Is it Time for a Peatlands World Heritage Site?
Background


What is a World Heritage Site?

- Places on Earth that are of outstanding universal value to humanity.
- Belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of where they are.
- Protect and celebrate for future generations.
How does a Bog become a World Heritage Site?

**Stage 1:** Convince the UK Government that The Flow Country is the best candidate on the Tentative List.

**Stage 2:** Prove to UNESCO that The Flow Country has outstanding universal value.
What would The Flow Country bring to the World Heritage Site list?

- 32 sites in the UK
- Only 4 are natural (13%)
- Only 6 in Scotland (19%)
- 1,121 sites in total
- 213 are natural (19%)
- 0 are peatlands (0%)
- Carbon storage
- Cultural heritage of the North Highlands
What are the Benefits?

- Eco and heritage tourism
- Educational activities
- Raise awareness of peatlands
- Encourage slow tourism
- Spread economic benefits
- The #1 heritage accolade
- Potential to increase funding
- Join a global community
- Protect and promote heritage
Jurassic Coast Ice Cream

- Partnership between Purbeck Ice Cream and the Jurassic Coast Trust.
  - 5p of every tub goes to the Trust
- Purbeck Ice Cream are now a “lead business partner” (contribute at least £3k per year)
  - Advertised on the Jurassic Coast website
- Funds are used “to preserve the scenery and heritage” of The World Heritage Site.
England’s World Heritage Story – The North

- A tour of England’s six northern WHSs
- Encouraging people to explore beyond the “honeypot” sites
Benefits of the Process

- Raising awareness
- UNESCO Volunteers Programme
- Local and national media coverage
- Oral and local history
- School talks
- Community Engagement
- Gaining political support
- Encouraging important conversations about land use
The past year

Community Consultation
- 15 drop-in events across Caithness and Sutherland
- Big events in Lairg, Thurso and Inverness
- Online consultation
- Feedback forms at Edinburgh Botanical Gardens
- Community Council meetings + much more!

Technical Evaluation
- Developing a draft boundary
- Bringing in planning and World Heritage expertise
- Liaising with UK Government and advisory agencies
Out and About

Edinburgh Botanical Gardens – August 2019

Wick drop-in session, May 2019

Full Flow Event in Inverness, July 2019

Mairi Gougeon MSP, Gail Ross MSP, Frances Gunn

Sutherland Show, July 2019

Volunteering on a croft, February 2019
What happens next?

- Community consultation report
- Technical Evaluation submission

Then, hopefully...

- Confirmation of The Flow Country as the UK’s next World Heritage Site candidate
- Full nomination to UNESCO (alongside much more consultation!)
The Flow Country – A Future World Heritage Site?