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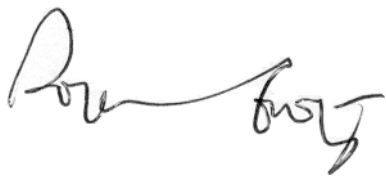
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Scottish Heritage in peril

Gavin McCrone's article about potential damage to the New Lanark World Heritage Site (Scotsman 26 September) raises important issues of public interest. First, inscription of a site on the World Heritage List is the highest accolade of protection internationally and any threats should be considered more rigorously than other sites. Second, international experience shows that the maintenance of a protective buffer around sites is essential to safeguard their integrity. Third, when a developer seeks to intrude on the integrity of a World Heritage Site, public agencies should demand that alternative sites are sought.

In the case of the Cemex planning application 3 things are needed: a more rigorous assessment, an investigation of alternative sources of sand and gravel (and there are plenty in the middle Clyde), and primacy given by the Scottish Government and its statutory advisers to safeguarding this priceless national and international asset.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Crofts', with a stylized, cursive script.

ROGER CROFTS