



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

Creswell Crags

(2) Geographical Location

Name of country/region

UK / north east Derbyshire / north Nottinghamshire

Grid reference to centre of site

NGR SK 535 742

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

Creswell Crags is an enclosed limestone gorge within the central uplands of England, where a cave complex preserves internationally unique evidence demonstrating how early prehistoric populations lived at the extreme northern limits of their territory during the Ice Age (Late Pleistocene).

The network of caves and rock shelters within the 0.5 km long limestone gorge preserves rich sequences of archaeology and palaeontology, providing a rare opportunity to illustrate how our early human ancestors responded to long term climatic and environmental change on the geographical edge of their known world.

Research during the last 140 years clearly shows the range and high quality of archaeological and palaeontological evidence. Intact sequences of sub-aerial and fluvial deposits in the caves and gorge contain assemblages of Neanderthal and Late Palaeolithic tools, rich assemblages of Late Pleistocene mammals, birds, fish, plant macro- and micro-fossils. Three caves contain the only UK examples of in situ Late Palaeolithic rock art.

Creswell Crags is situated within the geologically distinctive Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area, and the national importance of its unique combination of archaeological, palaeontological and palaeoenvironmental evidence has been recognised through its designation as a Scheduled Monument and SSSI.

(5) History

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

The sediments accumulated within the caves over thousands of years preserve rich sequences of palaeoenvironmental evidence from previous warm interglacial and glacial episodes. The evidence indicates persistent hyaena occupation within the caves over the last 120,000 years resulting in major animal bone accumulations.

Uniquely, against this environmental back-drop, the gorge and the caves attracted three phases of habitation as small bands of hunter-gatherers, adapted to northern ice age climates, seasonally exploited their northern hunting territories. The main phases of occupation are:

- (i) Neanderthal occupation (60,000 – 40,000 years ago) evidenced through stone tools.
- (ii) Modern Human (Gravettian) hunter gatherers (28,000 years ago).
- (iii) Late Magdalenian hunters (13,000 years ago) who re-colonised the UK after the intense cold of the last glacial period, providing the richest archaeological evidence including the earliest rock art.

Archaeological excavation of the caves began in earnest during the late 19th century.

Major investment over the last thirty years has transformed Creswell Crags into a publically accessible site, made possible by major landscape improvements including the removal of a water treatment works (2001) and diversion of the road (2007). A Museum and Education Centre opened in 2009.

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

Creswell Crags is being proposed as a cultural site because of its unique association of cultural evidence alongside the rich palaeoenvironmental record.

No European World Heritage Site provides this unique combination of early prehistoric cultural evidence with an environmental record at such a northerly latitude. Creswell Crags fulfils the World Heritage Committee's desire to create a representative, balanced and credible world heritage list by offering a non-architectural, cultural site, that reflects human development and supports the ICOMOS theme 'Human coexistence with the land'.

Creswell Crags has in place an active partnership and sustainable management structure and funding through Creswell Heritage Trust and the four Local Authorities. This management framework has already secured over £12 million of investment since 1980 for major capital schemes that significantly enhance the visitor resource/experience by removing contentious features (see question 5) that were a barrier to tentative list selection in 1986.

WHS inscription for Creswell Crags will bring significant educational, social and economic and environmental impacts to the region and protect the wider landscape setting, including a cluster of other limestone gorges with caves and rock shelters.

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

Uniquely, Creswell Crags bears exceptional testimony to the adaptive response of early human hunter-gatherers to late Ice Age climatic fluctuations in one of the most northerly latitudes, through a combination of cultural and palaeoenvironmental evidence, in a landscape that enables people to visualise the lifestyle of late glacial peoples.

The principal features and attributes that demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value are:

(i) The outstanding landscape of a narrow limestone gorge containing a complex of caves having long-intact palaeoenvironmental cave sediment sequences - animal bones, plant macro- and micro-fossils - reflecting the composition of plant and animal communities and long- and short-term past climatic changes and animal and plant population responses to them - colonising, retreating, re-colonising and, occasionally, extinction.

