

Dear Ms Lloyd

Please see the attached drawing issued on behalf of the Highways Agency, who are responsible for the closure of the A344/A303 junction. Should you require further information in relation to this scheme, may I suggest you contact the Highways Agency directly, particularly in relation to how they might address parking on verges.

Regarding your queries in relation to the use of the Byway and facilities for access to the Stones and other destinations in the area, I believe all these issues were well rehearsed both at planning stage and when the Prohibition of Driving Order and the Section 278 Order were considered at inquiry. I note you have been supplied with the link to the planning website, where you will be able to see a broader picture of the proposals.

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/2013/1527/applicationdocumentation.htm>

There are no proposals to construct a new footway on the A303.

An Order to prohibit right turning traffic from the A303 into the Byway 12 access is under consideration.

No new underpasses are proposed; proposals for the current underpass are indicated on the planning drawings.

As with all schemes of this type (involving new and altered highway infrastructure) the works will be subject to safety audit procedures. Appropriate measures will be taken in the event that any audit requires remedial action.

I trust the response above addresses your concerns, but please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Regards

Phil Tilley
Development Control Engineer
Sustainable Transport
Wiltshire Council

Query sent from SGWI dated 14 March 2013 : A303 SAFETY NEAR STONEHENGE BOTTOM

Could you please send me the plans of how the stopping up of the A344 will be achieved safely? My concerns are, and I have noted this with the Highways Agency yesterday – is that people will try to walk out from Amesbury alongside the road and not be able to access the grassed area – will there be a fencing and security to stop them?

Also when driving from Amesbury, new visitors will see the Stones and be unable to pull off onto the now grassed over area but they will continue, as before, to want to take pictures. How is that going to be prevented? No good saying its a Clearway, unless there is precise signage they will not realise that they have to go miles up the road and turn off onto the road leading to the new Visitor Centre – if they only want to stop off for a few minutes rest they will perhaps pull into Byway 12, after all you cant even see the Stones from the new Visitor Centre can you?

Failure to get this correct most likely will result in deaths, injuries and litigation, which is my background before retirement and one which I strive to avoid!

If they pull into the Byway 12 having come from the direction of Amesbury will they first have had to go down to the new roundabout and come back on themselves and vice versa?

Will you use arnco barrier in order to prevent crossing traffic at the top of the hill resulting in agri vehicles and cyclists having to all divert to the roundabouts in either direction and then come back to Byway 12?

Is there going to be a pavement provided on one side of the A303 as walking to Stonehenge from Woodhenge on grass is not possible for everyone and not everyone owns a car – equal opportunities and diversity law notwithstanding?

Is there going to be an underpass or the one that is there improved in order for access to be improved?

There are many more Health and Safety issues concerning this development which remain unclear to those of us that visit regularly and know the dangers of accessing the roads, the WHS and people's desire to travel on foot sometimes as a pilgrimage, after all its not an ordinary monument is it?

Yours,