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29 November 2017

Dear Dr. Mechtild Rössler,

**Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast, (N 369) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

In accordance with Decision 40 COM 7B.102, I am submitting the State of Conservation Report for the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site. We have used the format stipulated.

I can confirm that I am content for the report to be posted on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre website.

Kind regards,

Enid Williams  
Senior Heritage Policy Advisor



## STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS BY THE STATES PARTIES

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

### **STATE OF CONSERVATION OF GIANT'S CAUSEWAY AND CAUSEWAY COAST (UNITED KINGDOM) (N369)**

In accordance with **40 COM 7B.102** Paragraph 7, the State Party wishes to report on the State of Conservation.

#### **1. Executive Summary of the report**

In relation to Decision 40 COM 7B.102, the State Party wishes to provide an updated report on the implementation of this decision and on the state of conservation of the property.

#### **2. Response to the Decisions of the World Heritage Committee**

Decision: 40 COM 7B:102

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.80, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Notes the updated information regarding the planned golf resort development project that may affect the property, requests the State Party to ensure that the World Heritage Centre is informed if this development begins to be implemented, and welcomes the State Party's intentions to notify the Committee if any new proposal is submitted;

#### RESPONSE TO PARAGRAPH 3:

No development works were implemented for the golf resort development project. The planning consent for the project expired on 30 March 2017.

4. Urges the State Party to ensure that any new proposal submitted by the new land owner is assessed in terms of their potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in accordance with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environment Assessment;

#### RESPONSE TO PARAGRAPH 4:

The State Party will ensure that any planning proposal submitted by the new landowner, in relation to the lands in question, will be assessed in terms of their potential impact on the

Outstanding Universal Value of the property and will take into account the IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

5. *Also notes that Rathlin Energy Limited has terminated the petroleum exploration licence, which overlapped with the boundaries of the property, and acknowledges that the State Party will apply Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines when considering future licences;*
6. *Reiterates its position that oil and gas exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the commitments made by industry leaders such as Shell and Total to not undertake such activities within World Heritage properties, and also requests the State Party to ensure that such activities will not be permitted to take place within World Heritage properties, and that any such activities taking place outside a World Heritage property do not result in negative impacts on its OUV;*

#### RESPONSE TO PARAGRAPH 6:

The State Party will ensure that oil and gas exploration or exploitation will not take place within the Giants Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site and that any such activities taking place outside the World Heritage property will not result in negative impacts on its OUV. In the event that any applications are made for oil and gas exploration within the setting of the WH Property the State Party will notify the Committee via the Secretariat in line with the provisions of paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

7. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2017, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

This report provides the update requested by the Committee

### **3. Other current conservation Issues identified by the State Party which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value.**

There have been no new issues that have arisen since the most recent Periodic Report was submitted that are considered to have a negative impact on the OUV of the WHS Property.

### **4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.**

In accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines the State Party provided the World Heritage Centre with information on the 10 May 2017 about a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) for a proposal to submit a major planning application for car


parking and realignment of Causeway Road / Runkerry Road in the vicinity of the World Heritage property. This letter highlighted that the potential applicant had been informed that any such submitted application will need to be assessed in terms of its potential impact on the OUV of the property taking into account the IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment. Receipt of this letter by the World Heritage Committee was acknowledged in a response letter dated 12 May 2017 (Ref: CLTtWHC/EUR/17/9760).

To-date a formal planning application has not been submitted in relation to this PAN proposal.

#### **5. Public access to the state of conservation report**

The State Party is content to note that this report will be made available for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System.

#### **6. Signature of the Authority:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Enid Williams', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ms Enid Williams  
Senior Heritage Policy Advisor