

# The A303 Expressway proposal: The Cultural Value of Stonehenge

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## Summary

I oppose the proposed construction of the tunnel for the A303 and the design and siting of the interchanges:

- The whole Stonehenge landscape has a cultural, visual and spiritual value for many people which would be destroyed by the enormous tunnel portals and the interchanges. The significance of Stonehenge rests on the monument in its setting in an extensive remote rural, largely uncultivated, landscape of other prehistoric monuments, a place where it is well known that people have for millennia gathered and met to celebrate life, death and the changing seasons.
- There is intense worldwide public interest in the archaeology of the whole landscape, not just the monument. The benefits claimed for the proposal focus on the monument itself. Yet there is such lively public interest in the UK and internationally in the emerging archaeology of Stonehenge's surrounding landscape.
- Public opinion, as expressed in Highways England's consultations and in the Relevant Representations, is overwhelmingly against the proposal. Of the 2,370 Relevant Representations only 29 were in support of the proposal.
- The proposal is contrary to international, national and local legislation and policies - the NPSNN and the NPPF, and Wiltshire Council Core Policy, because public benefits do not outweigh damage.
- The benefits claimed by Highways England are few, misleading and are overwhelmed by very serious damage that would be created to landscape and archaeological evidence. Moreover, there is no analysis of the risks that the tunnel would create, some of which could be catastrophic to Stonehenge.