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## STONEHENGE, AVEBURY AND ASSOCIATED SITES

### United Kingdom (373bis)

In accordance with Decision **45 COM 7B.62** of the World Heritage Committee, the United Kingdom State Party has produced a State of Conservation Report for the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site.

As requested, this report is structured according to the format set out in Annex 13 of the *Operational Guidelines (2023)*. The specific points raised in the World Heritage Committee's Decision are reproduced in text boxes.

#### **1. Executive Summary**

The State of Conservation Report provides an update on how the partnership between individuals, groups and organisations is continuing to support the management of the property and its surroundings. It updates the information included in the most recent State of Conservation Reports submitted on 01 February 2022 and 01 March 2023, and provides a cross reference to the additional information submitted subsequently under paragraphs 172 and 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The State Party's report covers the ongoing work on projects noted by the World Heritage Committee, including the updated timetable for review of the Management Plan, and of the review of sustainability and resilience of the governance structures for the property. Both projects seek to deliver further coordinated management across the whole of the WHS, following on from what was achieved through the first joint Management Plan in 2015.

Key pieces of work which will contribute to the protection of the property's OUV will continue in 2024, comprising the resumption of work on developing the setting study and completion of the condition survey for monuments within the landscape. The intention remains for the finalised setting study to have the status of a material consideration in the planning process. It will therefore undergo public consultation alongside review by the Advisory Bodies. Similarly, the results of the condition survey will also be made available for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Rather than repeat information submitted to the World Heritage Centre since the last State of Conservation Report, the report acts as a cross reference to notifications regarding the conservation work carried out on the Stonehenge lintels and the provision of education facilities supporting the Stonehenge visitor centre.

In relation to the specific requests from the World Heritage Committee, the State Party has complied separately with the request for a comprehensive package of information, and for liaison with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies in the preparation of a related set of corrective measures for the A303 Stonehenge Scheme. The State Party reiterates its commitment to continued dialogue and consultation regarding how it proposes to address the Committee's concerns regarding the Scheme through the parameters set for implementation of the Development Consent Order (DCO).

The latter part of the report provides a number of reports on projects, events and activities that are

supporting the presentation and transmission of the OUV of the property within the local community. It concludes with an update on holistic cultural and natural stewardship of the landscape of the property through the work of those responsible for its day to day management.