

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

CORNWALL AND WEST DEVON MINING LANDSCAPE (UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND) (C1215)

1. Executive Summary of the Report

In accordance with Decision **44 COM 7B.60**, the United Kingdom State Party has produced a State of Conservation Report for the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. The report demonstrates the ongoing protection and management regime of the Property at a local and national level, and the adoption and continued adherence to the previous requests of the Committee.

The report provides updates regarding the significant progress noted by the World Heritage Committee in relation to the World Heritage Site Supplementary Planning Document and the review of the Management Plan.

It addresses the ongoing relationship between Historic England and the World Heritage Site Planning (advice) Officer and the implementation of ICOMOS recommendations in relation to North Quay Phase 2.

The report reiterates information submitted previously via the State Party to the World Heritage Centre by letter on 14 July 2021 just prior to the 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee, relating to South Crofty Mine and the ICOMOS recommendations in relation to these proposals.

Information is also provided in relation to positive conservation projects and relationships which have been working in the interest of the preservation of the property's OUV since the last State of Conservation Report was submitted to the Committee.

Finally, the report confirms that no additional planning applications which affect the OUV of the property are being brought forward which require notification to the World Heritage Committee.

The report is structured according to the format provided by the World Heritage Centre. The text of the Committee decision is given first, in italics. The response of the State Party does not use italics and is not indented.

2. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee's Decision 44 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
- 2. Recalling Decision 43 COM 7B.93, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
- 3. Welcomes the significant progress of the State Party in:*

- a) *applying the Supplementary Planning Document, Planning Performance Agreements and neighborhood development plans to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,*
- b) *implementing the recommendations of the 2015 joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission,*
- c) *updating the Management Plan, in order to protect the OUV of the property,*
- d) *establishing revised arrangements and adjusted timeframes for consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS regarding specific projects, including the proposed North Quay Phase 2 projects;*

The State Party continues to ensure the active application of the Supplementary Planning Document, Planning Performance Agreements and neighborhood development plans to protect OUV and the implementation of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission. With reference to point C, the State Party can now confirm with great pleasure that the revised Management Plan has been adopted by all the partner local authorities as of January 2021. It is also noted that it is being used by other bodies, such as the United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO, in reference to the integration of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals into the management of world heritage properties. It has been uploaded on the dedicated website for the WHS and can be downloaded for ease of use¹.

4. Encourages the State Party to ensure that the advice of Historic England and the World Heritage Site Planning Officer continue to inform statutory decision making, so as to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on the property's OUV;

The State Party is aware that the advice of both Historic England and the World Heritage Site Planning Officer adds considerable value to the statutory planning process, and continues to support decision making that avoids adverse impacts on the property's OUV. The State Party advocates (such as through the [Planning Practice Guidance](#) (PPG)) for early engagement with this advice, preferably at pre-application, so that proposals with potential to affect OUV can be discussed at an early stage and opportunities to avoid harmful impacts identified.

Ongoing and regular contact is maintained between the World Heritage Site Planning Officer and Historic England in relation to specific planning applications as well as wider guidance and policy implementation. Additionally, Historic England is represented on the World Heritage Site's Technical Panel, a group of specialists and professionals who help shape and comment on work undertaken by the World Heritage Site team in pursuance of the wider Management Plan priorities.

Continued use of the adopted WHS Supplementary Planning Document and the newer WHS Planning Toolkit (<https://www.cornishmining.org.uk/conservation/planning-within-the-world-heritage-site/world-heritage-site-planning-toolkit>) are also proving invaluable in helping to inform development proposals so as to avoid harmful impacts and encourage enhancements where possible.

5. Requests the State Party to implement fully the recommendations of ICOMOS related to the North Quay Phase 2 projects in order to avoid the identified potential negative impacts of the project application to the OUV of the property;

¹ The Management Plan is available here: <https://www.cornishmining.org.uk/conservation/managing-the-world-heritage-site/management-plan>

The State Party notes that the latest revisions to the North Quay Phase 2 proposals, which relate to a small section of the proposed development within the setting of the WHS (known as the Hilltop site), have been subject to a review by ICOMOS via a further Technical Report (dated February 2022). The Technical Report has confirmed that some further revisions are still required in order to make this aspect of the scheme acceptable.

At the current time the Local Planning Authority is awaiting those further revisions to be submitted for formal assessment.

The State Party is aware that once the further requested revisions are available for review it is the intention of the Local Planning Authority, by way of the State Party, to seek further formal input from ICOMOS via the Technical Review process in order to continue to progress the scheme towards a positive conclusion. An extension of time on the application has been agreed until 11 February 2023 to ensure there is sufficient time to achieve this prior to its determination.

The State Party and Local Planning Authority remain committed to the collaborative process that has proven so successful in positively resolving the various aspects of the proposals for Hayle Harbour over the last few years.

6. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to submit further information about proposals for the South Crofty Mine; in particular details of the boundary treatment and planning;

The application for the proposed modernisation of South Crofty Mine ([PA10/04564](#)) to allow continuation of winning and working of minerals by relocation to land surrounding the Tuckingmill Decline and by erection of buildings, plant and works for ore processing, ancillary processes, associated operations and deliveries, was granted conditional permission on 3 November 2011 subject to the conditions set out in the decision notice². One of those conditions (9) addressed the need for protection of areas of archaeological/historical interest due to the location of historic features around Chappells Shaft. The condition required that no development should take place until details of the boundary treatment in this area had been submitted and approved in writing by the Minerals Planning Authority. The condition further required that after the planning permission had been implemented, the approved boundary treatment was to be developed and maintained for the duration of the consented works. That condition was discharged by Cornwall Council on 14 October 2016 ([PA16/08815](#)) following review and approval by the World Heritage Site Planning Officer of the proposed details³.

A request for further information on the details of the boundary treatment and planning of the South Crofty Mine was first incorporated into the World Heritage Committee Decision 43 COM 7B.93 in 2019. The State Party subsequently wrote to the World Heritage Centre on 14 July 2021, and explained how the boundary treatments had been dealt with via a condition attached to the original consent as explained above. It had therefore already been addressed

² The Decision Notice is available here: <https://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=L6MSCQFG0K600>

³ The Decision Notice and the review and approval by the World Heritage Site Planning Officer of the proposals are available here: <https://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=ODV1X7FGKFO00>

prior to the World Heritage Committee Meeting 43COM in 2019 when it was added to the list of information requested in the subsequent State of Conservation Report.

The State Party hopes that this will serve to confirm that this aspect of Decision 44 COM 7B.60 had already been complied with in 2016, prior to its inclusion in Decision 43COM 7B.93 in 2019.

7. Notes its previous request that the State Party continue to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details for significant changes to statutory documents and any new planning applications which may affect the OUV of the property are appropriately selected and are submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before final decisions are taken;

The State party can confirm that during the period covered by this report there have been no changes to statutory documents, and maintains its commitment to continue to notify the World Heritage Centre of any new planning applications which may negatively affect the OUV of the property before final decisions are taken.

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session.

The State Party submits this report in response to the Committee's request.

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

The period since the last report has seen increased and improved interpretation across the breadth of the Property from individual panel replacement ensuring information is readable (where weather damage had taken its toll) and up to date, through to large-scale upgrades in the Luxulyan Valley⁴ and Tavistock areas of the Property.

Important research and educational pieces have also been conducted which include research into the migration of mine management personnel from Cornwall and Devon to the wider UK during the nineteenth century; "Cornish Caretakers" working with a variety of schoolchildren from schools within the Property to explore their mining history and bring this to life for wider educational purposes, which will be launched later in 2022 and will provide support for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in schools⁵.

Strong relationships are being maintained and new ones forged with wider Heritage partners and organizations in the Cornwall and West Devon area (such as the Tin Coast Partnership; Ertach Kernow (Heritage Kernow) Board and both Cornwall and Tamar Valley Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty steering groups) to help ensure mutual support and understanding of our stewardship of the Property and landscape it sits within.

⁴ <https://www.cornishmining.org.uk/about/news/new-displays-at-wheal-martyn-and-in-the-luxulyan-valley>

⁵ <https://www.cornishmining.org.uk/about/news/penpol-pupils-continue-stem-heritage-competing-in-the-national-finals-of-the-first-lego-league>

The World Heritage Site team have developed an awards partnership with the Cornish Buildings Group (CBG). The CBG look to promote the best in good design across Cornwall, illustrated through new projects and the conservation of historic buildings⁶. For 3 years now, the WHS team have worked alongside CBG to recognize and award buildings within the Property, including West Devon, which have enhanced the World Heritage Site and which advocate good design and heritage-led regeneration.

During the period covered by this report, the renovation of the Guildhall in Tavistock has come to fruition⁷. The Guildhall is actively running as an interpretation centre for the Property, signposting visitors to the immediate Area A10 and the wider Property across West Devon and Cornwall.

During 2021/22 there has been a Governance Review carried out, involving partner organizations, Technical Panel, Partnership Board members, and wider Cornwall and West Devon colleagues who fed into the process to ensure the management structure remains on a robust footing. Recommendations and next steps are scheduled for ratification and implementation from the end of 2022. The State Party will ensure that the Committee is updated further in relation to this process in due course.

No other conservation issues have been identified by the State Party during this period.

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

At the time of writing no proposals, other than those described above, which fall within the scope of paragraph 172 have been brought forward which require notification to the World Heritage Committee.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

The State Party is content for the full report to be uploaded to the World Heritage Centre's State of Conservation Information System.

6. Signature of the Authority



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⁶ <https://sites.google.com/site/cornishbuildingsgroup/awards/awards-2022>

⁷ <https://tavistockguildhall.org/>