

Francesco Bandarin
Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
7 Place de Fontenoy
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Your Ref
Our Ref

1 February 2011

Dear Francesco

STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE CITY OF BATH (C428)

I refer to the World Heritage Committee's Decision **33 COM 7B.131** following examination of the state of conservation of the City of Bath World Heritage property at its 33rd session (Seville, Spain, 22-30 June, 2008).

The Committee requested the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for information and by 1 February 2011, the draft of the revised management plan, including the integrated and comprehensive Tourism management plan, the integrated Public Realm and Movement Strategy, respecting both the authenticity and integrity of the property, and the integrated Traffic Control Plan, before its final adoption. (WHC 33 COM 7B.131, para. 9)

In accordance with the Committee's request, I am pleased to enclose herewith the draft City of Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan 2010-2016. This has been endorsed by the City of Bath World Heritage Site Steering Group and by the Bath and North-East Somerset Council (BaNES). It is now being considered by English Heritage. I am also enclosing the Public Realm and Movement Strategy entitled 'Creating the Canvas for Public Life in Bath', Traffic Control documentation including the Bath Transport Package, currently subject to funding decisions, and the Destination Management Plan which guides tourism management in Bath. Although these documents are not integral parts of the World Heritage Management Plan they have all been prepared with cognizance of each other to support an integrated and holistic approach to the management of the World Heritage property.

I am sending you too the draft Core Strategy from the Local Development Framework and the World Heritage Site Setting Study which addresses the landscape surrounding the site. The Local Development Framework is the basic policy document for control of spatial planning within the territory of Bath and North-East Somerset and will update you on the current moves to improve protection of the surrounding landscape of the World Heritage property (WHC 33 COM 7B.131, para 7). On this point, the Committee will wish to note that the core strategy includes policy B4

below, which sets out the position in relation to the site and the setting:

Policy B4. The World Heritage Site and its setting

Proposals which would harm the Outstanding Universal Values of the City of Bath World Heritage Site, including its authenticity and integrity, or which would harm the setting of the World Heritage Site will be refused. However, where proposals that are promoted for their contribution to mitigating climate change have a potentially negative effect on the World Heritage Site and its setting, the approach set out in Policy HE1 of PPS5 will be applied.

This policy is strengthened by the direct reference of harm to the OUVs. The predecessor policy included harm to the setting but did not outline where the setting was, and consequently the ability to assess proposals and resist harmful developments was potentially compromised. To address this, a WHS Setting Study (2009), referred to in paragraph 4 above has been produced to identify the extent of the site setting, and to provide a framework for assessing developments within this area. It is within the forward policy programme of BaNES Council to adopt this document as a supplementary planning document, making it an integral part of the local planning framework.

The Committee asked for updates on two further matters (WHC 33 COM 7B.131, paras 5 and 6) relating to the Bath Western Riverside Project (BWR). We provided further information on progress on Phase 1 of the BWR in our letters you of 20th October (your ref WHC/74/2895/GB/CS/ASD and WHC/74/2905/GB/CS/FB). The detailed Planning Permission for the first phase of BWR was issued by BaNES Council on 23rd December 2010, following detailed negotiations regarding the package of Conditions and Legal Agreements.

The form of the first phase development remains broadly in accordance with the Council's BWR Supplementary Planning Document, and with the subsequent Master Plan produced by developers Crest Nicholson. However, the extent of the first phase development has had to be reduced, in order to ensure that Government funding can be secured at an appropriate level, and also because of the need to avoid a safety conflict with the still-operational Gas Holder site on the western part of the BWR site. The balance of the first phase (and subsequently phases 2 and 3) will come forward for consideration in due course, but due to current economic uncertainty and the costs associated with the decommissioning of the Gas installation, BaNES Council are not able to give an indication of when that might be. However we will keep the World heritage Centre informed of progress.

Finally, the Committee *invited the State Party to 'embark on a reinforced, integrated and homogenous interpretation for all the attributes bearing the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.* (WHC 33 COM 7B.131, para. 8).

The Committee will wish to note that, in addition to the measures outlined in the draft management plan, BaNES Council are progressing plans for a children's education centre, in association with the Roman Baths, in the heart of the property which is due to open in 2013. The Council is also examining the potential for a semi-permanent World Heritage exhibition in York Street covering all aspects of the OUV of the City of Bath World Heritage property. As a more immediate measure, a touch screen information monitor carrying World Heritage information is to be placed within the existing Roman Baths complex. The Bath Preservation Trust have submitted a planning application and a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for a dramatically enlarged museum at the property they have acquired adjacent to No.1 Royal Crescent. This will focus on the story of Georgian Bath. With regard to signage, the Public Realm and Movement Strategy

Culture Team

outlines the proposed overhaul of the city signage, and some signage, such as a second World Heritage inscription plaque, is already in place.

A full list of documents enclosed is attached at **Annex A** to this letter. These documents are being sent to the World Heritage Centre by courier today.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Marsden', written in a cursive style.

Peter Marsden
Head of World Heritage

Cc HE Matthew Sudders, UK Permanent Delegate to UNESCO
UK National Commission for UNESCO
ICOMOS
English Heritage
Bath and North East Somerset Council

STATE ON CONSERVATION OF THE CITY OF BATH WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS (2 COPIES OF EACH)

Draft City of Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan 2010-2016.

BaNES Destination Management Plan

Public Realm and Movement Strategy - 'Creating the Canvas for Public Life in Bath'

Traffic Control Plans

- Final Joint Local Transport Plan
- Final Joint Local Transport Plan – Supporting Documents
- West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 3
- The Bath Transportation Package
- Tackling Congestion: the future for Bath
- City Centre Proposals
- The Bath Transportation Package Tackling Congestion: Park and Ride East
- Lansdowne Park and Ride Extension Environmental Statement: Non-technical Summary
- Newbridge Park and Ride Extension Environmental Statement: Non-technical Summary
- Odd Down Park and Ride Expansion Environmental Statement: Non-technical Summary
- A4 Eastern Bath Park and Ride Environmental Statement: Non-technical Summary

Draft Core Strategy

Bike Hire in Bath poster x 2

Bath WHS Setting Study Information Paper x 2