(ii) In situ Palaeolithic rock art on the walls and ceilings of caves, dated directly to 13,000 years ago, providing direct cultural associations with Late Magdalenian human groups operating at extreme northern latitudes, who regarded Creswell Crags as a significant location.

These attributes are reinforced by several pieces of portable art, engraved bone, including the only known figurative Ice Age art from the UK, and collections of stone, bone and ivory tools and cut marked bone.

(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The wealth and range of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence from Creswell Crags provide a unique testimony to the adaptive response of hunter-gatherers across north-west Europe who colonised extreme northern geographical landscapes during the Ice Age. This survival of cultural evidence, within rich reserves of Ice Age palaeontological sequences, enables reconstruction of their lifestyle and response to environmental change through their material culture - stone, bone and ivory tools - , animal remains bearing testimony to hunting, animal butchery and diet and the presence of portable and rock art provides an insight into their aesthetic appreciation.
(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(v)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(vi)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(vii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(viii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ix)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

UNESCO criterion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Why was this criterion chosen? 100 words
(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

Authenticity is expressed through the following attributes:

1. The form of the limestone gorge and the network of caves and fissures represent intact Quaternary erosion features.
2. The caves preserve intact archaeological and paleoenvironmental sequences providing evidence of long-term climatic and environmental trends¹. These correlate with stratigraphies for stone tools and cave fauna and flora identified in earlier excavations and provide opportunities to present key questions about prehistoric human groups as they colonized, retreated, and re-colonised landscapes in response to advancing and retreating ice sheets. Occasionally cave sequences are capped with calcium carbonate (flowstone) layers providing dated sequences back to 380,000 years.
3. Outside the caves intact Ice Age deposits form scree slopes leading from the lower sections of the cliffs with sub-aerial and fluvial deposits on the gorge floor.
4. 25 engraved rock art figures within three caves depict deer, birds, bovid, horse, and stylised motifs 5 directly dated to c.13,000 years by Uranium Series flowstone determinations.

(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

Creswell Crags demonstrates a high degree of integrity through intact caves within a limestone gorge containing reserves of in situ Pleistocene deposits. All of the site's attributes are contained within the proposed site boundary which is synchronous with the Scheduled Monument boundary.

The site has been subject to periodic archaeological excavation that has removed significant sections of cave earth which has impacted on the integrity of the in situ Quaternary resource. Major episodes of excavation were carried out in the 1870s at Robin Hood Cave, Church Hole, Dog Hole, and Mother Grundy's Parlour. Work in the 1920s removed sequences in Pin Hole with subsequent smaller-scale work in this cave in the 1980s. Despite these episodes of research significant sequences of deposit remain intact as a significant scientific resource.

The integrity of the limestone gorge has been enhanced recently through active management of the site and the gradual removal of 20th century accretions, particularly the road and water treatment works that impacted on the visual and aesthetic qualities of the site. The integrity of the site is interpreted through the new Museum and Education Centre, a major visitor resource located at the eastern end of the valley.

(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 no other examples on the World Heritage List that offer the unique combination of Ice Age archaeological and palaeobiological evidence that is present at Creswell Crags.

The World Heritage List contains only 18 sites where Palaeolithic archaeology is mentioned in the inscription, with another 13 Palaeolithic sites included within tentative lists. Palaeolithic cave art occurs at just five sites. Most sites are inscribed on cultural criteria, with just 2 sites from Africa and 3 from Australasia having mixed designations that also recognise the outstanding importance of aspects of the natural heritage at the site.

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

150 words

Of the seven European Palaeolithic sites on the inscribed (4 sites) and tentative (3 sites) lists, all are from southern Europe (the south of France, Spain, Portugal and Italy). Those rare sites presenting evidence for the adaptations of early human populations to northern ice age climates are currently not represented in the portfolio of European World Heritage sites.

