

**APPENDIX 8**

**LETTER FROM SALISBURY DISTRICT COUNCIL DATED  
29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1999**



Cliff Lane, BSc(Hons) Dip EP MRTPI  
Head of Development Services

Salisbury District Council  
Planning Office, 61 Wyndham Road,  
Salisbury SP1 3AH

DTZ  
1 Curzon Street  
London  
W1A 5PZ

Reception: 01722 434327  
Fax: (01722) 434520 DX: 58026 Salisbury

FAO Gerald Allison

Date 29<sup>th</sup> October 1999

Our Ref: CL/BM

Your Ref:

Dear Sirs,

Stonehenge Visitor Centre Brief  
Countess Road East, Amesbury

I write to confirm that the Planning Committee of the Council, on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1999, resolved to endorse the above brief dated October 1999 as supplementary planning guidance, subject to it being amended to include the following additional planning criteria:

- 1. As part of the planning application for the new visitor centre, the applicant shall submit full details of proposed improvements to Countess Road roundabout which shall be agreed by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the highway authorities prior to the commencement of any development unless otherwise agreed in writing. Such details as are agreed should be implemented in accordance with a programme to be similarly agreed by the Local Planning Authority.*
- 2. The applicant as part of an accompanying Traffic Impact Assessment should consider the issue of potential rat running arising from the development.*

And also planning criteria (vii) being amended by substituting after (T).

*Egress shall be onto the A345 Countess Road subject to a physical prohibition of right movements and measures to mitigate traffic congestion and conflict.*

Additionally the Committee resolved that the District Council as Local Planning Authority make strong representations to the Stonehenge Masterplan Steering Group and Government Ministers requesting:

- (A) the A303 improvements and a flyover at Countess Road roundabout are progressed to fruition as a matter of urgency.*
- (B) the Highways Agency/County Council not to close the A344 until arrangements satisfactory to Salisbury District Council are put in place in conjunction with the duelling of the A303.*

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experts, a shortlist of five applicants have been selected to develop their proposals for submission by 8 November.

The earliest date for opening of the new Visitor Centre at Countess East is 2003. This could, therefore, have an impact on the Countess Roundabout until the Highways Agency completes the A303 improvements. Initial assessments suggest that the new Visitor Centre will attract some 2,000-2,500 vehicles on a peak day compared with the 1,850 currently drawn to the English Heritage Visitor Centre on the A344. To prevent traffic problems between the opening of the new Visitor Centre and the completion of the Countess flyover, English Heritage proposes interim improvements to Countess Roundabout in the form of partial signalisation to be paid for by the Visitor Centre developer. These improvements will increase the Roundabout's capacity in 2003 by more than the additional traffic generated by the new Visitor Centre and will therefore improve the peak traffic conditions currently experienced. The Highways Agency and Wiltshire County Council have accepted that this will significantly ease traffic congestion at the Countess Roundabout.

The detailed Planning Application will be submitted in summer 2000 by the Visitor Centre developer and will be accompanied by a full Traffic Impact Assessment and an Environmental Impact Assessment.

28 September 1999