

DCC Speech Odd Down.

When Bath Heritage Watchdog met with the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission in 2008, the inspectors made two points clear:

- (1) The Green Belt around Bath and the setting of Bath was sacrosanct and must be preserved at all costs.*
- (2) That the Council must engage in genuine public consultation.*

These applications show quite clearly that these points are being ignored.

Under the UNESCO world heritage convention operational guidelines the state party must inform the UNESCO world heritage committee of any major development which might impact on the outstanding universal values for which a WHS was inscribed. The transport package must be considered a major development.

Although this application has not raised the same level of opposition as the others it is the same AONB and the same WHS that it affects.

The proposal to expand in a southerly direction will lead to increased light pollution when viewed approaching from the A367 Fosse Way. The light pollution from the existing Park and Ride already has an adverse effect on Bath due to its high position. Any increase must further affect the setting of the World Heritage Site and AONB. It appears the current lighting remains on long after the last bus has departed.

The Background Papers state the site falls just outside the boundary of the Cotswold AONB and the World Heritage Site. Natural England state it forms part of the setting. It is categorised as Green Belt and forms part of the natural buffer zone around the only complete city in the UK to be designated a World Heritage Site.

Any development in the Green Belt is unacceptable unless exhaustive efforts have been made to search out other suitable sites outside the immediate boundary of the World Heritage Site. Little documentation has been provided to show there are no other suitable alternative sites available.

The Council's own Policy GB1A states “... *Park and Ride development in the Green Belt will only be permitted where:*

- (a) there are not any more suitable or more sustainable alternative sites;*
- (b) the scheme will not seriously compromise the purposes of the Green Belt ...”*

This application conflicts with the Council's own Local Plan policy, and Government guidelines concerning Green Belt land. ..The cumulative impact when combined with the other proposals affect the setting and outstanding universal values of the world heritage site.

EREG applications if recommended to permit must be referred to the Secretary of State for a decision on a public inquiry.