

# Structural Engineering Team Stonehenge, Amesbury.

#### **Inspection of Standing Stones and Lintels**



Job Number: 20935

**Revision** Amendment 0 First Issue

**Date** 06/08/2019





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#### 1. Introduction

On the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 a request was received from Property Curator Stonehenge for an inspection of the standing trilithons and lintels at Stonehenge. Geological research was about to be carried out on the stones and it was thought that the access being provided for the research would give the opportunity for a structural inspection.

The inspection was scheduled for early morning on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

A visit was carried out by myself, and other curatorial staff, Geological Researchers and contractors providing access. The survey was arranged for a 7:00 am start finishing at 9am to allow public access to the monument, on the day the weather was overcast with light cloud and cold.

#### 2. Brief and Limitations

Following the geological inspection of the lintels the tower scaffold was left in position to allow an inspection of the lintels by myself and the state of the tower allowed us to get up close to the stones for a physical investigation with photos as necessary. Time on each lintel was limited by the fact we had to complete all investigations by 9:00 am in preparation for opening the site to the public.

#### 3. Sources of information

General reading of the previous repairs carried out on the stones was gleaned from books and articles such as Stonehenge A History in Photographs, Sarsen Core Returned to Stonehenge by Susan Greaney.

In addition in the past I had read through old CSET files for a previous project and these contained information that showed that Lintel 122 had been repaired before re erection.

#### 4. Description

It is not necessary for this report to describe the monument in detail, it is suffice to say the monument comprises of standing stones and lintels as seen in the front page (taken from NW looking to SE) photograph. It should be noted that the stones are approximately 4500 years old and given their age have eroded relatively little. Considering the number of stones and their history of falling and being re-erected very little structural problems are present today.



#### 5. Observations

The surface of all the stones show signs of erosion in varying degrees but given their age and the fact some of the carvings are visible under certain conditions this erosion is generally minimal

Given the shape of the tops of the standing trilithons and the lintels at the interface the erosion appears to be greater. There were three major structural defects which were remedied in the past and these were a fracture in the trilithon 58 which was stitched, a missing section on trilithon 60 which was reformed in concrete and the broken lintel 122 which was re-joined by drilling and inserting horizontal bars. All repairs were carried out in 1958.

 While the geologists were working at high level we inspected the trilithons at low level and found them to be sound with no signs of structural defects.
 There were no signs of distress in the vicinity of the 1958 repairs on trilithons 58 and 60.





 The tops of the stones have suffered from erosion to a greater degree than the lower sections but there are no signs of structural defects such as fractures.
 There are natural fault lines in the stones but these are eroded on the outer edges not fracturing.





• The lintels have eroded in varying degrees which has caused the lintels to sit on the top of the tenons with gaps formed at the interfaces. Where gaps have been formed they have in some cases been filled with mortar and this has in some instances eroded back. It is not known what type of mortar was used but given the age and practices at the time (1958) it is likely that a cement based mortar was used as the gap filler.





 Lintel 122 was snapped in two when it fell and was subsequently re-joined with internal dowels with the crack filled with mortar. Inspection of the join reveals that the joint shows no signs of fracturing and in general the mortar fill is intact. There are two small lengths of calcium deposits on the underside of the join and a small section of mortar that has cracked which is insignificant considering the repair is 60 years old.





There are also small depressions on the surface that collect water but these
dry in the wind and sun and given the age of the stones are not a problem
although filling them would prevent the water retention.







#### 6. Discussion

In general there are no structural works required on the trilithons.

There is no record of why the mortar fill was used in the gaps between the trilithons and lintels but it does serve three functions, the first would be to increase the bearing surface between the lintels and trilithons, the second would resist any chance of the lintels rocking on the trilithons during extreme wind conditions and third it wold exclude water from what would be sheltered areas where the water could collect and freeze causing accelerated erosion due to frost damage.

At present there are six trilithons (4, 5, 6, 7, 57 and 58) with mortar fill but the addition of mortar fill to the other trilithons with gaps would add the advantages as discussed above.

#### 7. Recommendations

All loose mortar in the interface gaps should be raked out and the mortar should be made good keeping the face of the mortar a minimum of 75mm to 100mm back from the closest face to the mortar being either the trilithon's top edges or the face of the lintels. If the existing face of the mortar is sound but eroded build up the mortar to a minimum of 25mm deep.

Where no mortar exists and there is sufficient gap (20mm high and over) pack with mortar to within 75 to 100mm of face as above.

#### 8. Outline Schedule of work

Use a lime mortar with an aggregate mix to closely match the colour of the existing stone. Use hydraulic lime strength 2.5 due to the lack of access to tend to a pure lime mix.

Remove any loose mortar from the top of the existing six filled trilithon tops to a minimum depth of 50mm and repack with new mortar packing out the face of badly eroded but sound mortar to a minimum depth of 25mm.

On the remaining ten trilithon tops force mortar into gaps and finish approximately 75 to 100mm from front face. Allow for packing all tops but some of the packing will be negligible and where lintels abut (130,101and 102) packing for adjoining lintels should be kept separate to avoid water being trapped in joint.

On lintel 122 clean of lime scale on underside and make good damaged mortar with new mortar fill. On sides and top remove the loose mortar from the fracture repair and refill. On the sides keep the mortar back from the face and on the top fill fully at the centre and recess towards faces to allow water to run off.

Note that all mortar removal and cleaning should be done by hand tools only and care should be taken to keep the disturbance of lichens and moss on the stone surface to an absolute minimum.





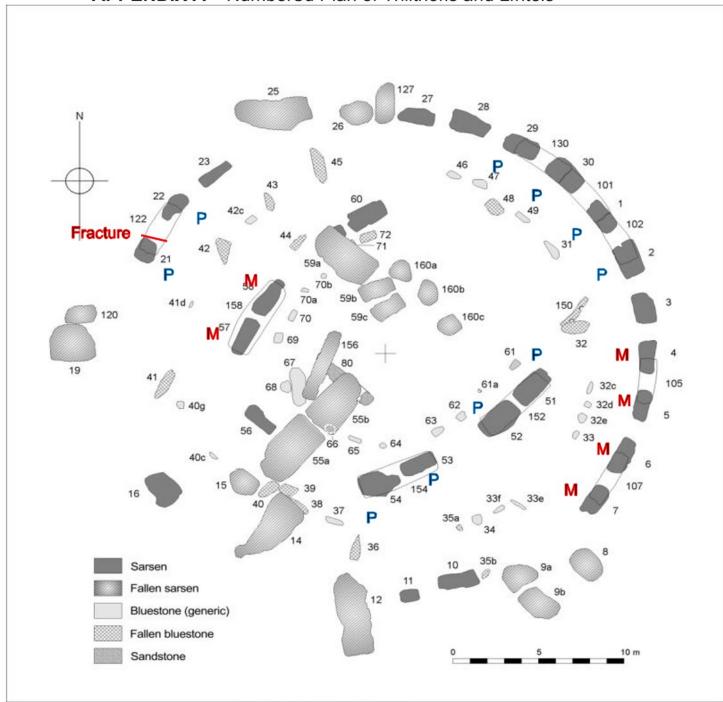
Inspection of Standing Stones and Lintels

#### 9. Conclusion

None of the aforementioned works are urgent and the gap filling is recommended but not essential. The repairs to the fracture point on lintel 122 are not urgent but over time the defective mortar will deteriorate further which in turn will allow water ingress to the stitching bars so I would recommend that if no other works are carried out in the short term the fracture repair should be prioritised.



#### APPENDIX A - Numbered Plan of Trilithons and Lintels



M – Existing Mortar Fill
P – New Full or partial Packing



#### **Application for Scheduled Monument Consent**

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Act 1979 (as amended) Section 2 To be completed by or on behalf of the applicant in BLOCK CAPITALS or typescript

#### 1 Applicant Details

Full Name	
Address	Stonehenge Visitor Centre
	Amesbury
Postcode	SP4 7DE
Telephone No.	
Email Address	@english-heritage.org.uk

#### 2 Owner/Occupier of the Monument (if not the applicant)

Full Name	English Heritage Trust
Address	6 <sup>th</sup> Floor 100 Wood Street
	London
Postcode	EC2V 7AN
Telephone No.	
Email Address	@english-heritage.org.uk

#### 3 Monument to which this application relates

Name (if any) of the Monument	Stonehenge and the Avenue
Address	Amesbury
Address	SP4 7DE
OR	
Location	
Location	
County / National Monument No.	1010104
National Grid Ref.	SU 14057 41825



Ple 1.	t of plans and drawings accompanying the application ease see supporting documentation
Ple 1.	
1.	ease see supporting documentation
_	Supporting document
2.	Report from HE engineering Dept.
٩ny	y other information relevant to the application
lde	eally we would like to carry out the work in late May or early June.
he	ereby apply for scheduled monument consent for the works described in this



95	g and the second	
Date	21 04 21	
(please print name here)		
* on behalf of	English Heritage	
* Where an application is being dealt with by an agent to whom correspondence should be sent please state the:		
Name of Agent		
Address		
Address		
Postcode		
Telephone No.		
Email Address		



Note – the Secretary of State may refuse to entertain an application for scheduled monument consent unless it is accompanied by one or more of the following certificates signed by or on behalf of the applicant.

## Forms of Certificate for the Purposes of Paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 1 to the Act

Certificate in accordance with paragraph 2(1)(a)		
It is hereby certified that no person other than the applicant was the owner (x) of the monument to which the accompanying application relates at the beginning of the period of twenty-one days which ended on the date of the application.		
Signature		
Date		
Certificate in accordance with paragraph 2(1)(b)		
It is hereby certified that the applicant has given the requisite notice (w) of the accompanying application to all the persons other than the applicant who, at the		

beginning of the period of twenty-one days which ended on the date of the application, were owners (x) of the monument to which the application relates,

namely (y):

Name

Address



Signature	
Date	



#### Certificate in accordance with paragraph 2(1)(c)

#### It is hereby certified:

- that the applicant is unable to issue a certificate in accordance with either paragraph 2(1)(a) or 2(1)(b) of Schedule 1 to the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979:
- 2) that the applicant has given the requisite notice (w) of the accompanying application to the following persons who, at the beginning of the period of twenty-one days which ended on the date of the application, were owners (x) of the monument to which the application relates, namely (y);

Name	NT Assistant Archaeologist, Stonehenge and Avebury WHS
Address	National Trust Estate Office High Street, Avebury, Wiltshire, SN8 1RF

#### and

3) that the applicant has taken such steps as are reasonably open to him to ascertain the names and addresses of the remainder of the persons who, at the beginning of that period, were owners (x) of that monument and has been unable to do so.

Signature	
Date	21 04 21



It is hereby certified that the applicant is unable to issue a certificate in accordance with paragraph 2(1)(a) of Schedule 1 to the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Act 1979, but has taken such steps as are reasonably open to him to ascertain the names and addresses of the other persons who, at the beginning of the period of twenty-one days which ended on the date of the application, were owners (x) of the monument to which the application relates and has been unable to do so.

Signature	
Date	21 04 21

- w) Form AM1 12A
- x) "Owner means a person who is for the time being owner in respect of the fee simple in the monument or is entitled to a tenancy of the monument, granted or extended for a term of years certain, of which not less than seven years remain unexpired"
- y) Insert names and addresses



## Form of notice for the purposes of Paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979:

**Note:** This notice should be served by the applicant on all those who own or have an interest in the monument. The names and addresses of those on whom it has been served should be listed on the paragraph 2(1)(b) or 2(1)(c) certificates and should accompany the application form.

#### **Notice of application for Scheduled Monument Consent**

Delete the words in square brackets, as appropriate, and omit the brackets

This notice relates to the ancient monument at (x)

An application is to be made [by] or [on behalf of] (y)

To the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for Scheduled Monument Consent under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 to carry out the following works: (z)



An opportunity to make representations with respect to the application will be offered by the Secretary of State before the application is determined.

Signature	
Date	



If you require an alternative accessible version of this document (for instance in audio, Braille or large print) please contact our Customer Services Department:

Telephone: 0370 333 0607 Fax: 01793 414926

Textphone: 0800 015 0516

E-mail: customers@HistoricEngland.org.uk



## Stonehenge

#### Application for Tier 3 Scheduled Monument Consent

#### **Supporting Document**



Location:	Stonehenge Wiltshire		NHLE no.	1010140
Works:	Remove and Replace Mortar			
Prepared by:	. Building Services Manager			
Date:	23 April 2021			
Pre-application advice	E-mail;			

#### **Contents**

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#### 1. Introduction:

The scheduled area (UID: 1010140) covers the Stonehenge circle and the top of the Avenue.

The first major construction at Stonehenge was a circular ditch, with an internal bank and a smaller external bank, built about 3000 BC. Today the ditch and inner bank are visible as low earthworks in the grass, but the outer bank has largely been ploughed away. The ditch on the eastern side is deeper because this half was excavated in the 1920s. There were two original entrances to the enclosure – a wide one to the north-east and a smaller one on the southern side. There are many more causeways and gaps in the circuit today, mostly the result of later tracks which once crossed the monument. Set just inside the bank were 56 pits, known as the Aubrey Holes. About half of these have been excavated, and were marked in the 1920s with white concrete circles and three marked in 2013 as part of the new interpretation when the Visitor Centre opened.

#### The Stone circle

The stones of the central cluster, brought to the site about 2500 BC, are of two types – the larger sarsens and the smaller bluestones. The sarsens were erected in two concentric arrangements. The inner one is horseshoe of five trilithons (two vertical stones capped by a horizontal lintel). Of these, three complete trilithons still stand (one fell in 1797 and was re-erected in 1958), and two are partly fallen. Near the centre is the Altar Stone, which is mostly buried beneath the fallen stone of the tallest trilithon. Around the horseshoe are the remains of the outer sarsen circle, capped with lintels. There were probably once 30 stones in this circle, but many have fallen and most of the lintels and a few uprights are missing from the site. Standing among the sarsens are the remains of the bluestone circle and inner oval. Some of the remaining stones were shaped to enable them to fit together: two have mortice holes, others have signs of tenons and some have grooves or tongues down their sides. This suggests that probably in this first arrangement there were some lintels and others stones that fitted together. Some of the bluestones are now fallen and others are just stumps – they seem to have been chipped and broken from an early date.

## 2. Element of monument on which proposed works are to be carried out

The works are proposed to take place on the Sarsen lintels of the stone circle as identified below with the areas identified in Figure 1 below identified (P) as requiring new mortar fill or packing as well as areas that have been done in previous interventions (M) that require new lime mortar replacement.

## 3. Brief description and outline significance of affected area of monument

The work will be completed on the lintels part of the stone construction that is approximately 4,500 years old. The lintels show little evidence of erosion despite their age apart from recorded falls and reconstruction mainly in the 1960s. However the work will ensure that further erosion due to changes in climate will be slowed down.

#### 4. Brief Description of defect

The existing mortar should be removed and repacked on the six trilithon tops and other ten will have new mortar placed in the gaps to prevent further water ingress and deterioration. Additionally the fracture on Lintel 122 will have cleaning of scale and removal and installation of new mortar to protect the stitching bars from water ingress.

#### 5. Brief description of the proposed works

All loose mortar in the gaps will be raked out and made good with a minimum of 75mm to 100mm from the closest face of the trilithon or lintel face. In areas where the existing mortar is sound but eroded, the new mortar will be built up with new mortar to a minimum of 25mm as above.

Areas that require mortar with a gap of over 20mm will be packed with mortar to the 75mm to 100mm depths as above.

Further details on the defects and works are attached in the Historic England Report, Structural Engineering Team, Stonehenge, Amesbury, Inspection of Standing Stones and Lintels, 06/08/2019

Specification of mortar

Advice has been obtained from Alison Henry from the BCRT team on mortar specification samples of which will be worked up for approval prior to the works commencing.

Lichens

Advice will be taken from a lichenologist prior to the works commencing. In principle there will be minimal interference with the lichens. All the prospective contractors have been asked to supply a methodology for protecting the lichens which will be supplied to HE in due course.

#### 6. Plan

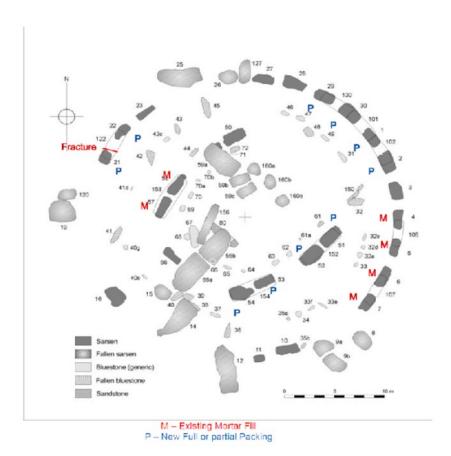


Figure 1

#### 7. Annotated Photographs



Figure 2
Example of mortar with gaps requiring repairs



Figure 3 Example of mortar with gaps requiring repairs

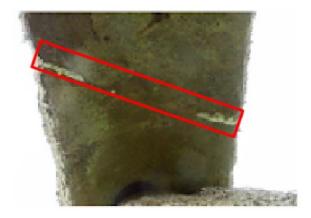


Figure 4
Crack on Lintel 122 with mortar requiring repair

### The effect of maintenance work on the lintel joints of Stonehenge on the conservation of the lichens present on the stones

At the request of (Director) of Sally Strachey Historic Conservation Ltd, I visited Stonehenge on 5 May 2021 to discuss the effect on the lichens on the stones of replacing the crumbling cement joints between the uprights and lintels of the large stones of Stonehenge and any necessary mitigation. As a result of discussions with and three representatives of English Heritage the following simple recommendations are as follows:

- The stones should be covered in the immediate vicinity during the processes of removing old cement and adding the new lime mortar to prevent old cement dust and spilt lime mortar from falling onto and into the lichens beneath. The covering could be plastic sheeting fixed down to the stones and perhaps tied round the stone like a collar. Care should be taken to prevent any debris sliding off the covering and onto lichen covered surfaces below. A fine net or course textile stuck or stapled over the plastic would help do this.
- This cover should be placed only when the stones are dry. Covering the lichens when wet
  and metabolically active could lead to damage through over-heating due to solar radiation.
  When dry, lichens are much more robust and less likely to be damaged. Dry lichens can
  become very brittle and some of the lichens may crumble under the cover. This is not as
  serious as they can regrow again afterwards (but may take a year or two).
- The covering should not remain in any one place for longer than a day or two
- The amount of lime mortar used should be kept to a minimum necessary for the mechanical support of the lintels
- Care should be taken to not drop any lime mortar on other parts of the stones

The reasons for these recommendations concerning the removal of old cement and replacing it with lime mortar are that the lichens present (which have a large effect on the appearance of the stones) are species which require an acidic stone substrate which, in the case at Stonehenge, is a form of chert which is mainly composed of silica. Elsewhere on walls built of acidic stone, the presence of lime mortar between the joints is known to have the effect, by leaching lime, of causing different species which are tolerant of lime, such as those found on calcareous stone, to grow the acidic stone. Calcareous lichens include species of a different colour to those currently present and show up on the stones where the repointing had occurred. The aim is to avoid any such effect occurring at Stonehenge. Therefore, the aims of the recommendations are to minimise the risk of any cement dust and/or lime mortar being spilt directly on the surface of the stones which could possibly cause calcareous lichens to colonise the stones. Keeping the lime mortar used between the stones to a minimum will also help to reduce the risk of leaching of calcium off the mortared joints by rainwater which would then run over the lichens covering stone surfaces.





	Direct Dial:
English Heritage Trust	
1st Floor Fermentation North	Our ref: S00241272
Finzels Reach, Hawkins Lane	
Bristol	
BS1 6JQ	4 June 2021

Dear

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2 control of works

**Application for Scheduled Monument Consent** 

STONEHENGE, THE AVENUE, AND THREE BARROWS ADJACENT TO THE AVENUE FORMING PART OF A ROUND BARROW CEMETERY ON COUNTESS FARM, WILTSHIRE

Scheduled Monument No: SM 10390, HA 1010140

Our ref: S00241272

**Application on behalf of English Heritage Trust** 

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport to advise you of the decision regarding your application for Scheduled Monument Consent received 26 April 2021 in respect of proposed works at the above scheduled monument concerning the repair of the lintels within the stone circle, including the removal of failed cement and replacement with lime mortar. The works were detailed in the following documentation submitted by you:



1ST FLOOR FERMENTATION NORTH FINZELS REACH HAWKINS LANE BRISTOL BS1 6JQ





Scheduled Monument Application Form

Covering e-mail dated 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Stonehenge, Amesbury: Inspection of Standing Stones and Lintels. Structural Engineering Team, Historic England, August 2019.

Stonehenge Supporting Document for removal and replacement of mortars. English Heritage June 2021

E-mail dated 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The effect of maintenance work on the lintels joints of Stonehenge on the conservation of the lichens present on the stones.

