



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

Mousa, Old Scatness and Jarlshof: the Crucible of Iron Age Shetland

(2) Geographical Location

Name of country/region

Shetland

Grid reference to centre of site

HU 3898 1065 (Old Scatness)

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

Brochs, 2000 year old drystone towers, are the crowning achievement of prehistoric people in Northern Europe. At 13metres, Mousa is the best surviving example. Old Scatness, a Broch and Iron Age Village, (up to 4m high, with c.1400metres sq uncovered) was excavated with cutting edge techniques. Possibly the most accurately dated site in Europe, it demonstrates how broch society developed and flourished. Jarlshof (171m x 81m max, over 2m high) is internationally renowned for its well preserved, multi-period, remains spanning 4,000 years of human achievement, and encapsulate the transition from this complex Iron Age society into an exceptional Viking Village. The sites are a tribute to the capacity of humans to adapt and live in a harsh, windswept, environment.

Then, as now, the seas and cliffs teemed with life: 1% of the global storm petrel population, the world's largest colony, nest in Mousa Broch and its environs. Nowhere else in the world are petrels so accessible to visitors. The hinterland of Old Scatness and Jarlshof includes the uniquely accessible seabird cliffs: puffins, gullimots, razor bills, shags, kittiwakes nest at Sumburgh Head, wading birds breed in intertidal muds at Pool of Virkie and Mousa is internationally important for pupping common seals. They have European SAC, SPA and National SSSI designations.

(5) History

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

Mousa Broch was built around 400-200BC. It was modified during the Iron Age and used as a refuge in the Viking period. It was taken into Guardianship in 1885. The island was designated an SSSI in 1983, a Special Protection Area (EC Birds Directive) in 1995 and a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive for common seals (an internationally important pupping area and over 1% of the British population) in 2005.

The Broch at Old Scatness is known to be constructed between 400-200BC. The village of roundhouses, and later Pictish wheelhouses continued until c850AD. Eventually windblown sand buried Old Scatness. The site remained a pristine time capsule until excavated between 1995-2006 using the most advanced scientific techniques available. This revealed perhaps the best preserved Iron Age Village in Europe. The first of four monographs arising from this is published.

Jarlshof was settled the Neolithic/Bronze Age to the 1600s, with exceptional Iron Age, Pictish remains and an outstanding Viking village. It was excavated in the first half of the 20th century and published in 1956 in a volume which set new standards for archaeological publication. The site is in Guardianship.

Sumburgh Head, in the buffer zone, was made SPA in 1996.

The Pool of Virkie became a SSSI in 1983.

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

Give reasons. 200 words

These exceptionally well preserved Iron Age sites demonstrate human achievement 1000-2000 years ago in finding complex engineering architectural solutions to create multi storied towers using the materials available to them. They demonstrate the inventiveness of a sophisticated society and how this was passed on and adapted over successive generations.

Each site is worthy of cultural inscription in its own right due to the outstanding preservation and the insights which each gives to aspects of the Iron Age in Northern Europe. Together they provide a detailed picture of Iron Age society, its progression and eventual transition into a time of Viking settlement, and a very different culture. This is key to understanding the position of Shetland in the heart of the North Atlantic today.

Mousa Broch is also worthy of natural inscription because nowhere else in the world are storm petrels, which primarily live out at sea, so accessible. The wider island includes outstanding access to an internationally important colony of breeding common seals. The hinterland of Scatness and Jarlshof includes the spectacular bird cliffs of Sumburgh Head, where people can easily get extremely close to the 35,000 birds which inhabit it.

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

Brochs are the crowning achievement of prehistoric people living in Northern Europe. Dating from around 400-200BC they represent complex engineering architectural solutions to creating multi storied towers up to 13m high, within a treeless landscape. Mousa is the most complete extant example in the world.

The Broch and Village at Old Scatness is unique, demonstrating how the broch style developed into the construction of huge single skinned roundhouses and how values changed architecturally and culturally as the village became Pictish. The excavation used cutting edge scientific techniques, overturning current theories eg: the date and origin of brochs.

Jarlshof is internationally renowned for encapsulating 4000 years of settlement, including the transition from Iron Age/Pictish to Viking, transforming the culture and lifestyle: a cultural upheaval which strongly influences life today.

