

HS Consultation Response ref: ORK/WHS/016  
RESPONSE FORM:

HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008–13

Please complete your name and address below and add your comments on the consultation beneath each question. Please return it with your respondent information form.  
Thank you for your help.

Name	Dennis Gowland Chairman, Fairwind Statkraft Orkney Ltd
Postal Address	Horries, Deerness, Orkney, Scotland KW17 2QL
<b>HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008–13</b>	
<b>Question 1</b> Do you have any comments on the current Buffer Zone?	
Yes  It is adequate and seems to have been developed as a result of some consensus amongst those who are specialists in the field of Archaeological Landscapes.	
<b>Question 2</b> Do you have any comments on the proposed Buffer Zones?	
Yes The proposed extension to the current zones is both extreme and unjustified. The WS Atkins study does not seem to have been subject to peer review. The basic premise behind the report as to the setting requirements is spurious and arises from a small number of Archeologists who take the view that the 360 degree panorama of surrounding ranges of hills is central to the original purpose of the henge monuments. There are other equally, if not more so, supported theories taking a different view.  The study postulates a turbine tip height of 150m in its model to determine the outer boundary of the buffer zones. This is a distortion since there are many tubines on the market of significant capacity which are well under this height.  This extreme and distorted proposal takes no account of both existing turbine developments ( in operation since 1983) on Burgar Hill nor of the reasonable expectation of the people of Orkney to benefit from the new renewable energy industry.  In short, this proposal is nothing short of an attemp by a very few persons who live outside Orkney (and in some cases outside the UK) to impose an extreme and narrow view to the detriment of the community of Orkney - without adding anything to the protection of the Neolothic sites concerned nor to the enjoyment of the average visitor.  Further  This time allowed for this consultation has been unreasonably short for comment by organisations.	

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**Question 3**

Do you have any comments on the Other Values of the World Heritage Site; is anything missing?

Yes

The WHS in Orkney seems to be too closely allied to tourism. If the central aim of Historic Scotland and the guardians of the WHS is to maintain the integrity of the monuments in as near original state as can be managed - How is that the massively increased footfall and consequent damage to the actual fabric of the sites is counted as far less than structures on a horizon 15km or more distant?

The houses at Skara Brae, for instance are regularly visited by up to 30 coachloads of visitors per day in the summer - and are now suffering due to compaction of the midden surrounding the buildings.

At the ring of Brodgar there is an extensive car and coach park adjacent - with consequent hustle and bustle and noise. Yet we are expected to believe that despite these distractions in the immediate neighbourhood of the monuments, the full visitor satisfaction at the sites is actually marred by the partial view of some wind turbines on the far horizon.

**Question 4**

Do you have any comments on the range of Stakeholders that have an interest in the World Heritage Site; are any missing?

Commercial Tourism interest is too closely linked

**Question 5**

Do you have any comments on the Evaluation of the Aims and Actions of the 2001 Management Plan; is anything missing?

**Question 6**

Do you have any comments on The Vision or Long-term Aims for the World Heritage Site?

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Yes

It needs to be refocussed and should balance the real protection of these unique sites against the real needs for the economic viability of the successors of the people who built them.

**Question 7**

Do you have any comments on the Issues identified for the World Heritage Site over the next five years; is anything missing?

See Q 6

**Question 8**

What in your opinion is/are the Issue(s) of the highest priority and why?

See Q 6

**Question 9**

Do you think that there any issues in the Management Plan that may affect an equality group (age, disability, religion and belief, gender, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender), race); if so, how, and what can be done to mitigate them?

**Question 10**

Do you have any comments on any of the specific Objectives, how they relate to the Issues and how they have been prioritised?

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**Question 11**  
Do you have any comments on how any of the specific Objectives will be monitored?

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**Question 12**  
Do you have any general comments about how the Management Plan will be implemented and progress reported?

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**Question 13**  
Do you have any other comments about the Management Plan that you have not covered in your responses to other questions?

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**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

**Question 14**  
Do you have any comments on the baseline information, or the environmental problems/issues?

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<b>Question 15</b> Do you have any comments on the approach taken for the environmental assessment?
<b>Question 16</b> Do you agree with the results of the environmental assessment? Have we identified the key issues?
NO we do not agree
<b>Question 17</b> Do you have any comments on the environmental mitigation measures, including the schedule of commitments?
<b>Question 18</b> Do you have any comments on the proposed additional environmental monitoring indicators?

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