

The Eleven Great Spa Towns of Europe

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Whilst the Spa function and activities are essentially an urban event, all the Spa towns are found within an attractive landscape setting and this became the therapeutic landscape that made an essential contribution to the success of the Spa.

The images below set out the essential contribution of the therapeutic landscape relationship to each and every one of the eleven Great Spa Towns of Europe.

Daniel Defoe wrote in 1748 : *“Bath is a spot on the ground, which our countrymen ought to esteem as a particular favour of Heaven. It lies in a great Valley, surrounded with an Amphi-theatrical view of the hills”*.

Christopher Pound wrote in his publication, Legacy of Spa Gardens :

“the gardens, the built fabric of the City as well as the surrounding countryside are together a ‘therapeutic spa landscape’. Therapeutic landscapes have been defined as those spaces that have achieved lasting reputations for providing physical, mental and spiritual healing and are part of a Spa culture”

*“A notable feature of Bath is that it is a small City standing alone in open country side. This, and the attractive character of the setting, establishes a strong sense of place. The surrounding countryside embraces the urban fabric, its parks and gardens as well as the fingers of countryside reaching into the city boundary and all of this is a **therapeutic** landscape”*.

The ambition of Planning Application 23/03558/EFUL unstitches the very fabric of the therapeutic landscape – this application, if approved, would irreparably sever the relationship of Spa to the landscape setting and be of such commercial and detrimental presence as to have the City of Bath lose its joint World Heritage Site declarations.

Any commercial planning application, such as the current application must be refused.



Montecatini - Italy



Baden Baden - Germany



Marianske Lazne - Czechia



Frontiskovy Lazne - Czechia



Spa - Belgium



Kalovy Vary - Czechia



Bad Ems - Germany



Baden Bei Wien - Austria



Baden Baden - Germany



Vichy - France



Bath - United Kingdom - partially Bath Rugby obstructed landscape setting as of January 2024



Bath - United Kingdom – current Planning Application 23/03558/EFUL near obliteration of the landscape setting of the Great Spa City of Bath

When considering the remit of you, the Local Authority, related to the historic context of the City of Bath - of paramount importance is the double World Heritage Site Listing heralded to the City. The doublet World Heritage Site listings are recognized to be in jeopardy as a result of the Arena 1865 Ltd. Planning Application 23/03558/EFUL - both the ICOMOS UK and ICOMOS International reports state the proposed stadium imposes 'significant harm' on both

of the elements of the World Heritage Site. It is also of substantial note that one of the World Heritage Site Listings for Bath is as one of the '**Eleven Great Spa Towns of Europe**', and that this is a group listing for **all** the Eleven Great Spa towns of Europe. Should the Spa listing for Bath be rescinded then **all** Eleven Spa Towns will lose their World Heritage Site status – the implications of this cannot be understated.

Does this Local Authority's administration wish to be on record as the one that undermines the very fabric of the City of Bath and Bath and North East Somerset both environmentally and economically, if this application were approved.

The above analysis is an **OBJECTION** in the strongest terms to the Application 23/03558/EFUL.

Please ensure that this communication is posted on the Planning Portal.