Liverpool Waters
The setting for an exemplar project
Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City
World Heritage Site

Supplementary Planning Document
Adopted October 2009
The World Heritage Committee considers that Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City World Heritage Site has outstanding universal value primarily because:

- Liverpool played a leading role in the development of dock construction, port management and international trading systems in the 18th and 19th centuries;
- The buildings and structures of the port and the city are an exceptional testimony to mercantile culture; and
- Liverpool played a major role in influencing globally significant demographic changes in the 18th and 19th centuries.

*Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City SPD, 2009*
English Heritage refuses to support multi-billion pound Liverpool Waters scheme

NATIONAL buildings watchdog English Heritage is refusing to support the multi-billion pound Liverpool Waters scheme because of its potential impact on the World Heritage Site.

By David Bartlett
02:00, 20 JAN 2011  UPDATED 23:13, 7 MAY 2013
English Heritage ready for fight with Peel over Liverpool Waters

THE regional head of English Heritage today warned Peel Holdings to make more changes to its £5.5bn Liverpool Waters scheme - or it will fight the plans.

By David Bartlett
Stop planning blight or lose Liverpool’s World Heritage Site status, says UNESCO
Heritage in danger
POTENTIAL DANGER TO A PROPERTY...

"The threat should be appraised according to the normal evolution of the social and economic framework in which the property is situated."

Operational Guidelines
2013
“In Liverpool, I beheld long China walls of masonry; vast piers of stone; and a succession of granite - rimmed docks, completely inclosed, and many of them communicating, which almost recalled to mind the great American chain of lakes: Ontario, Erie, St. Clair, Huron, Michigan, and Superior. The extent and solidity of these structures, seemed equal to what I had read of the old Pyramids of Egypt...”

Herman Melville, 1890.
“The historic urban landscape is the urban area understood as the result of a historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes...
including social and cultural practices and values, economic processes and the intangible dimensions of heritage as related to diversity and identity.”

*New Life for Historic Cities, UNESCO, 2013*
Cities act as **crucibles of change and innovation**, showcasing the ways in which societies are developing.

In many ways, cities are the product of both natural and **human evolution**.

*UNESCO HUL Guidebook, 2016.*
Adaptation and innovation, edginess and entrepreneurialism, internationalism.
Noise, bustle, attitude, cultural exchange
“Tangible and intangible heritage are sources of social cohesion, factors of diversity and drivers of creativity, innovation and urban regeneration – we must do more to harness this power.”

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO at the World Urban Forum (Naples, 2012)
The Liverpool Docks are the equivalent size of Central Park.
Currently the equivalent of 1/2 of Liverpool’s Central Park lies inaccessible and derelict.
Liverpool is the biggest port ... there was something to see from Dingle up to Bootle, and as far again as Birkenhead on the other side. Yellow water, bellowing steam ferries, white trans-atlantic liners, towers, cranes, stevedores, skiffs, shipyards, trains, smoke, chaos, hooting, ringing, hammering, puffing, the ruptured bellies of the ships, the stench of horses, the sweat, urine, and waste from all the continents of the world ... And if I heaped up words for another half an hour, I wouldn't achieve the full number, confusion and expanse which is called Liverpool.

*Karel Capek, Letters from England, 1924*
THE HUL GUIDEBOOK
Managing heritage in dynamic and constantly changing urban environments
A practical guide to UNESCO's Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape

New life for historic cities
The historic urban landscape approach explained
A Historic Layering...

The Mersey has always been the lifeblood of the city. Over the centuries, channels have been cut, walls assembled, docks opened, commerce built, opportunities taken, docks filled, and new life has grown.
The city has always faced the Atlantic, and the site presents a momentous opportunity to re-connect Liverpudlians with their Great Lakes, their Great Wall, and to build new monuments to endeavour.
C20th Urbanism: Degrades, Depletes, Destroys, Overshooting Biosphere’s Limit

Future Urbanism: Healthy, Responsible, Low-Impact, Thriving within Biosphere’s Limits

LW Vision: Restorative, Sustainable, Overshooting Biosphere’s Limits

The Conversation Today: 

- Restorative, Sustainable, Thriving within Biosphere’s Limits
- Healthy, Responsible, Low-Impact, overshooting Biosphere’s Limits
- Degrades, Depletes, Destroys, Overshooting Biosphere’s Limit

PLANIT IE
From the outset this has been an aspirational project, with progressive steps taken and important commitments made, including signing up to BREEAM Communities Excellent and Home Quality Mark 4* rating.
Sustainable By Design

Sustainability is about much more than green buildings - it's social, cultural, environmental and economic.