Nowhere in the world are storm petrels so easily seen as they are in the Broch of Mousa where they make their home. The hinterland (proposed buffer zone) which supported the settlements include exceptionally accessible seabird

colonies at Sumburgh Head and in Mousa, and breeding common seal colonies which all of European significance. The mudflats beside Old Scatness are of national importance for wading birds.

(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The virtually intact Mousa Broch is a masterpiece of creative genius representing the crowning achievement of Iron Age people in Northern Europe 2000 year ago, in creating complex drystone towers, 13m high, in a treeless landscape.
(ii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The three sites combine to exhibit the important interchange of human values throughout 1000 years from the point at which they perfected their drystone skills and created massive drystone brochs (Mousa), then adapted these skills in order to create large roundhouses with narrow walls, 13m internal diameter (Old Scatness) and corbelled wheelhouses (Jarlshof), which are also significant feats of drystone work, creating monumentality with the limited materials available to them.
(iii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brochs are the pinnacle of architectural achievement in the North Atlantic Iron Age. Mousa is the outstanding example: the only broch to survive near to its full height of 13m. The complex Iron Age and Pictish village at Old Scatness and the Pictish and Viking settlement at Jarlshof bear exceptional testimony to the Iron Age civilisation of 2000 years ago, the Picts, and the advent of the Vikings: a time of great cultural upheaval.
(iv)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brochs are outstanding feats of drystone work, due to their height, durability and their incorporation of primitive relieving lintels. Mousa is the defining example of that tradition, being the world's most complete example. Old Scatness contains exceptional examples of huge single walled roundhouses.

UNESCO criterion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Why was this criterion chosen? 100 words
		Jarlshof includes the best surviving example of a wheelhouse as well as an outstanding example of a Viking village in a treeless landscape. These incredible structures represent the height of prehistoric achievement, and represent the zenith of prehistoric achievement in the North Atlantic world.
(v)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(vi)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(vii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(viii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ix)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(x)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mousa hosts 1% of the world's breeding population of storm petrels (6% of the UK& Ireland population), and is the largest single colony in the world. It is also the only place where people can readily see them. They are listed in the EU Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds and are on the Amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern in Britain.

(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

Old Scatness was unknown to antiquarians and was a pristine Iron Age time-capsule prior to accidental discovery. Excavation commenced in 1995. The excavation was to the highest standards, using cutting edge archaeological techniques. The site is recorded photogrammetrically prior to consolidation, with every proposed intervention being documented. The consolidation is therefore entirely reversible and authentic, using original material. An area containing authentic reconstructions has been created, informed by the archaeology, and using skilled drystone dykers, in order to learn more about how the structures were built and functioned.

Mousa and Jarlshof were investigated far earlier. The report for Jarlshof (1956) set new standards for archaeological publication. Both sites have been maintained since the later 19th century using either original material or, in the case of pinnings, materials identical in character and origin. Any modern intervention is kept to the minimum without compromising the authenticity of the site.

(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

At Old Scatness, modern intervention has been kept to the absolute minimum required in order to protect the excavated site. All intervention has been documented and the process is completely reversible. Reconstruction buildings, based on the excavated evidence, are clearly distinguished as such. At Jarlshof and Mousa the 19th century intervention is undocumented however, comparison with Old Scatness suggests that any reconstruction is both true to the original and of limited extent. Corbelling, recently observed at the top of Mousa, suggests that the building is original, as it is highly unlikely that any repair work in the late 19th/early 20th centuries would have observed and replicated this. Pre-1879 painting and photographs demonstrate that Mousa has always stood to its present height. Storm petrels have taken advantage of Mousa broch and the surrounding stony beach, as a suitable habitat for seasonal breeding and nesting. Protection is provided by managing visitor access and its success is proven by the fact that the storm petrel population continue to use it annually. The common seals and seabird cliffs are also exceptionally accessible and are in their natural state. Walls have been added to the cliff edges for the safety of visitors.

(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 Northern European Iron Age sites on the World Heritage List and the close relationship between outstanding archaeological remains and the natural environment adds further to the universal value of the site.

