

DCC speech Lansdown

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

- (A) The Green Belt around Bath and the setting of Bath is sacrosanct and must be preserved at all costs.***
- (B) The Council must engage in genuine public consultation.***

This applications show 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, the location is within the Cotswolds AONB and is designated as Green Belt. Despite no mention of it in the site description, it is within close proximity of the boundary of the World Heritage Site.

The location also impacts on a number of other sensitive sites and listed buildings, notably Beckford's Tower.

This proposal will create an increase of 52% in journeys through the AONB which will result in its further erosion and loss of local character. These issues have not been addressed in the Transport Statement.

Further damage, loss of character and erosion of the AONB will be created by the increased use of rural routes. Locations such as Woolley and Langridge will be at risk.

The existing light spill is already highly visible from a large area of the World Heritage Site and impacts on the setting of the great Georgian set pieces of the Royal Crescent and the terraces and crescents of Lansdown. The impact of the light spill on the AONB can be clearly seen by looking at the devastating photograph in the documentation taken from Kelston Roundhill. It affects the valleys either side and two Scheduled Ancient Monuments - Little Solsbury and Brown's Folly

More detrimental impact will incur from the installation of 'Active Signage' and Variable Message Systems' Light pollution and landscaping will severely compromise the AONB In contravention of Policy ENV3 and Local Plan Policies NE1 and NE2.

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.

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

The recent permission for the relocation of the sports field on which the expansion is to built give an idea of the likely outcome and was somewhat injudiciously timed.