

World Heritage Sites Four pairs of stamps



Above, left to right: 2nd class Hadrian's Wall and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park; 1st class Stonehenge and Wet Tropics, Queensland; 47p Blenheim Palace and the Greater Blue Mountains Area; 68p Neolithic Orkney (Ring of Brodgar) and Purnululu National Park.

A JOINT ISSUE with Australia Post featuring World Heritage Sites in the UK and Australia goes on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 21 April to coincide with the opening of the Pacific Explorer international stamp exhibition in Sydney. The eight stamps will be printed in four horizontal se-tenant pairs showing a British and Australian site. The stamps are also being issued by Australia Post in 50¢ (two pairs), \$1 and \$1.80 denominations.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 30. However sheets of 60 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé
Security Print

Process Lithography

Stamp size 35mm square

Sheet size 30 and 60

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd class, two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

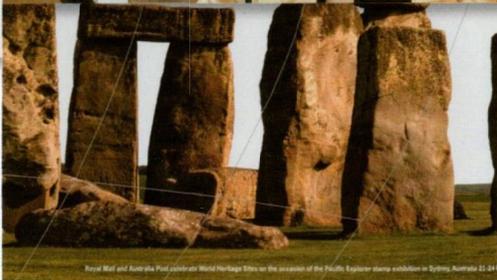
FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 21 April, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Blenheim must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £4.32 UK or £3.68 overseas.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Blenheim postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0511' (Tallents House), or 'FD0512' (Blenheim). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Blenheim postmark. A non-pictorial Blenheim postmark is also available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'FD0512 NP'.

Sponsored handstamps for 21 April will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A pack (price £3.85) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Tallents House. A World Heritage coin cover will be available, price £15.95. This will bear two se-tenant pairs of British and two se-tenant pairs of Australian stamps cancelled by special Stonehenge and Sydney postmarks, and has the Royal Mint 2005 50p coin encapsulated. There will be joint first day covers and a joint pack with Australia Post – details next month.

for Royal Mail's joint issue with Australia Post



Heritage sites The four British sites are all well-known. Hadrian's Wall was built by the Emperor Hadrian (shown on a 1992 stamp) to safeguard the northern frontier of his Empire. It is a popular attraction for walkers and all interested in Roman history. Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites are major Neolithic monuments, Stonehenge being associated with Druids and the Summer Solstice. Blenheim Palace was built for John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, to celebrate his victory over the French in 1704. It was the birthplace in 1874 of Sir Winston Churchill and the Palace featured on the first day cover for the 1974 Churchill stamps. The Ring of Brodgar (or Brogar) represents the Heart of Neolithic Orkney – Stone Age ceremonial, burial and dwelling sites; Skara Brae featured on a Prehistoric Scotland aerogramme in 1995 (see *Bulletin* July 1995) •

The presentation pack, above, written by Maev Kennedy and designed by Godfrey Design, features Blenheim Palace, the Giant's Causeway, Blaenavon Industrial Landscape, Stonehenge, Neolithic Orkney, the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and Hadrian's Wall.

This is Royal Mail's first World Heritage Sites issue, but some sites have featured on earlier stamps.

1 Canterbury Cathedral Cathedrals 1969, Christmas 1971

2 Durham Cathedral Cathedrals 1969

3 Harlech Castle Landscapes 1966

4 Westminster Abbey Anniversary 1966, London International Exhibition 1980

5 Palace of Westminster Parliamentary Conferences 1961, 1973 & 1975, 700th Anniversary of Parliament 1965, London International Stamp Exhibition 1980, Australian Bicentenary 1988, Gilbert and Sullivan 1992, London Bridges 2002

6 St Kilda National Trusts 1981

7 Maritime Greenwich *Gypsy Moth*/Sir Francis Chichester 1967, British Ships *Cutty Sark* 1969, European Architectural Heritage Year 1975, Astronomy 1990

8 City of Bath *Body & Bone* 2000

9 Saltaire *Workers' Tale* 1999

10 New Lanark Industrial Archaeology 1989

11 Tower of London Historic Buildings 1978, London International Stamp Exhibition 1980, Gilbert and Sullivan 1992

12 Dorset & East Devon Coast British Journey: South-west England 2004

13 Giant's Causeway National Trusts 1981, Northern Ireland country 2001, British Journey: Northern Ireland 2004

14 Edinburgh Old and New Towns Cathedrals 1969, European Architectural Heritage Year 1975

15 Caernarfon Castle High Values 1955 & 1988, Prince of Wales Investiture 1969, Historic Buildings 1978

16 Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Kew Gardens 1990

17 Ironbridge, Shropshire Industrial Archaeology 1989





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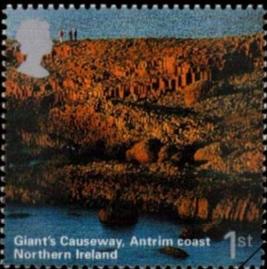
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