

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
PLANNING SERVICES

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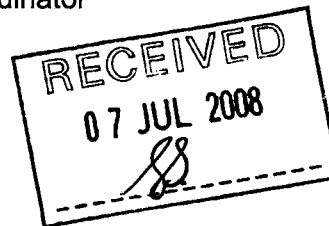
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4 July 2008

Sabina Strachan  
Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site Coordinator  
Historic Scotland  
Room 1.22  
Longmore House  
Salisbury Place  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1SH



Dear Ms Strachan

**Consultation Draft Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site Management Plan 2008-13**

I write on behalf of the of Orkney Islands Council officials who have been involved in the World Heritage Site Management Board meetings since August 2007. As a team we have welcomed the opportunity to work with Historic Scotland, SNH and RSPB in reviewing the 2001 Management Plan. Our cross-departmental team has attended Management Board and project meetings in the months leading up to the publication of the consultation draft Management Plan and individual members of the team have made comments on draft versions of the document during 2008. Our most recent comments to you (dated 18 June 2008) set out some final points in relation to the implementation of the Management Plan Objectives (Chapter 8) which we trust will be helpful to your final drafting process.

The purpose of this current letter is to confirm our team's broad support for the consultation draft plan as issued 8 May 2008. As we have made clear to date, it has not been possible within the required timescales for us to seek formal comment from elected members on the consultation draft Management Plan. This broad support from Orkney Islands Council officers is therefore necessarily provisional and subject to the final consideration of elected Members. However, as you are aware, Members have been kept informed of the work being undertaken to review the Management Plan through the various seminars and public meetings that have been held during 2008.

The next step for us will be to report the consultation draft plan to Orkney Islands Council elected Members for their approval, and to establish a remit for the planning department to commence work on Supplementary Guidance for the World Heritage Site in line with the Draft Objectives at Chapter 8 of the Management Plan. It is our intention to submit a report to the 27 August 2008 meeting of the Council's Environment, Planning and Protective Services Committee which update Members on the Partnership working that has taken place to date and to set out a programme for preparation of the Supplementary Guidance. It will also be reported to the 3 September 2008 meeting of the Council's Education, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee who have responsibility for the Museums and Heritage Service.

I trust this letter is satisfactory for your purposes and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further at this stage. In the meantime, I look forward to meeting with you on the 8

July to discuss issues relating to the proposed Buffer Zones which will have some link to our previous comments on Chapter 2 of the Consultation Draft Management Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Barr', written over a horizontal line.

**Gavin Barr BSc (Hons) MScURP MRTPI  
Planning Manager (Policy and Projects)  
Forward Planning**