- 2. In accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is obliged to afford you, and any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State expedient to afford it, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This opportunity was offered to you by Historic England and you have declined it.
- 3. The Secretary of State is also required by the Act to consult with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England) before deciding whether or not to grant Scheduled Monument Consent. Historic England considers the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be beneficial for the preservation of the monument and unlikely to damage archaeological deposits; there is no requirement for archaeological recording.

I can confirm that the Secretary of State is agreeable for the works to proceed providing the conditions set out below are adhered to, and that accordingly Scheduled Monument Consent is hereby granted under section 2 of the 1979 Act for the works described in paragraph 1 above, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to

  @historicengland.org.uk
  @historicengland.org.uk>) in order that an Historic
  - <u>@historicengland.org.uk></u>) in order that an Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
- (b) No works to which this consent relates shall be begun until a lime mortar mix has been approved by the Secretary of State, advised by Historic England.



1ST FLOOR FERMENTATION NORTH FINZELS REACH HAWKINS LANE BRISTOL BS1 6JQ

Stonewall DIVERSITY CHAMPION



- (c) No works to which this consent relates shall be begun until a methodology for protecting the lichens has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State, advised by Historic England.
- (d) Photographs shall be prepared of the monument before the start and after completion of the works and a set of the prints shall be sent to Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- (e) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the owner, occupier and/or developer that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.
- (f) Equipment shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.
- 4. By virtue of section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within the period of five years beginning with the date on which this consent was granted (being the date of this letter), this consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless a shorter time period is set by a specific condition above).
- 5. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bye law, order or regulation other than section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- 6. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of section 55 of the 1979 Act under which any person who is aggrieved by the decision given in this letter may challenge its validity by an application made to the High Court within six weeks from the date when the decision is given. The grounds upon which an application may be made to the Court are (1) that the decision is not within the powers of the Act (that is, the Secretary of State has exceeded the relevant powers) or (2) that any of the relevant







requirements have not been complied with and the applicant's interests have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply. The "relevant requirements" are defined in section 55 of the 1979 Act: they are the requirements of that Act and the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 and the requirements of any regulations or rules made under those Acts.

Yours sincerely

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E-mail: @HistoricEngland.org.uk

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

cc Wiltshire HARPO, Historic England

Wiltshire County Archaeologist,

@wiltshire.gov.uk





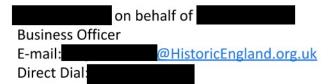
Dear Mr

Stonehenge, the Avenue, and three barrows adjacent to the Avenue forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Countess Farm, Wiltshire

Scheduled Monument No: SM 10390, HA 1010140

Please find attached a draft SMC decision letter for your consideration. It is our judgement that this case is not exceptional and, consequently, I am not sending you any additional information. We look forward to receiving your response within the next ten working days. Please 'reply to all'.

Yours sincerely



Work with us to champion heritage and improve lives. Read our Future Strategy and get involved at historicengland.org.uk/strategy.

This e-mail (and any attachments) is confidential and may contain personal views which are not the views of Historic England unless specifically stated. If you have received it in error, please delete it from your system and notify the sender immediately. Do not use, copy or disclose the information in any way nor act in reliance on it. Any information sent to Historic England may become publicly available. Please read our full privacy policy (https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/) for more information.

Dated 11 Jun 2021, 17:38:12

@historicengland.org.uk



## SECTION 2 OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979: APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT

Stonehenge, the Avenue, and three barrows adjacent to the Avenue forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Countess Farm, Wiltshire Scheduled Monument No: SM 10390, HA 1010140

Thank you for your email of 4 June recommending that the works proposed in application S00241272 be granted consent.

The Secretary of State has considered the information you have provided and has decided to accept Historic England's recommendation. The Secretary of State has therefore decided to grant Scheduled Monument Consent subject to the conditions recommended by Historic England.

The Secretary of State's decision is provisional, pending the outcome or refusal of a hearing to be offered to the applicant and any other interested parties. If such a hearing is held, the Secretary of State will consider the report of the person he appointed to chair it, plus any other representations received, before making a final decision.

The Secretary of State's final decision should only be notified to the applicant on behalf of the Secretary of State upon the conclusion or refusal of a hearing.

Yours sincerely,