



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

SLATE INDUSTRY OF NORTH WALES

(2) Geographical Location

Name of country/region

Gwynedd

Grid reference to centre of site

SH 615 664; SH 585 603; SH 512 557; SH 549 434; SH 697 468; SH 579 723

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 proposal is to include several areas embodying high levels of authenticity and integrity, embodying OUV through the different forms and traditions of the industry, its transport and infrastructure, and its workforce's communities.

The areas to be included will be further developed at the next stage, but possible locations include:

(i) the slate-quarrying landscape of the Ogwen-Cegin valleys, in which the long-lived Penrhyn quarry is situated, its harbour at Port Penrhyn and associated rail system and Penrhyn Castle (National Trust property, home of major quarry-owning family)

(ii) the Welsh Slate Museum in the Dinorwic quarry, associated workings, innovative quarry hospital, worker settlements and transport systems

(iii) the slate-quarrying landscape of Nantlle/Moel Tryfan, associated worker settlements and transport systems

(iv) the landscape of the Gorsedda quarry, tramway and worker settlement, the iconic Ynyspandy slate mill

(v) the Ffestiniog slate landscape, early hydro-power station and associated transport systems including the Ffestiniog Railway, which took the tradition of the horse-worked mineral railway into the steam narrow gauge public railway (model for the WH Darjeeling Railway).

(vi) the main University building at Bangor, reflecting the quarrymen's' financial contribution and zeal for education

(5) History

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

The slate industry of North Wales was a major provider of roofing materials and slate products throughout the world in the 19th century. It enabled a traditional culture and a minority language to adapt to the modern world by acquiring new skills.

The industry was active in the Roman period, grew significantly during the 18th century, expanded rapidly 1856-1900 and was technically innovative to 1914. Slate products were exported within a world market; the technologies of the quarries and their transport infrastructure were also exported worldwide. The call for craft-skills was met by the growing working population of north Wales, sustaining a remarkable culture. It was the only major capitalised British industry to be connected almost entirely in a language other than English. Quarry communities met the challenges of industrialisation by creating their own democratic structures, including workers' chapels, and in their financial contribution to Bangor University.

Its landscape impact is profound and largely intact, creating distinctive quarrying environments, and settlements that are recognised as classic examples of 19th-century industrial/vernacular towns and villages. There has been little redevelopment or reclamation. Some sites have been conserved since the 1970s.

The industry remains active on a reduced scale

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

The North Wales slate industry is acknowledged for its high level of preservation. It has been well researched through its abundant information sources (both documentary study and archaeological recording), and is thoroughly understood. It remains a very important part of the identity of communities within North Wales. Its landscapes, its individual sites, the museum which interprets it in the former Dinorwic quarry and the railways which served it (including the operational Ffestiniog Railway), also all have a powerful impact on visitors. Nomination would have the power to change perceptions of landscapes previously regarded as derelict, and thereby to encourage regeneration through conservation and heritage.

There is also a strong opportunity to enhance world-wide relationships with communities where Welsh slate or Welsh people and technology were exported. There is the potential to develop a trans-national bid should the North Wales slate industry go onto the tentative list, thereby encouraging capacity-building and communication.

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

To visit, or grow up within, the slate quarrying areas of North Wales is to encounter a remarkable and very striking landscape.

It illustrates the way in which a traditional minority culture adapted to modernity in the classic 'Industrial' period, thereby growing into the confident living culture of today.

It did so by evolving technical solutions to geological and processing problems as well as by developing a unique set of craft skills, involving a profound understanding of the nature of the rock to be quarried and processed. These methods in some cases owed something to other industries but were mostly sui generis. These skills were passed on to other quarrying areas, most notably in France and the USA, by exchange of ideas and (in the case of the USA) by emigration.

Its products are found all over the world.

The distinctive solution evolved by the industry to the problem of transporting slate from the quarry to navigable water is the locomotive-worked narrow-gauge railway. This was identified by engineers world-wide as a model adaptable to their own countries from 1870 onwards.

The social gulf between patrician proprietors and workers is seen in the Neo-Norman masterpiece Penrhyn Castle, home of the owner of the major quarry, in relict/preserved workers' vernacular housing, churches and chapels in quarry landscapes.

(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed site exhibits an important global interchange of human values in terms of extractive technology, building materials and transport technology. The influence of its extractive technology is felt in the quarries of the USA and France, and of their transport technology in narrow-gauge rail systems all over the world. The evidence of its main product is evident world-wide.
(iii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed site bears exceptional testimony to the way in which a living minority cultural/linguistic tradition adapted to modernity in the 19th century.

UNESCO criterion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Why was this criterion chosen? 100 words
(iv)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed site offers outstanding examples of technological ensemble within a challenging landscape, illustrating a significant stage in the Industrial Revolution.
(v)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed site offers an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement and land-use which is representative of a strong minority culture, as well as of human interaction with the environment through quarrying and engineering. This second category is vulnerable to economic change and industrial decline.
(vi)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed site is directly and tangibly associated with the struggle for social justice through the quarry communities' own democratic structures including workers' chapel and their support for the University at Bangor (which forms part of the site).
(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

OUV is obvious through authentic survival of the site. The importance of the site to the people of Wales during the economic slow-down in the 20th century has preserved authenticity of the major period of significance 1856-1914.

The site counters the belief that mineral extraction significantly destroys evidence of its history. There are many protected buildings and landscapes within the site - Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and identified UNESCO/Cadw/Countryside Council for Wales Historic Landscapes. These buildings exhibit authenticity in form and design; materials and substance; and in use and function. These landscapes are understandable, survive to a remarkable degree, and robust. They exhibit authenticity in terms of use and function; traditions, techniques and management systems; and in location and setting within the natural landscape.

Important indicators of character and place remain exceptionally powerful, including the Welsh language and its associated intangible heritage of literature and music, and spirit and feeling.

Information sources are abundant, in Welsh, in English and in other languages.
Greater appreciation of the industry's importance will provide resources to halt decay in unconserved sites.

(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

Economic slow-down in the 20th century has preserved site-integrity. The suggested areas represent the best examples from the full range of the industry, and substantially retain their original fabric (defined as the survival of elements from the industry's principal period of significance 1856-1914). The main quarry landscapes are included in the Cadw/CCW/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.

The Ogwen-Cegin slate-quarrying landscape is little changed since 1900. Penrhyn castle is well conserved in late 19th condition.

The Welsh Slate Museum, with associated workings and hospital, is original fabric of the 1870s and is well conserved.

The slate-quarrying landscape of Nantlle/Moel Tryfan is dominated by fabric of 1800-1914.

The Gorsedda quarry, tramway, settlement and mill is original fabric of the 1850s. The mill has been conserved by the National Park.

The Ffestinog slate landscape is made up largely of fabric from 1856-1914. The active Ffestiniog Railway uses formation from the 1830s and operates its innovative steam locomotives and carriages of the 1860s and 1870s.

The listed University building is fabric of 1906-1911, 'a triumph of Picturesque planning and of the Northern Renaissance style' (Pevsner).

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

Yes No

If yes, please list. 100 words

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

150 words

No similar site is as yet inscribed. It differs from other extractive industry sites thus:

From the Neolithic Flint Mines at Spiennes as a modern extractive landscape.

From the Sewell Mining Town, Kutná Hora, Salins-les-Bains/Arc-et-Senans, Rammelsberg and Historic Town of Goslar, Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape, Røros Mining Town, Wieliczka Salt Mine, Falun mine and the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape as a quarrying landscape rather than a mining landscape.

Inclusion of quarry transport links in the Ffestiniog and Nantlle slate landscapes will strengthen connections with the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway World Heritage site, which adapts (but does not slavishly copy) slate quarry railway technology to the circumstances of India.

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

200 words

Industrial archaeology and industrial landscapes are still under-represented in the World Heritage list.

Nomination would ensure the presence of a quarrying site, which is at present a thematic omission, compared to coal-mining and copper- and tin-mining sites, which are already represented on the World Heritage List. The slate industry is one of the major construction industries of the world's first industrial nation. It would therefore complement the World Heritage sites at New Lanark, Blaenavon, Ironbridge and Cornwall.

Nomination would ensure the presence on the World Heritage list of a landscape shaped with the active participation of its people, through quarrying but also through vernacular townscapes, places of worship and squatter-communities. It will ensure a World Heritage site which represents a living culture, one which demonstrates co-existence with the land, and which remains

at the heart of its community as well as being globally significant.

Nomination would open the possibility of a trans-national theme, examining transfer of Welsh technology to other countries where slate was quarried.

(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.

Inscription would bring a range of benefits to the area and the communities within, many of which are deprived. WHS designation would support conservation of the area's unique cultural, historic and industrial assets and develop the benefit derived from them. The goals of the National Museum of Wales as educator would be furthered and sustainable high value tourism would be developed. It would raise awareness of the active quarries and of their durable and sustainable products. It would thereby assist regeneration in the associated towns and villages and aid conservation and protection of the industry's features through raised awareness and increased community pride.

(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"/>	

Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is a risk of decay in historic unconserved structure within relict quarry landscapes. This has been, and will continue to be, minimised by growing understanding of the industry's history and archaeology, by identification of structures at risk, by monitoring, conservation or preservation by record, as appropriate.

(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

A number of individual buildings and structures within the industry are Listed or are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Part of the indicative Core Zone falls into the (non-statutory designation) landscapes identified by the Cadw/ICOMOS/Countryside Council for Wales Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Significance. The landscapes are Blaenau Ffestiniog; Dinorwig; Dyffryn Nantlle/Nantlle Valley; Dyffryn Ogwen/Ogwen Valley.

The relict landscape of the Gorsedda quarry and the iconic Scheduled Ynyspandy slate mill and part of the Ffestiniog slate landscape and associated transport systems fall within the Snowdonia National Park

(17) Ownership

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

Final composition of the WHS would be agreed in the development of the full nomination, but the owners of the sites currently identified include:

- Gwynedd Council
- Snowdonia National Park
- National Museum of Wales
- J.W Greaves Welsh Slate/Quarry Tours/Slate Heritage International
- Caernarvonshire Crown Slate Quarry Company
- Ffestiniog Railway Company
- Bangor University

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.

Gwynedd Council (unitary authority and planning authority outside the Snowdonia National Park)
Snowdonia National Park Authority

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.

<p>Local plans and policies do not at present make specific reference to the establishment of a WHS. However, the WHS would become a material consideration in relation to policies should the nomination progress and be incorporated into specific policies as necessary and as opportunities arise.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that the development of a WHS would complement and realise a range of current polices in fields including planning, conservation and economic development; where maintaining the unique assets of the area and developing the social, cultural, environment and economic benefits derived from them is a priority.</p> <p>Specifically, Gwynedd Council's Unitary Development Plan includes a number of relevant policies as does the Snowdonia National Park Authority's draft Local Development Plan and it's Management Plan.</p>
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(19) Stakeholders

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

As previously noted it is anticipated that the WHS will include a number of individual sites and encompass several local communities. In the development of the WHS nomination broad public consensus would be sought to ensure sustainability and maximise the benefits to be gained. As such, there will be a range of stakeholders including local communities as well as specific organisation, such as

- National Museum of Wales
- J.W Greaves Welsh Slate/Quarry Tours
- Caernarvonshire Crown Slate Quarry Company
- Bangor University
- Ffestiniog Railway Company
- Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales

(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

The anticipated WHS would include a number of individual sites - as such responsibility for individual locations would remain with the site-owners who would manage their assets in accordance with an agreed Management Plan.

It is anticipated that the Plan would reflect and develop existing management systems, including mineral planning policy, listed buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and identified historic landscapes on the Cadw/CCW/ICOMOS Register of Historic Landscapes. The Plan would also propose a clear strategy to maximise the social, cultural and economic benefits which could be gained through WHS designation

It is envisaged that the Management Plan would be developed and delivered under the auspices of a Steering Group which would be established, including relevant stakeholders in the WHS from the public, private and voluntary sectors (building upon the experiences of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal bids) and including representation from site-owners and local communities as well as Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales as intellectual stakeholders.

The Group would work with experts in the history and archaeology of the slate industry and with local communities to evolve a comprehensive Management Plan with broad ownership.

(21) Funding: the nomination

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

Gwynedd Council has received guidance on the likely cost of the preparation of the nomination. All partners will seek to minimise the costs associated with nomination and funding of the nomination is subject to further discussion. Given the anticipated constraints on public finances individual partners may choose not to proceed to full nomination.

However, the costs might be shared by the primary public and private sector stakeholders in the establishment of the WHS, including Gwynedd Council, the Snowdonia National Park Authority and the Assembly Government augmented by resources from external sources such as European Funds, private sponsorship and the Lottery

(22) Funding: management

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

Future funding for the management of the sites will be subject to agreement in the development stage which would follow the inclusion on the UK Tentative List.

It is, however, envisaged that responsibility for the management of individual sites - and any associated costs - would remain with the sites' owners, in the context of an agreed Management Plan for the WHS site as a whole.

Any resources required for the ongoing co-ordination and proactive development of the benefit gained from the designation of WHS status would again be subject to discussion at the next stage.

It is also anticipated that WHS status will lever external funding for development of the sites

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

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.