



## 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](mailto: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

Brontë Landscape and Haworth Village

### (2) Geographical Location

Name of country/region

Bradford District, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom

Grid reference to centre of site

Easting 399200 / Northing 436211

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

The proposed cultural landscape encompasses the villages of Haworth and Stanbury, Haworth and Stanbury Moors and connecting areas of upland pasture.

Haworth lies within the folds of the Pennine moorlands and is one of England's finest hill villages. The compact nature of the built form retains the eye and presents a close and intimate space, enriched with a display of architectural details, vistas and courtyards. Its rugged and sturdy appearance is characterised by the predominant use of locally quarried stone for walls, roofs and street surfaces.

Stanbury is dramatically located on an elevated ridge between two steep valleys. The architectural interest of Stanbury is derived principally from the range of vernacular 18th century and the late 19th century dwellings and farm buildings.

Haworth and Stanbury Moors are an uninhabited landscape, although signs of previous settlement in the form of abandoned farmsteads, such as Top Withens, are scattered throughout. The moorland landscape is typified by its wild open character; its uninterrupted views; its apparent, if not actual, naturalness; and by its extent and uniformity; as well as its subtlety of colour and texture. The primary land use now is water catchment and rough grazing.

## (5) History

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

The landscape around Haworth owes its present appearance to its geology, the climate and the continuous and cumulative effects of human exploitation. The upland plateau was forged by ice and ultimately exploited by prehistoric settlers. Large scale forest clearance began in the Bronze Age (1000 BC). Farming was established in the Dark Ages and during the medieval period the area's woollen industry developed.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries remote farmsteads were abandoned and the moors were steadily depopulated, creating the bleak wilderness known to the Brontë sisters.

The Brontë family moved into Haworth Parsonage when Patrick Brontë became curate of St Michael and All Angels in 1820. Although periodically the sisters lived away from home to study or teach, the Parsonage remained central to their lives and it was there that the majority of their works were composed.

The sisters and their literary works:

Charlotte Brontë (1816-55)

Poems by Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell (1846)

Jane Eyre (1847)

Shirley (1849)

Villette (1853)

The Professor (1857)

Emily Brontë (1818-1848)

Poems by Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell (1846)

Wuthering Heights (1847)

Anne Brontë (1820-1849)

Poems by Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell (1846)

Agnes Grey (1847)

The Tenant of Wildfell Hall (1848)

**(6) Why do you think this site should be inscribed as a World Heritage Site?**

Give reasons. 200 words

The Brontë family created world class fiction and poetry which continues to have major resonance. Their work is translated into all the world's major languages and encompasses issues of isolation, landscape, the role of women and the complexity of relationships and emotions. Their writings, together with their own Haworth-centred life story, has a proven record of inspiring artists (Paula Rego), writers (Jean Rhys) and filmmakers (Franco Zeffirelli) as well as choreographers and dramatists.

The Brontës, and indeed their work, are recognised as having been shaped by their unique domestic and landscape environment. Their home, Haworth Parsonage, their geographical isolation in hilltop Haworth village and the spectacular desolation of the surrounding moorland scenery provided a vital touchstone for works perceived as shocking, vital and innovative. As such the landscape, rare in natural history terms, brooding in aesthetic terms, works together with the built environment (the Parsonage, Church, School and Haworth village) to provide a visible biography of the artists and their inspiration. It is felt that World Heritage status would reinforce the significance as well as protect this unique environment.

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

The site's OUV derives from its influence on the lives and works of the Brontë sisters whose literary and cultural legacy has international significance. Their works have been translated into all the world's major languages. The sisters' literature and life stories have inspired and continue to inspire, artists working in every medium and the influence of the novels of Charlotte and Anne Brontë in particular have been seminal texts in the struggle for women's liberation.

The key attributes of the site's OUV are

Haworth Parsonage: it was here that the sisters went to live as young children and where they lived for most of their lives and wrote their novels.

St Michael's and All Angels Church: provided the raison d'être for the Brontës' time in Haworth and was the focus for the family's social circle. With the exception of Anne, every member of the family is interred in the family vault.

