committee	Ongoing	Yr1 List of existing reports; gap analysis; Yr2 plan to fill gaps; Yr3-6 annual report on progress against plan
	 2.1.3 Develop robust environmental monitoring and control programmes for collections and buildings. Ensure that all mechanical and environmental plant supports environmental control strategies 2.1.4 Encourage the repair of historic fab- 	Heritage, Build- ings & Collec- tions sub- committee Heritage, Build-	Ongoing Ongoing	 Yr1 List of existing programmes; gap analysis; Yr2 plan to fill gaps; Yr3-6 annual report on progress against plan Annual report on these aspects of repair/ develop-
	ric over the replacement with new fabric and promote the use of sympathetic ma- terials, styles and techniques in all devel- opment projects in the WHS 2.1.5 Seek to remove any redundant mod-	ings & Collec- tions sub- committee Heritage Build-	Ongoing	ment projects Annual report on these aspects of repair/ develop-
	ern intrusive features, as part of any re- pair and/or renovation schemes. Also de- ploy modern technology where this will be less visually intrusive	ings & Collec- tions sub- committee	Ungoing	ment projects

2. Conserve and Enhance the Site and its Setting

Objective	Action	Leader	Timescale	Monitoring & Evaluation
2.1 (Continued) Conserve the assets of the WHS	2.1.6 Develop and deliver education and awareness programmes to inform build- ing owners, managers and commissioners of works of best practice in heritage man- agement. Produce bespoke housekeeping manuals for the major properties with practical maintenance, conservation, and repair advice to ensure that an informed, dedicated team for the care of significant interior spaces continues to be developed	Heritage, Build- ings & Collec- tions sub- committee	Yr1-6	Yr2 plan to fill gaps; Yr3-6 annual report on progress against plan List of existing programmes/manuals; gap analysis;
	2.1.7 Conduct climate change vulnerabil- ity analysis, risk assessment, and develop and deliver appropriate mgt. plans.	Heritage, Build- ings & Collec- tions sub- committee	Ongoing	Yr 1 Risk assessment Yr 2 Develop plan Yr 3-6 Implement plan
2.2 Conserve the setting of the WHS and encourage appropriate and sensitive development and support the ongoing	2.2.1 Build and confirm support for an inner setting area around an expanded WHS core area in lieu of a Buffer Zone	WHS Co- ordinator/ DCC Planners	Yr1-2	WHS inner setting acknowledged in County Durham Plan
regeneration of Durham and its envi- rons	2.2.2 Increase understanding of the inner setting through views and general analysis	WHS Co- ordinator/ DCC Planners	Yr2	Inner setting/view zones protected in Supplemen- tary Planning Document
	2.2.3 Promote the use of ICOMOS Heritage Impact Assessments for new developments in and around the WHS	WHS Co- ordinator/ DCC Planners	Ongoing	Monitor content of proposals and report annually; provide feedback where not applied
	2.2.4 Make available to prospective developers, descriptions of significance and key factors forming the character of the townscape that support the OUV of the Site	WHS Co- ordinator	Ongoing	Publicise and promote WHS Management Plan to local developers

2. Conserve and Enhance the Site and its Setting

Objective	Action	Leader	Timescale	Monitoring & Evaluation
2.2 (Continued) Conserve the setting of the WHS and encourage appropriate and sensitive development and support the ongoing regeneration of Durham	2.2.5 Monitor and respond to planning proposals with potential to impact on the WHS and its setting	WHS Co- ordinator	Ongoing	Provide report to WHS Co-ordinating Committee at each meeting
and its environs	2.2.6 Develop and deliver a programme of more proactive tree management along the riverbanks and upon the Peninsula and continue the conservation of the WHS riverbanks, woodlands and associated structures	Heritage, Build- ings & Collec- tions sub- committee	Yr1-3	Yr1 Scope Yr2 Programme priorities Yr3-6 Project delivery
	2.2.7 Ensure that all maintenance and development plans on the WHS pay due attention to the preservation and support of fauna and flora	Heritage, Build- ings & Collec- tions sub- committee	Ongoing	Annual report to WHS Co-ordinating Committee
2.3 Pursue expansion of the WHS boundary	2.3.1 Review inner and outer riverbanks for potential to become new boundary of the WHS	Heritage, Build- ings & Collec- tions sub- committee	Yr1-2	Feasibility study delivered to WHS Co-ordinating Committee
	2.3.2 Build documentary evidence in support of the conservation and restoration of these historic Green Landscapes	Research sub- committee	Yr1	Research report delivered to HB&C sub-committee
	2.3.3 Progress the justification for expansion of the WHS providing full reinscription is not indicated	WHS Co- ordinator	Yr3-5	Proposal for expansion ready for inclusion in 2022 Management Plan

3. Support Understanding and Awareness of the Site and its Outstanding Universal Value and of World Heritage

This aim sets out the aspiration to strengthen the understanding of the WHS, its OUV and the setting to as wide a range of people as possible. It is based on the premise that an increase in understanding will lead to appreciation, valuing, ownership and long-term conservation of the heritage assets that comprise the WHS

100	Objective	Action	Leader	Timescale	Monitoring & Evaluation
	3.1 Ensure that the integrity of the WHS and what makes it of Outstanding Uni- versal Value is identified, recognised and understood	3.1.1 Continue to research, document, conserve, publish and broadcast the key aspects of OUV and attributes of the WHS	Research sub- committee	Ongoing	Annual report to WHS Co-ordinating Committee on research delivered
	3.2 Develop high quality research that enhances the understanding and man- agement of the WHS	3.1.2 Explore and prioritise key avenues for research, acting on the WHS Research Strategy through which this can be taken forward	Research sub- committee	Ongoing	Yr1 Produce prioritised action plan from WHS Re- search Strategy Yr2-6 Review annually and deliver plan
	3.3 Increase awareness of the intangible heritage of the WHS	3.1.3 Continue to research, document, conserve, publish and broadcast the key aspects of the intangible heritage of the WHS	Research sub- committee	Ongoing	Annual report to WHS Co-ordinating Committee on research delivered

4 Support communities in realising the economic, social and cultural opportunities and benefits World Heritage status can bring

The Convention states that World Heritage should become a function in the life of the Community and ultimately, if communities value it, their members will look to protect and conserve

ŗ	Objective	Action	Leader	Timescale	Monitoring & Evaluation
	4.1 Maximise the benefits brought to the region by sustainable and appropri- ate use of the WHS as a visitor attrac- tion and maximise the benefit to the	4.1.1 Increase the recognition/use of the WHS as a local and regional icon	Culture, events and pro- grammes sub- committee	Yr3	Produce and deliver WHS Communication Kit
	WHS of the local and regional develop- ment of Durham's tourist offer	4.1.2 Integrate the WHS within local and regional tourism strategies	Culture, events and pro- grammes sub- committee	Annually	Report to WHS Co-ordinating Committee on match- ing delivery with Visit County Durham Plan
		4.1.3 Develop closer links between partners within and beyond the WHS to coordinate marketing, events and expertise	Culture, events and pro- grammes sub- committee	Annually	Report to WHS Co-ordinating Committee on part- ners engaged with and activity delivered

5. Support Visitor and Communities' Access, their Enjoyment of the Site and its Benefits

Access and welcome are vital to people's enjoyment of and engagement with the site. Objectives within this aim are focused on improving quality, range of options and choice of access to the Site

Objective	Action	Leader	Timescale	Monitoring & Evaluation
5.1 Gain an understanding of current visitor/user profiles, motivations and patterns of visitation and usage of the WHS	5.1.1 Collate previous research and work with partners to conduct additional primary research where there are gaps in knowledge	Research sub- committee	Yr1-2	List of existing research; gap analysis; plan to fill gaps
5.2 Increase visitor/user numbers and diversity	5.2.1 Work in partnership to develop an audience engagement strategy	Culture, events and pro- grammes sub- committee	Yr2	Strategy tabled to WHS Co-ordinating Committee
	5.2.2 Develop and support visitor facilities and events across the WHS	Culture, events and pro- grammes sub- committee	Yr3	Integrated signage strategy developed and approved, delivery commenced
	5.2.3 Enhance links to other local attrac- tions to develop a stronger/sustainable Durham Heritage Visitor experience	Culture, events and pro- grammes sub- committee	Ongoing	Annual report of joint activities tabled to WHS Co- ordinating Committee
5.3 Increase visitor/user engagement with the WHS	5.3.1 Co-ordinate and develop volunteer/ visitor/user engagement activities across the WHS	Culture, events and pro- grammes sub- committee	Yr2	Produce a feasibility report into joint ticketing across WHS
	5.3.2 Work in partnership to develop an interpretation strategy and plan for the WHS	Culture, events and pro- grammes sub- committee	Yr2	Consolidated interpretation plan across WHS part- ners
	5.3.3 Ensure that the WHS continues to provide inclusive and accessible opportunities for education and training	Culture, events and pro- grammes sub- committee	Ongoing	Annual report of activities tabled to WHS Co- ordinating Committee

5. Support Visitor and Communities' Access, their Enjoyment of the Site and its Benefits

100	Objective	Action	Leader	Timescale	Monitoring & Evaluation
	5.3 (Continued) Increase visitor/user engagement with the WHS	5.3.4 Develop guided walks, controlled public access and new signage and interpretation boards along the riverbanks	Culture, events and pro- grammes sub- committee	Yr2-3	Report to WHS Co-ordinating Committee
	5.4 Improve physical access to and across the WHS	5.4.1 Improve physical access to and around the WHS for users with disabilities and their carers. Ensure all development projects include consideration of improvements to access	Heritage, Build- ings & Collec- tions sub- committee	Ongoing	Yr1 Access; Yr2-6 annual report on new developments and ac- cess improvements
		5.4.2 Work in partnership to support the continuation/expansion of the Cathedral Bus service	WHS Co- ordinating Com- mittee	Y1	Establish working group and report back on pro- gress
		5.4.3 Work in partnership to address traffic congestion on the peninsula	Heritage, Build- ings & Collec- tions sub- committee	Ongoing	Yr1 traffic survey; Yr2 develop plan to address key issues; Yr3-6 annual report on progress

6 .Support and Demonstrate Exemplary WHS Management to Deliver all Aims

Underpinning effective management of the Site is a need for effective processes, objectives for this are outlined under this Aim. Partnership is a fundamental consideration of UNESCO in managing WH Sites and the development and maintenance of strong and effective partnerships will be critical to achieving the outcomes of this Plan. Alongside this there is a need for strong, accountable and transparent governance for decision-making, a secure resource base and effective administrative support.

1	Objective	Action	Leader	Timescale	Monitoring & Evaluation
Ī	6.1 Ensure that the WHS is effectively coordinated and managed	6.1.1 Review Terms of Reference and membership of the Co-ordinating Committee	WHS Co- ordinating Com- mittee Chair	Annually	ToR and membership confirmed
		6.1.2 Establish Principal Landowners Group and agree Terms of Reference	WHS Co- ordinating Com- mittee Chair	Yr1	ToR confirmed and meeting as required
		6.1.3 Establish WHS operations sub- committees	WHS Co- ordinator	Yr1	Sub-committees set up, meeting and reporting to WHS Co-ordinating Committee as required
		6.1.4 Confirm continued funding for WHS staff	WHS Co- ordinating Com- mittee	Annually	Staff funding in place
	6.2 Monitor and report to Co-ordinating Committee on the condition and status	6.2.1 Review what has been achieved from Action Plan annually and update	WHS Co- ordinator	Annually	Written annual report to WHS Co-ordinating Com- mittee
	of the WHS	6.2.2 Respond to external stakeholder reporting requirements	WHS Co- ordinator	Ongoing	Annual list of reports submitted tabled to WHS Co- ordinating Committee
		6.2.3 Review and update Management Plan every 6 years	WHS Co- ordinating Com- mittee.	Yr5-6	New Management Plan accepted by UNESCO in 2022
	6.3 Develop and maintain links with other regional, national and international WHSs and World Heritage UK	6.3.1 Share professional experience and skills and implement joint projects where appropriate	WHS Co- ordinator	Ongoing	Annual list of contacts tabled to WHS Co-ordinating Committee

Implementation and Monitoring

Monitoring and Evaluation

Annual work plans will be developed from the Action Plan and these work plans will be monitored by the Co-ordinating Committee. Monitoring is central to the implementation of the Plan and successful comprehensive management of the Site. Monitoring falls into 2 categories firstly monitoring the condition of the Site (see Chapter 2) and secondly monitoring the implementation of the Plan actions. Monitoring and evaluation measures are written into the Action Plan alongside each action. This is essential to judge progress towards and achievement of actions. Without direct financial control over many actions, the principal method the Co-ordinating Committee employs to ensure implementation is to monitor progress and draw attention to any inaction. The main mechanism for monitoring will be by collation of this data into an annual report to the Co-ordinating Committee, carried out by the WHS Co-ordinator.



Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site Management Plan

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Appendix 1. Durham WHS Management Committees Terms of Reference and Composition



A1.1. Principal Landowners Group

The Cathedral, Durham County Council and University, as the remaining partners to the original Memorandum of Understanding when the WHS Coordinating Committee was established and the WHS Coordinator was appointed, with St John's College as the other landowner in the WHS, have signed a new MoU to reflect the current situation a few years on and in the light of experience. As part of this, a revised committee structure is proposed which devolves more of the day to day work to sub-committees, leaving a leaner Coordinating Committee to do what it says, coordinate things relating to the WHS and also to oversee the approval and implementation of the revised Management Plan.

The principal landowners (the Cathedral and the University, and, where appropriate St John's College) will liaise to discuss areas of mutual interest in relation to the WHS, especially operations or matters of a confidential nature. This will be coordinated by whichever organisation is not chairing the WHS Committee. The landowners will report as appropriate, although not automatically, to the WHS Coordinating Committee or the appropriate sub-committee.

A1.2. WHS Co-ordinating Committee:

The terms of reference of the World Heritage Site Coordinating Committee are:

- a. To safeguard the Outstanding Universal Values as ratified by UNESCO.
- b. To ensure the WHS continues to flourish.
- c. To act as the coordinating point for organisations with responsibility for the WHS.
- d. To oversee the production, approval, delivery and regular review of the WHS Management Plan.
- e. To coordinate, strengthen and promote the relationship between Durham WHS, other WHS in this country and UNESCO.
- f. As appropriate, to advise the landowners of the WHS on any matters relating to the WHS.
- g. To act as a point of reference, guidance and support for the WHS Coordinator.
- h. To oversee the work of the sub-Committees (see below), receiving their minutes and offering advice as necessary.
- i. To work with the landowners, stakeholders and community representatives in the provision of a programme of events that promotes knowledge of and visitors to the WHS.

Membership of the WHS Coordinating Committee is as follows:

One representative from each of:

- Durham Cathedral (landowner)
- Durham University (landowner)
- St John's College (landowner)
- **Durham County Council** •
- **Historic England**
- A representative appointed by UNESCO •
- A representative from a local group with an historical and environmental focus (note: at the time of writing this Management Plan this member is from the City of Durham Trust)

Responsibility for chairing the WHS Coordinating Committee will alternate between the Cathedral and the University. From 2015, the term of office is three years, renewable once. (Note: at the time of writing this Management Plan the Cathedral provides the chair). In order to ensure representation at meetings, the partners to this MoU and Historic England may send substitutes.

It is proposed that there should be appropriate sub-committees, each serviced by the WHS Coordinator. The first three are:

- Heritage, Collections and Buildings
- Culture, Events and Programmes
- Research

As the expansion of the World Heritage Site as recommended by the Management Plan, is moved forward for UNESCO agreement, the composition of the WHS Committee and its sub-committees and Principal Landowners Group will need to evolve to reflect the expanded area and new landowners within the WHS.

A1.3. Sub-committees:

Appropriate sub-committees, each serviced by the WHS Coordinator, will be convened as required. The number of representatives from each institution will be determined by the need to ensure the most effective working of each sub-committee, and the chair will be drawn from one of the principal landowners. Each sub-committee may invite other people with relevant skills and interest to attend. The first three sub-committees have the following core membership:

- Heritage, Buildings and Collections
 - Ourham Cathedral
 - Ourham University
 - ♦ St John's College
 - Ourham County Council
- **Culture, Events and Programmes**
 - ♦ Durham Cathedral
 - ♦ Durham University
 - ♦ Castle
 - Ourham County Council / Visit County Durham
- Research
 - ♦ Durham University
 - Ourham Cathedral
 - ♦ Castle
 - ♦ UNESCO



Appendix 2. Durham WHS Management Plan Public Consultation, Process and Outcomes

A Public Consultation exercise was carried out from 22nd February-18th April 2016. Consultation activities included:

- A web-based version of the draft Management Plan was located on the WHS website, with the facility for viewers to submit comments online
- An Email shot, with a link to the online version was sent out to mailing lists, heritage organisations, Durham Times, statutory bodies and relevant amenity groups
- An exhibition and drop-in sessions were held at Durham City Town Hall and Clayport Library (weekdays, weekends and evenings) with opportunities for the public to meet the WHS Co-ordinator, to discuss any questions and make any comments
- Hard copies of the Management Plan, with post cards for the submission of written comments, were located in Durham City Town Hall, Clayport Library and the WHS Visitor Centre for the full period of the consultation
- 271 comments were received.

