

**SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORE
STRATEGY**

EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

**Statement of Common Ground as
agreed between
Wiltshire Council and the Campaign
to Protect Rural England (Wiltshire)
(South Wiltshire Group)**

19 FEBRUARY 2010

Plan reference: Paragraph 8.25(a) and Submitted change to Paragraph 8.25 (a)

Representation Number:

Issues Raised

We are particularly concerned that the proposed clarification change does not follow the guidance given in Government Circular DCLG 07/2009, concerning the Protection of World Heritage Sites. The requirement under the World Heritage Convention is to conserve, protect, preserve, present and rehabilitate *all* of a World Heritage Site, not just parts of it. The Council's proposed 'clarification' suggests that the primary aim of the Stonehenge Management Plan is 'to protect the prehistoric monuments'.

The primary aim of the Management Plan is set out under paragraph 14.4.1 of the Plan:

'The primary aim of the Management Plan is to protect the OUV [outstanding universal value] of the WHS [World Heritage Site].

It is explained here and elsewhere in the Plan that the OUV of the WHS is expressed in a number of attributes which in themselves are not of OUV but *in combination* or *together* express the OUV of the WHS (Plan, para. 3.3.7). Thus it is the overall protection of the Stonehenge WHS, on account of its OUV, that is the requirement, not simply protection of the prehistoric monuments whose physical remains are only one of the seven attributes of the OUV of the WHS. The Management Plan and Circular 07/2009 both set out the requirement to protect the WHS *and its setting*. The Circular states, at para.8, that

'... it is essential that policy frameworks at all levels recognize the need to protect the OUV of World Heritage Sites,' The main objective should be the protection of each WHS through conservation and presentation of its OUV.'

We note that the wording of Core Policy 13 details particular aims in relation to improving the setting of the henge at the centre of the Stonehenge WHS, and providing suitable new visitor facilities. This would be in line with the requirements of the World Heritage Convention (1972) and we therefore did not raise any objection to it.

Continued/...

We had overlooked, however, that the present text under Core Strategy 8.25(a) gives the impression that the WHS is the Stonehenge monument alone, which is not the case. We therefore think that it would be helpful to re-word the whole of this paragraph:

- (i) to include much of the new 'clarification' text proposed by the Council;
- (ii) to correct the current text to make it clear that the WHS is more than simply the henge;
- (iii) to amend the 'clarification' to make it clear that the requirement is to protect the whole WHS and not just the prehistoric monuments; and
- (iv) To correct the spelling mistake in the first sentence of the clarification from 'extension' to 'extensive'.
- (v) To clarify that it is the visitor centre that was termed a national disgrace, not Stonehenge.

Wiltshire Council Response

Agree that second sentence of original text in paragraph 8.25(a) should be clarified to make clear that it is the visitor centre that was termed a national disgrace, not Stonehenge.

Agree that spelling error in first sentence of additional text should be corrected.

Agreed position

In second sentence of current paragraph 8.25(a), delete comma and "and" after "visitor centre" and replace with "that" to read:
"...served by a cramped, outdated visitor centre that has been called a "national disgrace"..."

In first sentence of additional text: replace 'extension' with 'extensive'.