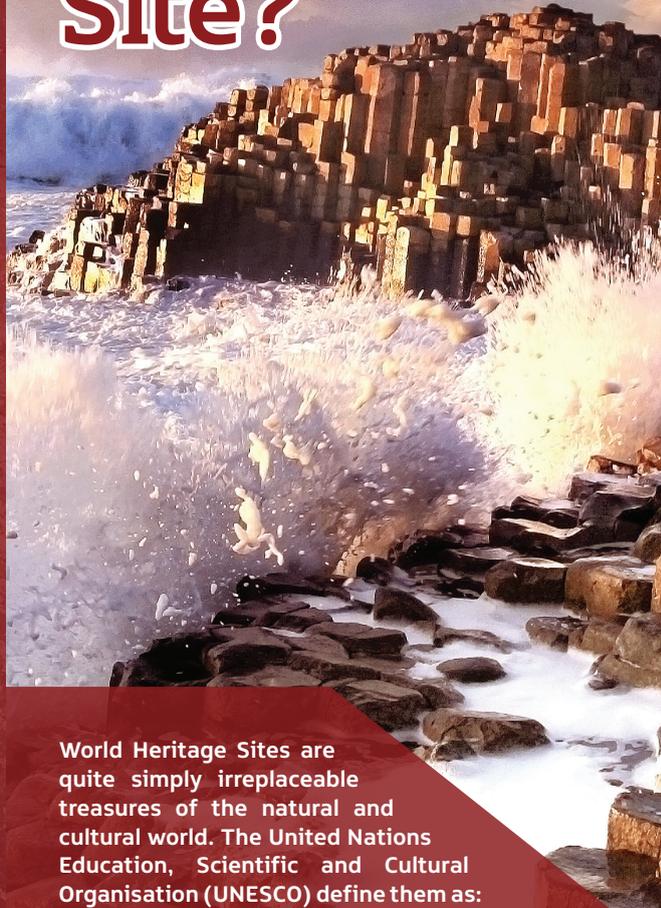




Heard about our World Heritage Site?



To help protect the Outstanding Universal Value and Integrity of the World Heritage Site, download the Management and Action Plan and note any actions which you or your organisation could contribute to e.g.

- Could you be a potential funder? –Have a look at the projects and actions in the plan and notify the World Heritage Site Steering Group if you'd like to contribute.
- Are you interested in sensitive land management? – Help the National Trust and DAERA develop opportunities for sensitive farming within and around the WHS.
- Are you a tourism business unsure how best to explain WHS status to your guests? – Direct them to the plan, give them a copy of this leaflet or tell them to contact CCGHT or the National Trust for further information.
- Are you a politician interested in improving protection for designated sites and landscapes in Northern Ireland? – Download, share, quote, use and promote the WHS Management and Action Plan.
- Visiting the Giant's Causeway or know people who are? – Make sure to mention the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

For further information about World Heritage Site status at the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast contact Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust at:

E. info@ccght.org or Tel. +44 (0) 28 2075 2100

To find out more about the World Heritage Site and details of the day to day management visit; <http://www.giantscauseway.ccght.org>

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World Heritage Sites are quite simply irreplaceable treasures of the natural and cultural world. The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) define them as:

“Places of natural and/or cultural significance so exceptional that they transcend national boundaries and are of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity”



UNESCO's World Heritage Committee is responsible for inscribing sites on the World Heritage List. World Heritage Sites can be cultural like the Great Wall of China, natural like the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast or mixed like Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (Ayers Rock) in Australia.

It is not easy to become a WHS, there is a lot of work, processes, protocols and agencies involved. Sites must first make it onto a 'tentative list of future nominations'. The World Heritage Committee makes the final decision on the inscription of a Site.

If accepted a unique Statement of Outstanding Universal Value is adopted. This outlines the inscription criteria and an assessment of site's Integrity or Authenticity, basically the physical condition or originality of the Site.

All World Heritage Sites must be of Outstanding Universal Value and meet at least one of ten selection criteria.



The Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast WHS meets two selection criteria:

- “It contains superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance” (Criteria vii).
- “It is an outstanding example which represents 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” (Criteria viii).

The Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site occupies a unique place on the World Heritage List. No other site will ever be inscribed for the same Outstanding Universal Value. The Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast's official Statement of Outstanding Universal Value can be found at: <http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/giants-causeway-world-heritage-site>.



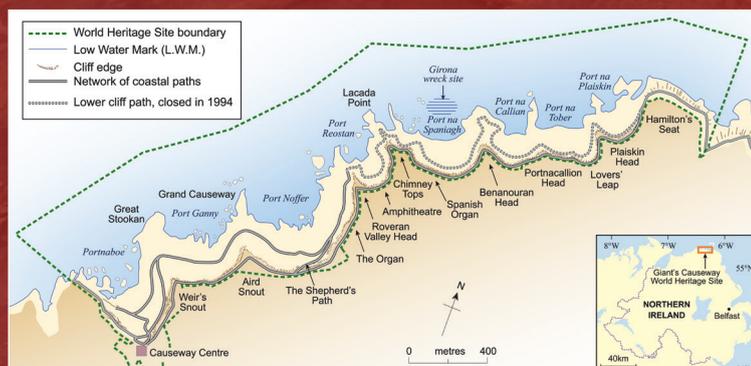
Managing Northern Ireland's Only WHS

The Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast is Northern Ireland's only World Heritage Site and was inscribed in 1986 as a natural site in recognition of its geological and geomorphological values, its history of scientific study and exceptional landscape values.

It is located on the exposed Atlantic Coast in County Antrim and covers 70ha of land, 160ha of sea and spans 3km of coastline. The famous causeway stones, the cliffs, natural processes and the Girona Historic Wreck Site are all part of the official World Heritage Site. It is estimated that there are 40,000 basalt columns, the result of slow cooling of up to three lava flows in what was a water-flooded valley - or then again, maybe it was all made by Finn McCool!

All World Heritage Sites should have a management and action plan. The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) and the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site Steering Group (WHSSG) produce this document for the Giant's Causeway

and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site. It provides an agreed structure for management of the Site. The National Trust owns and cares for a large proportion of the World Heritage Site. The conservation charity has a remit to look after special places and landscapes like the Giant's Causeway, for ever, for everyone. The Trust is



responsible for the day to day operation of the publicly accessible elements of the World Heritage Site and is largely responsible for the delivery of the Management Plan.

The World Heritage Site Steering Group represents those with interests in and beyond the WHS Boundary. The Management Plan brings organisations together to guarantee the conservation of the Site and make sure the benefits of the WHS designation are realised. The most recent Management Plan and Action Plan can be found at: www.giantscauseway.ccght.org

The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust is a charity devoted to promoting and enhancing the unique heritage of the Causeway Coast and Glens Area. CCGHT provides a secretariat service for the WHS Steering Group and produces the WHS Management Plan and Action Plan.

Every six years, the UK Government provides a Periodic Report to UNESCO on the state of conservation of World Heritage Sites under its jurisdiction. A report was submitted in 2013 and it set out

the emerging issues and opportunities for the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site. Any issues are reviewed and incorporated into the new management plan and action plan for the WHS.

Benefits for All!

Over 1 million people now visit the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast WHS every year. At least three quarters of these visitors use the National Trust facilities. Records show visitors have been welcomed from 222 nationalities, demonstrating the international appeal of such a dramatic and beautiful site. Throughout the UK as a whole 31 UNESCO World Heritage Sites generate £61 million for the economy annually.

In 2016 4.6 million overnight trips were taken in Northern Ireland generating £851 million in tourism expenditure. The Causeway Coast and Glens destination accounted for approximately one fifth of all visitor expenditure during these stays. The Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast WHS isn't only an asset for the County Antrim coast, it benefits everyone.

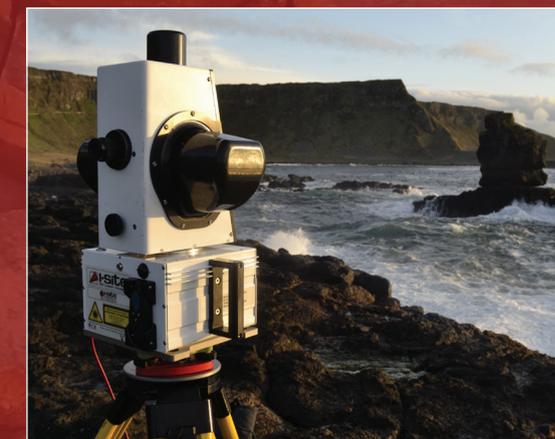
If in doubt about its significance, have a quick look around and you are sure to see its influence. It is printed on your money and we even have Finn McCool crisps. Every department within the Northern Ireland Executive displays the columnar formations derived from the Causeway proudly on their logo.

In addition to its economic and cultural influence, the WHS is a global research destination and a leader in the sustainable management of dynamic natural sites. Cutting edge technology fuels research at the site and guarantees close ties with both Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster.

Education underpins daily management. School children can experience first-hand, what is required to protect their environment. There are few other places in Northern Ireland where one can see such a wealth of habitats, species, geology and tourism activities in a small area.

What can you do for the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site?

The Giant's Causeway is so special that it is protected by many designations. This means good management is even more important. Visitor enjoyment must be balanced with health and safety needs, whilst also guaranteeing protection for the Site's important habitats, species and geology. UNESCO World Heritage status is a wonderful accolade which everyone in Northern Ireland should celebrate, support and promote.



To ensure the Giant's Causeway remains a leader in protected area management and to secure sustainable revenue generation for everyone in Northern Ireland, our politicians, policy makers, businesses and local residents must value and protect the Site.

There is an opportunity here to protect much more than the natural environment. Northern Ireland can show the world how it should be done.