

case being developed builds upon the following pillars: (1) the site itself: a dramatic yet accessible cliff section hewn and replenished by the world's highest tides ; (2) the fossil record: vertebrate, invertebrate, and floral records satisfying requirements of biodiversity, evolutionary innovation, community, and uniqueness; (3) the sedimentary record: the world's best exposed succession of Carboniferous coal measures, providing context to the fossil record; (4) the history of science: formative in such canons as Lyell's Principles of Geology and Darwin's Origin of Species.

Complementing these are: cultural history: site of coal mining since the early 17th C, grindstone quarries of the 18th and 19th C; significance to ongoing research and education: still the site of innovative research and discovery and field trips by scientific groups, universities, and schools; historical recognition: international field trip destination since the mid 19th C and the first field project of the Geological Survey Canada in 1842; international interest: sought out by recent visitors from over 44 countries worldwide even before inscription, subject of international research, Joggins specimens in world museum collections. Although not part of the Carboniferous story, Joggins also exposes a classic multiple till section recording Quaternary glaciations.

Individual projects, some of which fulfill specific edicts of UNESCO, address compilation of the floral and faunal record, type specimens, and collections housed in world museums, an atlas of specimens and features, a scientific bibliography, and numerous journal manuscripts in preparation. Chief among these projects is a comparative study to confirm Joggins' worth amongst contemporary world sites. Recently successful cases for the Devonian site at Miguasha, Gaspé, and the Mesozoic section of the Dorset Coast, UK, provide useful comparisons in developing the case for Joggins.

**Building the scientific case for
World Heritage designation of Joggins**

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The long-celebrated cliff section at Joggins, Nova Scotia, has the potential to become Maritime Canada's first natural World Heritage Site, but the case presented must be skilfully argued. Site management, infrastructure development, and community involvement are the concern of a broad-based Steering Committee to which the Scientific Sub-Committee reports. The importance of these issues notwithstanding, UNESCO describes scientific justification as "the most crucial aspect of the whole nomination dossier". The sub-committee must present irrefutable evidence that Joggins represents a natural site of "outstanding universal value" representing a major stage in the history of life, specifically, the Pennsylvanian 'Coal Age' wetlands of Euramerica. The