No other site presents comparable environmental and cultural evidence for hunter-gatherer adaptations to Ice Age climates in one of the most northerly latitudes where such evidence survives, in a landscape that enables the spectator to easily visualise and imagine the lifestyles of late glacial peoples.

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

200 words

Both traditional cultures and natural areas with high-latitude climates are recognised as being under-represented in the World Heritage List. At the end of the Ice Age Creswell Crags was at the margins of the habitable world and provides a rare opportunity for interpretation of the late glacial northern European Magdalenian culture.

A comparative study undertaken on behalf of ICOMOS in 1997 identified key selection criteria for early human archaeological sites to be considered for inclusion in the World Heritage List: Creswell Crags meets five out of six of these criteria (well-established chronology; antiquity of the finds; potential for further discoveries; placement of the site in its ancient landscape; and historical importance in the discovery / demonstration of human evolution) with the sixth criterion (presence of fossil humans) a likely outcome of future archaeological investigations.

The inclusion of Creswell Crags on the World Heritage List concurs with the World Heritage Committee’s global strategy “to recognize and protect sites that are outstanding demonstrations of human coexistence with the land as well as human interactions, cultural coexistence, spirituality and creative expression” while meeting the criteria identified by ICOMOS as important when considering sites with evidence of human occupation.

(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.

Creswell Crags lies within the heart of the former rural coalfield of north Nottinghamshire, north-east Derbyshire, and South Yorkshire. Inscription will assist in social and economic regeneration, reversing a poor national image, encouraging inward investment, enhancing tourism, building community pride by celebrating the area's high quality, internationally significant cultural assets.

Outstanding educational potential exists because the archaeological and palaeontological evidence is in context, a powerful stimulus for engagement and learning.

A WHS Management Plan and associated policies will enhance conservation opportunities of the site and setting.

(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Lafarge Aggregates limestone quarry and Steetley processing plant, although not posing a direct conservation threat, does impact on the landscape setting and approaches to the site. The current permission requires all working and restoration work to be completed by 2025. Lafarge are exploring the possibility of limestone extraction to the south of the site in Nottinghamshire but have not submitted a formal application. The impact of any such development will need to be carefully managed. Further threats to the setting may include the Creswell Industrial site to the west which would need appropriate sympathetic management.
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Other	☒	<p data-bbox="580 206 778 241">Visitor Impact</p> <p data-bbox="580 300 1326 591">The site has a finite carrying capacity of 112,000¹ visitors per annum which was calculated during the development of the Museum and Education Centre. The WH Management Plan would include a further impact study to characterise this potential threat in more detail. Access to the caves is strictly controlled through guided tours only, to monitor and control visitor impact within these locations.</p> <p data-bbox="580 607 1331 786">1. Creswell Crags Museum and Archaeology Park. 2003 Creating a centre of excellence: site restoration, new building and an accessible resource for Learning. Stage 1 Bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund Outline Business Plan.</p>
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(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

The whole of the Creswell Crags site was included in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments in 1985, amended in 1988 to provide specific mention of the main caves. The scheduled area includes the gorge, the areas of woodland to north and south, and an area along the valley east of the main body of the gorge.

Listed as a Geological Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1981 and revised 1987. The notification is based on the importance of the site for Quaternary studies and the site is an 'Integrity Site'.

The boundary of the landscape park of Welbeck Abbey, Grade 2 in the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, includes most of the Creswell Crags Scheduled Monument boundary.

The northern portion of the site, within Bolsover District, is included within the Conservation Plan for Creswell village because of its special historic interest.

Bassetlaw District Council's Local Plan includes the southern area around Creswell Crags in a Special Landscape and Heritage Area within which development will be strictly controlled.

Further planning policy development will form a key part of future nomination development specifically identifying the scope of a buffer zone and the protection of the wider landscape setting.

(17) Ownership

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

The entire site is in the ownership of the Welbeck Estates.

Creswell Heritage Trust (with the County Council's as joint guarantors) has a long-term lease of the site which was recently negotiated for thirty years.

