

**Joint response to English Heritage:
“The future of Stonehenge: Environmental Improvements”
Summary of points and new “Option 1d”**

1. All options include closure of A344/A303 juncture which will reunite a substantial proportion of the landscape near the Henge monument (see Appendix 1). This is an essential first step that should be undertaken irrespective of the outcome of the consultation.
2. A new Visitor Centre should grasp the opportunity presented by the vision for the 2012 London Olympics which aims for 100% ticketed spectators to travel to the Games by public transport, walking and cycling. Green travel planning must be integrated with the new Visitor Centre at the outset.
3. To support the aim of sustainable tourism within the tight timeframe of 2012 we propose a hybrid solution for new visitor facilities which combine English Heritage’s on site Options 1a-c with two other localities not included in the consultation. We are calling this hybrid option “**Option 1d**” to include the following components:

Locality 1 Existing Site (English Heritage Option 1)

English Heritage Option 1 suggests on-site redevelopment of current facilities including off-site parking. In addition we wish to see the following amendments:

- Speed limit between two WHS "gateways" to reduce traffic noise from the A303
- Cycle and pedestrian access across A303 at newly roadscaped/traffic managed Stonehenge Bottom (or other suitable crossing nearby)
- Remove car park opposite the Henge monument and restore landscape
- Rebuild a state-of-the-art cut-and-cover modest facility landscaped (with turf roof?) within footprint of current brownfield site
- Site a sympathetically designed bus shelter and turning loop within walking distance of the Henge monument

Locality 2 Solstice Park on A303 near Amesbury

Solstice park is a 65 hectare business park where various leisure & retail outlets are already in existence, including the Stonehenge Holiday Inn, restaurants, and petrol station. Slip roads give direct access onto the dualled A303. There is land allocated for development that could provide:

- long stay parking with shuttle bus to Stonehenge
- educational, exhibition and visitor facilities could be built with much more imaginative and innovative architecture than would be possible in the WHS.

Locality 3 Greenland Farm

Greenland Farm is a brownfield site set in a hollow within the World Heritage Site. It could accommodate:

- Short stay coach parking and a base for disabled access
- Shuttle bus to the nearest Henge monument drop off point

Green travel

- Links to the above localities would be brought together with a shuttlebus to provide access to the sites of special interest around the perimeter of the World Heritage Site (See Appendix 2 below)
- An ambitious non-car access plan needs to be put in place for visitors to/from London, Salisbury, Bath, Devizes, Avebury and Marlborough and elsewhere.

Advantages of Option 1d

- Does not damage the sensitive landscape and archaeology of a WHS
- An uncontroversial first step towards removing clutter and restoration
- Builds on Option 1a-1c of English Heritage consultation
- Solstice Park has development land with outline planning permission
- Complements London Olympic ambition for car free access
- Achievable world class facilities within the Olympic 2012 timescale
- Provides better access for all by public transport and walking, and cycling links for both the local community as well as visitors.

Our full illustrated consultation response is available on the Salisbury Campaign for Better Transport's website at <http://www.salisburybettertransport.org.uk/>

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APPENDIX 1

Stonehenge A344/A303 junction

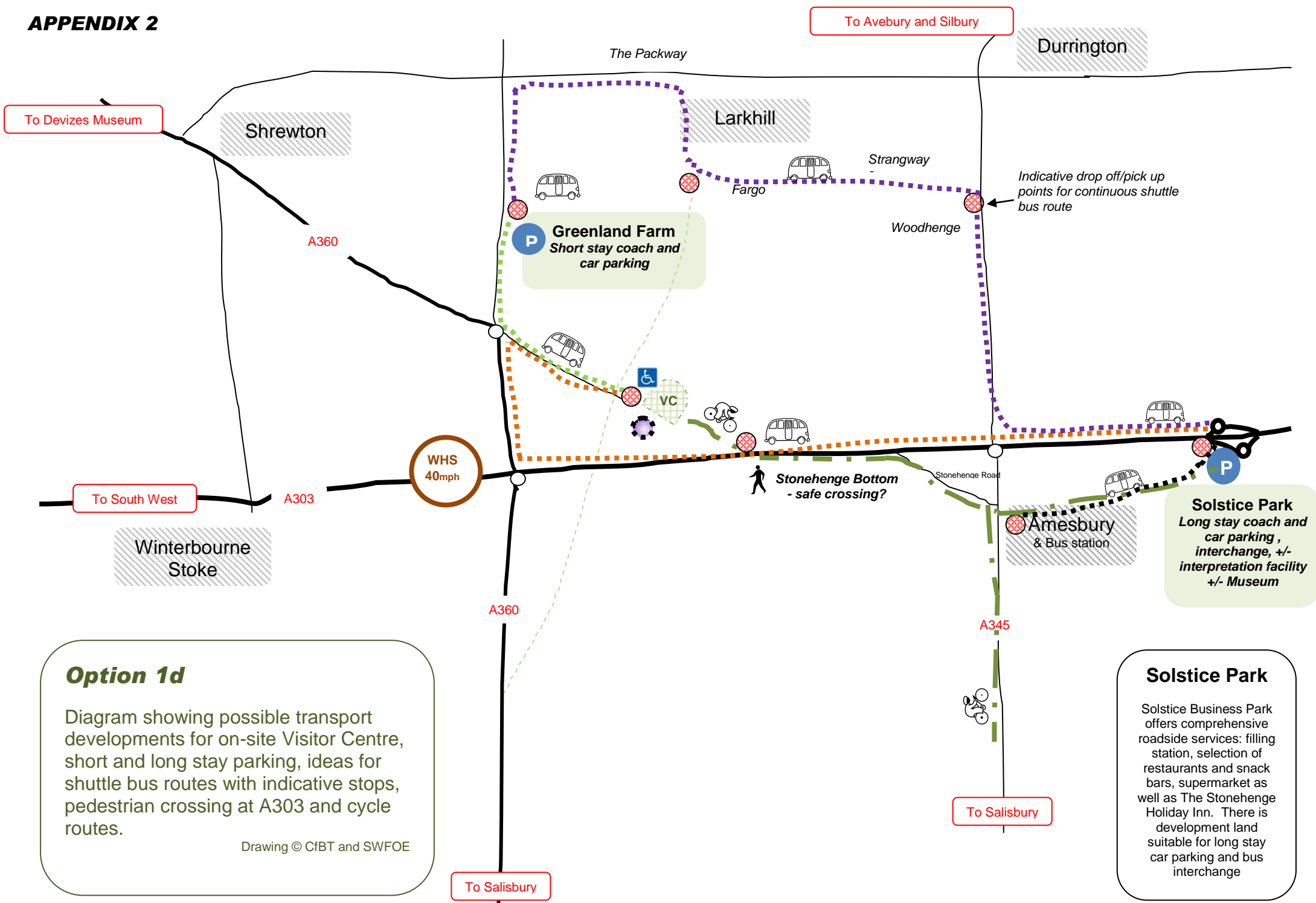
Before closure



After closure



APPENDIX 2



Option 1d

Diagram showing possible transport developments for on-site Visitor Centre, short and long stay parking, ideas for shuttle bus routes with indicative stops, pedestrian crossing at A303 and cycle routes.

Drawing © CfBT and SWFOE

Solstice Park

Solstice Business Park offers comprehensive roadside services: filling station, selection of restaurants and snack bars, supermarket as well as The Stonehenge Holiday Inn. There is development land suitable for long stay car parking and bus interchange