

WANHSFrom:

**John Baumber**

Chairman, Building & Monuments Committee  
(Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Society – WANHS)

and

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To:

Wiltshire Council Planning Department

[developmentmanagement@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:developmentmanagement@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Hayley Clark

Dear Hayley,

**Ref: 18/11052/FUL Salisbury Plain Sp3 4RS**

In response to the above planning application which concerns the permission on a World Heritage Site to establish a set of temporary buildings required for a film set and after use to dismantle and remove them. On behalf of the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*, (WANHS), I wish to make the following comments:

1. The supporting plans show that it is the intent to use for a film set on Salisbury Plain an area that includes important features as well as other scheduled monuments adjacent to the site. The construction of the film-set farmstead will need some form of foundations. This gives rise to concern that there will be potential loss of archaeological assets as removal of undisturbed layers is proposed. In para 5:14 of the planning statement there is mention of diggers being part of the plant brought to the site. This can only be to carry out excavation and create trenches that will dig beyond that of any disturbance created in the past through ploughing.

Because of the importance of the Plain as a whole and the inclusion and proximity of known Scheduled Monuments (e.g. Scheduled Monument – 1009442) the area defined for the film-set inevitably has undesigned historic and archaeologically significant features.

To ensure that these are not “lost” in the disturbance implied by diggers being required, no action should be taken or decision made until the defined site area and

the surrounding ground (at least 400m from each boundary) has been assessed by both LIDAR and GPR analysis. This would ensure the protection of any “undesigned” areas of interest.

2. The overall value of the site chosen to recreate the remote French Farmstead is just that; its remoteness and natural environment is of the essence but this is also the reason why it should be afforded protection.

In the Planning Support Statement in section 3.6 there is a photograph which provides the visual reference for the “to be re-created” French farm house.

If this photograph determines that which is to be re-created then why is it not considered to be better to spend the same money to restore the old farmstead which is remote, and in the authentic French location than to intrude on a special area of significance in England ? This way historic buildings are saved and authenticity come free. (A question not necessarily relevant in the planning process!)

It is recognised that such filming activities will bring some commercial and financial benefit to the surrounding villages and businesses but the archaeological assets must first be understood and protected.

Without the proper geophysical investigation of the area as outlined above, permission should be withheld.

Yours sincerely,

**C J Baumber**  
**Chairman Building & Monuments Committee (WANHS)**  
**Agent for the CBA**