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Welsh Government

Consultation Document

Consultation on a new management plan for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site.

Date of issue: **10 October 2016**

Action required: Responses by: **9 January 2017**

Overview

This consultation seeks your views on a new management plan for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site.

The existing management plan was produced in 2004 and during its lifetime there have been several developments such as significant conservation work, installation of new visitor facilities and wider strategic initiatives like updates to local and unitary development plans and new primary legislation in respect of the historic environment and the well-being of future generations in Wales.

A new management plan is therefore required to respond positively to these developments and help ensure the future sustainable management of the World Heritage Site.

How to respond

This consultation will close on 9 January 2017. You may respond by email or post.

Email

Please send your consultation response to:

WHS Management Plan@. Wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Post

Please send your consultation response to:

Alyson Evans
Historic Environment Service (Cadw)
Welsh Government
Plas Crew
Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed
Parc Nantgarw
Cardiff
CF15 7QQ

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

Contact details

For further information on this consultation, please contact :

WHS Management Plan @. Wales.gsi.gov.uk

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Historic Environment Service (Cadw)
Welsh Government
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01443 336045

Data protection

How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to

withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

Introduction

Cadw is responsible for the management of the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site (WHS) which comprises four properties (Caernarfon Castle and Town Walls, Conwy Castle and Town Walls, Harlech and Beaumaris Castles).

UNESCO formally inscribed the site on the World Heritage List in 1986. World Heritage Site status brings with it responsibilities to meet the requirements of UNESCO's Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO Operational Guidelines), in particular:

'Each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which should specify how the outstanding universal value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means.'

The present management plan was produced in 2004 and its associated action plan was intended to operate for 10 years. During its lifetime several substantial actions have been implemented including significant conservation work, installation of new visitor facilities and new interpretation. Also during this period there have been several wider strategic developments, for example work has been carried out on local and unitary development plans and the National Assembly for Wales has passed new legislation in respect of the Historic Environment in Wales and the Well-being of Future Generations.

Given these developments, it is time to review the current management arrangements and prepare a new long-term plan that will ensure a clear strategy and vision for the WHS.

Purpose of the Management Plan

The purpose of a Management Plan is to provide a robust framework to guide the comprehensive management of the site. The content of a Management Plan is governed by the unique qualities of the individual World Heritage Site, but to ensure compatibility with the requirements of UNESCO it should provide an accurate, comprehensive and up to date description of the site and its setting and explain how it is protected. The plan must list the key attributes of the site and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). From this, the principal management needs of the site can be established.

World Heritage Site status is a material consideration when determining planning applications and the Management Plan therefore provides an important link between the international requirements of UNESCO on the one hand, and the aspirations and requirements of local planning authorities and communities on the other.

The primary role of the Management Plan is to set out policies and actions designed to protect, conserve and thereby manage the World Heritage Site. However, the Plan has a number of additional purposes including for example:

- As a tool to help develop the identity of the World Heritage Site – what it means to communities and stakeholders today as well as encouraging understanding of the past;
- Ensuring a coherent and consistent approach to the management of the World Heritage Site and its setting across all four locations, which fall within four different local planning authority areas (Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey, Conwy and the Snowdonia National Park Authority);
- Providing a focus around which stakeholders can be brought together, encouraging the development of effective partnership working; and
- Having a wider remit than simply conservation and protection, including the promotion and management of sustainable tourism the economic and regenerative potential of the World Heritage Site, and its role in culture and education.

Some of the main changes in the new draft management plan include:

- An increased focus on a collaborative working with key partners and a broader and more holistic view of the site which deliberately includes the surrounding communities
- Strengthening of formal management arrangements
- Increased emphasis on setting, with supporting definitions and character statements for each of the four communities
- Slight revisions to the mapping of essential setting and significant views (specifically for Caernarfon and Conwy) to reflect new thinking.
- A broader understanding of significance that includes the four communities, the relationship between the monuments and the sea, cultural considerations and more recent historical context including issues around Welsh nationalism and the role the monuments have played in commemorative events
- The inclusion of a new vision and overarching principles which are based on principles of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)
- The inclusion of a broad policy context and specific objectives to underpin and support the main action plan – including a focus on the Welsh Language, the visitor experience, economic and regeneration benefits, community engagement, marketing, and sustainability
- A detailed action plan which sets out and prioritises actions in support of the stated policies and objectives

- The inclusion of a monitoring framework to consider and assess progress

These aim to achieve the following outcomes:

- Greater partnership collaboration, buy-in and impact
- Continued protection of the WHS and its setting particularly in relation to future or planned development
- Increased awareness of the broader significance of the site and improved community engagement
- Increased skill development and lifelong learning opportunities
- Strong association with the Well being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and an ability to measure progress against the 7 well-being goals
- Greater use of the World Heritage status to secure sustainable economic and regeneration benefits
- Improved sense of place and townscape quality within the four communities

Questions:

Question 1: is the draft clear about the role and purpose of the management plan?

Question 2: Is the updated description of the site and its significance sufficient to help decision makers protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the site?

Question 3: Are the definitions of setting, essential setting, significant views and sense of arrival (Chapter 2.6) sufficiently clear? Does the inclusion of character statements help support planning and development considerations within the four communities?

Question 4: Are the range of policies outlined the right ones and do they reflect the relevant and emerging challenges facing the WHS?

Question 5: Are there any policies, objectives or actions missing?

Question 6: Are the monitoring indicators suitable and will they help provide a robust framework to help assess progress of management arrangements?

Question 7: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Please enter comments here:

**Consultation
Response Form**

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

email / telephone number:

Your address:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:
