



Historic England

Louise Fradd
Place Strategic Director
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Lewis House
Manvers Street
Bath, BA1 1JG

23 September 2016

Dear Louise,

Provision for Park and Ride to the east of Bath

As part of a commitment to reduce congestion and improve the movement of traffic in and around Bath, we understand the Council is considering a number of potential locations for a Park and Ride facility(s) to the east of the city but has yet to identify its preferred site(s).

Understandably any Park and Ride proposal to the east of the city within or affecting the setting of the World Heritage Site and its Outstanding Universal Value will attract a degree of attention.

Consequently it will be important for the Council to be able to reassure UNESCO, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Historic England, amongst others, that the Council has considered and applied, at this stage, the specific [International Council on Monuments and Site's Heritage Impact Assessment guidelines](#) and [Historic England's guidance on setting and views](#), and set out in a clear and robust way the benefits, and or harm of the initiative and preferred site(s).

This will help to demonstrate an informed case and in doing so reduce the risk of objection, potential call in and a UNESCO Mission visit.

Mindful of the importance of the designation of the city as a World Heritage Site, we would anticipate that such evidence will be considered vital to demonstrate that any decision taken on the matter is appropriately informed.

At yesterday's (22 September) Hearing in Public to examine the soundness of the Placemaking Plan, an Officer mentioned that on 9 November the Council intends to consider this Park and Ride matter. Might it be considered to be premature for the Council to take any strategic decision before the Planning Inspector's judgement has been received?



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The World Heritage Committee Operational Guidelines ask state parties to inform it at an early stage of proposals that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site and “before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value is fully preserved”. Therefore, it would be very helpful if you could formally consult Historic England and Department for Culture, Media and Sport at key stages during this pre-application process.

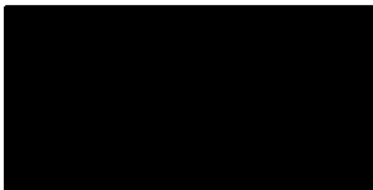
Finally, we also understand that the Council and its neighbouring authorities are currently exploring other strategic transportation responses to the challenges faced, with an A36/46 link road being a potential option. Again, we would strongly advise that assessment, as described above, is undertaken at an early stage to ensure key decisions are suitably informed by robust and appropriate evidence.

Your response to the above matters would be most appreciated.

If we can be of any assistance or you would like to discuss the issues raised do please get in touch.

Historic England very much values its positive relationship with the Council and recognises the importance of the continuation of our open and constructive dialogue on these and other strategically important heritage matters.

Yours sincerely



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