Presentations with workshop activities were delivered by the WHS Coordinator to:

- Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee
- Cultural Heritage Management MA students
- Museums Studies MA students
- Antioch Archaeology Society
- WHS Lecture Series attendees
- Durham City Access Group
- Personal approaches were made by the WHS Co-ordinator to College Principals directly adjoining WHS (St Chad's, St Cuthbert's and Hatfield Colleges). The Principal of St Cuthbert's Society took up the offer to come for discussion
- Skype meeting with Henry Owen-John (HE) re HE's feedback on Plan and proposed restructuring

A copy of the log of comments was submitted to the WHS Coordinating Committee at meeting of 26/05/16 for review and consideration for inclusion in the final Management Plan.

A copy of the comments log is available on the Durham World Heritage Site website at:

https://www.durhamworldheritagesite.com



Appendix 3. Attributes of the Site and the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value



The attributes are summarised within the Management Plan. These are the full attributes identified through workshops involving key stakeholders and have been subject to further consultation alongside the Management Plan. They are the agreed attributes supporting the key points of significance.

A3.1. SIGNIFICANCE 1: The Site's exceptional architecture demonstrating architectural innovation

Key Attributes:

A The architectural design and construction techniques of the nave of Durham Cathedral.

In architectural terms, Durham Cathedral reflects the ambitions of its patrons wishing to outshine the buildings of near contemporaries, to place the cult of St Cuthbert on a par with that of St Peter in Rome, and to incorporate exotic elements from afar in its construction.

Remarkably, for a building that has remained in constant use since its construction, it has survived across the ages as an essentially Norman building – having been spared the extensive remodelling that compromised the historic integrity of many of its contemporaries.

Ever since its completion in 1133, Durham Cathedral has been one of the most important Romanesque Buildings in Europe, and the pre-eminent example of the Anglo–Norman style. It was constructed at the end of a wave of cathedral building in England which resulted from the reorganisation of the English Church under the Normans. As such, Durham Cathedral was designed to hold its own in the context of a series of new Norman cathedrals in England. It was consciously designed to be the same size as St Peter's, the mother church in Rome, and in addition to obvious references to that building, indicates an appreciation of architectural trends in other regions of Europe as well. For example, some of its architectural details were probably inspired by architecture in Spain

The real architectural significance of the Cathedral is its role as a milestone in the history of architecture: It shows the first successful use of pointed arches on a large scale to support the monumental vault of the nave. The significance of the use of the pointed arch is that it is structurally superior to its precedent, the rounded arch, since it enables greater height to be achieved, while also improving structural stability. In short, the technological success of the pointed arch enabled the emergence of Gothic architecture, which was to have an impact all over Europe in the first instance, and, subsequently, all over the world.

The scale of Durham Cathedral is also remarkable, and was made possible by the technological advances mentioned above. The massive scale of construction is offset by the use of the ribbed vaults and pointed arches to create a sense of lightness in the building that belies the sheer weight and volume of stone used in its construction. The rib vaults give the nave a unified appearance and help create a sense of visual movement in the direction of the altar.

B Durham Castle's Norman Chapel

Durham Castle's Norman Chapel is an unusually well-preserved example of Norman architecture that provides an important reference for the form, design, and iconography of early Norman religious buildings in England. The carving on the capitals of the chapel's six columns is a turning point in the evolution of 11th century Romanesque sculpture, and an important reference in the study of English sculpture following the Norman Conquest of 1066.

The Chapel was probably constructed in the late 1070s and described in the 1140s as a "shining chapel, here, supported upon six columns, not too large but quite lovely." (Prior Laurence of Durham).

The chapel's state of preservation is remarkable. Its six stone columns topped with carved capitals, herring-bone patterned stone floor, and variegated stone makes it unforgettable despite its small size.



A3.2. SIGNIFICANCE 2: The visual drama of the Cathedral and Castle on the Peninsula and the associations with notions of romantic beauty.

Key Attributes:

A The dramatic, dynamic skyline of Durham Cathedral and Castle

The Cathedral and Castle tower over the city, riverbanks and river, visually uncontested by more recent urban development. Moreover, the juxtaposition of the Castle's Motte and Keep on one hand, and the Cathedral's three towers and numerous pinnacles and turrets on the other, and the different visual compositions these form depending on the angle from which they are seen, give the medieval complex a sense of drama and movement.

B The Cathedral and Castle and their immediate setting

i) The romantic setting: The immediate setting provided by: the undeveloped stretch of river between and including Framwellgate and Elvet Bridges; the steep, forbidding, mature tree lined-river banks, which look like an undesigned woodland landscape; the remaining stretches of the Castle Walls, and the way in which they have been partially covered by the vegetation and eroded by time; Prebends' Bridge and the view it provides of this ensemble of nature and buildings.

A major programme of woodland and riverbanks management on the Cathedral land has resulted in substantial clearance of over-mature trees and scrub, the renovation of footpaths and the provision of wildlife sanctuaries. However, due to the extent and increasing height of tree cover and the lack of a robust management programme elsewhere along the river banks there is some negative impact on the world-renowned views of the WHS.

ii) The scale of the Cathedral and Castle: The massiveness of the Cathedral and Castle in comparison to the fragmented nature of the surrounding landscape.

iii) The Pilgrimage Routes to the Cathedral: The Cathedral's relationship to its surrounding fabric is unlikely to have changed much since the Middle Ages, due to the Cathedral's physical dominance with regards other buildings. The Cathedral towers appear and disappear depending on one's location along one of the limited number of routes leading to the building, and this must have been a significant feature for the large number of pilgrims who would have travelled from afar to get to Durham, and indeed to their modern-day counterparts.

C The setting of the World Heritage Site

The inner setting of the World Heritage Site is formed by an 'inner bowl' contained by nearby ridges and spurs incised by the meandering River Wear, and a more diffuse wider setting ('outer bowl') contained by more distant high ground including the limestone escarpment to the east and south, and higher spurs and ridges to the west. These form important horizons and sky-lines in the backdrop of many views of, from and within the WHS, and contain important vantage points from which the WHS is viewed.

D The visual appeal of the site in its context

i) Form, colour, and materials: The contrast between the honey-coloured stone of the Cathedral & Castle and Prebends' Bridge; the greenery of the trees and shrubs along the river; and the earthy river banks; and the reflection of all of these in the river.

ii) The patina of history: The weathered, variegated quality of the Cathedral and Castle stonework.

iii) The site by night: The visual presence of the Cathedral and Castle by night in contrast to the darkness of the river, riverbanks and sky.

iv) The site in changing climatic conditions: The character of the site changes as weather and season impact on views. This can create striking images highlighting the Castle and Cathedral and how they relate to the river and riverbanks and surrounding townscape. Particularly memorable, especially from the west, is the effect of sunlight in the afternoon as it brings out the massing of the architecture of both building remarkably well, articulating the Castle's buttresses and battlements, and the details of the Cathedral's stonework. The sight of Durham Cathedral and Castle in the snow surrounded by the rooftops of Durham, the Castle Walls, the trees, the riverbanks, and the river is remarkably memorable.

v) The routes to Palace Green and the visual unfolding of the site: The relationship between the Castle, Cathedral and Palace Green on one hand, and the rest of the city on the other, offers a dynamic visual experience to the viewer: the Cathedral and Castle appear in between buildings, and through vistas leading up to the site from the bridges allowing access to the peninsula. The Cathedral and Castle are practically invisible to passers-by along much of the stretch from Framwellgate Bridge via the city's marketplace towards Palace Green, and then suddenly appear on Owengate, while the approach from Prebends' Bridge provides a much more gradual appearance of the Cathedral Tower, followed by the building itself. Elvet and Kingsgate Bridges also offer dramatic, changing views. The sight of Palace Green itself is a great surprise when seen for the first time, as the narrow winding streets leading up to it give no indication of its massive scale and openness.

vi) The visual relationship between the Cathedral and Castle and the surrounding landscape: The sight of monumental historic buildings towering over the landscape and cityscape has inspired visual artists for centuries.

vii) The site's key views: The world-renowned views of the site to both residents and visitors to the city: The views of the Castle and Cathedral are world-renowned not just in terms of the city, but in terms of the county as well, with the image of the Cathedral and Castle inextricably linked to people's image of Durham.



A3.3. SIGNIFICANCE 3: The physical expression of the spiritual and secular powers of the medieval Bishops Palatine that the defended complex provides.

Key Attributes:

A. The scale of the spaces and buildings

The massive scale of both the Cathedral and the Castle, and the dwarfing effect they have says much about the status of the Prince Bishops. The Castle is especially dominant when seen from the banks of the peninsula, from Framwellgate Bridge, which historically would have been the main point of access. The Castle was meant to look imposing from that side especially – its scale acting as a deterrent to would-be attackers.

The sense of scale is also conveyed through the experience of Palace Green, where one is surrounded by grand, imposing historic buildings and a huge green space, and can therefore perceive the historic prosperity of Durham; reflecting both wealth and power.

B. The grandeur and richness of the spaces of the WHS

The grandeur of interior spaces such as the Cathedral nave, the Galilee Chapel, the Great Kitchen, the Monks' Dormitory, the Chapter House, Prior's Hall and the Dean's residence, contribute to the physical expression of the secular and spiritual powers of the Medieval Bishops Palatine.

With respect to the Castle, its role as the Bishop's palace since the Norman period is reflected in the scale and decoration of spaces such as the Great Hall, the Black Staircase, the Tunstall Gallery, the Norman Gallery, the Senate Chamber, the Bishop's Suite, and the Senior Common Room.

Some of the spaces of the World Heritage Site combine architectural 'wealth' with the notion of cultural wealth, such as John Cosin's 17th century library, designed as a repository for that particular Bishop's collection of books, and, in style, emulating the famed library of Cardinal Mazarin in Paris.

C. Architectural symbols of power

There are also actual symbols of power, the most notable being the Cathedra (throne) constructed in the Cathedral by Bishop Hatfield in the 14th century, allegedly intentionally designed to be the highest Cathedra in Christendom.

D. The quality of the workmanship, and the status and reputation of the craftsmen commissioned by the Prince Bishops

The level of architectural patronage and the long history of the Prince Bishops commissioning work from nationally-renowned craftsmen and designers is indicative of the bishops' role in society at a national level. Most notable are commissions from Henry Yevele (The Neville Screen, Durham Cathedral, 1380), The Ripon wood carvers (Misericords in the Tunstall Chapel, Durham Castle, originally made for Auckland Castle, early 15th century), Father Bernard Smith (Cathedral Organ, 17th century), and others.

E. The range of buildings reflecting the different powers and responsibilities of the Prince Bishops

The combination of historic religious buildings, grand residential buildings, defensive buildings and structures and administrative buildings, and the fact that they have not been overshadowed by modern construction and development, even to this day, reflects the pre-eminence of the prince-bishopric as the most important position in Durham's history up until the present day. Apart from the grand spaces listed earlier, there are a range of more intimate historic spaces. Among these are the Castle's Norman Chapel, the Deanery's Chapel of the Holy Cross, and the University Music School, formerly a grammar school.

F. Buildings intended to dominate the landscape

Apart from the visual pre-eminence of the Cathedral and Castle, the fact that they were designed to dominate the landscape is evident through views from them, such as views from the Cathedral towers, and from the Castle's ramparts, Norman Gallery, and keep. The necessity of the Castle dominating the landscape for defensive purposes is clear. But castles were also symbols of power, and the rebuilding and enlargement of the Castle keep in the fourteenth century was almost certainly a project to reassert the bishop's authority, probably in the context of an on-going power struggle with the Archbishop of York. With respect to the Cathedral, scale was of the essence, primarily to reflect the status of St Cuthbert. The construction of the Cathedral to be the same length as St Peter's, the mother church in Rome, is telling of the ambitions of its patrons, William of St Calais, and Ranulf Flambard, the latter, especially, a key political figure of his time. Events such as the monks of Durham singing from the top of the Cathedral Tower in commemoration of the Battle of Neville's Cross (fought in 1346), and on other occasions, emphasize the fact that the Cathedral Towers were not just visual symbols, but were used to reflect the importance of the institution in the social and political life of the city and region.

G. The defensive nature of the site

The River Wear was the Castle's initial line of defence (serving as a moat), and making the Castle walls only the second line of defence (and therefore modest in defensive terms in comparison to the walls of other cities with less substantial natural defences, such as York, for example). The peninsula, with its steep river banks was well chosen, and the construction of the Cathedral within the Castle precinct would have been especially significant for the community of St. Cuthbert, whose history until the 10th century was one of persecution at the hands of Viking raiders. Today, the defensive nature of the site is best felt through the experience of walking along the western bank of Durham Peninsula where there is an unmistakable sense of the impenetrability of the medieval complex, and of its complexity and its development over a long period of time.

H. The economic value and significance of some of the bishops' constructions

The two medieval bridges (Framwellgate and Elvet) are reminders of the economic dimension of the medieval bishops' power. As key points used to control access to the city centre, they would have also been used for the imposition of tolls. Moreover, the fact that Elvet Bridge was lined with shops (of which some still remain) meant that it constituted a commercial street over water, reflecting the fact that the Bishopric was not just a religious, or a political establishment, but an economic one as well.

The 15th century chancery and exchequer building on Palace Green dealt with legal issues related to the Bishops' property, and managed his revenues. The construction of later court buildings (the latest of which dates from the mid-1800s) is a reminder of the Bishops' economic might over the centuries.

The Bishop's Mint, although today remaining only in the name of 'Moneyer's Garth' a 19th century building constructed on the site of the mint on Palace Green, was another of the Bishop's income- generating institutions, and stayed in operation until it was shut down by Henry VIII.

I. The site's intellectual importance across the ages

The Cathedral Library and Bishop John Cosin's Library (now part of Durham University's Palace Green Library) are physical manifestations of the intellectual importance of Durham. Durham's importance as a place of learning dates back to at least the 11th century with the founding of the Benedictine Monastery by Bishop William of St. Calais. Durham's links with other educational establishments were strong from an early age, both to other religious establishments, as well as to centres of learning, like Oxford University, where the Durham monks founded Durham Hall in 1291, expanded into Durham College in the 14th century by Bishop Hatfield and now Trinity College. The Cathedral and Palace Green Libraries convey a sense of the intellectual wealth of Durham, and its historic pedigree.



A3.4. SIGNIFICANCE 4: The relics and material culture of the three Saints, (Cuthbert, Bede, and Oswald) buried at the Site

Key Attributes:

A. St Cuthbert's Shrine & Relics

The sanctity of St Cuthbert's Shrine is emphasised by the combination of: its elevated position above the floor level of the Chapel of the Nine Altars and the side aisles; the historic building fabric and objects (the Frosterley marble gravestone, the Neville Screen, and the statue of Cuthbert holding Oswald's head); as well as by the modern furnishings of the well-maintained shrine such as the canopy, banners, cushions, pew, and the candlesticks, together emphasising the continued importance of St Cuthbert. The recent donation of the St Cuthbert Banner, based on the medieval design, continues this tradition of honouring the saint. The continued existence of many of St Cuthbert's relics in Durham Cathedral (his coffin, pectoral cross, textiles, the Durham Gospels, and other early religious texts belonging to the community of St Cuthbert) is notable. The sense of ownership of St Cuthbert by local people is a remarkable and significant element of the Cathedral's life.

B. The Tomb of the Venerable Bede

The importance afforded to Bede's tomb is emphasised through the combination of the Frosterley marble cenotaph, the epigraphic sculpture about Christ the Rising Star, the candelabra, and the pew with its cushion produced by the Cathedral broderers, and the careful creation of an implicit curtilage area around the cenotaph itself.



A3.5. SIGNIFICANCE 5. The continuity of use and ownership over the past 1000 Years as a place of religious worship, learning and residence

Key Attributes:

A. The continued function of the Cathedral and Norman Chapel as religious establishments.

The Cathedral's role as the seat of the Bishop and centre of the Diocese of Durham, and as one of the most important centres for Christian worship in Britain, through dedicated regular congregations, and civic and diocesan services. Its role is primarily that of 'a house of prayer' (*Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 56*), offering a place for people from all backgrounds to come together in worship with a common purpose and for more personal, quiet prayer. Durham Castle's Norman Chapel also continues in use as a place of worship to the present day.

B. The use of the buildings (old and new) of the World Heritage Site by Durham University and Durham Cathedral for the purposes of learning, scholarship and education.

These uses are extensive, and integral to the life of the site. They include the use of the Castle as a Durham University college (officially called University College, Durham); the use of Cosin's Library and its annexes as a university library; the use of Cosin's grammar school as an academic department (music); the use of part of Cosin's almshouse/educational complex as a lecture room/ study space; the use of Divinity House as the Department of Theology; all other uses of the buildings that may not specifically be related to their original function but ensure that they remain viable.

Also children have been educated on the site for at least 600 years, currently expressed in the existence of the Cathedral Chorister School, and the continued tradition of musical education and performance. There are also the Cathedral and University Education departments, both located on the site, and responsible for educational outreach to both children and adults.

C. The use of the buildings of the World Heritage Site for residential purposes

The use of the Castle (The keep, the rooms along the Norman Gallery, and in the kitchen block) for student accommodation. The use of buildings on Owengate and North Bailey for student accommodation (currently by Hatfield and University Colleges). The continued use of the houses within the Cathedral College for residential purposes and the fact that most of the residents are associated with/employed by the Cathedral.

D. The use of the buildings of the site for administrative purposes

The existence of the Cathedral Office on the site, running the Cathedral's affairs from the site, as has been the case at least since the late eleventh century.

E. The continued existence of building-related trades and crafts on the site

Craftsmen with traditional skills such as stonemasonry are still employed by and on the site on a permanent basis and are integral to the maintenance and preservation of the historic building fabric. The Cathedral and University each have a stonemasons' yard, and building traditions are passed on from one generation to the next through the traditional system of apprenticeship.

F. The records documenting the use of the site across the ages

Extensive documentary evidence in the Cathedral and University archives chronicles the use of the site, works undertaken, people associated with it, activities and events.



A3.6. SIGNIFICANCE 6: The Site's role as a political statement of Norman power Imposed upon a subjugate nation, as one of the country's most powerful symbols of the Norman conquest of Britain

Key Attributes:

A The Cathedral and Castle as a monumental ensemble whose original functions are immediately recognisable, even from a distance.

The view of the massive ensemble of the Cathedral and Castle, especially from the west, and the way in which they tower over the city, river and landscape is an uncontested symbol of power, and attests to the site's historic role in defence against Scottish invasions.



3.7. SIGNIFICANCE 7: The importance of the Site's archaeological remains, which are directly related to its history and continuity of use over the past 1000 years.

Key Attributes:

A The continuum of significant archaeological/historical information offered by the site

The wealth of archaeological remains, documents, collections, and building archaeology that the site offers, and the unbroken link between the site's extant buildings, its archaeological remains, and its moveable heritage. Durham is especially fortunate to have extensive archival material which contributes greatly to shedding light on the social, political, religious, cultural and economic context that shaped its buildings. The existence of Durham University's Archaeology Department and the fact that Durham Cathedral has a resident archaeologist on its staff (only one of two cathedrals in the country to do so) also means that on-site archaeological work, research and analysis is on-going.

3.8. SIGNIFICANCE 8: The Cultural and Religious Traditions and Historical Memories Associated with the Relics of St Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede, and with the Continuity of Use and Ownership over the Past Millennium.

Key Attributes:

A. The continued veneration of Cuthbert and Bede

The continuity of local, site-specific traditions developed over time by the Cathedral community and clergy, by the University, and by community groups such as miners' lodges, school groups and others. Cathedral services related to St Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede; Durham University college services also linked to the two saints (Such as Hild Bede Day); Cathedral services specific to Durham and its history such as 'Founders and Benefactors' and St Cuthbert's feast day all exemplify the continued importance of the two saints in the cultural, social, and religious identity of Durham.

B. The site's importance as cornerstone of Community identity and as a rite of passage

Use of the Cathedral for school and college carol services and events, Miner's Gala service, Durham University matriculation and graduation ceremonies, weddings, among others.

The use of Durham Castle for important University and civic functions, such as congregation processions, ceremonies related to the judiciary, University College events, and for weddings.

The continued importance of the processional route into the Cathedral, manifested in celebrations such as the Miner's Gala procession, the Palm Sunday, St Nicholas and New Year's Eve processions, and University Matriculation and Congregation ceremonies. Also the presence of community memorials such as the DLI Chapel and miners' memorials.

C. The site's multi-functionalism and adaptability of use

The primary use of the buildings of the World Heritage Site for a multitude of non-tourist-related functions, and their ability to continue to serve their community while remaining important visitor attractions says much about their versatility.

D. The continuity of ownership

The ownership of the site by institutions that evolved from the original community of St Cuthbert, such as the Chapter of Durham Cathedral and, in turn, Durham University and its independent colleges, demonstrate an evolving, yet unbroken chain of ownership over the course of a millennium. This is further reinforced by the continuation of the original use of some of the buildings on the site.



Fig. A3.11. Saddler St, North Gate—Now Demolished



A4.1. Introduction

The World Heritage Site (WHS) management plan (2017) identifies key actions in relation to the understanding and protection of the site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). This appendix is intended to act as a starting point for subsequent formal confirmation of WHS boundaries, settings and their protection. This is now to be dealt with by a newly formed Heritage, Buildings and Collections Sub-committee of the WHS Committee

The analysis and description is that used as a basis for the management plan's conclusions and, prior to further confirmation, offers a means of understanding the significance of the WHS setting.





Plan A - The components of the immediate setting of the WHS as defined in the 2006 Management Plan form the basis for the current recommendation for an extended WHS Area with the exception of most of the town core and outer riverbank

A4.2. Context

The boundaries of the WHS, its setting and need for a buffer zone are interrelated and a sequential process was used to clarify any necessary change to support the OUV. Key issues remaining from the first 2006 management plan¹ were the extension of the WHS boundary, description of setting and whether a buffer zone was required. The 2017 management plan has moved forward by identifying preferred options.

A buffer zone is defined as an area immediately surrounding the World Heritage Site which has complementary legal restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the WHS. The buffer zone forms part of the setting of the WHS. However, UNESCO and UK Planning Guidance allows for an alternative approach:

"It may be appropriate to protect the setting of World Heritage Sites in other ways, for example by the protection of specific views and viewpoints. Other landscape designations may also prove effective in protecting the setting of a World Heritage Site. However it is intended to protect the setting, it will be essential to explain how this is to be done in the Local Plan."¹

By increasing understanding of the WHS setting and extending its boundaries combined with existing designations and planning protection, it is considered that sufficient protection will be offered and a buffer zone is not required.

The statement of the site's OUV has been revised since the previous management plan and the attributes that support it have been described in the new 2017 management plan. They form essential references underpinning the preferred options for boundaries and setting.

A4.3. Boundary of the World Heritage Site

SOUV and Attributes

2017 Management Plan Attributes (Selected relevant sections)

Key reference points are:

'The Cathedral and Castle **are located on a peninsula formed by a bend in the River Wear with steep riverbanks constituting a natural line of defence**. These were essential both for the community of St. Cuthbert, who came to Durham in the tenth century in search of a safe base (having suffered periodic Viking raids over the course of several centuries), and for the Prince-Bishops of Durham, protectors of the turbulent English frontier.'

'The site is significant because of the exceptional architecture demonstrating architectural innovation and **the visual** drama of the Cathedral and Castle on the peninsula, and for the associations with notions of romantic beauty in tangible form. The physical expression of the spiritual and secular powers of the medieval Bishops' Palatinate is shown by the defended complex and by the importance of its archaeological remains, which are directly related to its history and continuity of use over the past 1000 years.'

'Integrity - The physical integrity of the property is well preserved. However, despite a minor modification of the property's boundaries in 2008 to unite the Castle and Cathedral sites, the current boundary still does not fully encompass all the attributes and features that convey the property's Outstanding Universal Value. The steep banks of the River Wear, an important component of the property's defensive role, and the full extent of the Castle precinct still lie outside the property boundary.'

SIGNIFICANCE 2: The visual drama of the Cathedral and Castle on the Peninsula and the associations with notions of romantic beauty.

The dramatic, dynamic skyline of Durham Cathedral and Castle

The Cathedral and Castle tower over the city, riverbanks and river, visually uncontested by more recent urban development.

The Cathedral and Castle and their immediate setting

i) The romantic setting: The immediate setting is provided by the undeveloped stretch of river, the steep, forbidding, mature tree lined-river banks, the remaining stretches of the Castle Walls and the way in which they have been partially covered by the vegetation and eroded by time and Prebends' Bridge and the view it provides of this ensemble of nature and buildings.

ii) The scale of the Cathedral and Castle: The massiveness of the Cathedral and Castle is appreciated in comparison to the fragmented nature of the surrounding landscape.

iii) The Pilgrimage Routes to the Cathedral: The Cathedral's relationship to its surrounding fabric is unlikely to have changed much since the Middle Ages due to the Cathedral's physical dominance with regards other buildings. The Cathedral towers appear and disappear depending on one's location along the limited number of routes leading to the building, and this must have been a significant feature for the large number of pilgrims who would have travelled from afar to get to Durham.

Setting of the World Heritage Site

The inner setting of the World Heritage Site is formed by an 'inner bowl' contained by nearby ridges and spurs incised by the meandering River Wear, and a more diffuse wider setting ('outer bowl') contained by more distant high ground including the limestone escarpment to the east and south, and higher spurs and ridges to the west. These form important horizons and skylines in the backdrop of many views of, from and within the WHS, and contain important vantage points from which the WHS is viewed.

The visual appeal of the site in its context

i) Form, colour, and materials: The honey-coloured stone of the Cathedral & Castle and Prebends' Bridge contrasts with the greenery of the trees and shrubs along the river; and the earthy river banks; and the reflection of these in the river.

ii) The patina of history: This is expressed in the weathered, variegated quality of the Cathedral and Castle stonework.

iii) The site by night: The visual presence of the Cathedral and Castle by night contrasts with the darkness of the river, riverbanks and sky.

iv) The site in changing climatic conditions: The character of the site changes as weather and season impact on views

v) The routes to Palace Green and the visual unfolding of the site: The relationship between the Castle, Cathedral and Palace Green on one hand, and the rest of the city on the other, offers a dynamic visual experience to the viewer.
 vi) The visual relationship between the Cathedral and Castle and the surrounding landscape: The sight of monumental historic buildings towering over the landscape and cityscape has inspired visual artists for centuries.

vii) The site's key views: The views of the Castle and Cathedral are world-renowned not just in terms of the city, but in terms of the county as well.

SIGNIFICANCE 3: The physical expression of the spiritual and secular powers of the medieval Bishops Palatine that the defended complex provides.

The scale of the spaces and buildings The massive scale of both the Cathedral and the Castle, and the dwarfing effect they have says much about the status of the Prince Bishops.

Buildings intended to dominate the landscape: Apart from the visual pre-eminence of the Cathedral and Castle, the fact that they were designed to dominate the landscape is evident through the views from them.

The range of buildings reflecting the different powers and responsibilities of the Prince Bishops The combination of historic religious buildings, grand residential **buildings**, defensive buildings and structures and administrative buildings, and the fact that they have not been overshadowed by modern construction and development, reflects the pre-eminence of the prince-bishopric as the most important position in Durham's history.

The defensive nature of the site: The River Wear was the Castle's initial line of defence. The Peninsula, with its steep river banks was well chosen, and the construction of the Cathedral within the Castle precinct would have been especially significant for the community of St. Cuthbert, whose history until the 10th century was one of persecution at the hands of Viking raiders.

SIGNIFICANCE 6: The Site's role as a political statement of Norman power Imposed upon a subjugate nation, as one of the Country's most powerful symbols of the Norman Conquest of Britain

The Cathedral and Castle as a monumental ensemble whose original functions are immediately recognisable, even from a distance: The view of the massive ensemble of the Cathedral and Castle, especially from the west, and the way in which they tower over the city, river and landscape is an uncontested symbol of power.

A4.4. Reports and Reviews

The WHS Committee updated its boundary review in June 2014 and this was based on an initial visual survey to scope potential WHS physical boundary definitions. The conclusions were that the current boundary does not fully capture all the attributes of the site in support of the site's OUV and that the 'immediate setting' as defined in the 2006 Management Plan, provides a basis for further scrutiny.

Of concern was the failure to include all the defences, including the outer walls and the riverside gorge. It was acknowledged that emphatic and detailed reasoning would be required to form a compelling case for any changes and revised boundaries. The current WHS boundary cuts through the course of the outer walls of the site.

There are further references to the extension of the WHS boundary:

1995 ICOMOS-UK (1995); UK World Heritage Sites Monitoring Report - The range of options was discussed and the extension to include the whole of the Peninsula was favoured. The inclusion of the outer bank was less certain although its importance was recognised-see following extracts.

The World Heritage Site is currently defined very narrowly, in two separate parts with a gap in the middle. There is no provision of a buffer zone of any kind. Whilst it is true that, as defined, the site includes the most important buildings in Durham, it does not even include the whole of the Cathedral precinct and viewed either scenically or managerially, this boundary makes little sense, and those consulted believed that it should be extended. It would be possible to do this in a number of ways.

2. It was not favoured, however, compared with an extension of the boundary to include the whole of the Peninsula as far as Moatside Lane, effectively the point at which re-development begins. Such an extension would include buildings which are not themselves of World Heritage status. They do, however, fall within the historic setting of the Cathedral and Castle. The river and the high peninsula provide the setting which attracted the buildings in the first place. The drama and beauty of the setting contribute an important element to the experience of visiting Durham and arguably to its World Heritage status. With very few exceptions, the buildings on the peninsula belong to the Dean and Chapter or to the University.

The above raises the question of a buffer zone for the World Heritage Site. At present there is no buffer zone described as such. There is, however, a series of concentric zones around the existing site. First there is Palace Green and that part of the precinct which is not within the site. On almost any argument this should be incorporated within the site. Secondly, there is the area of the peninsula. If this were not to be brought within the site, it is certainly crucial to the protection of the World Heritage Site. The next circle consists of the river itself and the bank opposite the peninsula. This area is within the riverbanks joint management arrangements (see Section 5 below). It could be argued that it 'belongs with' the peninsula and should be in the same category. **ICOMOS 2008 Evaluation** – As part of the evaluation of the submission to extend the WHS boundaries to include Palace Green and link the Castle and the Cathedral the following comment was made:

The State Party considers that these boundaries, which corresponded to an essentially monument-related approach to outstanding universal value, are today insufficient to fully bear testimony to the property. It considers that their definition should be strengthened by the concept of the territorial continuity of the defensive mound constituted by the Wear peninsula. This would more fully represent the historical significance of the property, and enable a better understanding of its urban landscape.

Figs A4.3. & 4. Annotated Plan Extracts from the 2011 Castle Walls Survey, Castle Walls Survey (2011)



Matthew Patteson's plan, 1595. Note many features of interest are annotated with regards to the Castle Walls. The riverbanks are depicted as largely rocky and bare of vegetation (©British Library Board, Maps.*.2265.(6))

The need to reconsider the formal designation of the boundaries to include relevant defences and associated gardens was

identified in the Castle Walls Survey and Conservation Management Plan²:

Vision Statement

Separated from the inner peninsula and the rest of the City, the Castle Walls and promenades are largely set within the peaceful river gorge. The Castle Walls should be sensitively conserved as a major historic monument and the promenades and garden features protected to ensure their survival. Improve public accessibility, views to and from the site and interpretation of the site in line with best practice conservation whilst respecting essential security restrictions.

The World Heritage Site should be expanded to incorporate the Castle Wall and garden features on the riverbanks in recognition of the importance of this palimpsest of historic landscapes.

Page 90, Section 4.5 Historical value

ation whilst the

protections. Most of the Castle Walls are Grade I listed, the Water Gate is a Scheduled Monument, the entire site falls within the Durham City Conservation Area, Protected Open Space, Area of Nature Conservation Importance and High Land Value Area. Furthermore, the Castle Walls enclose the Durham Cathedral and Castle World Heritage Site and parts of the walls and promenades fall within the World Heritage Site boundary. The peninsula is internationally significant and these designations highlight the importance attached to the site and a desire to conserve it far into the future.

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Castle Walls

Historically the Castle Walls were part of a substantial defensive complex. The Castle Walls contain medieval fabric and bastions that illustrate the defensive origin and early development of the walls and their role in protecting the Castle and Cathedral within the peninsula. Later changes to the Castle Walls such as the use of the towers in the South Bailey gardens as gazebos, flights of steps and tunnels through the walls to link the South Bailey upper gardens with the lower riverbank gardens and rebuilding of the walls as they required repair, are all of historic value in illustrating the changing nature of the walls from defensive to part of a landscape dominated by fashionable 18th and 19th century gardens, orchards and elite lifestyles. There are many 18th and 19th century illustrations of the peninsula which portray the Castle Walls in the background, together with the Castle/Cathedral complex. These illustrate the evolving importance of the walls within a Picturesque landscape appreciated by the public and artists.

The Castle Walls have a strong associative value with the Castle complex; a powerful political statement of Norman power imposed upon a subjugate nation forming one of the country's most powerful symbols of the Norman Conquest. The river gorge and Castle Walls historically provided entrances to the peninsula and continue to provide key gateways and access points to the World Heritage Site. The Castle Walls also have a striking associative connection with the Cathedral and parts of the walls are incorporated into former monastic buildings such as the reredorter and Galilee Chapel.

4.7.4 Cultural and Formal Values

The cultural value of the site has considerably changed over the centuries from defensive importance with religious associations, to a verdant setting for the Prince Bishops' power base during the 18th century period of landscape design, to a heritage asset valued for its views, public footpaths and promenading. The Castle Walls are a foundation stone of the City. If the peninsula could not have been fortified to protect the shrine of St Cuthbert, Durham and its rich architectural heritage would not have developed.

Executive Summary Page

The importance of the Durham Castle Walls and

their riverbank setting is therefore a product of their

age, early design principles, changing uses, historic/

architectural importance of the standing remains and

garden survivals where the early date of the terraces

and promenades leads into the Picturesque. This is

recognised through considerable statutory and local

Durham Riverbanks Gardens Conservation Management Plan, Bureau Veritas, 2008

Section 3.2 (Significance) Designed Landscapes, Page 96

'Throughout Britain, in London, Bath and Edinburgh, there any many collections of town gardens, built to complement wealthy society housing. Other cathedral towns have walks associated with the old town boundaries, but none have such a dramatic landscape associated with them.

In the light of the research, establishing documentary evidence of the extraordinarily rich relationships between The Banks on both sides of the River Wear, Prebends' Walk and the 'hanging gardens' of the Baileys, the Riverbanks Gardens deserve to be proposed as an addition to the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.'



The Draft City Centre Conservation Area Management Plan (Durham County Council, 2015) has provided a detailed summary of assets, character and significance for the whole of the central conservation area. It acts as a useful detailed reference when reviewing the Peninsula and the inner setting for the WHS. Although it makes valuable comments about the WHS and its relationship to the river and both riverbanks, its character areas start with the City's historic Borough structure for analysis. This was used for community based character interpretation and did not seek area variations based on further analysis other than for the outer extents of the conservation area itself. This approach limits the extents of the Peninsula area to the outer river edge rather than the Gorge boundary. It also includes in the Peninsula areas beyond the Framwellgate and Elvet Bridges that relate less closely and directly to the WHS. The Conservation Area Plan is not solely orientated towards the WHS and does not cover issues relating to its boundaries, leaving this to be covered by the WHS Management Plan.

The significance of the Castle Walls and the Riverside Gardens has been substantially clarified after the 2006 Management Plan. This has considerably increased the understanding of the significance of the riverbanks and its gardens, walks and defences.

Their relationship to the OUV and attributes of the WHS can be established from this cumulative work.

A4.5. Review Process

The following sections summarise the various characteristics of the WHS and its immediate setting that help shape suggestions for omission of a buffer zone and WHS expansion. The review format generally follows topic headings from the UNESCO Operational Guidelines³.

These are:

Authenticity:

- Form and design
- Materials and substance
- Use and function Traditions, techniques and management systems
- Location and setting Language, and other forms of intangible heritage
- Spirit and feeling

Integrity:

- Wholeness
- Intactness

The principal concerns for Durham's WHS boundary extents are the degree of authenticity and closeness of relationship to the WHS. During the review process this focused on the inclusion in boundary of the two historic bridges and the definition of extents on the outer riverbank. Integrity is reviewed as wholeness and intactness of WHS value and attributes.



A4.5.1. Form and Design

Peninsula and River Wear Gorge

The post Ice Age river formed the Peninsula as the ice retreated. Its potential as a defensive site for the Cathedral and Castle stems from the loop of the incised gorge that it created. Subsequent defences reinforced the Peninsula boundary along the inner riverbank and its neck. Recognition of the true defensive extent of the WHS and the area containing the remains of the land-scape that developed with the WHS is needed. Its subsequent evolution into a historic 'leisure' landscape was based on a functional working infrastructure but it has since evolved into the internationally recognisable setting of the WHS. This provides the basis for the romantic setting of the WHS as currently defined.

In this context, form is the result of the geological origins of the site and its topographical shape. Design is the subsequent use and alteration of the topography for defensive purposes, the accentuation of dominating buildings and consequent evolution into both romantic and leisure landscape.

Defence

Manifestations of power and the defensive nature of the WHS are clearly visible when viewing the site. These include the inner and outer defensive walls of the Castle; the Castle's gatehouses and the natural defences of the river and both steep river banks. The demolition of the North Gate has removed a defining entry point into the defensive area on Saddler Street but the distinctive boundary generally remains. Other inner defences to Owengate and Kingsgate are also subsumed into later development.

As the City evolved, river crossing points were defined by the Framwellgate and Elvet Bridges. Both were defended as access points onto the Peninsula and Market Place and later as part of the wall protecting the inner area of the Bishop's Borough. Framwellgate Bridge remains a clear separation of the original defensive and current landscape area from the inner city. It defines the extent of the outer gorge side. Elvet Bridge, although slightly further from the Castle defences, also forms a clear visual stop to the landscape area on the riverbanks.


Riverbanks

The romantic and leisure landscape of the riverbanks has evolved in a distinctive section of the gorge. Its extents are defined on the outer riverbank by South Street, the edge of the gorge and subsequent developments. It is a distinctive and inclusive area containing the original defensive areas of river, functional setting, archaeological remains and the evolved landscape and gardens separating the Peninsula from the city.

A4.5.2. Materials and Substance

The stone construction of the buildings of the Cathedral and Castle is also found in the wall remains defining the outer edge of the built area of the Peninsula on the riverbank. Within this the buildings have evolved through domestic to educational use maintaining the domestic scale of the North and South Baileys. Their harmonious assemblage is based on render, brick and the stone frontages of the Cathedral outbuildings. The walks of the Cathedral and gardens of the domestic buildings formed around the Castle Walls and merged into the landscaped areas of the gorge.

A4.5.3. Use and Function

The use of the Peninsula grew from the safe site it offered for the church containing St Cuthbert's remains and subsequent fortification by the Normans. Its defensive function expanded and the mostly level plateau was used to house clergy, administration and garrison. The river use evolved into functional support through the Mills and their weirs. Post defensive use grew outside of the walls for walks then gardens. Access was formed to the south by a relocated bridge (Prebends' Bridge). The areas both sides of the gorge were used as landscape setting and walks often based on earlier stone quarries supplying material to the expanding Peninsula buildings. This evolution is still to be seen within the river gorge area. The use of buildings on the Peninsula is now divided between the Cathedral, Chorister School and the University and its Colleges.

A4.5.4. Location and Setting

The values of the WHS and its attributes stem from its location on the Peninsula and surrounding gorge supported by its inner and outer settings. The current severance of the defensive area by the WHS boundary does not properly reflect the attributes that are based on location.

A4.5.5. Spirit and Feeling

The paths and bridges within the riverbanks area provide entry into a unique and distinctive landscape that intimately connects with previous historic use and with the various buildings and structures of the WHS. They provide a calm and reflective environment that supports the spiritual role of the Cathedral and enables the visitor to access the spirit of the past without the disruption of the present.

The importance of the Cathedral's role as a place of pilgrimage and its impact on pilgrims as they neared the end of their journey is still to be felt as an experience in an expanded area for the WHS, the historic city and its inner setting.

The dual dominance of castle for defence and Cathedral is emphasised by the river and Peninsula location. It is still to be experienced from their approaches through the City and access by and across the River Wear.

A4.5.6. Wholeness

It has been a consistent strand of commentary in reports on the WHS that the boundary to the WHS does not capture the site's essential entirety. Expansion to include Palace Green usefully united key elements of Castle and Cathedral but the site boundary cuts through otherwise recognisable features that provide essential support to the attributes of the WHS and the OUV. The proposed expansion area is clearly defined physically by the river on the gorge side with its landscaped areas. This reflects the actual defensive extents of the site and the area of greatest historic integrity. Functionally, the character of this area breaks at the two historic bridges – Framwellgate and Elvet.

Topographically the gorge edge of the outer riverbank is well defined through landscape use, reinforced by ownership boundaries. The site of the demolished North Gate forms the closure point on Saddler Street and nearest definition for this area is now formed by Drury Lane as it drops to the River. This encloses key rear garden areas forming the inner riverbank defences leaving only one smaller garden area outside of the suggested new boundary. There was no built definition of the extents of the Peninsula defences crossing the river but the historic bridges offer recognisable and appropriate linkage for a new boundary. The Framwellgate Bridge boundary is determined by the bridge extents and forms a closure to the landscape character area defined in relation to the Peninsula. Elvet Bridge similarly is a point of change from a more urban section into a landscape fringed section of river. The boundaries for Elvet Bridge reflect its historic extent and dry arches. The approach taken minimises the additional properties and ownerships that would be drawn into the extended WHS area. Out of necessity some additional properties are included on Saddler Street and on Elvet Bridge, there being no definition that can reflect the site wholeness and avoid all additional ownerships.

The evolving spiritual, secular and now educational functions have been embraced in the recognition of Durham as a WHS. The riverbanks mirror that evolution and contain assets that reflect the attributes that embody the OUV. The suggestion is to reunite this discrete, authentic and identifiable area with the WHS. This will set the defences and immediate historic hinterland in their context and allow full recognition of the WHS in its own landscape. All the necessary attributes would then be drawn into a new WHS boundary properly representing the totality of the site.

A4.5.7. Intactness

The river remains locked in its post Ice Age bed, held in place by the rocks it incised through. The cliff at St Oswald's is a remnant of its original form. The riverbank areas have been clear of built development since the Cathedral and Castle were created when the last natural tree cover was either removed or the earlier practice of removal for defences continued. The quarrying of the inner and, later, the outer riverbanks developed with the building of the Cathedral and Castle and continued with maintenance of the Cathedral and its estate. The underlying landscape structure created remains intact, although superficially altered by its post-defensive use. It provides the structure framing the river which is ponded by the two historic weirs to form a constant stretch of water throughout the year and which is essential to the current visual setting of the Castle and Cathedral.

As the defensive function of the walls and treeless slopes decreased, the 17th/18th century evolution of the area outside the wall into walks, terraces and gardens began. The original course of the walls remains visible in rebuilt and reused sections containing earlier remnants and is evident in below-ground archaeology at Saddler St. at the site of the Great North Gate. The walks remain, while the garden topography, terraces and steps are affected by surface deterioration, tree growth and changing management.

Created by quarrying, landscaping and now by the regenerating tree cover; the riverbanks have remained as open space within an urban context for nearly 1000 years. The scenic value of the Cathedral and Castle now relies on this area. The survival of a continuous rich habitat so close into the city and set against the Cathedral and Castle it is a valuable ecological resource and warrants further study. As an example, the Cathedral has been shown for centuries to be an important roost for bats at various stages of their development which it is presumed is a consequence of available roost spaces and the rich river and woodland habitat supporting their food sources⁴.

The Lighting and Darkness Strategy⁵ for the City recognised the nightime role of this area and need to preserve the unlit night foreground to the Castle and Cathedral. This strategy allows the lit buildings to reinforce their dominance over the city and beyond.

A4.6. Threats and Risks

A4.6.1. Environmental

There is potential within the current and expanded WHS for threats due to changing climate and from unresolved vegetation management. Minor land slips are a known threat to the riverbanks, there having been slippages at St Cuthbert's Well and close to St Oswald's churchyard. Increasing intensity and frequency of severe weather events can increase the potential for such slippages or tree toppling, localised flooding or run off affecting paths and drainage systems. Flash flooding increasing the river level and rate of flow could prejudice the structure of the weirs, Prebends' and other bridges if exceptionally severe.

The role of open spaces in supporting environmental sustainability makes them valuable in the WHS. Lack of maintenance can reduce their value for bio-diversity and impact upon garden or other structures.

There is scope for beneficial use and management of the weir structures. However, the cumulative visual impact of alternative energy systems, otherwise considered beneficial, may be detrimental to the historic areas in the WHS. For example, newer forms of water-based energy production, such as the Archimedes Screw at Freemans Reach, may be possible but even these could prove to be a threat to the character of the area.

A4.6.2. Development

Topography has provided protection against encroaching built development and remains a potent influence on the WHS and its appearance.

Changes to the riverside boathouses and mill buildings have the potential for changing the current views. Deterioration, expansion or replacement of the riverside boathouses have the potential to impact on the setting of the WHS.

There is potential within the current and expanded WHS for cumulative deterioration of quality and for some loss of authenticity through minor developments, particularly in rear areas away from key streets and spaces.

A4.6.3. Managerial

Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) now exist for much of the inscribed area and most of the riverbanks area, a significant proportion of the inner and outer riverbanks management is covered by the Cathedral Woodlands project.

There are no significant threats, although immediate upkeep of a few vulnerable sections of walls is a concern. Also, increasingly in the future, the riverbanks gardens, weirs and mill buildings especially on the east side of the Peninsula will begin to require more urgent action. The condition of Prebends' Bridge continues to cause concern.

The unplanned and unmaintained areas of trees outside of the Cathedral Woodlands project present risk through deterioration and obscuration of historic assets. The need for management reduces their reliability and value as mitigation for development proposals.

A4.6.4. Protection and Management

Much of the proposed expansion area lies within the ownership of the University, its independent Colleges and the Cathedral. The river cliff at St Oswald's is owned by the Diocese of Durham and a small area fringing the river by the bridges is within private ownership. The key historic bridges are held by the County Council leaving several private buildings on Elvet and Framwellgate Bridges and Saddler St that could be impacted by a final decision on the WHS boundary. Prebends' Bridge and its approaches are owned by the Cathedral.

Landowner management has been both proactive and reactive, generally ensuring both WHS and the proposed expansion area are cared for. More recognition of significance and risk through proactive planning remains possible for sections of the riverbanks and its historic assets.

A.4.7. Boundary Change

The recommendation is that the boundary of the WHS is increased to include all the Peninsula and its original defensive area, the river and its outer bank as defined by modern boundaries as open space or landscaped areas.

This is justified as follows:

- The current extents of the WHS are recognised through a range of reviews as not properly encompassing all the attributes and assets that convey the site's OUV.
- The revised management plan 2017 defines the attributes that support the OUV and these offer justification for boundary definition.
- The significance of the Castle Walls and Riverbanks has been established in Conservation Management reports.
- The role of the whole gorge including the river and outer bank in providing defensive location, dominant site, visual drama and romantic setting for the Cathedral and Castle is now more fully understood.
- The outer bank boundary can be defined through significant crossing points (the two historic bridges and modern boundaries that encapsulate the landscape area of the banks.
- The definition can be made minimising the inclusion of additional ownerships and partners and by using current principal landowner's ownerships.
- Protection will be offered by increasing the understanding of the significance of the site and its defensive area.

Plan B-Recommended WHS Expansion Area defined through boundary review and linkage of



Quarryheads Lane 8 Pimlico 9 South Street Banks 10 South Street Flats 11 Framwelgate Bridge 12 Drury Lane & North Gate 5 to WHS C Crown Copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey LArt

Existing WHS boundary

Suggested extension

A4.8. Buffer Zone

A buffer zone needs to be capable of clear physical definition and should demonstrate that it provides necessary additional protection to that offered by planning policy. It also requires UNESCO ratification and the backing of the County Council for the introduction of the new planning policy. UNESCO criteria include not only visual impact but also the cultural, social and economic context and management approaches. Guidance indicates that buffer zones are normally in the immediate rather than the extended context and environment of the site.

Extension of the WHS to include the riverbanks, the area most closely related to the WHS will afford appropriate protection. In Durham, it is difficult to identify an additional area of sufficiently similar characteristics to define a buffer zone. Definition of a buffer zone by only visual relationship would result in the inclusion of an area approximately equating to the 'inner bowl'. However, this would be a very varied and extensive area and it would be difficult to universally apply additional policies designed to protect the WHS. An alternative approach of identifying its setting and views and increasing understanding of their significance is preferred. This is based upon the acceptance of increased boundaries for the WHS encompassing all its key assets.

Because of the characteristics of Durham and the WHS, it is not considered that a buffer zone is the best way to ensure the protection that is needed. Instead, planning policy and practice can provide adequate protection, aided by clarification of the setting of the WHS. Describing an inner setting which includes significant immediate and distant views (See Section 4.9. below), will help to identify its significance and increase understanding of the relationship of the WHS to the city. This will also need to be supported by increased understanding of the wider setting and its role in relationship to the WHS.





A4.9. Inner Setting

Durham is fortunate in that a significant part of its historic extents can be seen and experienced in their landscape setting. Many assets remain in the historic area as broadly defined by the City extents in 1850's mapping. Subsequent development has been outside on the more level areas lying beyond the steep slopes in which the historic area nestles. It is the townscape of this area and its landscape surrounds that form the inner setting to the WHS. It is why the City appears visually to be so small in relation to the WHS and is an important aspect of the visual and perceptual dominance of the WHS. It is where the views and approaches to the WHS are most concentrated. The component parts of that setting and their relevance to the WHS are identified in the following sections.

A4.9.1. Defining the Inner Setting

The appraisal area is based on field survey and refinement using topographical detail for ridgelines and visibility of the WHS. It extends beyond the City Centre Conservation area to include ridge tops where extensive or high development could degrade green skyline definition. The area shown is capable of being defined due to its clear topographical form. It contains the historic City core and offers the first level of the skyline in cross views of the WHS and in views from it. Many of the historically depicted views are from within this area.

Plan C shows the definition of a zone that corresponds to the inner bowl based on topography. It contains the more significant views to the WHS buildings and immediate setting. In defining this zone the other sequential approaches and more distant views are not to be considered of less value. The zone offers a means to understand the Durham WHS setting and to indicate the need for attention to view assessment and avoidance of negative impact on the WHS OUV as part of any development proposals.

Plan C





Inner setting of the World Heritage Site



The inner setting ranges from close glimpsed views in the City to those where the townscape can be seen against the WHS and in its landscape setting. The area is expansive, tracking the ridge tops as they run north and south along the River Wear. The relative subordination of the City's buildings and appreciation of the rural nature of the enclosing landscape are key defining features of the inner setting.

These qualities reinforce the site's outstanding universal value and remain important in appreciating the WHS and require careful consideration when development is proposed.



A4.9.2. The Historic City

Outside of the defensive area of the Peninsula the historic street patterns and, to a significant extent, the building plots of the city centre remain the foundation of the current urban grain within the central core of the city. Within this area the built form relating most closely to the WHS has predominantly remained traditional, consisting of structures with pitched roofs and fragmented heights following the topography of the city in generally harmonious materials. This has created a unique and appropriate townscape setting for the WHS and its key buildings. Especially important is the roofscape that it offers in views to and from the WHS. Outside of this area, while there are historic assets, the built form moves away from the traditional. Buildings sit alongside open spaces and the riverside, both of which offer historic views into the WHS and are relatively unaltered except by extensive 20th century tree growth. The later externalised and separated growth of Durham has not destroyed the valuable relationship between the townscape setting created by the historic city and the massive and dominating Cathedral, Castle and associated buildings.

Where the historic influence in the built form is most concentrated along the approaches to the WHS they offer the most recognisable relationship to the WHS, providing a sequence of views and experiences moving towards the Cathedral and Castle. In the more visible sections, particularly at the foot of the Castle, they offer an appropriate backdrop that both looks and feels like an historic townscape. Despite evolution across an extended period, the areas of fragmented urban grain with the greatest historic relationship provide an authentic taste of the way the City was and its domination by the Castle and Cathedral. This contrast offers the most immediate experience of the visual drama of the Castle and Cathedral outside the area suggested for inclusion in an expanded WHS.

The topography of the city blocks views from and to the WHS in some historic sections of the city. If visual impact is the sole factor for assessment of the inner setting, not all these areas would be drawn into it. However, other points of relationship, including their function as historic approaches, provide other close cultural ties with the WHS.

Of particular importance is the Wear Valley as it enters the City from the North and East. This now provides the separation of the City from its 20th century housing estates and defines the boundary of the historic city core. This is important in reducing the apparent extent and scale of the built area and emphasising the scale and dominance of the WHS buildings.

Overall the inner city remains a small area contained by the landscape ridges and open spaces. The spatial formation is reasonably intact. The perceivable extents are still to be found in the break between built area, landscape surrounds and the expanded city beyond the core. The later 19th and 20th century expansions have not significantly degraded the form of the inner city. The distinction between the historic core with its finer historic grain and the 20th century development is substantially definable. While the historic distinction may be clear, the A690 breaks through the city severing part of the approach particularly down from Gilesgate and along Claypath. Spatially there is substantial evidence for a defined area. The quality of the inner core has been retained as it has evolved organically over time and it now forms an area of substantial integrity.

A4.9.3. Views

Significant views can be grouped and include:

- I. Pilgrimage and historic approaches
- II. Hills and open spaces
- III. Defence
- IV. Buildings and structures

I. Pilgrimage and Historic Approaches

The inner setting area contains three key historic points of access to and from the historic city – down through Claypath and over the Elvet and Framwellgate Bridges. They also enter the historic City at deep cut approaches (called peths) on the steep hillsides of the ridges surrounding the City. The pilgrims' approach into the city is partly speculative but can be tied to the roads approaching these entry points. The shrines of St Cuthbert and St Bede remain important despite the historic dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII. The Cathedral remains a centre for pilgrimage, offering continuity of use and religious significance.

Claypath

Routes eastwards from the coast ran down through Gilesgate and directly into the Market Place along Claypath. The original continuity of this route is disrupted by A690 and its cross city cutting and bridges. Buildings obscure sight of the WHS on some sections but a sequence of views can still be experienced. It is particularly important as it offers almost continuous built frontage from the Baileys, through the Market Place and up the ridge. The latter makes its buildings prominent, especially as roofscapes and in hillside views leading to the WHS.

Elvet

Routes from the south cut through Shincliffe Peth at the ridge that terminates at Maiden Castle (an Iron Age Hill Fort) and then ran through Hallgarth St. In addition, the potentially earlier route south along South St that by-passes the river crossings offers high quality views as it runs around the foot of the hills to Shincliffe Peth.

Framwellgate

Roads from the north and west approach Framwellgate Bridge through Framwellgate Peth and Crossgate Peth. An impressive sequence of views is experienced from Allergate and down Crossgate. Views from Framwellgate Peth into the city remain but have been altered by the extent of 19th and 20th century development.

Fig. A4.12. Extract, Map of Durham, J. Speed, 1611





Fig. A4.13. View from Maiden Castle—Courtesy of Michael Sadgrove

II. Hills and Open Spaces

These are very significant in the relationship to the historic city core and in the City's relationship to the WHS. The two key river spaces, the Racecourse (known by its former use) and the Sands, are now configured for sports/open space use having evolved from their possible water meadow/riverside field origins. The Racecourse offers a range of views approaching the city and importantly includes foreground buildings to the WHS showing it in context. The Sands area and Kepier offer some Cathedral tower views and on the opposite bank the riverside also provided the historic route out to Finchale Abbey. It forms part of the important view corridor from Frankland Lane towards the WHS.

The slopes of the inner ridges offer a range of views with landscape to the foreground, continuing the original relationship between the small historic City and WHS. They have been important for artists and photographers who depict the WHS and continue to offer excellent views. Key viewpoints are at Whinney Hill, Mountjoy, Observatory Hill and Crook Hall. Trees obscure the view at Flass Vale; where there were 19th century views across the city to the WHS, and also mostly do so at Maiden Castle.

III. Defence

Manifestations of power and the defensive nature of the WHS are clearly visible when viewing the site. These include the defensive walls of the Castle; the Castle's gatehouse and the natural defences of the Peninsula's steep river banks. The riverbanks offer views out and towards the WHS.

IV. Buildings and Structures

19th and 20th century development has created a range of viewpoints of the WHS. The 19th century station, its approaches and the viaduct offer panoramas across the city for train passengers and visitors. This is combined with the 19th century creation of North Road that opened direct vistas to the Castle. The 19th century Baths Bridge and now the more recent bridges - the A690, Pennyferry and Kingsgate footbridges, the Milburngate and Elvet road bridges, all offer views to the WHS. The stairwell to the Prince Bishops retail centre, and the new proposals for the Gates centre also offer new viewpoints to the WHS.

The 19th century development of Wharton Park created the Battery, specifically placed for WHS views and which echoes the style of the Castle Keep. A recent hilltop sculpture in the Park, The Way, was sited to frame a view of the Cathedral.

Many buildings offer views to the WHS particularly from their upper stories, amongst the more prominent are the University buildings on the hillsides which have created new vantage points. Milburngate House, in its current form prior to redevelopment, has also generated a range of city wide/WHS views particularly its central tower building.



A4.9.4. Threats to the Inner Setting

In a review of current protection, the nature of threat and resultant risks of harm to the WHS needs to be identified.

Types of threats identified are:

- The expansion of development onto existing historic open spaces or landscape zones impacting on the WHS or its approaches and the underestimation the heritage significance of the landscape areas fringing the city core.
- New buildings of sufficient mass or height to impinge on views to and from or including the site.
- Major skyline developments or major developments impinging on the backdrop to the WHS
- Quality of development impacting on the integrity of views from, and of the site. Cumulative minor changes in historic areas close to WHS degrading the quality of approaches and townscape relationship to the WHS.
- Unmanaged tree areas being drawn into use as landscape mitigation against harm to the WHS by development without ensuring adequate analysis and continuing care.
- New developments can impact on the dark setting of the WHS

Any resultant risks from these threats are of negative visual impact although quality also relates to other considerations of integrity. Current or anticipated examples of potential significant risks are:

- Redevelopment of Milburngate House and riverside downstream towards the sewage works.
- Remodelling and redevelopment of the former Gates Shopping Centre near the WHS
- Potential development at Elvet including the former Elvet swimming pool site
- Potential development or change at the Hild and Bede College site
- Cumulative development of the North Road Bus Station, adjacent sites and former County Hospital with potential for impact or views to/from WHS
- Redevelopment of the Lower Claypath site
- Potential development around Crook Hall
- Cumulative minor changes within the city historic areas and open spaces can reduce the quality the WHS and its approaches.

If economic conditions improve, there could be risks to the WHS associated with changes at Prince Bishops' retail centre or the redevelopment of individual retail units.

Risks in this context can also arise because the nature of development is not yet known or proposals are yet to be produced from initial masterplans. Risk is incrementally reduced as the development plans are progressed and the impact on the WHS understood and assessed. The potential developments suggested as risks remain as such until they can be proven to have minimal negative effect.

Adequate assessment of the nature, degree and imminence of any threat to the character and quality of the WHS and of the need to protect the WHS from resulting adverse change are significant factors in underpinning the decisions about the inner setting. The setting contains character areas of historical origin and more contemporary development.

Protection against adverse development is provided by national and local planning policies, including the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) and the saved policies of the City of Durham Local Plan. The emerging County Durham Plan (CDP) is not available at the time of publication of the revised management plan and its references to the WHS are unknown, however, the previous superseded version offered support for the WHS management plan. The City's community generated Neighbourhood Plan should also offer support when it is produced. The impact on the WHS is a significant consideration when assessing proposals for development, especially within the city-wide Conservation Area. This has been a factor in the proposal to define an inner setting rather than a buffer zone, not least because of the risk of undervaluing the significance of the inner setting and overestimating the ability of unmanaged woodland and tree areas to mitigate the impact of development. At present, there is no policy requirement to use a method or standard for assessing the impact of development, including the less tangible relationships and positive characteristics of an area. There is no standardisation of impact grading or the method of visual and photographic analysis to assist in this assessment. The NPPF Planning Practice Guidance suggests that the approach identified in use of the ICOMOS Heritage Impact Assessment Guidelines is helpful and this to be recommended. Failure to use this impact system in the guidelines can result in underestimating the impact on the WHS. UNESCO⁶ is concerned that state parties should ensure the use of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) when new developments or major works are proposed within WHSs and/or their buffer zones and the references to HIAs are specifically covered by the ICOMOS guidelines.

Positive conservation and protection of the setting should be possible through statutory mechanisms supported by recognition of WHS and setting significance. As a minimum, in addition to current policy, reference should be made to information which adds clarity and focuses attention on important views and the totality of the historic city in relation to the WHS and its setting. At present the nature and quality of the setting is often analysed in development submissions by considering visual impact but less attention is given to its positive enhancement qualities. Describing harm to key views and the open spaces supporting views will help in appreciating these elements and assessing and avoiding negative impact on the WHS through development proposals.



A4.9.5. Character and Change

As part of the review of the WHS and its setting and potential for expansion and setting description, various key factors have been identified. They are principally concerned with the character of the WHS and Peninsula but also have relevance to the landscape setting and townscape that relates to the WHS. The following character elements provide potential reference points for change and the assessment of proposals that will lead to positive proposals or new development within the WHS and its setting:

I. Landscape Character

The immediate landscape setting of the World Heritage Site, comprising Durham Peninsula and the River Wear and its banks is integral to the value of the World Heritage Site and is recommended for inclusion in an expanded WHS. It needs to be conserved and maintained and woodland management is considered a key factor in the conservation of this landscape setting. The Peninsula on which the World Heritage Site buildings are sited is set within a 'bowl' approximately 2 miles across. The upper slopes of the bowl present a largely rural and wooded backdrop to the views of the WHS. The rim of the bowl is at such a height that in most distant views from beyond it towards Durham only the upper part of the central Cathedral tower is seen. It is a marker for the World Heritage Site in the landscape.

Regard should be had to the heights of all proposed buildings within the historic city environs to ensure no harm is done to the WHS by development that damages the special relationship between the Cathedral and Castle and the overall cityscape and landscape. The Cathedral and Castle need to continue to dominate the cityscape and landscape to avoid harm to the site's OUV. For these purposes, the Castle mound should be considered as an integral part of the Castle.

New development should not compromise key views to, from, and including the World Heritage Site. This also includes long distance views (see Section 4.10, Wider Setting). All views should be respected, with particular attention to views from major roads into the city, and public footpaths from which views of the World Heritage Site can be enjoyed. The green space pene-trating the and defining the historic city is important in views to, from and across the WHS.



II. Townscape Character

The character of Durham World Heritage Site depends not only on the major features of the Cathedral and Castle but also on the way in which the surrounding streets and individual buildings collectively create a harmonious urban ensemble to support the site's OUV. New buildings and alterations to existing buildings should recognise and respect the essential characteristics of the existing cityscape to maintain this distinctive harmony.

New development in the World Heritage Site or its setting on the Peninsula will need to respect and relate to the simple, robust shapes, restricted materials palette and ratio of wall to openings of the traditional buildings and be of high quality to assimilate into the WHS and to enhance to the World Heritage Site and its setting.

Buildings of a greater mass and density than the traditional vernacular architecture of the immediate vicinity of the Cathedral and Castle are unlikely to be compatible with the historic urban townscape of the World Heritage Site. Large scale development that competes visually with the centrepiece of the Cathedral and Castle is likely to be out of character with the historic, smallscale pattern of the rest of the city. Where substantial development can be justified as essential to sustainability, breaking it into smaller well-mannered elements may offer opportunities for assimilation into the townscape. The historic urban fabric in the area surrounding any proposed new building provides the general reference for what is an appropriate scale and size and thus what is can be considered to have negative impact in the context of the World Heritage Site.

Where streets in the setting of the WHS are visually, historically and architecturally homogenous, even greater sensitivity is required to ensure that new development does not detract from the strong traditional character. Areas with a high concentration of listed buildings also require a more sensitive approach to ensure that new development does not compromise their integrity and contributes to their setting.

A particular feature of the city centre is the continuity of the buildings running along the Peninsula and continued in the spur along Claypath; this is a feature that could be considered of importance, potentially nationally. The historic profile of buildings and ridge should be maintained to ensure continuity through Saddler Street, The Market Place and Claypath to link onto the WHS and South North Baileys

Because the WHS relies on the surrounding harmonious urban ensemble for its setting, new buildings and alterations to existing buildings should recognise and enhance the harmony of the townscape.

III. Street Character

Durham City centre's status as a conservation area means that the historic building stock has generally been identified as being of special interest and all new development should conserve or enhance its value. Within the WHS and Peninsula new buildings should respond favourably to their *immediate* context, and not just to the architectural traditions of Durham. Proper consideration of external areas and the spaces between buildings is essential, as is the relationship between the edge of a building and the public realm.

The character of a street depends on individual buildings, their architectural style, size, height and roofline, typology, massing and form, finishing materials, the proportions and size of doors and windows, architectural details, relationship with neighbouring buildings, and with the public realm, including the street width. New buildings should respect the size/height of neighbouring buildings, as well as the building/façade line and will need to respond to the urban character of their environment. Stronghorizontally-proportioned windows, as an example, are normally inappropriate in the context of the World Heritage Site. This does not mean that a pastiche of a historic building is automatically better than an unashamedly modern building; some of the least successful modern buildings in Durham are those which have tried unsuccessfully to copy the traditional building stock. Traditional approaches to gables, stepping facades to accommodate changes in street level, and other architectural details characteristic of historic buildings in Durham should be considered in new development. Buildings with simple traditional roofs and avoiding long continuous ridges or eave lines or the use of reflective surfaces, such as glass, as a roofing material are more likely to be assimilated. The relative proportions of architectural elements (of doors, windows and height of each floor with respect to total building height) are often the determining factor in whether a new building fits in with its setting.

IV. Key Characteristics

The characteristics of the existing historic streets and areas providing the context for new development should be assessed and respected and enhanced, taking the following into account:

•	Building Size/Building Line
•	Architectural Style
•	Architectural Details/Proportions
•	Building Materials
•	External areas and spaces between buildings
•	Edge of building and the public realm

V. Street Furniture

The harmonious urban ensemble of the Durham World Heritage Site can further be reinforced and supported through a planned and sensitive approach to the introduction and renewal of street furniture throughout the site, considering the essential characteristics of the WHS.

Historic street furniture is a feature of the Durham WHS and enriches the streetscape. When planning works to the public realm, care should be taken to ensure that historic objects are not harmed. The legacy of unplanned interventions, leading to uncoordinated street furniture and clutter should be addressed as part of any new planned interventions.

Where new additions/changes to existing street furniture are planned, the aesthetic qualities of the site and existing street furniture should be considered. The cumulative effect of minor interventions should be considered when any new additions to the street

VI. Lighting

New buildings can have an impact on the night-time setting for the WHS buildings both lit and unlit. External lighting of buildings would have the greatest impact but inadequate assessment of lighting can allow undue impact from light escape from openings. Public lighting levels within the WHS are low and many paths are unlit, adding new lighting can have a substantial and negative impact by intrusion and design. New developments and proposals should be assessed carefully for negative impact on the WHS.



A4.10. Wider Setting

The UNESCO World Heritage Resource Manual, Preparing World Heritage Nominations (Second Edition, 2011) usefully summarises the role of the wider setting;

Pg. 85-86, Wider setting (Particular relevance is highlighted in bold)

'In addition to the property and its buffer zone, it can be very important, to consider a further area outside of these – the wider setting for the property. For some properties, the wider setting is an area that may be important for the visual characteristics or attributes of the property. As noted above, the wider setting might also play an essential role in protecting the authenticity and integrity of the property. Examples of development or changes within the wider setting which can adversely impact on the potential Outstanding Universal Value of a property include visually prominent items such as tall buildings or windfarms. These might be a considerable distance from the property and yet could compromise the way the property is understood through the relationship to its setting. In some situations the wider setting and the buffer zone may be the same; in other cases the wider setting may be much larger. A rationale for the extent of the wider setting should be provided, noting this is not formally required by the Operational Guidelines'

As the guidance implies, the potential suite of protective zones is clear but they are uniquely determined by the individual property and its attributes. The 2006 WHS Management Plan identified the need for mapping both the inner and wider settings as 'inner' and 'outer' bowl. Significant views were considered but were neither defined nor recommended for further definition or protection.

The 'outer bowl' is in reality a succession of slopes, ridges and hills rather than a clearly defined topographical entity. These broadly align with dry valleys or rivers, principally the Wear and the outer setting provides an important backdrop to views of the WHS.

Plan D shows the zone and the degree to which the Cathedral Tower is visible up to 20km and without considering buildings or trees. It is based on topography and computer analysis.





Cathedral tower visible



Views cluster within a 10Km radius and up to approximately 12Km. Beyond that the view range is very extensive to the north, including northerly into Sunderland City Council's administrative area, and higher spurs to the west. In reproductions of photographs the WHS presence can appear minimal, the views above are up to approximately 6Km distance. However, when viewed in situ, the impact is greater and there is increased potential for negative impact from larger development, such as wind turbines on the horizon. In parts, away from the WHS and key hillsides, the landscape can be extensive and open in the view.

Plan D will need to be further refined based on further analysis but shows an initial approach to the definition of key view zones where views might need to be protected and identifies some of the significant highpoints with views. It also shows areas with potential views to the Cathedral Tower based on topography. Views from within approximately 2.5Km (see below) show more clearly how the WHS buildings dominate the City and the immediate landscape.



A4.10.1. Views and Outer Setting

It is considered that views of and including the WHS are the principal defining features underpinning describing both the inner and outer settings. If sight of the Cathedral central tower is set as the criterion for defining views, then the area from which it is visible is extensive, reaching a substantial distance from the WHS. The most important views are those that have historical relevance, including the first views of the Cathedral for pilgrims past and present, and those where both the city and the WHS are seen together in their rural setting. Harm to these views should be avoided based on clear assessment as part of development proposals or other change. The best views include those from the north, along the River Wear from the area around Frankland Farm, and from the south east between Shincliffe and Old Durham.

Views can be ranged along a corridor on an approach to the WHS or can be site-specific from a single point, sometimes at a considerable distance from the WHS. The significant view alignments include those identified below but this list is not comprehensive and there are other views that can be identified.

The actual alignments of the historic approaches to the WHS are, in some cases, conjectural or have been altered by recent highway or other developments. However, most approaches can be identified and include:

- The route to Finchale Abbey, giving views from the valley and from Frankland
- The coast road from Sunderland, which has views from West Rainton, and from Easington, with views at Sherburn Hill. The road from Houghton-le-Spring also has significant views
- Bent house Lane to Old Durham
- The road from the south, giving views from the Spennymoor area, near Coxhoe, at Bowburn and Shincliffe
- The roads from the west, with good views from Old Brandon and at Ushaw Moor and Bearpark
- The roads from the north west, at Sacriston and Witton Gilbert
- The road from Chester-Le-Street in the north is an historic approach but does not offer significant views of the WHS.

In addition, several footpaths and smaller roads offer views from higher ground. These are clustered along the scarp of the eastern limestone plateau and the coalfield spurs to the west of Durham

The best views and areas of potential highest impact if development is permitted, are contained within approximately 2.5 kilometre (the inner setting) of the WHS. Middle distance views at a 5 kilometre radius can also be significant with areas also acting as the backdrop in cross views. However, in some cases there is scope for impact up to 12 kilometres or more if large developments such as wind turbines are proposed. Some of these areas are outside Durham County Council's administrative boundaries.

A4.10.2. Skyline and Backdrop

Further towards the upper levels of the ridges defining the inner setting, the coalfield spurs and limestone escarpment start to form the secondary skyline behind the inner ridges. In doing this they also form the backdrop, principally rural or landscape, to the WHS. This is particularly significant in emphasizing the contained area of the historic city and supporting the attributes of the WHS setting and it's OUV. As landscape or open fields, they are valuable also in forming the containment and setting to the historic city.

From a distance, changes within the view corridors are unlikely to have a negative impact if they are of low height, not extensive or of low impact in their colouring or reflectivity. Gradual change in landscape or farming practice is also less likely to generate an adverse impact. Potential threats lie in larger scale loss of trees or from more major development. This could be through lower, more extensive built areas or more concentrated taller construction. If agricultural practices were to become more intensive, for instance, through the introduction of polytunnel cultivation, this could be a threat. The risks mostly lie in continuing pressure for windfarms that penetrate the skyline or from housing development that extends the historic area of the city or removes visible open areas. Among other developments, the recent expansion of wind turbines could have had a detrimental impact on the setting of the WHS without careful assessment. There is continued pressure for wind turbine development potential-ly on the skyline.

Risks would include, as an example, the extension of the visible built area of historic city core and the removal of open farmed land to the rear of Crook Hall. Currently, pressure for intensified farming practices does not appear to be a concern.

In the context of the WHS, the relative scale of wind turbines on the skyline is not the only impact. The introduction of even a small modern structure prominently in the view of historical areas of farmland or landscape can have an impact greater than anticipated. Distant views can be forgiving of development that does not force the viewer to contend with a 21st century structure in a landscape that has evolved organically over 1000 years or longer. However, a single wind turbine on the skyline can force a much more substantial section of horizon out of its historic relationship. This factor is not considered in standard environmental impact assessments. The same considerations apply to development using contemporary materials that produce high contrasts of colour or reflectivity.



A4.10.3 Describing and Assessing Impact on Setting

As indicated, it is difficult to define a coherent area as an outer setting. The concentration is on describing views through broad view corridors and skylines. Rather than define an outer setting, the prevention of harm to views should be a priority as each development proposal is assessed.

The assessment of impact on those views is through a combination of view analysis and judgment based on heritage assessment. Use of the ICOMOS guidelines on assessment is recommended to ensure the appropriate weighting for the significance of the WHS.

It may be possible to concentrate the assessment requirements to a zone between the inner setting and 12 km from the WHS but further work is needed on a setting report that uses computer aided analysis of WHS heights and visibility, cross checked in the field for impact. Areas outside County Durham may need to be discussed with neighbouring local planning authorities.



Appendix 4 Footnotes

- 1 UK, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Planning Practice Guidance <u>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment</u>
- 2. WHS Management Plan (2006), Chris Blandford Associates, Fig 2.5 Component areas of the WHS and its Immediate environs
- *3* Purcell Miller Tritton for Durham City Vision (2011), Heritage and Condition Survey of the Castle Walls on the Durham City Peninsula FINAL REPORT
- 4 See Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention WHC. 13/01 July 2013, Annex 4 - Nara meeting on Authenticity at its 18th session (Phuket, Thailand, 1994) (see document WHC-94/CONF.003/16) and UNESCO Operational Guidelines, 2013
- 5 Barrett Environmental, Cathedral and Castle Protected Species Surveys for Castle Walls Survey and Cathedral and Castle relighting project
- 6 City of Durham, Lighting and Darkness Strategy, Spiers and Major 2007
- 7 The 39th Session of the World Heritage Committee, Bonn, Germany, 28 June 2015

Appendix 5. Audience Development Plan



As part of the development phase of the current Management Plan, a working group produced the following overview towards a consolidated Audience Development Plan across the World Heritage Site. This will form the starting point for the Culture, Events and Programmes sub-committee in their action point to develop this plan.

A5.1. The Site and Its Audiences

Durham World Heritage Site has a particularly wide ranging and multifaceted set of audiences. This is because it is a site that has been in continuous use for over 1000 years by religious and learning communities and a destination for visitors, from pilgrims to tourists, for a similar period. This continued use is central to its designation and character as a World Heritage Site and also part of the site's vitality and popularity with visiting audiences of many kinds. It also makes audience development a potentially complex area of work for the Culture, Events and Programmes sub-committee.

A5.2. Appreciation/Understanding of the World Heritage Site

Durham's World Heritage Site consists of a world-renowned set of buildings that visually defines Durham City, the county of Durham and indeed, the North East of England and comprises the historic centre of the city. However, the associations of 'Durham' with Durham Cathedral (both as a building and an institution), of Durham Castle (as a building) and of Durham University still supersede the public's association of Durham as a World Heritage Site. That said, awareness of Durham's World Heritage Site status is growing: It features in Durham University congregation and matriculation speeches attended by thousands of students (and in the case of congregation, their families and friends as well), and is often referred to in literature related to the city. The World Heritage Site is mentioned in the 'About Durham University' page of the University website, (<u>http://www.dur.ac.uk/</u> <u>about/</u>) and features on the Cathedral's website (<u>https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk</u>).

A5.3. Resources Audit and Analysis

The Durham World Heritage Site Visitor Centre is the place where the staff and the resources that support the World Heritage Site are located. It is a space that is dedicated to and holds many of the new resources that explain and communicate Durham's World Heritage Site to visitors. In its first full year of operation the centre received just over 100,000 walk-in visitors (approximately 1/7th of the annual footfall in the Cathedral) and hosted an average of 12 evening gatherings per month. Visits to the centre follow the seasonal pattern of visitors to the city with a clear peak between June and October . The centre is already referenced in a wide range of partner communications as the information hub of the site, the place where visitors can orient themselves and plan their exploration of the site.

The World Heritage website (https://www.durhamworldheritagesite.com) is the main source of information for visitors of all kinds. Its nature means that it has the potential to reach out to people of all nationalities and with a very wide range of interests. In effect it can play a central role in developing knowledge and understanding among all target audiences. The number of unique visitors it receives monthly (14,500 in 2015) is a good measure of its reach. The site sets the tone and approach to interpretation of the World Heritage Site. In addition to this, many resources are held at the Cathedral and University and on their respective websites. These institutions work collaboratively to ensure maximum benefit for the various audiences.

A5.4. Audience Development

As a context for the audience development plan, the visitor economy is currently worth over £191 million to Durham City, attracting over 4.1 million visitors per annum and supports over 2,700 people. Current statistics show that c.720,000 of these visitors include Durham Cathedral in their visit and over 100,000 visit the WHS Visitor Centre each year. Visit County Durham's Durham City Destination Development Plan (http://www.visitcountydurham.org/dbimgs/durham-city-destination-development-plan.docx) includes the vision:

"For Durham City to be **the** cathedral city in England, known for its heritage and river experience with an enviable reputation for offering high quality festivals. Durham will convey a "perfect little city" by polishing the experience of its smaller attractions, animating the city centre and opening up the river to visitors. An upturn in the economy and excellent planning and promotion of site opportunities will deliver a high profile new visitor attraction in the city by 2020 and new hotels that will add choice and meet growing demand. That reputation will be enhanced by Lumiere, was reinforced by the Lindisfarne Gospels in 2013 and delivered by the Durham Brass and Book festivals and Durham Mysteries. Transforming the experience of the river peninsula will create a second hub for visitor activity that complements the cathedral and Palace Green. This investment will make a strong visible statement about the city's confidence in Durham's future as a visitor destination; an important positioning leading to inward investment in new attractions and hotels including a new national profile visitor attraction in the city centre"

Complementing this vision, the focus of the WHS audience development plan is to develop new audiences and better satisfy existing audiences who are not resident on the site but 'visit' it for a range of purposes. Although resident audiences are not the focus of the plan, it is hoped that with its emphasis on audiences in the broadest possible terms, it will also enhance their experience and understanding of the site.

This plan is designed principally to help Durham's World Heritage Site increase the number of people who know about, understand and appreciate its significance. This is an aim that is valid in its own right and is one of the requirements of UNESCO for inscribed cultural sites. However, it is also understood that audience development supports other strands of the WHS management plan including conservation, development and investment.

Audience development is concerned with both how many and what types of people are engaging with the site and the depth of



their knowledge and understanding of the site. The high profile and wide recognition of the site's component institutions and buildings means that many audiences will not be drawn to the site for its designated status. In many instances the audience will not know that they are engaging with a World Heritage Site. The number of people engaging with the site, virtually or actually, each year probably includes a majority who have no knowledge or just a vague idea that the site has World Heritage Status.

A5.5. Assumptions

The WHS Audience Development Plan is based on a set of assumptions which are kept under review;

- That audience development in this instance encompasses increased awareness of, understanding of and appreciation of Durham's World Heritage Site among new and existing audiences;
- That tourists, academics, educators, young people and the faith community are the main 'visiting' audiences that need to be addressed;
- That increasing visitor numbers and diversity is desirable;
- In common with other World Heritage Sites, it is not the designation itself that attracts people to visit but what the site actually encompasses;
- That World Heritage Status is one of three identities that relate to site. Durham Cathedral and Durham University are the other two and all three must coexist in balance;
- That dedicated resources, human and financial, to develop the World Heritage Site's audiences are unlikely to materialise and therefore delivery of this plan depends on the good will of the owning institutions and other relevant partners.

A5.6. Strengths and Challenges

The plan begins with a brief analysis of the strengths and challenges of the World Heritage Site under the headings:

- accessibility
- interpretation
- market research
- promotion
- education and outreach

These are practical areas of work that are fundamental to developing audiences for cultural sites. There are more that could be added but these five seem most appropriate to Durham at the current time. The Audience Development Plan will address how these strengths can be built upon and how challenges can be addressed. It will identify a set of opportunities and actions for all the partners to the site to consider.

Fig. A5.3. Castle on Castle Day (Malcom Tucker)



A5.7. Accessibility

Strengths

Challenges

- Dedicated information centre
- Dedicated website produced with multiple audiences in mind
- Pool of staff and volunteers
- Physical and visual cohesiveness of Cathedral, Castle, Palace Green and surrounding buildings
- Physical cohesiveness of the site bounded by the River Wear
- Good facilities for study and research
- Good disabled access at Cathedral and Palace Green Library

- Lack of or out of date signage
- Physical challenges, including situation on a hill, cobbled streets, woodland
- Staff and volunteers focused on their specific part of the site
- Hill top, river surrounded location you can see it but can you get to it
- Limited amount of information for general public
- Limited range of information for specific audiences eg languages
- Limited public access to parts of the site
- Challenges of landscape and some buildings for people with disabilities
- Cathedral Bus Times and frequencies
- Parking for Disabled People
- Traffic Congestion
- Poor/Dangerous state and damage by heavy vehicles of some pavements.

A5.8. Interpretation

Strer	ngths	Challenges
•	Regular evidence gathering since WHS visitor centre opened Strong market intelligence resource via Visit County Durham WHS and Cathedral website as a tool for information gathering and surveying Events and tours on WHS as opportunities to gather information from large audience numbers 700,000 visitors to the Cathedral annually from a wide range of audiences University and other partners' strengths in market re- search Strong interest in the WHS as a subject of academic study relating to perception, experience etc WHS-wide baseline research by Bowles Green Surveys or questionnaires in the Cathedral Church	 No market research plan Fragmented approach to information and data gathering across owners and partners No budget to deliver market research plan Lack of clarity over key audiences for the site Information and data gathering may not cover all potential audiences

A5.9. Market Research

Strer	ngths	Challenges	
• • •	Dedicated information centre Other outlets for interpretation e.g. Heritage Centre, Cathedral information desk, Palace Green Library en- trance etc. Pool of well trained and committed staff and experi- enced and committed volunteers Strong narrative relating to the site City narrative is based on the story of the WHS	 No WHS interpretation plan Interpretation provision is largely focused on the WHS Visitor Centre and Cathedral, rather than across the whole site Lack of clarity over purpose of WHS interpretation e.g. supporting Cathedral and University or attracting in its own right Multi-faceted nature of the site 	
•	Interpretation skills within the owning institutions Partner commitment to help the WHS reach new and larger audiences	 Lack of articulation of a single coherent narrative Multiple audiences – as complex as city World Heritage sites i.e. Edinburgh 	
•	Legacy of the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition New exhibition spaces at Palace Green Library and the Cathedral	 Lack of a coordinated, unified experience in terms of tours/groups etc. 	
•	The Cathedral is undertaking a significant range of sur-		

A5.10. Promotion

Open Treasure

veys-Volunteers, Visitors to the Cathedral and at

Strengths	Challenges
 National and international recognition for Durham Cathedral and Durham University National and international recognition relating to WHS cityscape Durham City established as a major events destination with the WHS at the heart of its offer Accolades for Durham Cathedral 'Britain's favourite building' and Durham University e.g. national ranking, world ranking, Russell Group University Alumni Strong narrative and clear heritage proposition with potential to be compelling and attractive Website as a marketing tool Multiplicity of partners to support promotion Skills and experience of staff in University and Cathedra Relationships with other World Heritage Sites Strong interest in the media in filming and recording in the WHS Good collaboration between partners 	 Three identities relating to the WHS resulting in complex messaging Complex partnership to coordinate to deliver clear messages Multi-faceted nature of the site Multiple audiences need different approaches No dedicated budget for marketing the WHS No dedicated staff for marketing the WHS Limited capacity of staff – dedicated to their institution not the whole site

A5.11. Education and Outreach

Strengths	Challenges
 Dedicated education and outreach staff at Durham versity and Durham Cathedral Good facilities in University estate and on Palace G with planned improved facilities in Cathedral as pa Open Treasure project Link between WHS and school curriculum Exhibition space at Palace Green Library Relationships with other World Heritage Sites Involvement of student groups in education and or reach Links with the Cathedral and the diocese and othe churches Significant expansion in outreach activities through Cathedral's HLF grant 	 tions rather than the WHS as a whole No education and outreach plan for the World Heritag Site Financial restrictions on schools' budgets for visits Continual national curriculum changes Lack of bus parking for school coaches and a long uphi walk for very small children. Capacity issues at the Cathedral and Castle

A5.12. Generic strengths/opportunities relating to Durham City that impact on the World Heritage Site

Some information in the analysis will necessarily relate to Durham City as a tourist destination because the two main components of the World Heritage Site (Cathedral and Castle) are so central to the city's visitor offer and because separate data sets for the site and the city do not always exist. The strengths, challenges and priorities for County Durham and Durham City are outlined in the Durham Tourism Management Plan: <u>http://www.visitcountydurham.org/dbimgs/The%20Durham%20Tourism%</u> <u>20Management%20Plan%202012-2016May6th2014.pdf</u> and the Durham City Destination Development Plan cited above.

Strengths

- Durham's increasing profile nationally including accolades in national press
- Durham city's membership (via Visit County Durham) of the national heritage cities group that contains other cities with World Heritage Sites
- 4m visitors a year to Durham City
- Advocates for Durham with a significant audience e.g Bill Bryson, Archbishop of Canterbury
- Strong tourism evidence base for Durham City
- The destination development plan for Durham City that puts the WHS at the heart of the visitor offer
- Durham's heritage is inseparable from the image of the city, even for people coming to do other things.

Opportunities

- The 2013 Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition provided an excellent opportunity to gather information from a wide range of audiences visiting the World Heritage Site
- The emergence of Auckland Castle as a partner in audience development work
- First World War commemorations draw local people DLI etc.

Considerations

- The long list of strengths provides a good foundation that can be used to grow audiences to Durham's World Heritage Site.
- There is a strong and large existing audience for Durham City, the Cathedral and the University to work with.
- Developing existing audiences and attracting new audiences can happen in parallel but will happen at different paces.
- An audience development plan for Durham's World Heritage Site must embrace development and promotion of its identity to be successful.

- The University and Cathedral already have strong identities in their own right and this means that the image and reputation of the World Heritage Site will grow more slowly over a longer time period than a World Heritage Site with a single clear identity base entirely on its World Heritage status.
- The development of a clear identity for the WHS will require some financial resource to deliver.
- A clear link between audience development and other areas of the World Heritage Site management plan must be articulated. It cannot exist in isolation and must demonstrate delivery against other priorities to attract resources.
- The WHS has limited human and financial resources in its own right and is mainly dependent on the resources of other bodies (including the University and Cathedral) to deliver its plan of action.
- Between the University, Cathedral and partner organisations there is considerable capacity and expertise in audience development that could be used to the benefit of the World Heritage Site.
- Many of the actions require little financial resource to deliver but will require partners to commit to leading and resourcing with staff time, the capacity for which is very limited.
- The existence of a central coordinating resource dedicated to the World Heritage Site is essential to make the most of opportunities presented by partners.

This Management Plan has a number of actions related to audience development that will better utilise existing assets and make them work harder. These principal assets are the WHS visitor centre and the WHS website. Harnessing partners' resources in the medium term will increase the reach of the audience development work 'in destination': in particular, the on-line and marketing resources and the venues where WHS interpretation can be located including the Palace Green Library, Cathedral Information Desk, Cathedral Shop and Restaurant, Heritage Centre, the Café on the Green, Palace Green Library, the Assembly Rooms and the Chorister School. The production of a comprehensive interpretation strategy will revise the communications approach and impact on all areas of audience development. Physical development, particularly the riverbanks project, any changes to access and usage at Durham Castle as well as the programming at Palace Green Library should then take note of the interpretation strategy at the planning and delivery stages. Longer term infrastructure development across the site will provide new resources and facilities for all audiences. It will encompass implementation of the physical aspects of the interpretation strategy such as signage and also any physical access improvements.



Appendix 6. Durham WHS – Overview of Intangible Heritage



Introduction

This section explores the range of Intangible Heritage resulting from research and discussion during the process of revising the WHS Management Plan. This was identified through key stakeholders and has been subject to further consultation alongside the Management Plan. They represent the agreed values forming the site's intangible Heriatge and will assist in further research, actions, and meeting challenges in understanding them.

In a time of global concern about cultural distinctiveness, the conservation of intangible heritage is increasingly important. To conserve intangible heritage is to conserve the vulnerable indicators of culture; the cultural stories through which our global diversity is transferred from generation to generation.

Durham WHS is rich in intangible historical values, which, though some are no longer practised, have not only moulded the physical form of the Site but are globally significant in their own right. These include the medieval role of the Cathedral as a Chartered Sanctuary; the medieval practice of pilgrimage and the concept of sainthood and cult. Christian worship, education and music, and the practice of traditional skills such as masonry and joinery in the conservation of the buildings remain a vital part of the heritage at Durham, and the WHS also remains an important social centre, providing a gathering space for local, national and international communities.

The intangible qualities of Durham WHS are as significant as the tangible in making it what it has been in the past and is today. This intangible heritage is to continue to be valued and held in trust by all who inhabit and have responsibility for the WHS, and will be actively conserved, enhanced and passed on to future generations.

A6.1. Key intangible values identified

- The importance of the Northern Saints, the presence of the two shrines, and the tradition of pilgrimage to Durham;
- The Site's origins and continued use as a place of Christian spirituality and sacredness, including not just the Cathedral, but other spaces such as the two Castle chapels and the Church of St Mary the Less;
- The tradition of community outreach, and the notion that Durham Cathedral has always been a place of welcome as expressed in the Rule of St Benedict;

- The site's historic associations with sanctuary, and the modern day role of the Cathedral as a place of spiritual refuge, reconciliation, and remembrance;
- The English Christian musical tradition of the site;
- The long tradition of education, and its manifestation in the existence of Durham University, the Chorister School, Durham School (formerly located within the WHS and now still within sight of it), and the educational outreach offered by Durham University and Durham Cathedral;
- The social traditions associated with the University and its colleges which are specifically linked to the site, its buildings, and their history, for example, congregation and matriculation, Castle formals;
- The civic functions of the Castle, and its role as a symbol of political power, for example use of the building by the monarch and the judiciary;
- The site's collections and their importance as records of the site's history, and its values across the ages;
- Skills and trades related to the history of the site, kept alive by the continued maintenance of its buildings, furnishings, and collections;
- The creative opportunities the site has always offered in terms of the commissioning and creation of new works of art, crafts, literature and music;
- The value of the site as a cornerstone of community identity;
- The site's tradition of innovation and the drive to excel;
- The meanings the site carries for people as a place of memory-making, for students, visitors, miners, the DLI, and others.

A6.2. Christian Spirituality and Sacredness

Durham owes its origin and identity to Christian worship and, above all else, the Cathedral is primarily a place of worship. However, it is also a major visitor attraction which still follows Benedict's instruction to welcome all visitors as though they are Christ. The creative tension between these two facets of the Cathedral's life can be summarised by saying that the Cathedral is a place of worship that welcomes visitors. Visitors comment positively on the atmosphere created by the on-going daily round of worship and, although very occasionally visitor access has to be restricted temporarily because of a major service or event, a place for private prayer is always maintained.

Christians have worshipped on the Cathedral site for over 1,000 years. Today's regular worshipping congregation is joined by visitors from around the world for over 1,300 regular services each year: at least three every day. Thousands of votive candles are lit and prayer requests left by people who pray at other times. In addition to the Cathedral's steady underpinning life of prayer and mission, it hosts approximately 150 special services each year ranging from quiet, reflective prayer to the more boisterous worship of the School Leavers' Services, as well as civic services and the Miners' Festival service.

Community Outreach

The Christian spirituality of the Cathedral includes reaching out to people who are in need, whether people who need immediate help with food or someone to talk to, being a collecting point for the Durham Foodbank, hosting events during Prisons' Week and student-led sleep-overs to raise awareness of the needs of homeless. Chaplains are on duty during the day for anyone who wants someone to talk to or pray with. Stories abound of how the atmosphere of prayer is tangible to many people, from a Communist Commissar during the Cold War who was found weeping in the Cathedral because 'this place has done something to me', to a visitor who, years later, still remembered feeling the centuries of prayer; two visitors from Nigeria spoke of how strongly they felt the presence of God in the Cathedral and a child, when asked what he would remember about his visit said 'being with Cuthbert', while another described the building as 'wrapping its arms around you.' The power of the space itself is significant – people are continually inspired simply by being in the building and being within such a very large space. Durham is the only large, historic cathedral in England which does not charge admission. This undoubtedly affects people's experience of being in the Cathedral, and the Cathedral Chapter wishes to avoid having to introduce an admission charge to the church.

To enable it to do this, other visitor facilities have been developed for which payment is made. This approach is an integral part of the commitment to maintain the atmosphere of prayer and welcome in the Cathedral which is an intrinsic part of the character of the World Heritage Site. It underlies the commitment of the communities who live and work in the WHS to the Christian gospel, pastoral care, hospitality and academic excellence which give the WHS its continuing and distinctive identity. There are other places of Christian worship within the WHS. The Chapel of St John's College (the Church of St Mary the Less), has been re-ordered internally and is used for worship by a number of Christian groups of different denominations, organ practice, choir rehearsals, concerts, performances, and as a teaching space for Cranmer Hall, an Anglican theological college associated with the University of Durham. The two chapels of Durham Castle, The Norman Chapel and the Tunstall Chapel, which were originally the Bishop's private chapels and date from the 11th and the 16th centuries respectively, are now the two chapels of University College, Durham, and are used on a regular basis for services and concerts.



The Northern Saints and Pilgrimage

The Cathedral is the burial place of St Cuthbert (d687), for whose shrine the Cathedral was built (unlike other churches where relics were interred in existing churches) and the Venerable Bede (d735), the greatest scholar of his day and the father of English learning, whose body was moved to the Cathedral from the monastery at Jarrow around 1020. St Oswald's head is buried with St Cuthbert.

Over the centuries, pilgrimage to the shrines of St Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede have been a defining feature of the history of the Cathedral, the City of Durham and the wider area, reaching its zenith in the 12th century. Although the shrines are now very simple tombs befitting the simplicity of Cuthbert and Bede's lifestyles, in the Middle Ages, Cuthbert's shrine, in particular, was a riot of colour and decoration and attracted large numbers of pilgrims to Durham at a time when pilgrimage was a competitive arena. It has been argued that Hugh de Puiset, Bishop of Durham from 1153-1195, embarked on several ambitious building projects in an attempt to revitalize the cult of St Cuthbert in the face of the rise of the cult of St Thomas Becket at Canterbury. There is a fine balance to be struck between encouraging tourism and destroying or commercialising the thing that people come to see. As the Cathedral is a place of pilgrimage and prayer, many visitors come seeking God and not just to see a historic building, however wonderful that is. Meeting that aspiration is central to the Cathedral's ministry to visitors. Throughout the centuries, pilgrimage has been an important social and economic stimulus and was the historic origin of tourism and this remains significant today, given the demise of mining and other industries which formed the economic base of the region.

Durham Cathedral remains a place of pilgrimage and pilgrims from around the world continue to be welcomed there. Other northern saints are commemorated in Durham and, in recent years, there has been a move to recognise female saints by dedicating altars to Hild and to Margaret, Queen of Scotland. Their altars, like those dedicated to other saints, are adorned with beautiful altar frontals and kneelers made by the Cathedral Broderers representing the story of the particular saints. The dedication in 2012 of St Cuthbert's banner, based on the description of the medieval banner, added to the creative beauty in honour of the faithful saints.

Sanctuary

A 12th century account of St Cuthbert placed sanctuary at the core of the monastic Cathedral. This was expressed through the role of prayer in troubled times and through the Cathedral's designation (until it was abolished by King James I in 1624) as a Chartered Sanctuary.

247 people sought sanctuary between 1464 and 1524 using a special doorknocker for claimants before they were taken to a railed off sanctuary area in the Cathedral, close to the monks' night stair.

Sanctuary today takes a different form. Many people come simply to be quiet in the Cathedral. Chaplains and Listeners are on duty daily for those seeking help and there is liaison with other local churches and agencies in the provision of food and emergency supplies. Members of the Cathedral community and University students are active in volunteering to support people in need.

Conflict and Reconciliation.

Conflict and reconciliation have been part of the history of the Cathedral and Castle, beginning with the community of St Cuthbert who brought Cuthbert's body to Dunelm because of conflict with the Vikings. Hild was Abbess of Whitby in 664 when the Council of Whitby addressed conflicting practices in the Saxon and Roman churches; she offers a model for the ministry of reconciliation today and in 1999 an altar in the Cathedral was dedicated to her.

Both the Cathedral and Castle were built at a time of tension between the indigenous people of the region and the new Norman conquerors. They acted as a visible expression of Norman power. Their skyline powerfully symbolises the unification of political, physical and military strength with the religious power of the church. Designed as a defensive complex, the WHS has experienced violent warfare several times during its history, including the recurring battles between the English and the Scots as well as conflicts within the ecclesial community and between the church and the monarch. The enforced closure of the monastery at the Reformation was followed, a century later, by the conflict between the Puritan and Laudian wings of the Church of England, before Oliver Cromwell terminated worship and turned the Cathedral into stables and a prison. A plaque in memory of the Scottish prisoners who died after becoming ill on the forced march to Durham was dedicated in 2011.

Today the Cathedral is a place of remembrance and reconciliation. The Durham Light Infantry (DLI) Chapel in the Cathedral was dedicated in 1923 as a place of remembrance, prayer and worship commemorating the thirty seven battalions of the DLI and, since 1968, the successor Light Infantry Regiment and, since 2007, the Third Battalion, the Rifles. The cross from the First World War battle of the Somme remains a focus for remembrance today, as do the DLI memorial garden and the other memorials including windows. The annual DLI and Battle of Britain services continue to play an important role in the life and identity of the area, helping to keep alive the memory of the DLI. Prayers peace and justice are offered weekly in the Cathedral, and the daily intercessions include prayers for places in the world where there is conflict and for those who work to build peace in the world.

In Durham Castle, in the Norman Chapel, the space is dedicated to those members of the Royal Air Force who were at Durham and who died in the Second World War. The RAF used the Chapel as an Observation Post and it was then that the beauty and spirituality of the space was once more recognised and supported the reconsecration of the Chapel. In the Tunstall Gallery, the organ, originally from the Cathedral, was rebuilt in 1925 as a memorial to students and staff who fell in the First World War.

A6.3. The Christian musical tradition of the World Heritage Site

Since St Augustine founded the country's first formal song school in Kent in 597 AD, music has been a central part of the English Christian tradition, especially in worship. Cathedrals are custodians of the tradition of English Church music which has developed its own unique national character, actively conserving the skills and sounds of the English Church Music tradition. Durham WHS is particularly well placed to develop and hand on this tradition to future generations, given the presence of the Cathedral and the University Music Departments within the WHS. The Cathedral's Father Willis organ is one of the finest organs in the north of England and the Cathedral possesses two other organs. Several composers of English Church Music and authors of hymns have lived or studied in Durham WHS, a tradition that continues in the WHS today.

The evolution of the musical tradition in Durham

Durham's monastic records comment on the presence of a Cantor in 1382, the absence in 1384 of clerks who had previously sung and that by 1416 boys were being instructed in singing. Since then, with the exception of the Commonwealth period, there has been an unbroken tradition of church music and of the education of the singing boys at Durham. Today, Durham Cathedral is recognised as one of the leading cathedrals in the country for its musical excellence and regularly broadcasts and makes recordings.

The choir is led by the Master of the Choristers and Organist, a position held by just 25 people since 1540. For centuries the choral foundation comprised Lay Clerks and Boy Choristers, the latter being educated at the Chorister School. In the 1960s Choral scholarships were introduced and now six Choral Scholars sing alongside the Lay Clerks and study at the University. On All Saints Day 2009, a second top line was created as girl choristers were admitted to the Cathedral Choir.

The University Music Department

The University Music Department offers taught courses in church music and this continued academic and skill-based underpinning of this living musical tradition of the WHS is vital. To that end, every encouragement will be given to ensure that church music continues to a part of the academic curriculum and, through academic timetabling, to enabling the availability of six University students who are appointed Cathedral Choral Scholars and one who is appointed Organ Scholar. A potential threat to this historical part of the WHS's tradition comes from the impact of higher tuition fees at Universities; the situation will be monitored lest this discourage suitable candidates from applying to the University and thus for a Choral or Organ Scholarship.

Music and the WHS

The WHS makes a significant contribution to the musical opportunities in the wider area, thus contributing to the well-being of the region. It hosts a wide variety of musical events which provide opportunities for amateur musicians of all ages to make music in wonderful surroundings, whether through College Chapel choirs, concerts or recitals. In addition to the Cathedral Choir, the Cathedral Consort of Singers (an adult choir of men and women) and Junior Consort of Singers (recent choristers), sing some services as do some College choirs. Durham Cathedral Young Singers and the Cathedral Music Outreach Programme enable children across the region to experience the thrill of singing in the Cathedral. A one thousand strong community choir was formed in 2012 to welcome the Lindisfarne Gospels to Durham.

There are smaller spaces within the existing and proposed WHS with good acoustics which are used for worship and concerts. In addition to the Cathedral and College Chapels, the Cathedral's Chapter House is also used occasionally for concerts and the University Music School provides teaching and performance space.

A6.4. Knowledge and Education

Durham peninsula has been a centre of learning for the past millennium. The monks of Lindisfarne were famed for their standard of scholarship and continued their tradition, expressed in their illuminated texts including the internationally-significant Lindisfarne Gospels, when they settled at Durham. The Benedictine monks who replaced the Community of St Cuthbert in 1083 were similarly renowned for their learning and for the provision of education for their novices and children associated with the monastery. Remains of the monastic scriptorium can be seen in the Cathedral Cloister and the Cathedral Library contains the largest monastic collection still in its original location in the British Isles. This provides the primary source material and historical documentation not just about the buildings but about the way they have been inhabited for nine centuries.

University Education

Education has always played a significant part in the life of the community living on the peninsula.

Trinity College at the University of Oxford, formerly called Durham College, was founded by the Durham Cathedral Priory in the 14th century. Monks from Durham travelled to Oxford to be educated there and returned to Durham to a life of scholarship and worship. In the seventeenth century, Oliver Cromwell intended to establish a new college at Durham and it was only his death that delayed its foundation until 1832 when the Dean and Chapter, with the Bishop of Durham, founded the University of Durham. The Bishop gave the Castle and the buildings on Palace Green to the University to be the founding college and the first

academic departments of the university. These continue to provide accommodation for students, and university departments located on the WHS include music, theology, history, classics, and English, historic library collections and the Institute of Advanced Studies.

Durham is one of only two universities in England that can offer students the opportunity to live and study in a WHS and their presence is a significant part of the character of the WHS. (Over 1000 students live in the WHS).

The location of the University within the WHS offers unique opportunities for a continued academic research and teaching focus on aspects of the World Heritage Site, drawing on the vast resources of primary source material held in the WHS. While this is perhaps most obvious in the work of the Theology Department which embodies the long association of the WHS with the study of theology and biblical studies, the Music Department has opportunities to continue the research, teaching and performance of Church music while the History, Archaeology, Chemistry, Physics, Museum Studies and Geography Depts. continue the research and study of the WHS itself and new opportunities are opening for some science departments to contribute to the study of the WHS.



The Chorister School and Durham School

Apart from the University, the Cathedral's Chorister School also occupies the World Heritage Site, and is Durham's oldest surviving educational establishment. The Chorister School was established sometime between 1390 and 1416 to educate the boys who sang in the Cathedral choir. The school remains on the Peninsula six hundred years after its foundation, educating some 200 boys and girls between the ages of 3 and 13 and is the only Cathedral choir school in the north of England to offer boarding facilities. The presence of the school retains the commitment to and ethos of the education of children within the context of the Cathedral, enables the Cathedral to maintain the choral tradition and provides a unique experience for all the children. In the 15th century, Bishop Langley built a school to teach grammar and plainsong on Palace Green and, in 1541, Henry VIII founded a school on Palace Green for non-choristers. Now known as Durham School, in 1844 it moved to its present site overlooking the peninsula and retains a strong Christian ethos and link with the Cathedral.

Education Outreach

The Cathedral and the University Education departments work with children promoting visits by school and other children's groups to the WHS that focus on providing access to both the built heritage and the cultural collections. They provide materials and opportunities that accord with changes in the government's Key Stage learning programmes and facilitating learning about the WHS. Cuts to schools' budgets for educational visits and an increased focus on the government's core values threaten these programmes which the partners will nevertheless continue to provide. Family activities are provided, especially during special events such as the Cathedral's Cuthbert-tide celebrations and the WHS weekend. At these and on other occasions, drama by student theatre groups brings history to life for residents and visitors and the WHS partners will support their contribution to the WHS.

A6.5. University Traditions

University traditions are very strongly linked to the site itself. The Cathedral hosts University matriculation and congregation ceremonies, the symbolic milestones of commencing and completing university life, which include processions across Palace Green, continuing a tradition of processions dating back to medieval times. College services, such as the special services around the tomb of the Venerable Bede on Hild-Bede College day, and Cathedral carol services held by various Durham University Colleges, are reminders of the strong link between the Cathedral and the community of scholars resident in Durham across the centuries. The strong bond between Durham University students and Durham itself means that Durham University alumni tend to retain a life-long connection to the WHS.

The Castle, at any one time, is home to a community of 800 students whose very university identity is shaped by a wealth of social rituals and traditions that have taken place in that building for almost two hundred years, often maintaining much older social traditions associated with the Durham Prince Bishops. These include bi-weekly formal dinners in the Great Hall, which continue the tradition of medieval banquets, even preserving the social hierarchy reflected in the seating arrangement of the hall. The fact that the Great Hall is used informally on a daily basis, and regularly for formal events, is a continuation of its original multi-purpose function. Castle meals are still made in the kitchen constructed in 1499 in preparation for a royal visit.

A6.6. Civic Functions of the Castle

The Castle has always been an important seat of political power, and, as such, has often served as a stopping point for monarchs and other dignitaries travelling to and from Scotland, and as a temporary regional base for them. This tradition continues: the current monarch had lunch in the Castle during her visit to the region in the summer of 2012, and has used the building in a similar fashion several times during her reign. Although most ceremonial uses of the Castle are related to dignitaries (both scholarly and political) visiting the university, it does also retain some other traditional civic functions such as hosting the judges once a year, continuing the tradition of hosting the judges of the Assizes, who travelled around the country trying important cases until their abolition in 1972.



A6.7. Site Collections and their Intangible Value

Both the Cathedral and the University house significant historic, portable collections within the WHS relating to their histories, missions and associations. These include works of art, books and artefacts of a variety of forms. Although tangible in their own right, many of these are linked to the intangible values of the site, such as its intellectual and creative life. Dating from the sixth century onwards, many of the collections here were created in Durham, some in the first quarter of the 12th century under the direction of Symeon of Durham, the scribe, chronicler and precentor of Durham Cathedral. In recent years, the Cathedral has been able to repatriate some books from the monastic library that had been dispersed and came up for auction.

Details of the collections can be found on the Cathedral and University websites. The Cathedral is working to achieved Designation of the whole of the Cathedral Collections and both the Cathedral and University are digitising their manuscripts, a project that is gaining momentum through collaboration on a project to digitise all the priory manuscripts. A pigment analysis project is also currently underway. As part of the Research strategy and programme for the WHS, funding for further research and publications based on the collections is sought actively by the Cathedral and University, as it is for the provision of world class facilities so that the treasures of the WHS can be displayed for visitors to see. New exhibition facilities have already been created in Palace Green Library, Open Treasure, the Cathedral and the World Heritage Site Visitors Centre in Owengate .

A6.8. Skills and Trades

The conservation and restoration of the historic buildings and landscapes of the WHS are never-ending tasks which require the skills of a variety of specialist craftspeople, including masons, joiners, stained glass restorers, and book conservators. Both the Cathedral and the University employ skilled craftsmen and provide apprenticeships. As some of these are skills are not currently in general demand within the UK economy, the active conservation of the WHS promotes a living cultural heritage of endangered skills. These skills are not only important for the conservation of the built heritage, but are also significant in their own right, allowing understanding of the intricate skills and knowledge of our ancestors, and enabling insight into their lives.

A6.9. Creative, Artistic and Cultural Expression

In addition to providing opportunities to maintain skills in the building trades, the WHS has long been an inspiration for creativity and artistic expression thus also maintaining artistic traditions through the vast body of artwork, literature, music and other forms of creative expression created to celebrate the WHS, its associations and its history. With the increased promotion of the WHS and of events within in it, there is scope to expand the existing opportunities that the WHS partners offer to people seeking experience in fields such as concert and stage management, marketing and business development.

The architecture of the Cathedral and the Castle are perhaps the most obvious testament to creative expression at the WHS; however, these large scale tangible expressions must stand alongside the smaller pieces of embroidery, illuminated manuscripts, books, paintings, sculpture, stained glass and silverwork housed at the Site. The Cathedral maintains the long tradition of commissioning or receiving new art including, in this century, stained glass, sculpture, embroidery, painting, icon, woodwork and choral music.

Textiles are a significant part of the artistic and creative heritage of Durham. Silk embroideries from the Byzantine period were found in Cuthbert's coffin and remain in the care of the Cathedral. Vestments from later periods include the cope worn by Bishops of Durham at twentieth century coronations. St Cuthbert's banner, thought to contain a fragment of the True Cross, played a significant part in the history of Durham Cathedral, and the community. Apart from being an emblem of the community, its presence was felt auspicious and it was carried into battle on several occasions, including the celebrated Battle of Neville's Cross in the 14th century. The banner was allegedly destroyed by the wife of the first Dean of the Cathedral, an action that appalled the author of the Rites of Durham, a 16th century Durham monk. In 2011 a new banner, based on the description of the original, was given to the Cathedral and dedicated; it now hangs near Cuthbert's shrine and is used in procession at major festivals. The Cathedral Broderers keep alive and pass on the skills of church embroidery, producing magnificent new altar frontals, vestments, kneelers and other liturgical items which can be seen in the Cathedral.

The University's Art History Department, Institute of Advanced Studies and Artists in Residence schemes at the University's colleges bring artists and scholars to the WHS who contribute to the on-going creativity. Palace Green Library, University College, the Cathedral nave, Galilee Chapel and Cathedral Undercroft, and WHS visitor centre provide spaces for temporary art exhibitions, many of which showcase the work of local artists inspired by the site and its history.

The Cathedral community shares its artistic skills with visitors through services, workshops and the music outreach programme which each year gives hundreds of children from local schools the opportunity to sing with choristers in the Cathedral. The Cathedral is used regularly for a wide variety of artistic endeavours, some in collaboration with the University.

The increased use of all areas of the World Heritage Site for major events, for example, Lumière, can introduce a different ethos to that which gives it its identity but also provide new opportunities to express the Christian heritage of the site. Where such events are permitted by the landowners, careful management is needed to ensure that the character of the World Heritage Site, especially its Christian spirituality as expressed in the worship in the Cathedral, is not put at risk by either the nature or the impact of events on or near the World Heritage Site. The partners in the World Heritage Site already work together to ensure that potential problems are identified and resolved and are developing guidelines for major events within the World Heritage Site.

The Cathedral and University will work with other partners in and beyond the WHS to promote appropriate forms of tourism that can help to regenerate the economy of the region and to enable the WHS to continue to be a place of public creative and artistic endeavour and excellence, whilst ensuring that increased public access to the peninsula for major events does not jeopardise the well-being of the WHS and the people who live and work here or hinder the on-going life of worship at the Cathedral and education at the University. To that end, the landowners will develop and adhere to protocols for events in the WHS.



A6.10. Community

Durham is a living and working World Heritage Site. It is home to various residential communities: the clerical members of the Cathedral Chapter; some Cathedral employees and pupils of the Chorister School who board; hundreds of students at University College; and some of the College's staff. In addition, hundreds of other people work or volunteer in the WHS every day. The WHS is also a central gathering point for the entire community not only of the City of Durham but for the wider region which looks to Durham as a focal point.

It enjoys a special place within the heart of the community of the City of Durham, a sentiment that is passionately expressed by most members of this community. This is symbolised by the views of the site from the surrounding countryside, especially from riverbanks and the railway viaduct, the latter being a view that continues to turn the heads of passengers as trains approach the station.

New energy-efficient floodlighting of the Cathedral and Castle have enhanced the significance of night-time views of the WHS. The Cathedral is at the heart of the Diocese of Durham and is recognised by people of all Christian churches, as well as by people who do not have a faith commitment, as 'their' Cathedral. The fact that the Cathedral does not make an admission charge is very important in maintaining this sense of local community 'ownership' of the Cathedral. Thousands of people attend the special services at the Cathedral, ranging from Carol Services for many local organisations to the Remembrance Day and Battle of Britain services, and the DLI reunion service.

Each July, the Miners' Gala brings thousands of people to the WHS especially for the Miners' Festival Service which has been held in the Cathedral for over one hundred years, helping to keep alive the brass band and the Miners' banner traditions which are so much a part of the heritage of the region. The matins for the Courts of Justice similarly retains a long tradition of the legal community assembling to worship in the Cathedral.

The fact that that a University of international importance is located in a WHS influences many students in their decision to apply, they matriculate and graduate in the Cathedral, but most are here for only three years and full appreciation of the heritage they have inhabited may develop only once they have graduated. Every year there is a substantial new intake of students so the work has to begin again.

Students describe the environment of the WHS as inspiring and that it feels like home very quickly. Many student groups engage directly with the WHS and further opportunities will be sought to increase the level of student engagement and volunteering within the WHS. Former students of the University hold the WHS in high regard, and many consider it to be a symbol of their university days. Research into student perceptions of the WHS is in progress and may lead to new ways of raising student awareness of, and sense of responsibility for the opportunity to live and study in a WHS. Similar work to stimulate the continued interest of alumni/ae is needed.

A6.11. Innovation and Ambition

Durham's place on the World Heritage List is due to its architectural innovation – the vaulting of the Cathedral was especially innovative and the techniques used in its construction had a major impact on the very course of western architecture. Adopting nascent architectural techniques (ribbed vaulting and pointed arches) but perfecting them and using them at a large scale enabled the construction of a monumental stone building, which overcame many of the challenges faced by medieval stonemasons. If the vault of Durham Cathedral seems unsurprising today, it is because its techniques of rib vaulting came to define later medieval architecture and later revivals.

Two common, and related, sentiments are embodied in the World Heritage Site across its history: the desire to commission the best work possible (for example, the Neville Screen, the Cathedral organs and the Black Staircase in Durham Castle) and the drive to push boundaries (building a Cathedral the same size as St Peters in Rome, and a Cathedra higher than that of the Pope in Rome). It is perhaps fitting that the motto of Durham University is 'Shaped by the Past, Creating the Future."

A6.12. Actions

This overview aims to preserve and foster the intangible values of the site. It recognises the importance of openness to new ideas and activities while safeguarding the site's traditions. It identifies the importance of actively engaging the local community and ensuring that more people are aware of the site and its value, of providing more training opportunities to help build the capacity of local residents as much as possible, of encouraging research, both academic and non-academic. It recognises the value of fostering the sense of community and belonging, and benefiting from the vitality and creativity of the student community in particular. The main current challenges identified in this section are the underestimation of the value of the link between modern institutions and Durham's history.



Glossary

Abbreviations

CDP	County Durham Plan
DAS	Design and Access Statements
DCC	Durham County Council
DCMS	Department of Culture, Media and Sport
EH	English Heritage
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HE	Historic England
ICCROM	International Centre for the Conservation
	and Restoration of Monuments
ICOMOS	International Council On Monuments and Sites
IMEMS	Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LBC	Listed Building Consent
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging— a laser surveying method
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Policy Guidance
Op. Guidelines	UNESCO Operational Guidelines
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
SOUV	Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHC	UNESCO World Heritage Committee
WHS	World Heritage Site