



13 March 2026

Sent electronically

Dear Audrey Lo,

[PL/2026/00446, Galteemore Farm, Beckhampton, Marlborough, SN8 1FE](#)

Thank you for consulting the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site (WHS) Coordination Unit on this application for the construction of a Riding Arena 60m in length by 20m in width, gross floor area of 1200m².

Our comments relate solely to the impact of the proposal to Stonehenge and Avebury WHS and its setting to inform the LPA's decision making.

As noted in the application, this proposal takes place within the Avebury part of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites WHS. The role of the WHS Coordination Unit is to monitor the impact of all development on the Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as inscribed by UNESCO to maintain the Integrity and Authenticity of the WHS and its setting. For full details of OUV please refer to the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites WHS Management Plan (2015)¹.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recognises at paragraph 202 that WHS are among assets of the highest significance and Policy 59 in the Wiltshire Core Strategy underlines that precedence should be given to the protection of the WHS and its setting. A description of setting can be found in Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 'Setting of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site'², adopted by Wiltshire Council in October 2025. This proposal takes place within the WHS, and so requires screening by the LPA on impact to the WHS.

While the application doesn't include an assessment of setting impacts, the information provided provides some detail to advise the LPA on impact to setting of the WHS and individual monuments.

The Design and Access Statement and Justification describes how the location has been selected so it has minimal visual impact, as it is not visible from the public highway and is contained by existing hedgerow and buildings.

The site is somewhat screened from key points to the north and east within the WHS. The floor surface is described as a sand surface which will reduce any potential visual impact. The Proposed Area and Sections describes that the railing timber will be tanalised, which I believe gives a light green or brown finish, which further aids the integration of the proposal with the surrounding landscape. As a result, the location and design of the proposal does not present substantial change through visual impact within the WHS.

The application indicates that no external lighting will be introduced, which supports the preservation of dark skies within the WHS (Attributes 4 and 6 of Outstanding Universal Value). The addition of external lighting would require further consultation.

¹ [Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan 2015](#)

² [Setting of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site Supplementary Planning Document \(2025\)](#)



For guidance relating to buried archaeology (Attribute 2 of Outstanding Universal Value), please consult with Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service.

As this proposal takes place within the WHS and within the setting of Scheduled Monuments, please also seek the advice of Historic England.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Selman, Partnership Manager

Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage Site Coordination Unit

Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre | Cocklebury Road | Chippenham | SN15 3QN

www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org stonehengeandaveburywhs@wiltshire.gov.uk