

Cork County Council Meeting
9th April, 2018

Notice of Motion by Councillor Marcia D’Alton

“That Cork County Council would, in joint co-operation with Cork City Council, prepare a submission for the following collection of related sites and fortifications to be considered for inclusion on the World Heritage List: Spike Island (Fort Westmoreland/Mitchell) – Fort Camden/Meagher – Fort Carlisle/Davis – Ringaskiddy Martello Tower – Haulbowline Island Martello Tower – Haulbowline Island naval buildings – the Belvelly, Rossleague and Monning Martello Towers – Collins Barracks – Ballincollig Royal Gunpowder Mills.” [Deferred at council meeting 26.03.18]

RESPONSE:

The World Heritage List consists, presently, of 1073 sites, located across 167 countries. Two of these sites are located in Ireland: Brú na Bóinne, added in 1993 and Sceilg Mhichíl, added in 1996. There are 31 sites across Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including the Giant’s Causeway in Co. Antrim.

To be included on the World Heritage List, the proposed site(s) must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria.

The criteria for assessment are as per the attached appendix and further details are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria>

Of note with regard to the World Heritage List and to put forward a nomination for inclusion under same, same must be done in conjunction with the State. The UNESCO website outlines the process (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/nominations>), which is summarised here.

Nomination process

Firstly, each State must draw up a tentative list or ‘inventory’ of its important sites. The World Heritage Committee will not consider a submission unless it has already been included in this list. Once on the list a nomination file can then be presented and sent to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation. The site is then expertly evaluated and the World Heritage Committee will subsequently make its decision.

Ireland’s Tentative List:

The present tentative list for Ireland includes the following seven sites, dating back to 2010.

- [Early Medieval Monastic Sites \(08/04/2010\)](#)
- [The Burren \(08/04/2010\)](#)
- [The Céide Fields and North West Mayo Boglands \(08/04/2010\)](#)
- [The Historic City of Dublin \(08/04/2010\)](#)
- [The Monastic City of Clonmacnoise and its Cultural Landscape \(08/04/2010\)](#)
- [The Royal Sites of Ireland: Cashel, Dún Ailinne, Hill of Uisneach, Rathcroghan Complex, and Tara Complex \(08/04/2010\)](#)
- [Western Stone Forts \(08/04/2010\)](#)

UNESCO notes that States are encouraged to re-examine and re-submit their Tentative List at least every ten years.

As State support is critical, an initial step would be to establish the position of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Conor Nelligan
Heritage Officer, Commemorations and Creative Ireland Coordinator
23/03/18

Selection criteria

(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