

## Nomination for listing as an asset of community value

### Nominated land

<p><b>Area to be covered</b> Please describe the nominated land including its proposed boundaries and exact location, address, postcode and a map attachment if possible.</p>	<p>Chapel with quiet garden and graveyard in the South East Quadrant of Avebury Henge.</p> <p>Avebury United Reformed Church (URC) Chapel Green Street Avebury Marlborough Wiltshire SN8 1RE</p> <p>See attached plan at 1/1250 scale with Chapel and grounds outlined in red</p>
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<p><b>Ownership</b></p> <p>Please state all the information you have on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) the names of current occupants of the land, and</li><li>(ii) the names and current or last known addresses of all those holding a freehold or leasehold estate in the land;</li></ul> <p>Please include a copy of the land registry entry where possible.</p>	<p>Contacts: George Faris <a href="mailto:synodclerk@urcsouthwest.org.uk">synodclerk@urcsouthwest.org.uk</a></p> <p>Reverend Ruth Whitehead Moderator South Western Synod email: <a href="mailto:moderator@urcsouthwest.org.uk">moderator@urcsouthwest.org.uk</a></p> <p>The United Reformed Church The Manse, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton.TA2 6RU</p> <p>website: <a href="http://urcsouthwest.org.uk">urcsouthwest.org.uk</a></p> <p>Land Registry Title number WT 291381</p>
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<p><b>Community value</b></p> <p>Your reasons for thinking that Wiltshire Council should conclude that the land is of 'community value', having regard to the definition in the Localism Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• current primary use of the building/ land or use of the building/ land in the recent past furthers the social well-being or social interests (cultural, recreational, or sporting interests) of the local community</li> <li>• it is realistic to think that now or in the next five years there could continue to be primary use of the building/land which will further the social well-being or social interests of the local community (whether or not in the same way as before)</li> </ul>	<p>The URC Chapel has been of considerable community value for over three hundred years. It is currently closed, but until recently it has played an important role in the community as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A place of worship</li> <li>2. a centre for reflection and spiritual renewal, including its Quiet Garden</li> <li>3. A Tourist Information Centre, until it was closed in 2011 due to the withdrawal of grant-aid from Wiltshire Council as part of its austerity programme.</li> </ol> <p>The Chapel could have equal or significantly greater value in future for the local community, people living in Wiltshire and visitors from across the world, for five reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spiritual: Avebury is important to people of many different faiths, beliefs and traditions. This applies both to people that live in and around Avebury and to visitors. The Chapel and its Quiet Garden is uniquely placed in the middle of the Henge to provide space and resources for informal and formal events.</li> <li>2. Social, cultural and recreational: Avebury attracts many scholars and artists. The Chapel could provide gallery/exhibition space for paintings, sculpture, installations, pottery, photography, film and other media. It is also an ideal venue for talks, seminars, music, poetry and performance art. These would benefit many local people and visitors, and would also help to deliver the actions in the World Heritage Site Management Plan 2015</li> <li>3. Educational: Many school and university parties come to Avebury as part of their curricula. Again, the Chapel is uniquely placed to be a base for educational visits. It would also benefit Wiltshire Council as education authority and help to deliver the aims of the WHS Management Plan</li> <li>4. Information: The loss of the Tourist Information service in 2011 was a blow to both local people and to visitors. The Chapel should again be a centre providing information to tourists. One part of the TIC's objectives was to encourage the dispersal of visitors into the wider WHS landscape, an objective that also supported one of Wiltshire Council's core policies, to encourage greater physical exercise. The Chapel could also disseminate information on the North Wessex Downs AONB, the Marlborough Area Nature Improvement Area, the World Heritage Site and other similar initiatives</li> <li>5. Economic: Avebury attracts about 250,000 to</li> </ol>
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300,000 visitors a year. Most local businesses rely heavily on tourism, such as shops, pubs and B&Bs. Other organisations such as the National Trust and local charities are equally dependent on tourist income. A number of local residents, including artists, also derive income from visitors. All four objectives above can help to generate income for local people and the wider Wiltshire community. It is therefore very much in the community's interests, and Wiltshire Council's, to improve Avebury's 'offer' by retaining the Chapel as a community resource for these activities.

The provisions of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Management Plan 2015 are material considerations for town planning purposes, and a list of aspirations for the use of the Chapel was set out in it:

#### **Tourist Information Centres**

9.4.11 The Tourist Information Centre which was located in the Avebury United Reformed Church (URC) Chapel on the High Street until September 2011 provided a useful information point for both residents and visitors, it helped to disperse visitors and income to adjacent areas, as well as providing a source of information for exploring the WHS landscape further. Partners should seek opportunities for providing tourist information locally and assist in identifying a sensitive use for the URC Chapel that would benefit the WHS.

#### **World Heritage interpretation centre**

10.9.4 The WHS Coordination Unit should work with partners to explore the feasibility of establishing a centre to interpret WHS status and its local, national and international relevance. The United Reformed Chapel at Avebury and the proposed Amesbury History Centre should be considered for such a facility if available. In addition, the feasibility of a study centre for the WHS should be explored.

**Policy 5f:** *Explore and deliver opportunities to meet the wider objectives of UNESCO and the UK Government*

**Action 130:** Explore feasibility of establishing a centre to interpret WHS status and its local, national and international relevance. Consider possible study centre. Implement if feasible. Consider Avebury Chapel and/or Amesbury History Centre as a location if available.

<p><b>Eligibility to nominate</b></p> <p>Please provide evidence that you meet the definition of a community nominator as set out in the regulations (i.e. a parish council or voluntary or community body with a local connection).</p> <p>If an unincorporated group please provide a list of 21 names on the local electoral register.</p>	<p>At a meeting held on <b>8 September 2015</b> Avebury Parish Council resolved to register Avebury United Reform Church (URC) Chapel under the Community Right to Bid Scheme.</p>
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## Your details

<b>Parish</b>	Avebury
<b>Community area</b>	Marlborough (West Selkley division)
<b>Your organisation</b>	Avebury Parish Council
<b>Contact name</b>	Liz Moore
<b>Position held</b>	Clerk to the Parish Council
<b>Address</b>	<p>6 Rhyls Cottages  Rhyls Lane  Lockeridge  Marlborough  Wiltshire</p>
<b>Postcode</b>	SN8 4EE
<b>Telephone</b>	01672 861424
<b>Email</b>	clerk@aveburyparishcouncil.org

**I confirm that all information provided is accurate and complete**

<b>Name</b>	Liz Moore
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<b>Signature</b>	E.Moore
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<b>Date</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
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Please return to [assetsofcommunityvalue@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:assetsofcommunityvalue@wiltshire.gov.uk) (scanned attachments can be accepted) or via post to Simon Day, Economic Development & Planning, Wiltshire Council, Monkton Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 1ER.