Although the owner supports the submission of the application at this stage their support for a future nomination would be contingent on a more detailed understanding of the impact of a buffer zone and setting about which they are more than willing to continue to discuss with the wider partnership.

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.

The County Council and District Council boundary runs down the centre of the limestone gorge. Local Authorities with a responsibility for the site include:

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire County Council – joint guarantors on the lease hold with Creswell Heritage Trust – responsible for mineral and waste planning.

Bolsover District Council - responsible for local planning.

Bassetlaw District Council – responsible for local planning.

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.

Creswell Crags lies within open countryside and is defined by the policies of the Bolsover District Local Plan (2000) and the Bassetlaw Local Plan (2001). Bolsover's Plan contains policies that consider disturbance to Scheduled Monuments and the protection of their setting as well as preserving and enhancing the character and appearance of conservation areas and their setting. This protection is to be retained through emerging LDF documents and the consultation version of the Core Strategy states the intention to protect and enhance the setting of Creswell Crags specifically.

Similarly the Bassetlaw Local Plan contains policies that require development not to destroy or have a detrimental affect on a Scheduled Monument or its setting.

The County Councils have broad policies regarding mineral and waste planning in relation to archaeological sites and SSSI designations. The most relevant environmental impacts under consideration under mineral extraction relates to road traffic, the effects of blasting, noise and dust, and the effects on the water environment. Under waste management, consideration is given to the disposal of non-inert waste in areas where groundwater is vulnerable with specific reference to the Magnesian Limestone.

(19) Stakeholders

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

Creswell Heritage Trust
Welbeck Estates (owners)
Nottinghamshire County Council (representative Board member).
Derbyshire County Council (representative Board member).
Bolsover District Council (representative Board Member; planning control).
Bassetlaw District Council (planning control).
The British Museum (Steering Group Member (British Museum's UK Partnership Scheme; holds finds).
The University of Sheffield (representative Board member (Department of Archaeology)).
Nottingham Trent University (representative Board member)
Lafarge Aggregates (representative Board member)
Creswell and Whitwell Parish Council.

(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

Creswell Heritage Trust has primary responsibility for conserving, managing and interpreting the site for visitors and researchers. The Trust is an independent charitable organisation with a board of Trustees drawn from local authorities, universities and the private sector. The Trust is supported directly by Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire County Councils through core sponsorship and as joint guarantors of the lease. Both Councils are represented on the Council of Management.

A comprehensive Conservation Plan provides the policy framework for the Trust's activities. This document deals with many of the matters required for inclusion within a WHS Management Plan and can be easily developed into a WHS Management Plan. The Conservation Plan clearly identifies the boundary of the Scheduled Monument which includes the land above the caves, protecting the integrity of known or potential in situ sediment in underground features. A draft Research Framework guides future research and ensures maintenance of the integrity of the resource.

Creswell Heritage Trust has successfully managed the site since the Trust's formation in 1991 and has secure and sustainable core income from the local authorities to continue to manage the site in the future.

(21) Funding: the nomination

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

The preparation of the nomination document will be led by Creswell Heritage Trust, supported by a Steering Group acting as an expert panel and contributing expertise to specific areas of the document.

Financial resources to support the nomination document would be sought from stakeholders, partners and funding bodies who have already invested heavily in the site and will champion the bid for inscription.

(22) Funding: management

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

Creswell Heritage Trust already receives sustainable revenue funding from the two County Councils, each providing £38,000 annually. It is envisaged that this will provide adequate levels of funding to successfully manage the site.

However should additional revenue funding be required the Trust will seek contributions from stakeholders through a phased funding programme depending on the timescale of nomination.

Name and Contact Details of Applicant

Name	Ian Wall
Status	Trust Director
Address	Creswell Heritage Trust, Creswell Craggs Museum, Craggs Road, Welbeck, Worksop, Notts. S80 3LH.
Telephone	01909 720378
Email	

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.