



UK Tentative List of Potential Sites for World Heritage Nomination: Application form

Please save the application to your computer, fill in and email to:
UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk

The application form should be completed using the boxes provided under each question, and, where possible, within the word limit indicated.

Please read the [Information Sheets](#) before completing the application form. It is also essential to refer to the accompanying [Guidance Note](#) for help with each question, and to the relevant paragraphs of UNESCO's *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, (OG) available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines>

Applicants should provide only the information requested at this stage. Further information may be sought in due course.

(1) Name of Proposed World Heritage Site

Arbroath Abbey

(2) Geographical Location

Name of country/region

Arbroath, Angus, Scotland, United Kingdom

Grid reference to centre of site

NO 643414 (Plan attached)

Please enclose a map preferably A4-size, a plan of the site, and 6 photographs, preferably electronically.

(3) Type of Site

Please indicate category:

Natural Cultural Mixed Cultural Landscape

(4) Description

Please provide a brief description of the proposed site, including the physical characteristics. 200 words

Arbroath Abbey was founded in 1178 by King William I of Scotland who dedicated it to Saint Thomas Becket. This was the only church built by King William I and he clearly intended it to be the main church in north-east Scotland. The Abbey grew in importance, and through royal and noble grants gained considerable lands and parish churches, mainly in Angus and Aberdeenshire. It was the richest abbey in Scotland by the time of the Reformation. The burgh of Arbroath grew up alongside the Abbey, and a harbour to was built in 1394.

(5) History

Please provide a short summary statement of any significant events in the history of the site. 200 words

On 6th April 1320 a letter which was signed and sealed by the majority of the Scottish nobles left Arbroath Abbey for Pope John XXII, at that time based in Avignon, France. This letter was "The Declaration of Arbroath" often known as the Declaration of Scottish Independence. The original Scottish copy of this document has survived and is now kept in Edinburgh, in the care of The National Archives of Scotland, and is their most treasured possession. Although there is some doubt as to the fact that a gathering did take place, and even the authorship is far from clear, there is no doubt that Scotland had the knowledge and the skills to create such a document and the final paragraph clearly states "Given at the monastery of Arbroath in Scotland, in the year of Grace 1320, and in the fifteenth year of the King name above."



(6) Why do you think this site should be inscribed as a World Heritage Site?
Give reasons. 200 words

The Declaration of Arbroath is a strong impression of the patriotism of the nobles of Scotland and emphasises their 'Scottishness'. It states that if King Robert should fail or agree to be subject to the King of England, that the nobles will drive him out and choose another King. (Extract; "Yet Robert himself should he turn aside from the task that he has begun, and yield Scotland or us to the Englis King and people, we should cast out as the enemy of us all, as subventor of our rights and of his own, and should choose another king to defend our freedom".) Many see the Declaration as Scotlands first step towards democracy.

(7) Please say why the site has Outstanding Universal Value and specify the main features which underpin its importance. 200 words

As detailed in (6) above, this document given at Arbroath Abbey is seen as Scotland's first step towards democracy. In World terms this must also rank as a momentous step towards the democratic way that people wish to be governed.

It has been linked with the American Declaration of Independence and the document date of the 6th April was adopted as Tartan Day in the USA.

(8) Outstanding Universal Value

Please state which of the [10 UNESCO criteria for Outstanding Universal Value](#) the proposed site meets, and describe briefly why the criteria were chosen. Please see criteria note at the end of the form.

UNESCO criterion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Why was this criterion chosen? 100 words
(i)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(iii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(v)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(vi)	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Abbey from whence the Declaration was sent is directly associated with the document. The document itself has far reaching achievements, as well as being seen as the beginning of democracy in Scotland, and having been used by many as an expression of political independence it has also been linked with the American Declaration of Independence. The 6 th April was adopted by the United States of America as Tartan Day, thus giving the date of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath truly international significance.

UNESCO criterion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Why was this criterion chosen? 100 words
(vii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(viii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ix)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(x)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(9) Authenticity (for cultural or mixed sites only)

Authenticity concerns the current state of conservation of a cultural or mixed site; especially whether its importance, its Outstanding Universal Value, is still obvious from its physical condition. Please outline the condition of the site. 200 words

The Abbey is now a ruin, managed by Historic Scotland. The document is in the care of the National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh.

