

PRESS Release

LIVERPOOL - MARITIME MERCANTILE CITY DELETED FROM THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

On 21st July, during its 44th Online Session hosted by the People's Republic of China, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee¹ decided to delete Liverpool -Maritime Mercantile City² from the World Heritage List.

Inscribed on the List in 2004, Liverpool's World Heritage Site has been the subject of ongoing discussions with the UK Government and heritage agencies in the UK and with UNESCO, centred on the impact of continuing new development on the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. Despite the best efforts of the UK Government, Historic England and Liverpool City Council, attempts to reach an agreement on retaining Liverpool's World Heritage status have failed, with new developments being cited as resulting in "serious deterioration and irreversible loss of attributes" of Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS-UK is saddened by the Committee's decision to remove Liverpool from the World Heritage List, reached by a two thirds majority vote in a secret ballot.

Clara Arokiasamy, President of ICOMOS-UK said:

"This is a devastating blow for World Heritage in the UK and across the globe. This is only the third deletion of a World Heritage Site in the 50-year history of the World Heritage Convention. We urge the Government to fully recognise and protect the Outstanding Universal Value of our remaining World Heritage Sites and to ensure this never happens again. ICOMOS-UK stands ready to support the Government with this in whatever capacity we can".

22nd July 2021

¹ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/committee>

² <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/?search=Liverpool&order=country>