

Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site

Submission for Minor Modification of
the Site Boundary

(Final Draft 1 for Public Consultation)

1) Area of the property (in hectares):

- a) The area of the property as inscribed – **8.9** Hectares
- b) The area of the property as proposed to be modified – **32.3** Hectares

2) Description of the modification:

The Cathedral and Castle were built on a raised Peninsula created by an incised meander of the River Wear, formed as the Devensian period of glaciation ceased. The inner and outer banks of the steep gorge and river formed the defences of the Cathedral and Castle complex. The modification includes the full extent of the riverbanks that surround the Cathedral and Castle and that relate to their historic development.

The outer boundary is defined by the riverbank open spaces and banks where they meet the top of slope or adjacent development. They are based on recognisable and defined site boundaries. The modification area is terminated at its northern extent by Framwellgate Bridge to the west and Elvet Bridge to the east. The extended boundary includes these historic bridges that provided access to the Peninsula.

3) Justification for the modification:

The 1986 inscription of the site used a building-based approach that produced a tightly defined boundary separating the Cathedral and Prebends' Bridge from the principal Castle buildings and also the surrounding defences of the Peninsula. The choice of the site was fundamental to the purpose of demonstrating Norman power over the subjugated lands of the North. It enabled effective defence and also assimilation of the established religious significance of the site as the location of the relics of St Cuthbert. By incorporating St Cuthbert's Shrine, the Normans were able to capitalise on Durham as a recognised pilgrimage centre. The site's raised location also intensified

the physical impact of the Cathedral built to house the relics and to demonstrate religious as well as secular control. The physical form of the site is essential to the importance and establishment of the fortress and its protected religious buildings. The river and its unique topography allowed control from the Peninsula of the river access points and also the principal road north. The slope, the river and the outer riverbank all formed essential parts of the Castle's defences. The modification area includes these areas and provides an authentic evocation of the medieval riverscape based on its original layout as now enveloped in a wooded landscape. The modification area follows the boundaries of the key ownerships.

The 2008 modification united the two principal buildings but omitted the majority of the walls of the Castle Precinct and the defensive riverbanks and river itself. It also excluded the character-defining woods, walks and gardens that evolved on the riverbanks. The medieval major defence line was the outer castle wall that ran around the top of the inner river slope and protected the central precincts of the Peninsula. The 1986 inscription boundary cut through the course of the walls at Prebends' Bridge.

The banks have been quarried for stone used in the construction of the principal buildings, the river provided power for water mills and its historic crossings also provided access to the quarries. Two of the mill sites and the weir that feeds them were built and are still owned by the Cathedral and are within the modification area. The weirs stabilised the water level and during times of low flows ensured a constant depth of water. This increased the defensive value of the river and the supply of water for the mills. The river and its banks are now the foreground to Cathedral and Castle views.

The use of the riverbanks has evolved with the Peninsula and its defences. When

defensive need reduced, walks were built outside the wall and part of the inner banks was subsequently developed into gardens in association with houses along the North and South Bailey. The quarries on the outer banks were used to form a network of paths in an 18thC picturesque landscape with views of the river, Peninsula and Castle/Cathedral.

The 1986/2008 boundaries divided the North and South Baileys along their length. The extension of the World Heritage Site (WHS) boundary to include their west side will complete the recognition of the importance of this historic street. It will draw into the WHS the key ranges of secular buildings that evolved through to the 18th C and formed the basis for subsequent collegiate use that supports one of the WHS's key intangible values.

The modification area is an authentic demonstration of the origins and growth of the WHS. It contains an unchanged steep section of the gorge that demonstrates why the site was initially chosen. Its banks were then shaped by quarrying for the WHS buildings and its subsequent development was closely related to the evolving function and growth of the Peninsula. It is recognised for its geological and natural value, as a landscape in its own right and an essential component of the WHS. Its integrity has been conserved with all of its key stages of evolution demonstrated clearly and closely tied to the function of the Peninsula and WHS. The extended area contains historic quarry areas, archaeological remains, listed buildings, historic gardens and walks and scheduled monuments. Defining the area and drawing it into the WHS recognises the collective value they have, their interrelationship and close connection to the evolution of the WHS site in its entirety from its origins and throughout its development.