It incorporates heritage, infrastructure, landscape, ecosystem services, economic resilience, community cohesion, diversity, health and wellbeing, lifestyles and consumption patterns, and so on.
“A tradition of architectural excellence is a fundamental aspect of the Site’s sense of place and its Outstanding Universal Value. New developments in the WHS therefore need to achieve high standards in terms of the design, materials, overall architectural quality and, ideally, innovation.

The architectural quality of a proposal within the WHS and Buffer Zone must be of the highest quality of contemporary design but respect, respond to and enhance its highly sensitive and important historic context.”

*Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City SPD, 2009*
Testing the Massing

EXTRUDING TO A 'MAXIMUM HEIGHT'
Testing the Massing
LOWER HEIGHT DATUM APPLIED TO MOST SENSITIVE AREAS (WAREHOUSE TYPOLGY)
Testing the Massing

MEDIUM HEIGHT DATUM APPLIED TO SENSITIVE AREAS (REFERENCE STANLEY WAREHOUSE)
Testing the Massing

GRADATION OF HEIGHT TO ENSURE MORE SENSITIVE MASSING RELATIONSHIPS
Skyline Strategy
REFINING THE APPROACH TO TOWERS

Secondary Cluster
This cluster is required to be "visually and numerically subservient to and separate from the Commercial District cluster" and "smaller in terms of its scale and height than [the primary cluster]."

Highest design quality, bespoke for each tower.

Considered impact on wind, daylight, privacy and the ground floor environment.

Consider and protect the townscape narrative of the river frontage.
Skyline Strategy

CONSIDERING THE CADENCE OF THE LIVERPOOL SKYLINE
Our vision sees the dock wall not as a barrier, but a gateway for liverpudlian to reconnect with their heritage, the mersey, the atlantic.
An opportunity to open up new iconic views for and of the city
To integrate into the city beyond the wall
- 10 streets
- Dock umbrella
To define new iconic pieces of urban infrastructure
- new Bold streets, Duke streets
- a liver building for the 21st century
Heritage Driven Strategy

- Views to Stanley Dock
- Views to LIVER Building
- Views to Heritage Assets Maximized
- Areas Where Public Realm Could Delineate Former Dock Network
- Areas Where the Park Could Delineate Former Dock Network
- Areas Where Semi-Private Realm Could Delineate Former Dock Network
- Location Where Former Dock Network Interacts with the Proposed School
Public / Private Realm

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE NETWORK
Block Typologies
“The historic urban landscape approach moves beyond the preservation of the physical environment, and focuses on the entire human environment with all of its tangible and intangible qualities. It seeks to increase the sustainability of planning and design interventions by taking into account the existing built environment, intangible heritage, cultural diversity, socio-economic and environmental factors along with local community values.”

“Culture is both an enabler and a driver of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.”

Tangible and intangible components of heritage are essential in the preservation of the identity of communities that have created and transmitted spaces of cultural and historical significance.

The spirit of place offers a more comprehensive understanding of the living and, at the same time, permanent character of monuments, sites and cultural landscapes.

We declare that intangible cultural heritage gives a richer and more complete meaning to heritage as a whole and it must be taken into account in all legislation concerning cultural heritage…

Spirit of place is a continuously reconstructed process, which responds to the needs for change and continuity of communities…..
Valletta principles

2012

Change is considered from a multi-dimensional point of view: spatial, temporal, multi-scale and intangible

The preservation of intangible values is as important as the conservation of built environment, because they help to define a live and culturally prolific environment

The spirit of places is strictly connected with the concept of identity and with the production of spaces: ‘the spirit creates the space and at the same time the space constructs and structures the spirit’