

UK Government nominates Forth Bridge for heritage status



Forth Bridge in the running for award.

The Forth Bridge carrying the railway connecting Edinburgh with Fife has been put forward by Culture Secretary Maria Miller as the UK's latest nomination for World Heritage site status.

If successful the site would join Stonehenge, The Tower of London, and the Jurassic Coast on the existing list of UK World Heritage sites and worldwide would be among a select group that includes the Taj Mahal, the Grand Canyon and the Great Wall of China. UNESCO will examine the nomination and make a final decision next year.

The Forth Bridge is an iconic British structure, recognised around the world as a feat of engineering, which at over a mile and a half long was the first major British construction to be made of steel, and at its peak employed over four and a half thousand construction workers.

World Heritage sites are huge tourist draws contributing to the estimated £26.4 billion and over 700,000 jobs that heritage-based tourism contributes to the UK economy.

Culture Secretary Maria Miller said:

World heritage sites attract tourists from all over the world and Britain has some extraordinary places that have yet to be recognised by UNESCO. If the Forth Bridge bid is successful in achieving such prestigious international recognition, then Britain will have yet another iconic place by which to attract tourists to our shores.

I want to thank the bid partners, the organisations and the people that have worked hard to develop the nomination, which has my full support.

The Secretary of State for Scotland Alistair Carmichael said:

The Forth Bridge is an iconic structure and I am fully supportive of the bid to give this feat of Scottish engineering World Heritage site status. I congratulate the bid team on the excellent work that they have undertaken to put the nomination together, and it will be important to ensure they continue to receive the support they need in the months ahead.

The Forth Bridge is an excellent example of the UK's rich culture and heritage and proudly symbolises Scotland's place in the world as pioneers of construction. Inscription as a World Heritage site is an important accolade, achieving this recognition will be tremendous news for Scotland and a fitting tribute to all of the people who have contributed to the building, maintenance and restoration of the Bridge in its 124 year history.

Fiona Hyslop, Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, said:

The Forth Bridge is an iconic symbol of technical creativity and engineering excellence. As one of the world's most recognisable landmarks the bridge not only connects communities in a practical sense, but also connects those who admire its design with Scotland's proud industrial and cultural heritage.

The Scottish Government is proud to support the Forth Bridge bid. I am particularly pleased that the partnership approach that has led to this point has allowed the communities in which the bridge is based to have a direct input alongside

local and national bodies. This approach is to be applauded and ensures our bid is the strongest it can possibly be.