



## 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

The Dover Strait

### (2) Geographical Location

Name of country/region

UK and France

Grid reference to centre of site

Grid Reference: outside national grids - map attached at Annex 1; Latitude 50 ° 59'49.94" N, Longitude 1 ° 30'35.12" E

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 World Heritage Site, Dover Strait or Pas de Calais, would include the iconic White Cliffs of Dover and Folkestone, reflecting the existing Heritage Coast and environmental designations, Scheduled Monuments, the Caps Griz Nez and Blanc Nez, (Grand Site National) immediate landscapes, historically significant buildings within the urban landscape and the seascape and marine environment between.

Whilst the UK and France were once connected via a land bridge, the Channel has been important throughout history - a barrier during times of conflict and a conduit for trade and cultural exchange during more peaceful times. The chalk cliffs on either side bear testament to this strategic relationship, with outstanding fortifications from the Roman period to the twentieth century. The Site will encompass specific properties which, having due regard to current development plans, contribute to its Outstanding Universal Value, including: Dover Castle; Fort Bourgoyne; The Drop Redoubt and Citadel and associated fortifications on the Western Heights; The Channel Tunnel and Samphire Hoe.

The Site also has a significant ecological value, featuring globally significant areas of chalk grassland and wave cut platforms and, by its very nature, reflects a unique collection of plants and animals at the limit of their biogeographical range.

## **(5) History**

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

About 425,000 years ago, as the Anglian ice sheet melted, a huge glacial lake overtopped the chalk ridge that connected Dover and Calais, gouging out the Dover Strait and flooding the lowlying land to the southwest. Britain became an island, but rejoined the continental mainland again as sea level fell during subsequent glaciations. The land bridge was last inundated about 8,500 years ago.

The Strait lies at the crossing point of two great prehistoric routeways. The oldest known seagoing boat was discovered in Dover, dating to about 1,550 BC. Roman forts, harbours and lighthouses were built in Dover and Boulogne. The Classis Britannica fleet operated from both ports and Dover-Boulogne became the most important Channel crossing route. More recently it witnessed Bleriot's flight and Marconi's broadcast.

Dover Castle was the pre-eminent defence fortress of the realm from the 13th century and is the only UK medieval castle regularly updated through to the Cold War. The area also played a critical role in WW2. Outstanding fortifications built during the 18th and 19th centuries survive on both sides of the Channel.

The habitats of the site also reveal the area's heritage and the use of the land. In particular the chalk grassland, a predominantly semi-natural habitat, was created by the clearing of forests some 4,000 years ago.

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

This is the first time that a Strait has been proposed as a World Heritage Site under the criteria:

Natural: dramatic and iconic chalk cliff landscape with the White Cliffs (AONB) on the English side and Site National des Caps (Cap Blanc Nez, Cap Gris Nez) on the French. Both sides offer areas of international significance for their biodiversity, geological exposures and geomorphology.

Cultural: a site of major global historical events, with a special place in hearts and minds of people of Britain and France and much wider. A place of cultural exchange and trade, conflict and travel. A strong link in the history of the two peoples, from the Bronze Age Boat to the Channel Tunnel.

Cultural landscape: the Strait is a globally important seascape and sea route. It is now one of the busiest international seaways used by over 600 commercial vessels daily. The White Cliffs has an iconic status, referenced in literature and song. At times during human history there was a land bridge between Britain and mainland Europe at this site.

WHS status will help to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the area and the sustainable regeneration of the coastal economy and communities, which suffer from high levels of multiple deprivation. It will cement the coherence of this bi-national site through a new local and global focus.

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

The Dover Strait is recognised globally not just for its dramatic and outstandingly beautiful land/sea scapes and its rich biodiversity and geological heritage but as a place of historical and cultural exchange throughout human history. The landscapes are internationally recognised as IUNC category IV Protected Landscapes (Heritage Coasts, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Parc Naturel Regional).