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

150 words

The remarkable preservation, the relationship with the natural environment, the cutting edge excavation of a pristine Iron Age timecapsule, the completeness of Mousa,

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

200 words

The list includes only 25 mixed sites, of which 2 are in Northern Europe. The application is of outstanding universal value because it goes further than merely combining the natural and cultural heritage: it is an outstanding example of an Amber Listed sector of the natural environment taking refuge in an outstanding example of the cultural environment, which was itself, at least partially constructed to be a refuge. In addition, this site would increase cultural diversity, filling the gap which exists for the Iron Age of Northern Europe and the North Atlantic: neither brochs or Picts are included and it is important to acknowledge these achievements. It will encourage multilateral co-operation and increase expertise in protecting, safeguarding and managing the heritage

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

Please describe. 100 words.

Inscription will bring world recognition to the outstanding natural and culture heritage of Shetland. It will foster closer working relationships and contribute to a holistic presentation of the cultural and natural heritage, including in marketing and promotion. It will increase levels of research, providing better understanding of the sites, which will be translated into interpretation and education at all levels. The natural and cultural heritage is the main reason people come to Shetland. This will therefore add value. Increased awareness and interagency working will increase interdisciplinary understanding and afford better protection and conservation practices.

(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"/>	<p>The proposed development of interpretive facilities at Old Scatnes should be positive both for the management and there are longer term proposals to "put the mound back over the site", roofing it. This would enhance preservation as well as improve visitor access.</p> <p>The proposed interpretive facilities at Sumburgh Head should impact positively on the area, increasing visitor numbers.</p>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Jarlshof has been subject to coastal erosion. This is managed with protective walls which are regularly maintained.</p>
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

Mousa: Scheduled Ancient Monument
 HS Guardianship Site
 Site of Scientific Interest
 Special Protection Area
 Special Area of Conservation

Storm petrels are listed in Annex 1 of EU Directive 79/409/EEC requiring special conservation measures be taken to protect their habitats

Jarlshof: Scheduled Ancient Monument
 HS Guardianship Site

Old Scatness: Scheduled Ancient Monument

Buffer zone to include SSSIs at Sumburgh Head and Pool of Virkie and incorporate the whole of Mousa (SSSI, SAC and SPA)

(17) Ownership

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

Historic Scotland
Shetland Amenity Trust

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.

Shetland Islands 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.

All three sites are covered by policy LP NE 10
"In particular the Council will refuse development proposals that would have a significant adverse effect on the integrity or character, as appropriate, of the following designated sites:

g) Possible, candidate or designated Special Areas of Conservation, potential or classified Special Protection Areas...Sites of Special Scientific Interest...

j) Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Jarlshof and Old Scatness are both designated "Local Protection Areas" covered by Policy LP NE 11

"Where an area has been identified on the map as a Local Protection Area, only applications for the development of facilities which benefit the community as a whole will be considered"

(19) Stakeholders

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

Shetland Amenity Trust
Historic Scotland
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Scottish Natural Heritage
The resident communities of Sandwick and Dunrossness
Shetland Islands Council
Robert Bell, landowner Mousa.

(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

Proposals would be brought forward in order to develop existing co-operation between the main parties (Historic Scotland, RSPB, Shetland Amenity Trust, Shetland Islands Council).

Mousa is a managed RSPB bird reserve, the Broch being managed by Historic Scotland and is in Guardianship. Access to the island is by ferry.

Jarlshof is managed by Historic Scotland is in Guardianship.

Old Scatness Broch is managed and owned by Shetland Amenity Trust and is scheduled by Historic Scotland.

We envisage much closer working relationships between the RSPB, Historic Scotland and Shetland Amenity Trust in terms of marketing, promotion, educations and resources. This has already begun with the RSPB and

Shetland Amenity Trust at Sumburgh Head, which is in the buffer zone, and Historic Scotland and Shetland Amenity Trust at Jarlshof/Old Scatness.

(21) Funding: the nomination

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

Shetland Amenity Trust has an exemplary track record of partnership working and leveraging in funding from both local, national and European sources. It also has a number of staff experienced in fields of fund-raising, site management and co-operative working, which has led to the achievement of highly ambitious goals in the field of archaeology and the natural environment, including obtaining World Geopark Status for Shetland. Specific sources of funding will be identified pragmatically, as opportunities can be created.

(22) Funding: management

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

Shetland Amenity Trust is willing to lead the funding application process which would continue to explore funding avenues as outlined above. The Trust has over 150 employees and a turnover of over £4.5 million. It has proved its sustainability over 26 years to date. We would expect the stakeholders to augment and enhance their existing roles, developing co-operative working and management strategies.

Name and Contact Details of Applicant

Name	Val Turner
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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.