

Report to: **Hub Committee**  
Date: **1 December 2020**  
Title: **Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape  
World Heritage Site: Management Plan 2020-  
2025**

Portfolio Area: **Cllr Caroline Mott**

Wards Affected: **Tavistock North, Tavistock South East,  
Tavistock South West and Bere Ferrers**

Urgent Decision: **Y** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: This recommendation will be presented to the Council meeting to be held on 8 December 2020.

Author: **Graham Lawrence** Role: **Heritage Specialist**

Contact: **graham.lawrence@swdevon.gov.uk**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Hub Committee RECOMMEND to Council that the World Heritage Site Management Plan 2020 – 2025 be endorsed for immediate adoption.**

### **1. Executive summary**

1.1 The report outlines the process for, and progress in, reviewing the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS) Management Plan and asks Committee to endorse the draft final plan for adoption.

1.2 The partner local authorities are asked by the World Heritage Site Team to adopt this final version of the reviewed and updated Management Plan.

### **2. Background**

2.1 The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (CMWHS), also known as “Cornish Mining”, was Inscribed by UNESCO on its World Heritage List in 2006. The World Heritage

designation covers ten geographical areas, nine in Cornwall and one in West Devon covering the Tamar Valley and Tavistock.

The purpose of the Management Plan is to create a strategic policy framework within which the various management interests can operate. To do this it explains the reasons for designation, describes the WHS and its key features, defines how it is protected, outlines the key management issues and defines policies and strategic actions.

Both UNESCO and the UK Government require those responsible for World Heritage Sites to produce and periodically update a Management Plan, to identify the site's principal management needs and strategies to address them.

2.2 A review of the previous Management Plan (2013-18) commenced in 2017, guided by a steering group that included officers from both West Devon Borough Council and Devon County Council. The revision was informed by an ongoing process of monitoring, review and analysis of progress during the previous Plan period, but also factors in significant developments in UNESCO guidance and the strategies of key partner organisations. This included the declaration of a Climate Emergency by all three partner local authorities (Cornwall, Devon County and West Devon Borough Councils) in 2019. This has shaped the Partnership's shared policy aims and strategic management objectives, in consultation with the communities living within and around the WHS.

2.3 The initial draft Management Plan as signed off by the Partnership Board, on which the Council is represented by Cllr Mott, on 18 June 2020 was released for public consultation on 10 July, with a closing date of 31 August. The resulting comments have been collated and potential amendments are outlined below.

The public consultation included:

- Uploading the draft Plan, appendices and the sustainability analysis to the WHS website, with an online survey to capture views on new key policy areas, and inviting written submissions via email response;
- Placing a notice in the planning section of local newspapers advertising the consultation, and inviting those without internet access to request hard copies of all the above;
- Issuing a press release to local print and broadcast media
- Posting items on social media;
- Direct email to all 57 Parish and Town Councils in the WHS areas;
- Technical Panel members circulating to colleagues and elected members in the organisations that they represent; and
- Email to 87 stakeholder organisations.

The findings were:

- Online questionnaire – 171 responses in total (partial and fully completed), providing over 420 comments. The most often quoted concern of all responses (online survey and e-mails) were with planning issues and the perception that the WHS policies on protection and conservation were not always observed;
- 82% of respondents supported or strongly supported the new Policy C5 - Proposals for renewable energy installations will be supported where they do not adversely affect the OUV of the Site.
- 87% of respondents supported or strongly supported the new Policy C7 - Development proposals should ensure that the biodiversity and geodiversity that contributes to the distinctiveness of the CWDMLWHS is conserved and where appropriate enhanced, having due regard to maintaining the authenticity and integrity of the Site. Developments of a significant nature will be expected to deliver appropriate biodiversity net gain.

In terms of general management priorities, the most frequently listed was conservation and regeneration of settlements in the Site, followed by presentation and learning. Further detail of the consultation response can be found in the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape WHS Management Plan 2020-2025 – consultation response review of findings.

### **3. Outcomes of the Management Plan review**

3.1 The Plan encompasses both the substantial physical assets and landscapes that make up the WHS, together with the cultural traditions that created them, as elements of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

Significant improvements in the conservation, interpretation, access to and public information about the Site's OUV were delivered during the last seven years, with:

- 15 conservation projects – including Tavistock Guildhall and Museum;
- a cultural events programme that delivered over 150 performances to an audience of 180,000 – including 'The Man Engine';
- £10.1m investment in heritage-led regeneration;
- education projects that reached 9,000 pupils.

3.2 During that time knowledge of climate change and its impacts on planetary ecosystems grew significantly, together with the recognition of how humanity depends upon these. UNESCO has also highlighted the combined value of cultural and natural heritage (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/biodiversity/>). As a result, the Partnership have incorporated biocultural protection and stewardship across the Site into the scope of this Plan, to respond to UNESCO's focus. This will require the WHS Partnership to access new areas of expertise and offers opportunities for new collaborations.

3.3 The Partnership has also aligned its delivery of the World Heritage Convention with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), incorporating cultural, social, economic, environmental, and ecological objectives for the benefit of all. In 2015 UNESCO's General Assembly adopted its Policy on the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, with the goal of assisting Member States, WHS management bodies and communities to harness the potential of World Heritage to contribute to sustainable development. The CMWHS Vision, Mission and Aims were reassessed in terms of how they meet this Policy, with the conclusion that the existing CMWHS management approach serves the UN SDGs well, whilst considerable scope exists for enhancing its environmental contribution. Section 5 of the Plan articulates the value of the WHS landscape in that wider sustainable development context, with the emphasis on the priority areas of activity for the period 2020/2025 of:

- Social equity;
- Climate resilience; and
- International partnerships.