(10) Integrity

For cultural or mixed sites, please state how much original fabric is included in the proposed site, and its condition. For guidance on how the test of integrity is met for natural sites under criteria (vii) – (x), please refer to the OG 90-94. Information Sheet 6 also provides help on this point. 200 words

The Abbey is in the care of Historic Scotland, but less than 50% of the building survives. Historic Scotland maintains the ruin to high standards.

The document itself is in the care of the National Archives of Scotland, and some 85-90% of it survives. It is kept in the highest possible environmental and security conditions.

(11) Are there other examples of this kind of site already on the World Heritage List?

Yes No

If yes, please list. 100 words

N/A

(12) What distinguishes this site from other similar sites?

150 words

N/A

(13) How does the site contribute to meeting UNESCO's priorities for a balanced World Heritage List?

200 words

The application contributes to a balanced World Heritage List, because it is not for the Abbey itself, but because of its connection to a document that is an example of emerging democracy which has influenced other nations, not just in Europe, but across the world.

(14) What benefits do you think World Heritage Site inscription would bring?

Please indicate the main opportunities and benefits.

Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regeneration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please describe. 100 words.

Education and tourism are the two main aspects, although we feel that this status will aid the regeneration of the town of Arbroath as well. Angus Cocucil funded the building of the the Arbroath Abey Visitor Centre for Historic Scotland which has hugely benefited the Abbey and improved the number of visitors considerably.

(15) Are there any known threats to the proposed World Heritage Site?

Yes No

Please indicate any proposed developments, or other potential impacts on the site.

Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please describe. 100 words for each issue.
Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not aware of any
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(16) Legal Protection

Please list any legal and other protections, including cultural and natural designations, which cover the whole or part of the proposed site. 200 words

Arbroath Abbey looked after by Historical Scotland. The Declaration of Arbroath (Scottish copy) is held by National Archives of Scotland, in Edinburgh.

(17) Ownership

Please list the main owners of the site, where possible.

Historic Scotland (see letter attached) manages the site. National Archives of Scotland care for the document.

Do the owners support the application? Yes No

A statement of support from the principle owners of the proposed site should be attached to the application, preferably electronically.

(18) Local Authority support for the site

Please list all Local Authorities with an interest in the proposed site.

Angus Council

Does the proposed site have local Authority support? Yes No

Please attach a statement of support from each one in relation to the application.

Please indicate whether the site is included in the local plan/s by specific policies.

Yes No Partly

Please describe. 200 words.

(19) Stakeholders

Please list the main parties with an interest in the site. 100 words

Royal Burgh of Arbroath Community Council
Arbroath and District Round Table
Rotary Club of Arbroath
Arbroath Abbey Timethemes
Arbroath Area Partnership
Arbroath Business Association
The Caledonian Foundation USA
Council of Scottish Clans and Associations
(a letter from each organisation is attached)

(20) How will the Site be managed?

Please outline the management arrangements for the proposed World Heritage Site, including where the responsibilities lie. 200 words

Historic Scotland

(21) Funding: the nomination

Please indicate how the preparation of the nomination would be funded.
100 words

The group has been very succesful in achieving grant aid and fundraising through the sale of items and appeals. We would continue to raise funds via this method and are confident that we can raise sufficient funds to finance this campaign.

(22) Funding: management

Please outline how the future management would be funded. 100 words

At a previous meeting with Historic Scotland, we were informed that Historic Scotland would be responsible for the continued management of the site.

Name and Contact Details of Applicant

Name	Mr Harry Ritchie
Status	Treasurer/Vice Chairman, The Arbroath Abbey World Heritage Campaign
Address	
Telephone	

Email	
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Completed applications should be forwarded, preferably in electronic format, to the World Heritage Team, Department for Culture, Media and Sport at the following email address: UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk

Any material that cannot be sent electronically should be sent to the following address:

World Heritage Team, Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1 5DH

The closing date for applications is 11th June 2010

UNESCO's criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value (para 77 of the Operational Guidelines)

- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.
- (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- (viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- (x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.