The unique biological and geological diversity of the proposed site is of global significance. The site includes areas of chalk grassland, a now rare, species rich habitat that can contain 30-40 different species in one single square metre. It also features a unique collection of plants and animals at the limit of their biogeographical range.

The Strait has been a globally important sea route from prehistoric times to the

present day. The outstanding historic fortifications, harbours and archaeological finds either side of the Channel bear witness to this.

Main features include:

White Cliffs and cliff top grassland, including geological exposures and important land forms.

Wave cut platform

Channel seascape

Dover Bronze Age boat and shipwrecks

Coastal WW2 defence features

Built heritage - Dover Castle; Fort Bourgoyne; The Drop Redoubt and Citadel and associated fortifications on the Western Heights; The Channel Tunnel and Samphire Hoe

## (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 Dover Strait has been a globally important sea route and witness to the exchange of ideas and culture since prehistoric times. The historic fortifications and monuments bear testament to key developments in architecture and technology at various stages in history. These range from the Roman pharos and development of Dover Castle, Bleriot's flight, and Marconi's broadcast to the building of the Channel Tunnel and the innovative modern Channel navigation systems. The Dover Strait is the shortest crossing and at times throughout history part of a shared cultural area.
(iii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The White Cliffs have a particular symbolic role in UK history and heritage, the name Albion coming from the bright White Cliffs. Dover Castle viewed as key to England.
(iv)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	500,000 years ago there was a land bridge between Britain and the rest of Europe. A geological 'mega flood' at the end of

UNESCO criterion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Why was this criterion chosen? 100 words
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	the Anglian glaciation severed Britain from the mainland, one of few such globally understood and researched events. Smaller floods occurred at the end of subsequent glaciations, most recently about 8,500 years ago. Recent bathymetry shows the traces of this event e.g. elliptical flood islands on the Channel floor. The severance of the land bridge interrupted both human and biological migration and exchange having an enduring effect on the British Isles, its history and culture, landscapes and wildlife. Outstanding military and port architecture.
(v)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Dover Strait has always been the shortest crossing between Britain and the rest of Europe. It has been a focus for the exchange of ideas, materials and goods, and for travel, migration and political interaction. The sea was often a means of connecting rather than dividing people. The Dover Bronze Age Boat, the oldest surviving seagoing boat, symbolises the exchange of technology and trade that continues today, the Dover Strait being the world's busiest shipping lane. The proposed site is heavily fortified with outstanding examples of defensive architecture demonstrating its strategic role throughout history. The seascape epitomises the effects of climate change.
(vi)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Strait has witnessed some of the most dramatic and important scenes in human history from its creation at the end of the Anglian ice age, as the main Roman port, as the key to England in the medieval period, to perhaps most significantly key events in the Second World War. The evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940 was controlled from Dover Castle, many of the dog fights in the Battle of Britain took place over the Channel and an outstanding example of a radar station which was critical to Britain's defence survives at Swingate. If Britain had not survived the invasion threat and provided a platform for counter attack the course of world history would be entirely different.
(vii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Dover Strait proposed World Heritage Site includes two UK Heritage Coasts within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a French Parc Naturel Regional and Grand Site, making them IUCN Category IV Protected Landscapes. The extraordinary natural beauty and iconic qualities of the White Cliffs are recognised and celebrated globally and experienced by millions of travellers each year. The Cliffs are internationally protected for their wildlife and biodiversity, focusing on the habitats of the chalk.
(viii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Dover Strait is of international significance for its geology and geomorphology; it is effectively a valley exposing cliffs

UNESCO criterion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Why was this criterion chosen? 100 words
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	which provided evidence to support the theory of stratigraphy, the geological record of life. Formed by a mega-flood 425,000 years ago, the greatest flood ever recorded. The cliffs at Folkestone represent a global type section for the Gault Clay. The landscape of the Warren is one of very few similar landslips demonstrating 'rotational shearing' in a dramatic way. The erosion of the cliffs continually reveals bright new chalk and the geological story contained within.
(ix)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The White Cliffs are identified as areas of ecological refugia (Refugia Hypothesis) being a source of species migration in the post Ice Age environmental change. This process focuses on calcareous grassland, a globally scarce and ecologically rich habitat much valued by local communities. Grassland refuges amongst the cliffs expanded following tree clearance and introduction of agriculture. Extensive wave-cut chalk platforms exist along the coast of the site, a rare feature in the UK (forms only 0.6% of the UK coast) providing important geological and ecological features.
(x)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed World Heritage Site contains very significant areas of coastal cliff and chalk grassland, a globally rare and protected habitat rich in biological diversity of great value for conservation. The importance of these sites is recognised in national and international protection.

### (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

Parts of the site, e.g. elements of Dover Castle, are in very good condition. Other areas such as parts of the Western Heights are in more variable condition. Conservation management plans or documents are available for parts of the site. The biodiversity and geological resource is generally in favourable condition but there are threats to individual areas and to the overall integrity of the proposed site through uncoordinated management and piecemeal development. Some of the negative impacts experienced in the past can be undone but the importance of the focus, management planning and investment that the WHS status would bring cannot be understated.

### (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

There is outstanding survival of original fabric across the site, e.g. at Dover Castle, including the Second World War secret tunnels, at the Western Heights, and at the Swingate radar station. There is also good survival of historic fortifications on the French coast. The Dover Bronze Age boat is the oldest surviving sea-going boat and is in excellent condition preserved in Dover Museum. A Roman pharos survives within a medieval church at Dover Castle and parts of the Roman forts, and probably the harbour, are preserved within Dover town centre. The condition of the standing monuments is variable. Over 530 historic wrecks are recorded on the Kent side of the site; many of these relate to the OUV of the site. Their condition is largely unknown but is likely to be variable.

There are rare survivals of geological features on the seabed. Mostly the biodiversity, geology and geomorphology are in favourable condition but there are important areas where it is unfavourable.

Similarly the landscape and seascape is generally in good condition and represents the OUV described; however, there is a real threat to this resource at a local level. through uncoordinated management, poorly considered interventions and lack of maintenance.

**(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



The Dover Strait is not only the busiest international seaway in the world but compared to the one hundred or so other straits in the world, it is also the most world- renowned for the famous White Cliffs of Dover and Cap Blanc Nez on the French side of the Channel. The distinctiveness of the Site is also reflected in many of the aspects identified under the UNESCO criteria such as its internationally significant geology and geomorphology. It hosts the world's longest sea tunnel, the Channel Tunnel.

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

200 words

The site contributes to the priorities for cultural landscapes. In the context of the analysis of types of sites within UNESCO's Global Strategy, the strong natural element of the site will help balance the preponderance of cultural sites, whilst there are currently few sites (16) which comprise both. The Dover Strait has been a globally significant sea-route throughout the ages. At times the events with which it is associated, e.g. Dunkirk evacuation and Battle of Britain, have changed the course of world history.

**(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 main benefits would be in support of Tourism - greater focus on the outstanding status and qualities of these sites giving incentive for the tourism industry to invest and people to stay rather than pass through. Regeneration - improving the recognition and reputation of the area and supporting high quality investment and tourism. Conservation and research collaboration - the Management Plan and investment that WHS would bring would significantly enhance the conservation of this area and complement existing protection from insensitive interventions. Educational opportunities would similarly increase.

**(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"/>	Ill-considered small scale development and major infrastructure development could threaten the integrity of this area if poorly managed. The WHS status would bring an extra level of protection which would encourage better local development decisions and mitigation of infrastructure to conserve and enhance the OUV of the area.
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate change is likely to affect the biodiversity and coastal processes of the area, in some cases, with proper management there could be positive as well as negative effects. Again, the impact of major infrastructure development could bring environmental harm and the WHS status would help ensure full mitigation and protection as appropriate. There is a threat to the biodiversity from lack of co-ordinated wildlife management, again WHS status would provide the management and funding regimes to mitigate this threat.
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The risk of an oil spill is ever-present as the Strait is one of the busiest international seaways in the world.

**(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

Key parts of the land-based part of the site are protected by national and international designations. These include Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Parc Naturel Regional, Special Conservation Area (Natura 2000), Grand Site, several Sites of Special Scientific Interest, several Scheduled Monuments. Potential inclusion in Marine Protected Zones (to be identified in 2011). Some areas are owned by the National Trust as Inalienable Land.

### **(17) Ownership**

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

National Trust, Dover District Council, Shepway District Council, Network Rail, Crown Estate (sea bed and beaches), English Heritage, Eurotunnel (Sapphire Hoe), MoD.

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.

On 11 March 2009, Paul CARTER, Leader of Kent County Council and Dominique DUPILET, President of the Conseil General du Pas de Calais signed an Amendment to their Partnership Agreement of 8 November 2005 (attached) committing the two partners to develop a bid for UNESCO World Heritage Site status for the Dover Strait. Dover District Council and Shepway District Council are the key local authority partners with an interest in the Site.

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 Kent Downs AONB Management Plan is a statutory plan aimed at conserving and enhancing the Natural Beauty and supporting social and economic well being in the AONB. The Management Plan contains policies for the management of the AONB and for Local Authority functions in relation to it. Several policies of the AONB Management Plan have relevance to the proposed site, including policies referring to Landform and Landscape Character, Biodiversity, Historic and Cultural Heritage, Geology and Natural Resources, vibrant communities, sustainable development and travel and access enjoyment and understanding. The Kent Downs AONB Management Plan is available at [www.kentdowns.org.uk](http://www.kentdowns.org.uk)

### **(19) Stakeholders**

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

All principal stakeholders will be represented on the Steering Committee (see below) including Land Owners (above) plus Natural England, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, Kent Downs AONB Joint Advisory Committee and Unit, Marine Management Organisation (when formed), Residents' Associations.

### **(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

Most of the buildings and land within the Site are within the ownership of those organisations supporting the nomination and who will be members of the Steering Committee established on 11 March 2009 as an Amendment to the existing Partnership Agreement between KCC and Pas de Calais. The Committee will monitor implementation of the Site Management Plan (which on the UK side would run alongside the existing AONB Management Planning process and mesh with the Coastal Marine Zone Plan); co-ordinate partners' contributions, allocate resources, agree any changes to the Plan and budgets and work with project staff to identify and secure additional resources. Activities under the Site Management Plan will be taken forward by a range of Working Groups co-ordinated by a full-time Site Manager covering the themes and features under the UNESCO criteria.

**(21) Funding: the nomination**

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

Given its cross-border aspect, especially additional travel costs, a working estimate of some £100k p.a. for preparing the nomination may be assumed. This cost will be shared by Kent County Council, the Conseil General du Pas de Calais and stakeholders supporting the nomination by existing staff. With a significant track-record of EU-funded joint cross-border projects, KCC and PDC will also apply to the EU's Interreg programme to finance studies and research.

**(22) Funding: management**

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

Using Dorset & East Devon Coast WHS as an appropriate model, ongoing management costs may be of the order of £300k - £350k p.a. The Site Management Plan will be aligned with the existing work programmes of stakeholders to enable management to be undertaken within existing core resources. The Heritage Lottery Fund recently earmarked £1,602,200 for the White Cliffs of Dover Landscape Partnership. This will complement WHS status, protect the landscape by removing scrub and maintain grassland to encourage the growth of flora and fauna. Conservation work will be undertaken on key built heritage features inc. Western Heights. EU Interreg funding will also be sought.

**Name and Contact Details of Applicant**

Name	Linda Davies
Status	Director, Environment & Waste Directorate
Address	Kent County Council County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ
Telephone	01622 221500
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](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.