3.4 Related planning policy documents, strategies and programmes that were considered during the review process include:

- National Planning Policy Framework;
- Cornwall Local Plan (2017);
- Cornwall Council Environmental Growth Strategy (2015);
- Cornwall Council Mineral Safeguarding DPD (2018);
- Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (2019);
- Devon County Council Minerals Plan (2017); and
- Local Climate Emergency Declarations/Action Plans (as referenced above).

Section 6 of the Plan sets out the key management challenges and opportunities to address them. Specific conclusions from this review were that the Local Plans and related strategies set out cross-cutting provisions relating to development that highlight the importance of environmental infrastructure, ecosystem services and biodiversity, green spaces, and restoring and enhancing habitats and their connectivity. Improving the resilience of ecosystems can enhance the preservation of cultural landscapes and the wider historic environment, protecting important views and/or the setting of designated and non-designated assets, and the character of settlements within the WHS.

3.5 Early formative consultation with key stakeholders had identified that the existing policies in the 2013 -18 Plan were still relevant and fit for purpose and, therefore, remain unchanged from the 2013-2018 Management Plan. The assessment of the CMWHS Vision, Mission and Aims and the policies that flow from these concluded that, whilst the existing CMWHS

management approach serves sustainable development and achievement of UN SDG goals well, its environmental contribution could be increased.

As a result, the Partnership is proposing two new policies in this Management Plan:

- Policy on Support for renewable energy (Policy C5) - Proposals for renewable energy installations will be supported where they do not adversely affect the OUV, authenticity and integrity of the Site.
- Policy on Biodiversity net gain from major developments (Policy C7) - Development proposals should ensure that the biodiversity and geological diversity that contributes to the distinctiveness of the Cornwall and West Devon mining landscape is conserved and where appropriate enhanced, having due regard to maintaining the authenticity and integrity of the Site. Developments of a significant nature will be expected to deliver appropriate biodiversity net gain.

The policy frameworks to guide management of the Site, with a prioritised list of agreed strategic actions for the next five years, are identified in Section 7. Section 8 describes the monitoring and evaluation system whereby the progress in delivering this Plan will be measured.

Three appendices accompany the Plan, including the World Heritage Site Area Statements A1-A10, and these can be viewed online at: [www.cornishmining.org.uk](http://www.cornishmining.org.uk)

#### **4. Options available and consideration of risk**

- 4.1 A Management Plan is required by UNESCO as a condition of inclusion on the World Heritage List. The WHS Partnership is charged with overseeing the creation of the document, and Cornwall Council, as the lead partner, took responsibility for the review and redrafting process, in close consultation with WDBC and DCC. The final draft of the revised Management Plan reflects and contributes to several of this Authority's strategic priorities.
- 4.2 If this Council does not adopt the Plan it would call in to question its commitment to upholding the World Heritage Convention and maintaining the WHS. The Plan has been adopted by both partner Authorities, DCC and CC.

#### **5. Proposed Way Forward**

- 5.1 The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site Management Plan 2020 – 2025 should be endorsed and adopted by WDBC.

## 6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	<p>Although there is no statutory duty to produce a management plan The Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO 1972) (“the WH Convention”) sets out the obligations that the State Party signatories to the Convention commit to, which recognises their ‘duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage’. (WH Convention, Article 4)</p> <p>Appropriate management frameworks and Management Plans are the main mechanism by which the UK Government, as the State Party, meets this obligation to the World Heritage Convention in demonstrating effective WHS management is in place. The overall responsibility for meeting the obligations are part of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) remit. However, many of the responsibilities of the State Party are in practice delivered by other organisations, most notably local authorities.</p>
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	N	<p>WDBC currently contributes £5,000 per annum towards the work programme of the WHS Partnership targeted towards implementation of Management Plan policies. The Management Plan review process is part of this work programme and does not incur additional costs.</p> <p>This contribution represents outstanding value for money for WDBC.</p>
Risk	Y	<p>Risks associated with the Management Plan can be categorised as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reputational: relating to not having a live adopted Plan in place and the potential criticism from UNESCO that this could result in.</li> <li>• Legal: relating to not having statutory plans in place to ensure protection of the WHS</li> <li>• Financial: related to lack of strategic context for making funding bids to deliver activity. Risks related to the asset itself are covered in Section 6.3.3 (Climate risks) and 6.3.4 (Risk Management and Emergency Preparedness).</li> </ul>

Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	Environment is the primary theme supported but also Communities and Wellbeing.
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact	Y	The Plan aligns local delivery of the World Heritage Convention with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), incorporating cultural, social, economic, environmental, and ecological objectives for the benefit of all. In 2015 UNESCO's General Assembly adopted its Policy on the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, with the goal of assisting Member States, WHS management bodies and communities to harness the potential of World Heritage to contribute to sustainable development.
<b>Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications</b>		
Equality and Diversity	Y	No implications beyond accessibility of documents to all. Plan policies encourage awareness of equality and diversity issues where appropriate.
Safeguarding	N	No implications
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	No implications
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Y	Positive management of the WHS is beneficial to the health and wellbeing of many residents.
Other implications		None

### **Supporting Information**

#### **Background Papers:**

- National Planning Policy Framework
- Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (2019)
- Devon County Council Minerals Plan (2017)
- Local Climate Emergency Declarations/Action Plans
- Cornwall Local Plan (2017)
- Cornwall Council Environmental Growth Strategy (2015)
- Cornwall Council Mineral Safeguarding DPD (2018)

#### **Document link for the Plan:**

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/conservation/world-heritage-site/news/world-heritage-site-draft-management-plan-consultation/>