

## **Terms of Reference Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Steering Group**

### What is the Steering Group?

- a group of representatives of those actively contributing to the stewardship of the World Heritage status of the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast site.
- it is expected that those participating will also act as champions of the site and its World Heritage status within the organisations they represent.
- the purpose of their work is to protect and promote the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

### What is the Steering Group's remit?

The Steering Group will focus on achieving synergy and on addressing issues that do not fall within the specialist remit of any one member. Specifically the Steering Group will work to:

- promote the value of the World Heritage status
- secure the resources needed to create and deliver a management plan for the WHS
- encourage the development of policies and practices within and around the WHS that sustain the World Heritage status
- seek to support the Outstanding Universal Value, particularly if this is threatened
- act to support the World Heritage Site Officer, through line management (currently with Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust)
- speak on matters of shared interest, in communications with UNESCO, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the World Heritage Centre.

The Steering Group will recognise and respect the distinctive role of each member. It recognises the particular role of the National Trust, as custodian and property manager of the bulk of the site. Its purpose is not to duplicate the work of those having a specific duty or interest in relation to the site.

### Who is in the Steering Group?

The Steering Group will seek to bring in expertise or representation as required. Those who fail to attend the meetings regularly or fail to offer constructive participation will be asked to step aside. There is no automatic right of membership. Those seeking to participate in the Steering Group will have their request considered by the Steering Group. The decision to invite participation will be made on the basis of the nature of the constructive contribution the representative can make to the stewardship of the WHS.

At present those participating include:

- National Trust
- The Crown Estate
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency
- Northern Ireland Tourist Board
- Moyle District Council
- DOE Planning
- Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
- Geological Survey NI
- Queens University, Belfast
- private landowners
- Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism
- Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust

### How does the Steering Group operate?

As a forum of equals, the Steering Group will seek to operate through consensus rather than through exercise of vote. The Steering Group will meet a minimum of three times a year, more frequently should the need arise.

The role of Chair will be agreed from those attending and will be reviewed every year. The Chair should be in the position to attend regularly and to agree the Minutes of the meeting (which will be taken by the World Heritage Site Officer). The Chair will act as facilitator to the Steering Group and the link between the Steering Group and the WHS Officer.

Updated June 2013