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New website celebrates UNESCO in the UK and provides a unique online resource for professionals.

The UK National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC) has officially launched its new website (www.unesco.org.uk) which includes a range of features to showcase the UK's UNESCO Designated Sites and a bespoke 'Resource Centre' to support those working in UNESCO sites and heritage sector across the UK.

For the first time, the UK's extraordinary network of UNESCO Designations covering Biosphere Reserves, Creative Cities, Global Geoparks, World Heritage Sites, and Memory of the World (for documentary heritage) is showcased in one place.

The website highlights the UK's commitment to UNESCO's global mission and how more than 14% of the UK's land and sea is part of this international effort to protect cultural and natural heritage and address global challenges.

Key features of the new website include:

A fully reimagined 'Our Sites' section: enabling users to explore the full network of UNESCO Sites across the UK, Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories and access more information about the different types of UNESCO Designation and what makes each UNESCO Site special.

A new Resource Centre: featuring over 250 downloadable resources including case studies, guidance & handbooks, research reports, and a new range of toolkits covering audience development and mapping, digital engagement, and fundraising to aid those working in UNESCO sites and the wider culture and heritage sectors.

A new 'Impacts' section: highlighting how the UNESCO in the UK network is aligned to UNESCO's global programmes of education, science, culture, and communication & information, and is contributing to the attainment of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The website aims to inspire communities, funders, and policymakers to engage with the UK's UNESCO Sites and highlights how local actions connect to global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable development.

The UK National Commission appointed Shetland Islands based agency NB Communication to develop the new site and utilizes a new visual identity created by Jarratt Design to offer clarity and cohesion to all UKNC communications and marketing.

The website, and associated suite of materials, is the culmination of the first phase of the Commission's Local to Global programme, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund which looked to strengthen and connect UNESCO Designated Sites across the UK.

Speaking of the new website:

James Bridge, Chief Executive and Secretary-General of the UK National Commission for UNESCO, said:

'Our new website celebrates the incredible network of UNESCO Designations across the UK. It gives an insight into why each unique site is of global significance. This vibrant network is grounded in local communities and businesses and is part of an international network showcasing UK excellence.'

'The website supports those who work in the UNESCO Designations and associated organisations by giving them open access to a huge library of useful resources and materials. The website also shines a light on the positive impacts that the UK UNESCO network makes in shaping action and policy on today's most pressing global issues such as women and girls' education, gender equality, the ethics of AI, and climate change.'

Stuart McLeod, Director of England - London & South at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

'The creative use of digital technology in heritage can promote access, improve reach and support long-term organisational stability. We are delighted to support this important new website as part of the Local to Global project, made possible thanks to National Lottery players.'

'This new website will support capacity building and knowledge sharing for UNESCO Sites, thanks in part to a new resource library that will house toolkits in audience development, stakeholder mapping and inclusion, fundraising and financial sustainability and digital transformation.'

David Nicol, Managing Director of NB Communication, the web developers said:

'We're delighted to have created the new website for the UK National Commission for UNESCO. As an agency based in Shetland, home to a UNESCO Global Geopark, and with our significant experience in destination marketing, we have a particularly deep understanding of UNESCO's requirements.'

'It's been a privilege to bring the UKNC's impressive work to life through this new website, showcasing the UK's extraordinary network of UNESCO Sites and providing a valuable resource for communities and policymakers alike.'

Continued Lottery Funding to support for UNESCO in the UK

Earlier this month, the UK National Commission for UNESCO announced that it had received a further £250,000 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to enhance its innovative Local to Global programme until September 2026.

The new phase of the programme will see the delivery of regional 'Climate Action and Heritage Protection workshops' and 'Community Innovation Grants' to UNESCO sites to further enable to work together, and with their local communities, to tackle shared challenges such as the effects of climate change.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

About the UK National Commission for UNESCO

The UK National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC) is a constitutional part of the UK's membership of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). UNESCO harnesses the power of education, culture, science, communication and information to advance global peace, sustainable development, intercultural dialogue, and poverty eradication.

An independent body, the UKNC is funded by the UK Government primarily to bring the benefits of UNESCO programmes and international agreements to the UK government, academic community and broader civil society. It also ensures that these elements fully contribute to, and shape, UNESCO's global aims and activities.

www.unesco.org.uk

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. That's why as the largest funder for the UK's heritage we are dedicated to supporting projects that connect people and communities to heritage, as set out in our strategic plan, [Heritage 2033](#).

Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past. Over the next 10 years, we aim to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to make a decisive difference for people, places and communities.

heritagefund.org.uk

Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter/X](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLottery #HeritageFund

About UNESCO Designated Sites

Biosphere Reserves

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves are 'learning places for sustainable development'. They are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems. Each site promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

There are currently seven UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in the UK and Isle of Man

- Biosffer Dyfi
- Brighton and Lewes Downs (The Living Coast)
- Galloway and Southern Ayrshire
- Isle of Man
- Isle of Wight
- North Devon
- Wester Ross

Creative Cities

UNESCO Creative Cities work towards the mission of placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of their urban development to make their cities safe, resilient, inclusive and sustainable. Each city is accredited in one of seven creative fields: Crafts & Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, or Music.

There are currently 13 UNESCO Creative Cities in the UK

- Belfast City of Music
- Bradford City of Film
- Bristol City of Film
- Dundee City of Design
- Edinburgh City of Literature
- Exeter City of Literature
- Glasgow City of Music
- Liverpool City of Music
- Manchester City of Literature
- Norwich City of Literature
- Nottingham City of Literature
- Perth City of Crafts and Folk Art
- York City of Media Arts

Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education, and sustainable development.

There are currently nine UNESCO Global Geoparks in the UK

- The Black Country
- Cuilcagh Lakelands
- English Riviera
- Fforest Fawr
- GeoMôn
- Mourne Gullion Strangford
- North Pennines
- North West Highlands
- Shetland

World Heritage Sites

UNESCO World Heritage Sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific, or other form of significance. The sites are judged to contain cultural and natural heritage around the world considered of outstanding value to humanity.

There are currently 31 UNESCO World Heritage Sites* in the UK (*Bath has two World Heritage inscriptions).

- Blaenavon Industrial Landscape
- Blenheim Palace
- Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey, and St Martin's Church
- Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd
- City of Bath / The Great Spa Towns of Europe
- Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape
- Derwent Valley Mills
- Dorset and East Devon Coast – The Jurassic Coast
- Durham Castle and Cathedral
- The English Lake District
- Flow Country
- The Forth Bridge

- Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Antonine Wall / Hadrian's Wall
- Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast
- Heart of Neolithic Orkney
- Ironbridge Gorge
- Jodrell Bank Observatory
- Maritime Greenwich
- Moravian Church Settlements: Gracehill
- New Lanark
- Old and New Towns of Edinburgh
- Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church
- Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- Saltaire
- The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales
- St Kilda World Heritage Site
- Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites
- Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey
- Tower of London

Further information

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