PRESS STATEMENT

by

THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE*

21 June 2010

HM Treasury cuts funding for Stonehenge Visitor Centre scheme

The Stonehenge Alliance welcomes the announcement of withdrawal of £10m Treasury funding for new Stonehenge visitor facilities. We believe the proposed scheme and associated road works are not compatible with the UK Government's commitment, under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, properly to protect the World Heritage Site of Stonehenge and its surrounding archaeological landscape.

We understand that alternative funding may be sought to make up the £10m shortfall. We hope, however, that English Heritage will seriously consider a more sustainable scheme, at lower environmental and financial cost, that will allow improvements to visitor-facilities for Stonehenge to be made in time for the 2012 Olympics.

Such a scheme might include closure of the dangerous A344/A304 junction and greening of the A344 thence to the henge. The present visitor-facilities could be given a low-key facelift. A green travel plan might be implemented. Such improvements could be undertaken at a fraction of the estimated £25m needed for the ambitious scheme currently proposed. They would ensure that vital elements were in place for a longer-term solution truly worthy of this iconic World Heritage Site.

The Stonehenge Alliance would be glad to discuss its ideas with English Heritage.

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*The Stonehenge Alliance is supported by:
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RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust