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Francesco Bandarin
Director
World Heritage Centre
7 place de Fontenoy
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Your Ref

Our Ref

29 June 2010

Dear Francesco

IUCN Review of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value: Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Property (1029), United Kingdom

I refer to Patricia Alberth's e-mail of 16 March attaching the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage property as reviewed by IUCN.

We have not made any changes to the draft statement which has been considered by English Heritage, our advisors on the World Heritage Convention, and by the Dorset and East Devon Steering Group. They have all confirmed that they are content with the amendments proposed by IUCN.

We trust that this final Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage property, attached at **Annex A** to this letter, will now be presented to the World Heritage Committee for approval at its 34th session in Brasilia, 25th July to 3rd August.

Yours sincerely



Peter Marsden
Head of world Heritage

Cc: H.E. Mr Matthew Sudders, UK Permanent Delegation to UNESCO
UK National Commission for UNESCO
ICOMOS
English Heritage

**Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Property
Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

Date of inscription: 2001

Criteria: viii

Date of SOUV: 2010

Brief description

The Dorset and East Devon Coast has an outstanding combination of globally significant geological and geomorphological features. The property comprises eight sections along 155 km of largely undeveloped coast. The property's geology displays approximately 185 million years of the Earth's history, including a number of internationally important fossil localities. The property also contains a range of outstanding examples of coastal geomorphological features, landforms and processes, and is renowned for its contribution to earth science investigations for over 300 years, helping to foster major contributions to many aspects of geology, palaeontology and geomorphology. This coast is considered by geologists and geomorphologists to be one of the most significant teaching and research sites in the world.

Criteria for inscription

Criterion (viii): The coastal exposures along the Dorset and East Devon coast provide an almost continuous sequence of Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous rock formations spanning the Mesozoic Era and document approximately 185 million years of Earth's history. The property includes a range of globally significant fossil localities – both vertebrate and invertebrate, marine and terrestrial – which have produced well preserved and diverse evidence of life during Mesozoic times. It also contains textbook exemplars of coastal geomorphological features, landforms and processes. Renowned for its contribution to Earth science investigations for over 300 years, the Dorset and East Devon coast has helped foster major contributions to many aspects of geology, palaeontology and geomorphology and has continuing significance as a high quality teaching, training and research resource for the Earth sciences.

Integrity

The property contains all the key, interdependent elements of geological succession exposed on the coastline. It includes a series of coastal landforms whose processes and evolutionary conditions are little impacted by human activity, and the high rate of erosion and mass movement in the area creates a very dynamic coastline which maintains both rock exposures and geomorphological features, and also the productivity of the coastline for fossil discoveries. The property comprises eight sections in a near-continuous 155 km of coastline with its boundaries defined by natural phenomena: on the seaward side the property extends to the mean low water mark and on the landward side to the cliff top or back of the beach. This is also in general consistent with the boundaries of the nationally and internationally designated areas that protect the property and much of its setting. Due to the high rate of erosion and mass movement, it is important to periodically monitor the boundaries of the properties to ensure that significant changes to the shoreline are registered.

Protection and Management

The property has strong legal protection, a clear management framework and the strong involvement of all stakeholders with responsibilities for the property and its setting. A single management plan has been prepared and is coordinated by the Dorset and Devon County Councils. There is no defined buffer zone as the wider setting of the property is well protected through the existing designations and national and local planning policies. In addition to its geological, palaeontological and geomorphological significance, the property includes areas of European importance for their habitats and species which are an additional priority for protection and management. The main management issues with respect to the property include: coastal protection schemes and inappropriate management of visitors to an area that has a long history of tourism; and the management of ongoing fossil collection research, acquisition and conservation. The key requirement for the management of this property lies in continued strong and adequately resourced coordination and partnership arrangements focused on the World Heritage property.