

Environment Agency e-mail dated 8/01/2010

I would like to confirm the following in respect of the proposed visitor centre at Stonehenge. The Environment Agency's view is that every effort has been made to make the development as environmentally sensitive as possible from an abstraction viewpoint. All fixtures and fitting are highly water efficient, down to the choice of vacuum toilets over low flush alternatives. Through an analysis of visitor numbers and efficiency of the site, the consultant has identified that any new borehole at the site will be required to provide less than 20M<sup>3</sup>/d of potable water. This abstraction is therefore outside of the abstraction licence consenting procedure as it is less than the minimum volume which would require licensing, namely over 20M<sup>3</sup>/d. If one temporarily ignores the fact that this is outside of our control, we believe that in balance, the borehole option is the least environmentally damaging way of supplying water to this site. The site is also a considerable distance from the nearest consented abstraction and therefore no derogation or indeed impact should occur. Talking to our groundwater teams, we believe that the level of change would be undetectable by groundwater loggers, should they be placed in these consented boreholes, and would be masked by logger error. In terms of the Avon SAC, as stated above the scale of this abstraction means that any fluctuation on the Till or other designated water course would be undetectable and therefore would not give rise to any in-combination concerns.