



ENGLISH HERITAGE

STATEMENT - THE FUTURE OF THE STONEHENGE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

At their meeting on 29th and 30th June, English Heritage Commissioners discussed the future of the Stonehenge Environmental Improvement Project following the Government's decision on 17 June to withdraw Government funding

Commissioners decided that over the Summer/Autumn, English Heritage should continue to explore alternative funding from non-Government sources. In the meantime, as the planning process is so nearly completed, the organisation will use money raised from private sources to complete the final few planning stages, without making irreversible financial commitment to the scheme's future.

Completing the planning stages ensures a tidy and cost-efficient break-point between preparation and implementation of the scheme. It also allows more time to explore alternative funding. Having worked for so many years to achieve the desperately needed transformation of Stonehenge, Commissioners are very anxious that every possible avenue is pursued.

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Notes to editors:

1. The £27.5m Stonehenge Environmental Improvement Project aims to restore a sense of dignity to the monument's setting and to improve the inadequate visitor facilities. Visitors will be welcomed at new visitor centre at Airman's Corner, 1.5 miles west of Stonehenge, and will be transported near the stones via a low impact transit system. The intrusive A344 will be closed and improvements to the local road network will be made.