Exploration of archaeological remains continues and recent discoveries through underwater investigation adjacent to Elvet

Bridge have revealed insights into pilgrimage and trade related to the site. Remains of development around the course of the principal defensive walls, Riverbanks Gardens, Mills and quarries remain to be explored. It is considered possible that further remains of earlier Bridges and crossing points lie within the river. The extended area includes all of the known, new and potential sites.

By describing the value of the area and expressing its significance for the WHS, further conservation and protection will be aided. Key individual assets are protected through historic building listing. Unlisted assets will be assessed in relation to development and change by being drawn into the WHS inscription area. Through recognition of all the historic assets and their setting, these will be valued and appreciated, assisting in new management initiatives. There is significant potential to add to the value of the WHS for the local residents and visitors by increasing knowledge and use of the riverbanks.

4) Contribution to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value:

The additional area fully supports the Outstanding Universal Value as defined in the statement (SOUV) approved in 2013 and is needed to fully capture the significance that supports it. As noted in that statement *'the current boundary still does not fully encompass all the attributes and features that convey the Property's Outstanding Universal Value'*. The proposed modification encloses the area that supports the attributes as described in the revised SOUV and detailed in the 2017 WHS Management Plan. As an authentic area with considerable integrity it supports and enhances the significance of the site and is an essential component in demonstrating that significance.

The key attributes derived from the outstanding universal value are supported by the modification area and are:

Significance 2 *'The visual drama of the Cathedral and Castle on the Peninsula and the associations with notions of romantic beauty'*

The area contains the full extent of river, banks and Peninsula that underpin the visual drama of the buildings of the site. This is reflected in the key ownerships of the full area which is principally owned by the Dean and Chapter, the University and associated Colleges. This is a reflection of the historic ownership of the site as it has evolved for increased educational/secular use.

The key elements of this are:

- The Ice Age formed topography of the raised and dominant Peninsula,
- The steep sided gorge forming a dramatic enclosure to the Peninsula
- The bridges crossing the river, overlooked by the Castle and its walls, contributing to the drama of the key buildings
- The evolution of the Wall walks and landscaped paths, closely associated with the historic development of concepts of romantic beauty.
- The planted and regenerating woodland on the riverbanks creating the current romantic image of the built complex.
- The approaches and siting of Prebends' Bridge after its construction to allow the key view associated with site's buildings.
- The recognition of the visual drama of the WHS and River Gorge and its romantic associations culturally. This is typified by J.M.W. Turner's representations of the key views showing the integrity of buildings and both riverbanks.

Significance 3 *'The physical expression of the spiritual and secular powers of the medieval Bishops Palatine that the defended complex provides'*

The Peninsula site is an essential part of the expression of power and defence through its built form.

The key elements of this are:

- The raised and prominent ground formation providing the basis for enhanced physical expression and visibility of the buildings
- The defensive gorge encircling the peninsula
- The river forming a key part of the defences as a moat
- The weirs deepening the river for defensive use.

Significance 5 *'The continuity of use and ownership over the past 1000 years as a place of religious worship, learning and residence'*

The evolution of use on the Peninsula is demonstrated within the modification area.

The key elements of this are:

- The expanded site contains the full course of the principal defensive walls as they developed from their initial construction
- The North and South Bailey include key buildings used for the establishment of four of the five Colleges based on the Peninsula
- The walks established at high level adjacent to the principal walls
- The use of the riverbanks initially for horticulture and later for orchards and then full development in into significant landscaped gardens
- The historic bridges as key points marking the arrival of pilgrims visiting the Cathedral and shrine
- The development of the river mills and weirs to service the needs of the Peninsula's religious, military and secular communities

Significance 6 *'Its role as a political statement of Norman power imposed upon a subjugate nation, as one of the country's most powerful symbols of the Norman Conquest of Britain'*

The Peninsula and river are integral to the impact of the Castle and Cathedral buildings.

