

THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE

Chairman: George McDonic, MBE, BL, DIPLTP, FRTPI, DPA, FFB

From the Hon. Secretary, Kate Fielden
1 The Old Smithy, Alton Priors
Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 4JX

Mrs Judy Howles
Area Development Manager
Wiltshire Council
61 Wyndham Road
Salisbury
Wiltshire SP1 3AH

Sent by email 3 June 2010

Dear Mrs Howles,

Planning Application S/2009/1527/FULL: New visitor centre for Stonehenge and associated works: additional information, May 2010

The Stonehenge Alliance wishes to register its concerns about the additional information that has been advertised. I refer to each new document in turn, below.

The Ecological Management Strategy for visitor access to the landscape

It is not clear whether this document fulfils the requirements of English Nature (set out in its letter to the Council of 24 November 2009) or the demands of S.106 Condition 10 – although it does not specifically state that it is intended to do so.

Response to Natural England Letter of 24th November 2009 Ecology Matters

It appears, from the statements made by Natural England that are recorded in the document, that the Council has not fulfilled the requirements of that body in the production of its Appropriate Assessment of the impact of the proposed scheme on the Salisbury Plain and River Avon Special Areas of Conservation.

Lighting Design Information

We have studied the drawings and information put forward and strongly object to the lighting proposals. We do not understand how such a scheme might be considered appropriate for the open countryside of the WHS and Special Landscape Area. The impact of the lighting scheme, including reflected light, would obviously be detrimental to the appearance and appreciation of this exceptional landscape and its setting, and to the astronomical attribute of the WHSite's outstanding universal value. We note that the Parliamentary Select Committee on Science and Technology's Seventh Report (15 September 2003) provides useful advice although the report itself points to the lack of up-to-date government guidance on light pollution in the countryside.

We urge the Council to reject this scheme and to demand:

- i) much reduced roadside lighting at Airman's Corner (which ought not to be expected to take any more traffic than at present during the hours of darkness); and

- ii) considerably reduced lighting at the visitor-centre building and associated facilities. The proposed lighting, if permitted, would create a highly incongruous light pattern, particularly in outward views from the WHS landscape and its monuments. Light spill from the glass-sided part of the building would glow and reflect off the surrounding pavement.

As you know, the Alliance has objected strongly to the planning application for a new Stonehenge visitor-centre at Airman's Corner. The additional information supplied has not led us to alter our objection to this application.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Fielden
Hon Secretary to the Stonehenge Alliance

THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE IS SUPPORTED BY:
Ancient Sacred Landscape Network; Campaign for Better Transport;
Campaign to Protect Rural England; Friends of the Earth; and
RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust