

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY AND CAUSEWAY COAST

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

WORLD HERITAGE MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATION PROPOSAL – IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY AND CAUSEWAY COAST (UNITED KINGDOM) – ID No. 369 Bis

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986 under criteria (vii) and (viii). Information on the property is available at the following link:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/369/documents/>

The property was visited in February 2003 by a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission and in February 2013 by an IUCN Advisory mission. The property also has a State of Conservation Report (SOC) being considered under item 7B of the present (40COM) Session of the World Heritage Committee. This evaluation by IUCN of the minor boundary modification does not comment on issues related to the SOC report.

2. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BOUNDARY MODIFICATION

The boundary modification extends the boundary of this coastal site by a small distance (5m) inland to account for the possibility of coastal erosion. This makes a small increase to the property: currently 236.775 ha, and after the addition 239.405 ha. This is an increase of 1.1%.

The modification recognises that as a coastal site, active erosion of sea-cliff faces is part of the natural processes occurring in the property. The modification is made in response to the recommendation (R15) made by the 2013 IUCN advisory mission to address concerns that, should there be significant erosion, the cliff faces, which are key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), would no longer lie within the inscribed boundary of the World Heritage property. This matter has also been previously noted by the World Heritage Committee.

The State Party confirms that the selected inland set-back distance of 5m is the result of an expert assessment.

3. IMPACT ON OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

IUCN considers the minor boundary modification is justified in relation to Outstanding Universal Value as a measure to retain the integrity of the property as the coast erodes naturally. It will ensure key attributes of OUV remain represented in the property. The justification for the modification, and the way in which it is to be taken account of in the management of the property, is clearly explained in the documentation from the State Party, and appropriate. It is welcome that this response has been made to the recommendation made previously by IUCN. The State Party should maintain its monitoring of the natural erosion of the coastline, and continue to consider the relationship of the cliff edge to the property boundary on a regular basis, as part of the management plan.

4. OTHER COMMENTS

None.

5. RECOMMENDATION

IUCN recommends that the World Heritage Committee adopt the following draft decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/16/40.COM/8B.ADD and WHC/16/40.COM/INF.8B2.ADD;
2. Recalling Decision 38COM 7B.80;
3. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast (United Kingdom)**.

Map 1: World Heritage property and proposed minor boundary modification