The key elements of this are:

- The site's domination is reliant on the ground formation, river and gorge
- The control of the river crossings and road to the north was essential to the control and subjugation of the north and as protection against the unconquered Scots
- The full extensive protected site forming a defended area allowing the rise of monastic community, garrison and their infrastructure.

Significance 7 *'The importance of its archaeological remains, which are directly related to its history and continuity of use over the past 1000 years'*

The area contains remains that chart the continuity of evolving use. Cumulatively, in relation to the WHS, these are of international significance.

The key elements of this are:

- The remains of the various stages of the principal defensive walls are along the course of the wall and its later walks
- The remains of the landscape areas, paths and gardens that formed on the riverbanks, including ice houses
- The river remains of the historic bridges following flood destruction and rebuilding

- Artefacts of pilgrimage and trade found in the river illustrating the use and support of the site.

Intangible Values

In addition to the specific areas of significance there is substantial support within the expanded area for the intangible heritage of the site building on Criterion vi as described in the 2017 Management Plan.

These include:

- The development of the educational tradition from its monastic origins through to the development of the University. The Castle and Baileys accommodate five Colleges
- The formation of the site and approach bridges supporting the pilgrim tradition
- Support for the development of the city outside the Peninsula
- The river and gorge surrounds supporting the romance and sacredness of the site
- The romantic views celebrated culturally
- The gorge, its bridges, gardens and walks forming an important part of the visitor's appreciation and memories of the site.

5) Implications for legal protection:

The ownership of land within the modified area will not be affected by this boundary change. There will be no additional legal charges made on land included in the WHS property.

As noted under Significance 2, there is substantial relevant historical evolution of ownership. This has led to the majority of the modification area being owned by the Dean and Chapter. The remainder is owned by the University and Colleges. The land use reflects the ownership and

the proposed boundaries area are attached to clear physical boundaries or changes in use. There are a small number of individual buildings in private ownership around the two historic bridges and adjacent to Church Street. The County Council (already a WHS partner) owns and cares for the roads, bridges and paths.

National and local planning policies apply and these are currently the National Planning Policy Framework and the Saved City of Durham Local Plan Policies (2004). The latter are to be superseded by the new County Durham Plan. The modification area will, through its clear boundary designation and descriptions of significance, assist in understanding the impact of development within the WHS area and its setting.

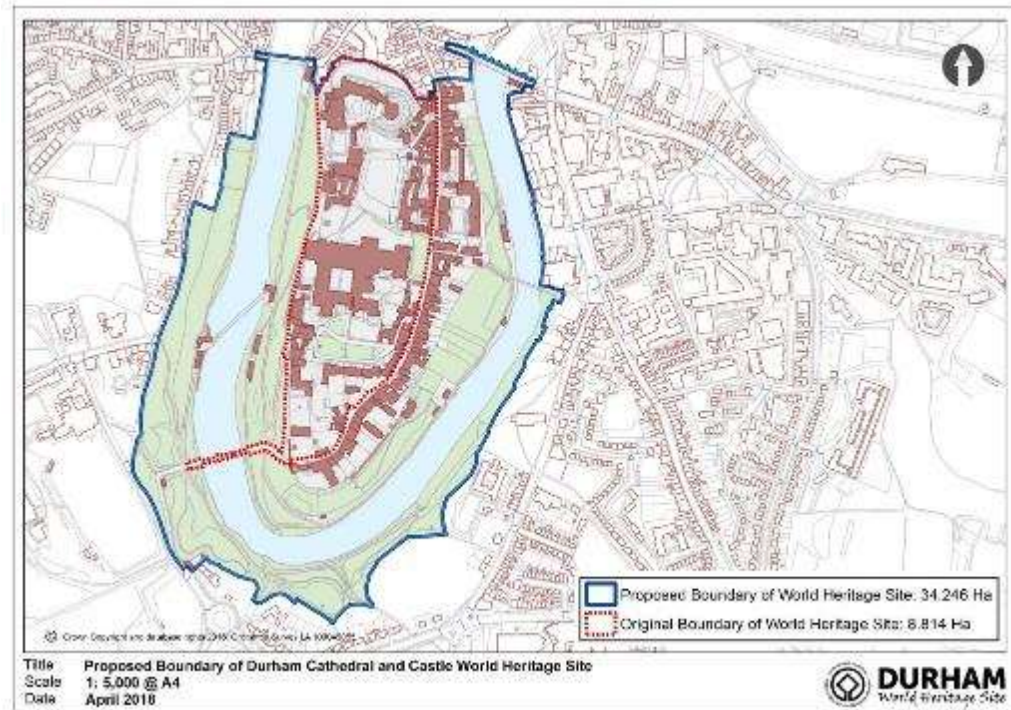
Implications for management arrangements:

The current arrangements will be reviewed to ensure representation through the World Heritage Site Coordinating Committee for any additional landowners whose land is included within the expanded boundary. The majority of the land is in the care of the Dean and Chapter, the University and Colleges, and Durham County Council. These key partners are currently fully engaged through the World Heritage Coordinating Committee. The new partners, the private landowners and Colleges, have been engaged in the process of proposing the modification. They and other bodies affected will be offered opportunities for engagement with the process of managing the WHS.

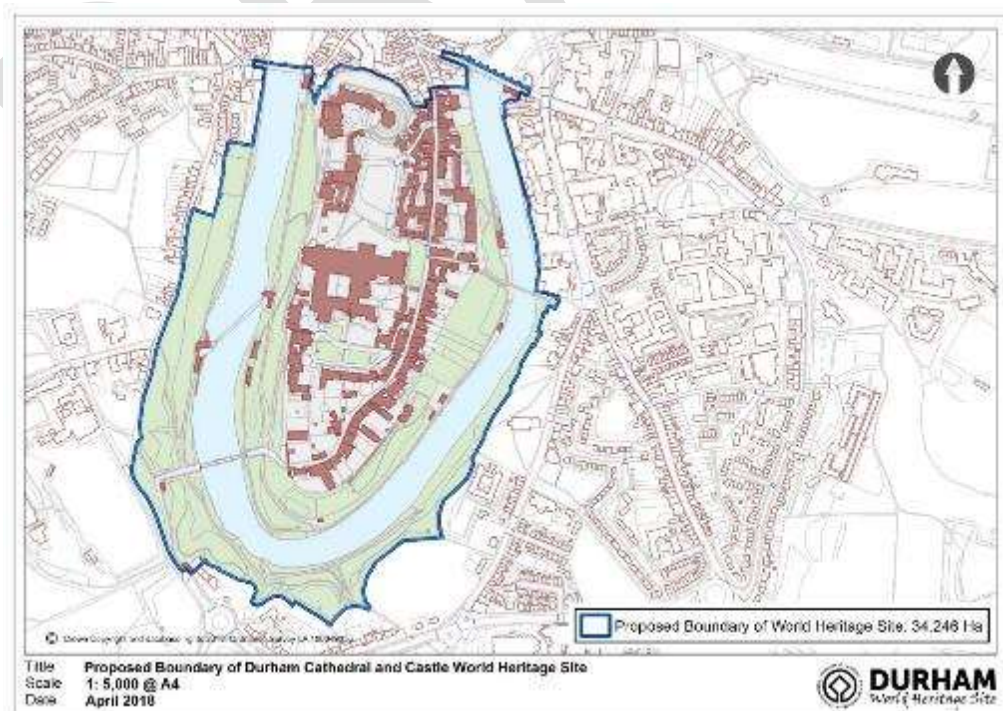
The expanded area will be included in any future WHS management plan

6) Maps:

a) Original and Proposed Boundary



b) Proposed Revision



7) Additional information, illustrative photographs:

