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World Heritage Convention

46 COM

AMENDMENT/PROPOSAL

Agenda Item	46.COM 7B.18 – STONEHENGE AVEBURY AND ASSOCIATED SITES
Draft Decision	46.COM 7B.18
Submitted by the Delegation of:	KENYA
Co-author(s) (if any)	
Date of submission	22/07/2024

TEXT

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,*
- 2. Recalling Decisions [18 BUR VI.B](#), [25 COM Vii.83](#), [27 COM 7B.82](#), [28 COM 15B.102](#), [29 COM 7B.88](#), [31 COM 7B.104](#), [41 COM 7B.56](#), [42 COM 7B.32](#), [43 COM 7B.95](#), [44 COM 7B.61](#) and [45 COM 7B.62](#) adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively,*
- 3. Notes that collaboration and partnerships among interested individuals and organisations continue to support the conservation of the property, through initiatives such as exhibitions and events, and continued progress on revised management and governance arrangements, and welcomes the commitment by the State Party to submit the draft Setting Study and Site Condition Survey to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
- 4. Also welcomes the proposed new educational facilities within the Stonehenge component of the property and the manner in which the design process has considered the findings of the Technical Review by ICOMOS;*
- 5. Also Notes that the proposed A303 road Improvement Scheme (hereafter: Scheme) within the Stonehenge component of the property, [costed at £1.7 billion](#), was granted a Development Consent Order (DCO) in July 2023 without modification requested by*

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previous Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2022 Advisory mission, and that, as outlined in the State Party's 2024 State of Conservation Report, the design can be refined following the granting of the DCO, and also notes that in February 2024 the UK High Court upheld the decision to grant the DCO and that in May 2024 permission to appeal against that decision was also granted;

6. ~~Notes with concern that, contrary to its request in Decision 45 COM 7B.62 that all further decisions or actions to implement the Scheme in its (then) current approved state be halted until the Committee had reviewed the comprehensive information package of proposed modifications at its 46th session, the contract for the construction of the Scheme has been awarded, that preparatory works in the vicinity of the property have commenced, and that the State Party has not prepared, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, submitted a set of corrective measures to the World Heritage Centre by 31 January 2024 in the State Party's State of Conservation Report 2024 and included modifying the Scheme to reflect the Committee's decisions as informed by the recommendations of the 2022 Advisory mission, to address the adverse impacts set out in the Advisory Mission recommendations.~~
7. Takes note that the State Party has considered over 50 different options for the Scheme over the last 30 years, with amendments and modifications to respond to recommendations by the Committee and has the support of the national heritage agency and major heritage NGOs.
8. Acknowledges the State Party's ~~stated intention~~ commitment to continue dialogue and consultation, that the State Party has provided the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the Committee, with an information package on the proposed design developments to the Scheme, and that the Scheme design has been updated to reduce the extent of the exposed highway cutting at the western end through cantilevered edges and the introduction of an additional 150 m-wide green bridge, and that the State Party has briefed the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies about these proposed design adjustments which constitute a set of corrective measures to modify the Scheme;
9. ~~Expresses its profound regret~~ Notes that the proposed design developments do not modify the Scheme in full accordance with the recommendations of the 2022 Advisory mission and its Decision 45 COM 7B.62, which provided an explicit indication of the minimum changes necessary in particular, regarding the western end of the Stonehenge component of the property, but recognises that the proposed design developments offer enhanced mitigation of the impacts on the integrity of the property;
10. Encourages the State Party to continue to explore whether there are any further options to further reduce the adverse impact of the Western Portal.
11. ~~Reiterates~~ In view of its previous requests that the State Party should not proceed with the A303 route upgrade for the section between Amesbury and Berwick Down in its current further modified form, and also reiterates its consistent previous advice that, the minimum change required must include an extension of the underground section of the western approach (in tunnel and/or cut-and-cover) at least to the western boundary of the property, with the western portal relocated as far to the west as reasonably practical, thereby reducing the length of the cut-and-cover section and minimising the extent of archaeological resources which must be removed, notes the information provided by the State Party that an extension of the tunnel in cut-and-cover would not minimise 'the extent of archaeological resources which must be removed', as the infrastructure required for the cut-and-cover option would require a greater area of archaeological excavation than the State Party's proposed option.
12. Further notes that the current Scheme, as modified in January 2024, still retains substantial dual carriageway sections exposed in cuttings, particularly those at the western end of the Stonehenge component of the property, and that, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, the Scheme constitutes a potential threat to the property which, if implemented, would have negative impacts on the

~~property's attributes, authenticity and integrity, thereby impacting adversely on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);~~

13. Also notes that the proposed Scheme would have a significant positive impact on the OUV of the property, as acknowledged by the 2022 Advisory Mission, and provide a solution to the acknowledged adverse impacts of the existing A303 road.
14. Having considered whether ~~Decides therefore in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines~~, to inscribe Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) on the List of World Heritage in Danger with a view to mobilizing international support, recognises that the proposed design developments offer enhanced mitigation of the impacts on the integrity of the property and that the impacts of the proposed open 0.7km cutting at the Western Portal do not constitute sufficient ascertained or potential danger to warrant inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
15. ~~Requests furthermore the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to prepare a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures, which must include either discontinuation of the Scheme, or modification of the Scheme to reflect the Committee's decisions and the recommendations of the 2022 Advisory mission, to deliver the best available outcome for the OUV of the property;~~
15. Notes that the Scheme, with the proposed design developments, provides the most feasible solution for the State Party to the impact of the A303 on the integrity of the property;
16. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February December 2025, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its ~~478th~~ session.