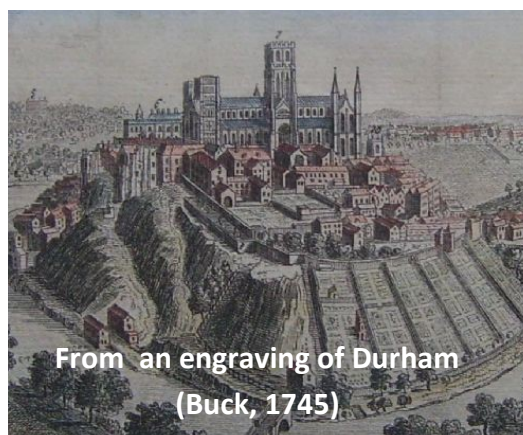


Durham World Heritage Site

Durham's UNESCO World Heritage Site was inscribed by the World Heritage Committee in 1986 and comprises Durham Cathedral and Castle and the buildings between them. Five key aspects of the Site are recognised as being of Outstanding Universal Value:

- *the Site's exceptional architecture demonstrating architectural innovation, including the architectural design and construction techniques of the nave of Durham Cathedral and Durham Castle's Norman Chapel*
- *the visual drama of the Cathedral and Castle on the peninsula and the associations with notions of romantic beauty, including the dramatic, dynamic skyline of Durham Cathedral and Castle*
- *the physical expression of the spiritual and secular powers of the medieval Bishops Palatine that the defended complex provides;*
- *the relics and material culture of the three saints, (Cuthbert, Bede, and Oswald) buried at the site*
- *and the continuity of use and ownership over the past 1000 years as a place of religious worship, learning and residence*



IMEMS is the academic hub for research on Durham's UNESCO World Heritage Site and we have championed and developed a research strategy to promote rigorous, academically-informed research to further our understanding and appreciation of the Cathedral, Castle and their environs. Working closely with Durham Cathedral, the Durham World Heritage Site Committee, English Heritage and other regional and local partners, IMEMS aims to stimulate and support new avenues of research on the World Heritage Site and bring this into the public domain.

Each year we organise several events focused on the Site, including our annual **Durham World Heritage Site Public Lecture**, given in 2018 by Dr Dee Dyas on experience of sacred place in the history of Christian pilgrimage and what the future may hold in terms of helping diverse audiences engage with and enjoy sacred heritage sites. We also provide seedcorn funding for WHS research projects focused on the Site and its context, which have included using Durham as a model for examining public perceptions of, and engagements with, the urban World Heritage Site setting.



**Institute of Medieval
& Early Modern Studies**

Durham World Heritage Site: Research Framework

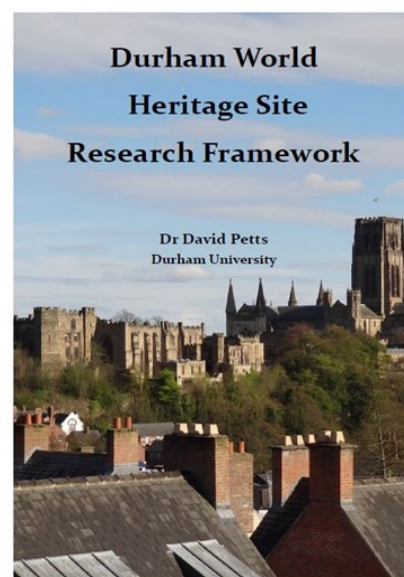
The Durham World Heritage Site Research Framework was published by IMEMS in 2015 and is designed to place academic research at the core of the future management, conservation, interpretation and investigation of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. It also seeks to explore and prioritise key avenues for further work, presenting a strategy through which research can be taken forward. IMEMS supports its central philosophy that only rigorous, academically-informed research can further our understanding and appreciation of the Cathedral, Castle and their environs. In particular, the Framework identified four key research priorities:

- *understanding the WHS today*
- *understanding the built resource*
- *mapping the archaeological resource*
- *mapping the intangible heritage*



The newly launched **Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site Management Plan 2017-2023** articulates with the Research Framework and aims 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*



These key documents can be downloaded from <https://www.dur.ac.uk/imems/research/strands/whs/> and details of IMEMS' sponsored projects found at <https://www.dur.ac.uk/imems/research/>