

# Best Planning for Natural and Built Heritage

## Winner - Stonehenge Environmental Improvement Project

Submitted by Chris Blandford Associates

The Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project is a partnership between English Heritage, The National Trust, The Highways Agency, Wiltshire Council, Natural England and the Government. The project is largely funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, commercial income and philanthropic donations, within the framework provided by the Stonehenge World Heritage Site Management Plan. It involved delivery of improvements to the

landscape setting of the Stonehenge monument, together with a new, sensitively designed and environmentally sustainable visitor centre to provide a gateway to the Stones and the wider World Heritage Site.

Landscape improvement works to restore a sense of dignity to the setting of one of the world's most loved ancient monuments are underway. The new visitor centre was opened at Airman's Corner in December

2013 and a new shuttle service connects the visitor centre with the Stones for those who prefer not to walk. The works included decommissioning a section of the A344.

### The Judges' Comments

*The judges felt that this was an outstanding scheme and the clear winner. The project had to find a sustainable and enduring solution to a long running and controversial issue. There was clearly a good initial analysis and then a thorough understanding and evaluation of competing views, allowing an appropriate balance to be struck between the many different local and international interests.*

*Removing the road and so reuniting Stonehenge with its Salisbury Plain landscape was, the judges felt, a particular achievement, demonstrating that the project is an effective and imaginative solution from both a planning and a landscape perspective.*

### Key Participants

- Loraine Knowles, English Heritage
- Richard Williams, English Heritage
- Martin Harvey, English Heritage
- Dominic Watkins, Chris Blandford Associates
- Chris Blandford, Chris Blandford Associates
- Adam Madge, Wiltshire Council Development Services
- Louise Porter, Wiltshire Council Development Services
- Steve Quinlan, Denton Corker Marshall
- Angela Dapper, Denton Corker Marshall



Photo: English Heritage



The RTPI Awards for  
Planning Excellence  
2014