

Government answers on its review of UK World Heritage policy

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Parliamentary answer 13 Oct 2008

Commons Hansard > Daily Hansard - Written Answers - 13 Oct 2008 : Column 841W

World Heritage Sites

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish guidelines for applicants for World Heritage status. [224832]

Barbara Follett: The Government will publish a consultation document on its UK World Heritage Review shortly. Should we decide, following the outcome of the Review, to revise the current UK Tentative List, appropriate guidelines on applications for inclusion on the List will be made available.

Source:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081013/text/81013w0002.htm#column_841W

Department for Culture, Media and Sport email 16 Sep 2008

Text of email from Department for Culture, Media and Sport sent 16 September 2008

Subject: FW: Woorld Heritage Sites - guidelines for applicants

Thank you for your email of 3 September to Margaret Hodge about preparations for a bid for World Heritage status for Portsmouth Harbour, the Isle of Wight and Spithead and guidelines for applicants. I have been asked to reply.

The Government is currently reviewing its UK World Heritage policy as a whole. As part of this, we will be looking at the case for inclusion of new sites in England, the Devolved Administrations, the Overseas Territories and the Crown Dependencies on the UK Tentative List as well as considering the position of the remaining sites on the current list. We need to do this in the light of UNESCO's policy on restricting the number of nominations made in any given year by a State Party and the World Heritage Committee's priorities for increasing representation on the World Heritage List of the range and type of sites - cultural landscapes, industrial archaeology, scientific achievement and so forth.

The Government also has a duty to establish and communicate the costs and benefits of World Heritage status in the UK before encouraging any new bids to come forward. To this end we commissioned a cost/benefits study and propose to consult widely on the results of

this and the broader issues of identifying, promoting and protecting World Heritage in due course. Draft consultation proposals are currently with Ministers for consideration. Should Ministers decide, following consultation, to draw up a new Tentative List, we would then expect to invite applications from potential sites and issue appropriate guidelines.

As you may know, a pre-requisite for nomination by the Government is inclusion on the national Tentative List of sites likely to be put forward in future years. The current UK Tentative List was published in 1999 with twenty-five sites. Nine of these have since been inscribed, two have been nominated for consideration by the World Heritage Committee this year and in 2009 and work is in hand on a number of other sites for potential nomination until 2011. As Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight and Spithead is not on the current UK Tentative List, we cannot, at this stage, consider taking the site forward as a future nomination.

I should add that that the process of developing a nomination is a long and costly one with no guarantee of success. Many unique places will never become World Heritage Sites because the process is so selective and before moving forward, bid partnerships need to carefully consider whether the perceived advantages of World Heritage status could be achieved in other ways. The Portsmouth, Isle of Wight and Spithead bid partnership should also consider very carefully, pending the outcome of the Government's World Heritage policy review, the allocation of resources for preparing a bid and Nomination Document for a site which is not currently on the national Tentative List.

You asked for details of other sites interested in pursuing World Heritage status other than on the UK Tentative List. A list of sites from which we have received expressions of interest is as follows:

- Arbroath Abbey
- Bay of Rye
- Blackpool
- Border Parks
- Birmingham Jewellery Quarter
- The Broads
- Bradwell on Sea
- St Peters Chapel
- Brighton
- British Indian Ocean
- Bury St Edmunds
- Cambridge
- Chester
- Colchester
- Cresswell Crags
- Derry Walls
- Elan Valley
- Glastonbury
- Great Tew - Oxfordshire
- Harland and Wolff Shipyard
- Margate and Ramsgate
- Museum in Docklands
- Perth and Kinross
- Portsmouth

Port Sunlight
Richmond, North Yorkshire
St Andrews
St Helena
Somerset Levels
Newmarket Heath
York
Stockton to Darlington Railway
Thames Gateway
Thames Historic Corridor
Thames Tunnel
York
Wells
Wilberforce House Hull

I hope this helpful.

Parliamentary answer 21 Apr 2008

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World Heritage Review

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department plans to publish the World Heritage Review; and what the cost of the review is expected to be. [198393]

21 Apr 2008 : Column 1754W

Margaret Hodge [holding answer 2 April 2008]: My Department will publish a public consultation on the World Heritage Review shortly. The public consultation will include a paper by PricewaterhouseCooper on the costs and benefits on World Heritage Site status; the cost of this work was £94,734.38 (including VAT). Additional staff costs have fallen to my Department but these are included in overall running costs and are not separately recorded.

Source:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080421/text/80421w0094.htm#08042335000179>