Haworth National School: was built with funds raised by Patrick Brontë, Charlotte Brontë also taught at the school.

Haworth and Stanbury Moors: the wilderness and isolation provided a welcoming counterpoint to the squalor of Haworth village. It was from this landscape that the sisters drew their inspiration for many of their works.

## (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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Brontës provide a rare instance of creative practice which cuts across national boundaries and historical periods. The landscape and buildings in which they lived survive to provide tangible evidence of the unique context which shaped their personalities and work. Both through their association with the Brontës and through their own intrinsic natural and aesthetic value the buildings (Haworth Parsonage, Church, National School and Haworth and Stanbury villages) and dramatic moorland continue to provide intellectual, scientific and creative inspiration to those who visit.
(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

Haworth Parsonage was extended in keeping with the original 18th Century building in 1879. Since it became a museum, in 1928, well-informed conservation has preserved the house as nearly as possible to the form and condition that the Brontës would have known.

The National School that Patrick Brontë commissioned and in which his children taught is in authentic form, albeit with later 19th century extensions.

St Michael and All Angels Church, excepting the tower, dates only from 1879. It does, however, occupy the site of the earlier church.

Haworth continued to develop in the latter nineteenth and twentieth centuries. However, development within the historic core of the village included in the proposed site was limited and followed existing street patterns, respecting its authentic form and design. Stanbury village has changed little since the mid nineteenth century.

There has been little change to moorland landscape since the depopulation which occurred during the nineteenth century. In the areas of pasture to the north of the site Ponden and Lower Laithe Reservoirs have been constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Former quarries to the west of Haworth have been abandoned and rehabilitated as Penistone Hill Country Park.

## **(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 state of conservation of the proposed site is generally high. Haworth and Stanbury are both Conservation Areas with many key buildings further protected as Listed Buildings. There are a small number of properties on Bradford Council's Listed Buildings at Risk Register, none of which are key properties underpinning the site's OUV.

Haworth and Stanbury Moors form part of a Special Area of Conservation (designated by the European Union) for the habitat they provided for species such as Merlin and Peregrine Falcons. The moorland has undergone degradation in times past due to over-grazing and atmospheric pollution from the industrial North-West. Agri-environment schemes such as Higher Level Stewardship agreements now include significant proportions of these uplands and where this is the case, they are moving towards "favourable" or "unfavourable recovering" habitat status.

The proposed boundary of the site is likely to need further consideration following inclusion on the UK Tentative List. Due to the nature of the site, further exploration is needed of the lives and works of the Brontë sisters to ensure that the boundary is sufficient to include all elements necessary to express its OUV.

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

Yes  No

If yes, please list. 100 words

There are very few sites inscribed on the World Heritage List for their associated with literary and artistic works, they include:

Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg, Austria (Mozart)  
Historic Centre of Brugge, Belgium (Jan van Eyck and Hans Memling)  
Classical Weimar, Germany (Goethe, Schiller and Herder)  
Val d'Orica, Italy (Siennese School)  
University and Historic Precinct of Alcalá de Henares, Spain (Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra)

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

150 words

The proposed site is unique in recognising the outstanding contribution of women's creative works to our universal cultural heritage. It would also be unique in its association with the development of the feminist movement. The majority of criterion vi sites are historic urban centres famed for their 'elitist' architectural quality. By contrast Haworth and Stanbury are dominated by fine examples of vernacular building, inescapably characteristic of Pennine Yorkshire. Val d'Orica is the only comparable cultural landscape, where the landscape has provided the inspiration for creative works of Outstanding Universal Value.

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

200 words

It is acknowledged that European cultural properties are currently well represented on the World Heritage List. However, the proposed site does address gaps identified by UNESCO working groups established to develop a representative and balanced World Heritage List.

The Report of the ‘Expert Meeting on the “Global Strategy” and thematic studies for a representative World Heritage List’ (1994) identified an imbalance between ‘elitist’ architecture and vernacular architecture and a shortage of sites associated with ‘spirituality and creative expression’.

The nomination of further North American and European cultural landscapes were one of few priorities identified for the region in the ‘Progress report, synthesis and action plan on the Global Strategy for a representative and credible World Heritage List’ (1998).

