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## SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

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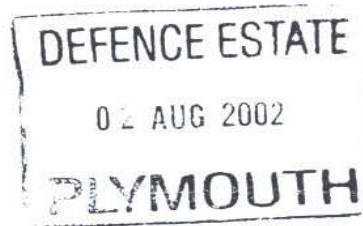
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Chief Executive Ruth Bagley BA DAA MBA

Mr M R Blowers  
Defence Estates (South West)  
MW02  
MoD Mount Wise  
Devonport  
PLYMOUTH PL1 4JH



Our Ref: CE/REB/NR

31 July 2002

Dear Mr Blowers

### Former HMS Cambridge

You will remember that earlier this year I wrote to the Ministry of Defence expressing strong concern over the proposed arrangements for the decommissioning and disposal of the former naval gunnery school at HMS Cambridge. Since then, you and your colleagues have completed a tremendous programme of comprehensive and costly demolition and site restoration work across the site. The result is the achievement of a major environmental improvement, and we are most appreciative of the manner in which you have responded to our concerns. My colleagues who visited the site last week were impressed by the thorough and sensitive way in which the re-instatement work has been undertaken.

I understand that, while a small part of the land will be retained as an operational radar installation, the remainder of the site is nearly ready for disposal and that you are still making arrangements for this. The Council is mindful that this is a particularly sensitive location protected by a wide range of local, national and international designations: Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Coastal Preservation Area, Voluntary Marine Conservation Area, National Trail. The Council is therefore strongly of the view that the site merits the highest standards of environmental protection and positive landscape and habitat management. It is particularly important to stress to anyone who may be involved in the site disposal process that the Council has a robust package of development plan policies which give priority to the protection of the landscape and ecology of this area and we would be fundamentally opposed to any form of development which would not protect and enhance these considerations. The Council as Planning Authority would particularly seek to resist intrusive commercial or residential redevelopment and only a relatively benign, low impact re-use of the remaining two buildings would be encouraged.

Taking all these things into consideration, we consider that the most favourable outcome would be for the site to be disposed of into the protective ownership of a conservation organisation where the management and enhancement of landscape and wildlife and the provision of some low key public access would be the primary objectives of acquisition. I would therefore commend this course of action to you.

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