

# Hastings and St Leonards Heritage

**Securing the Future – Is UNESCO the  
Answer?**

## Why this proposal?



Schematic drawing of the harbour development plan

- Marina proposal is still a threat, we need a positive alternative;
- Green Party's research on UNESCO exposed the rich historical record of Hastings and local expertise and enthusiasm to conserve;
- Informal discussion suggests interest in the UNESCO proposition

## What are we proposing?

- A multi-specialist group is set up to research and campaign on Hastings;
- The group is a focal point for HBC consultation on broad heritage topics;
- The group considers the UNESCO proposition and remains active to campaign on other broad topics – e.g. marina development; HBC position on heritage strategy for the borough.

What has emerged  
from our World  
Heritage research?



European UNESCO  
World Heritage Sites

- A World Heritage bid is a realistic but complicated proposition;
- Costly in time, effort, and eventually money;
- Concerted effort from interest groups, HBC, English Heritage;
- Would bring enormous and diverse benefit

## A Realistic Proposition?



i.e. Can Hastings match Bath or St. Kilda?



- A bid for UNESCO World Heritage Status needs to be a Justification of Universal Outstanding Value;
- The protection of World Heritage sites is so important that it becomes the responsibility of the state and the international community;
- Is Hastings up to this?

### **UNESCO World Heritage Selection Criteria (at least one has to be met)**

- (i) to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;*
- (ii) to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;*
- (iii) to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;*
- (iv) to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;*
- (v) to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;*
- (vi) to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);*
- (vii) to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;*
- (viii) to be outstanding examples representing 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;*
- (ix) to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;*
- (x) to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.*



# Hastings ... what has it got?

The splendour of James and Decimus Burton



# Hastings ... what has it got?

A medieval township ...





# Hastings ... what has it got?

Extraordinary cliffs and country park



# Hastings ... what has it got?

a vibrant traditional fishing industry





# Hastings ... what has it got?

archaeology

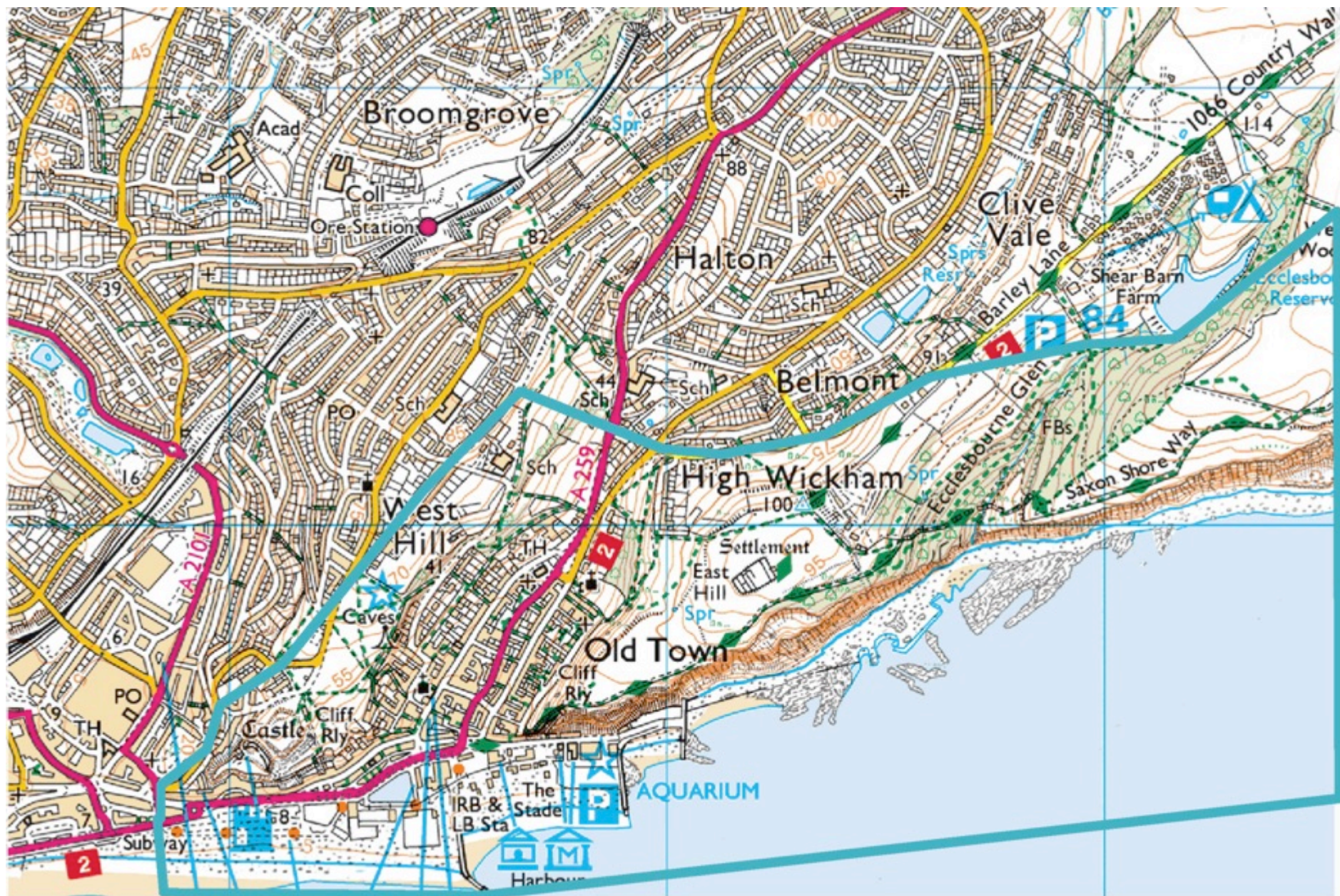


# Hastings ... what has it got?

Quirkiness in abundance









“World Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration.”

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/about/>



**Chatham Dockyard**  
on the tentative list since  
2012



- **Lessons from Chatham Dockyard's experience**
- Tremendously valuable
- Time consuming process
- Stringent and robust
- Welcomed by funders
- Unifying



## How costly?

- Considerable concerted voluntary effort, initially;
- Buy in by council and English Heritage'
- Professional input – planning, surveys etc
- Overall cost approaching £500,000

## What benefits?

- Consolidated approach to heritage - campaigning;
- An agreed heritage strategy for Hastings, with civic society in equal partnership with HBC;
- Community involvement in heritage;
- Adoption of a UNESCO 'Historic Urban Landscape' approach to management;
- Significant funding opportunities

## Way forward - discussion?

- Formation of a multi-interest group for planning;
- Appraisal of Hastings heritage assets;
- Research on feasibility;
- Concept paper to HBC

- A draft statement of OUV is drawn up that includes
- A brief synthesis of the site's nature and qualities.
- Justification of the criteria used to assess OUV.
- Integrity and (for cultural sites) authenticity, as well as
- arrangements for the protection and management of the site.



**A sample description of a  
UNESCO site**



## Lisbon

The city of Oporto, built along the hillsides overlooking the mouth of the Douro river, is an outstanding urban landscape with a 2,000-year history. Its continuous growth, linked to the sea (the Romans gave it the name Portus, or port), can be seen in the many and varied monuments, from the cathedral with its Romanesque choir, to the neoclassical Stock Exchange and the typically Portuguese Manueline-style Church of Santa Clara.



## **Dorset and East Devon Coast**

The cliff exposures along the Dorset and East Devon coast provide an almost continuous sequence of rock formations spanning the Mesozoic Era, or some 185 million years of the earth's history. The area's important fossil sites and classic coastal geomorphologic features have contributed to the study of earth sciences for over 300 years.



# Thank you

**PHOTO CREDITS: DAVID WOOLFE (ABOVE SHOT OF CLIFFS)  
AMANDA JOBSON (CLIFFS SHOT SLIDE 9)**

# UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

There are 29 **World Heritage Sites in the UK** and its territories: 24 cultural, 4 natural and 1 mixed. The first seven sites were listed in 1987. In addition to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, there are also sites in Bermuda, the Pacific and the South Atlantic.

Blaenavon Industrial Landscape (2000)

Blenheim Palace (1987)

Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey, and St Martin's Church (1988)

Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd (1986)

City of Bath (1987)

Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape (2006)

Derwent Valley Mills (2001)

Dorset and East Devon Coast (2001)

Durham Castle and Cathedral (1986)

The Forth Bridge (2015)

Frontiers of the Roman Empire (1987)

Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast (1986)

Heart of Neolithic Orkney (1999)

Ironbridge Gorge (1986)

Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (2004)

Maritime Greenwich (1997)

New Lanark (2001)

Old and New Towns of Edinburgh (1995)

Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church (1987)

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal (2009)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (2003)

Saltaire (2001)

St Kilda (1986)

Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (1986)

Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey (1986)

Tower of London (1988)

The English Lake District (2017)

# UK's Tentative List

Chatham Dockyard  
Creswell Crags  
Darwin's Landscape Laboratory  
Flow Country  
Great Spars of Europe  
Island of St Helena  
Jodrell Bank  
Iron Age Shetland  
Slate Industry of North Wales  
Twin Monastery of Wearmouth Jarrow  
Turks and Caicos Islands