**(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"/>
Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other benefits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please describe. 100 words.

The benefits we anticipate for the proposed site, its community, land owners and stakeholders are:

- Attraction of additional investment to reinvigorate the local tourist economy
- Stronger local partnerships
- Enhanced management of the site through a joined-up approach to the management of its cultural and natural values.
- Civic pride in the recognition of the site’s international significance
- New and innovative learning opportunities for young people through participation in the UNESCO Associated Schools Programme.

**(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.

<b>Impact</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Please describe.</b> 100 words for each issue.
Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other than the impact of incremental change and minor development there are no known threats to the site. In its setting there are potential and allocated housing development sites to the southwest and northeast of Haworth village. There is a quarry and significant stone reserves to the east of Haworth on Brow Moor.
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate change: temperature rise may result in drying of blanket bog and replacement with different flora and fauna. Lack of management/mis-management: over-grazing by sheep; overburning; over draining resulting in loss of key floral species and wetland habitats.
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recreational pressure – can result in erosion of key routes, damage by illegal activity (off-road motorcycling/ 4x4 vehicles); disturbance to sensitive bird populations, deliberate wildfire, fly-tipping/litter.

## (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

Many of the individual buildings and groups of buildings in the proposed site are Listed for the Special Architectural or Historical Interest including the following key buildings:

Haworth Parsonage (Grade I)

Church of St Michael and All Angels (Grade II\*)

National School (Grade II)

Haworth (parts of) and Stanbury are designated Conservation Areas

The majority of the upland moor area is included within the South Pennine Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – a national designation; and Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – both of which are European designations. These protect the habitat and bird species of the South Pennine Moors and effectively prevent any development or operations which would potentially damage the special interest.

Parts of the moors are also registered common land – which means that the public have a right of access on foot and any developments or engineering works which may impede this access are illegal without consent from the Secretary of State.

Most areas of the landscape are also designated Green Belt land.

## (17) Ownership

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

Brontë Society - Haworth Parsonage

Church of St Michael and All Angels and National School - Church of England  
Yorkshire Water - Penistone Hill Country Park (managed by City of Bradford MDC on a long term lease) and Haworth Moor.

Letters of support from key landowners are to follow.

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.

City of Bradford Metropolitan District 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.

The proposed site is not protected as a single entity, however the designated elements are well protected by the following policies in the Replacement Development Plan of the Bradford District (2005)

BH1-6 Listed Buildings  
BH7-13 Conservation Areas  
GB1 Green belt  
NE4 Landscape Character  
NE7 European Sites  
NE8 SSSI's  
NE9 Sites of Ecological or Geological Importance  
NE10 Landscape and ecology

## **(19) Stakeholders**

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

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council  
Brontë Society  
Church of England  
Yorkshire Water  
Natural England  
Individual property owners

## **(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

Management of the proposed site will need to combine the expertise of historic and natural environment conservation professionals with that of literary historians and Brontë family experts. This will ensure that both the tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage of the site is managed sustainably. Bradford Council's Regeneration and Culture, Tourism and Sport Departments, and representatives from Brontë Society, English Heritage and Natural England would be invited to form the core membership of a Steering Group for the site.

The proposed site has multiple owners and a diverse range of stakeholders. A suitable forum will be required to ensure that their views are taken fully into account in the management of the site and that their concerns can be addressed.

It is anticipated that a dedicated World Heritage Site co-ordinator would be needed to co-ordinate the management structure and oversee the implementation of a management plan for the proposed site.

**(21) Funding: the nomination**

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

External funding would be sought to match contributions made by the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council towards the cost of a nomination bid. It is anticipated that as part of a nomination bid an in-depth study of the tangible and intangible links between the Brontë works and the local landscape would be needed to refine the boundary of the site. An analysis of the setting of the site would also be needed to determine an appropriate buffer zone to protect the site from development.

**(22) Funding: management**

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

Opportunities for external funding would be maximised to match contributions made by the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council towards the cost of managing the proposed site.

### **Name and Contact Details of Applicant**

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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](mailto: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.