

Durham (United Kingdom)

No 370

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: United Kingdom
Name of property: Durham Cathedral and Castle
Location: County Durham
Inscription: 1986
Brief description:

Durham Cathedral was built in the late 11th and early 12th centuries to house the relics of St Cuthbert (evangelizer of Northumbria) and the Venerable Bede. It attests to the importance of the early Benedictine monastic community and is the largest and finest example of Norman architecture in England. The innovative audacity of its vaulting foreshadowed Gothic architecture. Behind the cathedral stands the castle, an ancient Norman fortress which was the residence of the prince-bishops of Durham.

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

The boundaries of the property inscribed on the World Heritage List were initially defined in 1985, in two parts which are geographically close to each other, but separate. The most extensive part of the property consists of the cathedral and its immediate surrounds, and the annex of the south-west access path including the bridge over the River Wear. A complementary part, to the north, consists of the castle which stands alone.

The State Party considers that these boundaries, which corresponded to an essentially monument-related approach to outstanding universal value, are today insufficient to fully bear testimony to the property. It considers that their definition should be strengthened by the concept of the territorial continuity of the defensive mound constituted by the Wear peninsula. This would more fully represent the historical significance of the property, and enable a better understanding of its urban landscape.

Modification

Boundaries:

The extension of the property primarily concerns the central intermediate space between the cathedral and the castle, and a small area in the north-east located at the Owengate.

It links together the two parts which have already been identified, in alignment with the morphological elements of the site.

The modified property forms a homogeneous and easily recognisable whole, consisting of the whole of the defensive mound and the monuments and dwellings of which it consists.

The new boundaries are:

- To the west, the north-south line of the remains of the fortification wall, which continues the existing boundaries of the cathedral and castle.

- To the east, from the Owengate, the new boundary follows the north-south built alignment of Saddler Street and North Bailey. It joins and continues the eastern boundary of the cathedral quarter, that is South Bailey.

The inscribed property covers a surface area of 6.91 ha.

The proposed extension covers a surface area of 1.88 ha.

The whole of the new property including the modifications will have a surface area of 8.79 ha.

No modification is made to the buffer zone.

Composition:

The most substantial part of the extension, between the cathedral and the castle, consists of the Palace Green. It is occupied by the university and consists of various buildings for the most part built between the 17th and 18th centuries. The most remarkable and oldest is the 15th century Exchequer House.

The extension also includes several houses built between the 15th and 19th centuries in Owengate, Saddler Street, North Bailey and Dun Cow Lane.

Significance:

The extension primarily expresses the continuity of the territory and urban landscape corresponding to the historic occupation of the peninsula, from the 11th to 13th centuries for the conserved part of the property, and from earlier periods for some areas and for archaeological remains in the subsurface.

It also expresses ancient secular functions, particularly of an administrative and educational nature, which strengthen the already recognised outstanding universal value of the religious and military ensemble of Durham.

In its monitoring reports in 1994 and 1995, ICOMOS had suggested a revision of the property's boundaries, to strengthen its significance and make management simpler and more coherent.

ICOMOS therefore fully approves the modification request made by the State Party in order to make the whole property continuous, because of its morphological, historic and landscape unity.

The elements of the extension of the property have specific architectural and historic values which strengthen the expression of outstanding universal value.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the minor modification to the boundaries of Durham Cathedral and Castle, United-Kingdom, be *approved*.



	<p>CITY OF DURHAM Cultural Services Heritage & Design 17 Claypath Durham DH1 1RH</p>	<p>Durham Cathedral and Castle World Heritage Site</p>
		<p><i>Existing Boundary</i> 6.91hectares <i>Proposed Extension</i> 1.88hectares</p>
		<p>Date: 15-01-08 Plan no. WHS/08/01 Scale: 1:2500 @A3</p>

Map showing the revised boundaries of the property