

Deadline 2 Submission - Executive Summary:

Reference: 20020818 - R P Bartosz. Written Representation (WR)

Subject: Planning Inspectorate Case Number, TR010025 - Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A303 Stonehenge - Amesbury to Berwick Down.

Stats: **WR**-Words, 6970 / Figures & Tables, 15 / **Summary**-Words 937 / Figures, 3.

A)

1) The Author is a landscape and countryside professional, now retired, with direct experience of landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA). He is currently undertaking independent research in archaeoastronomy - since 2006.

2) The WR covers aspects of Principal Issues 9 and 10 as at Annex C in the Rule 8 letter dated 11th April 2019. It is based on research in progress and includes unpublished extracts considered material to the subject application.

3) The overall conclusion is that the impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) would be significantly negative, and the author's stand is one of objection to the granting of a Development Consent Order.

4) The first part of the WR identifies two objectives of the research as potentially contributing positively to the understanding of Stonehenge and its setting, and may significantly expand its OUV(see section (C) below). The theme throughout is the obligation, as part of UNESCO Inscription, to protect and enhance OUV and the integrity of the setting, hence maintaining authenticity.

B)

5) It is pointed out;

i) that there is the outstanding material consideration of a "*Setting Study and Boundary Review*", the brief for which has not been opened to scrutiny,

ii) that the applicant states that the Value for Money status is already "*Low*" and any further mitigation costs will reduce it to "*Poor*",

iii) that statements made by the guardians of the World Heritage Site (WHS) appear to show a disregard for obligations of protection and enhancement, and instead hold OUV artificially to restricted points in time, namely late Neolithic and Bronze Age. It is difficult to interpret other than this position is in the interests of avoiding potential additional mitigation costs.

6) The WR identifies a number of key proactive responsibilities as stated in the "*Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, WHC.17/01 12 July 2017.*" .

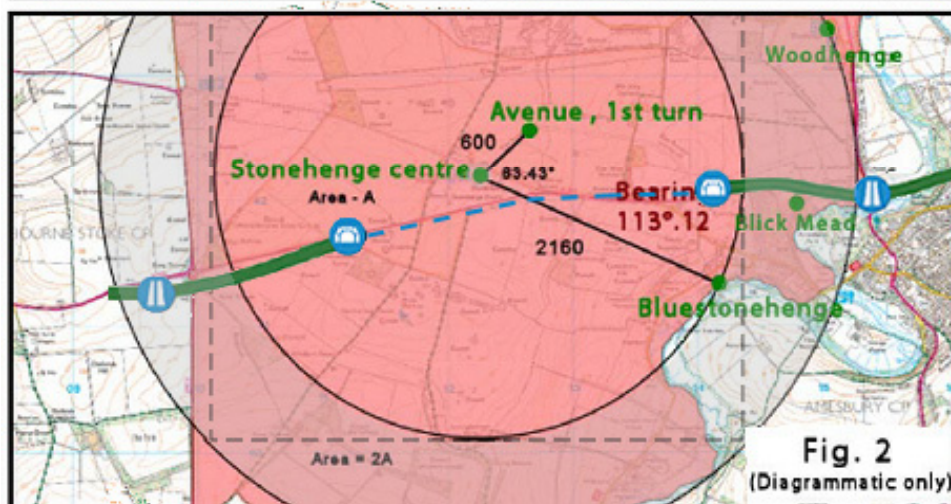
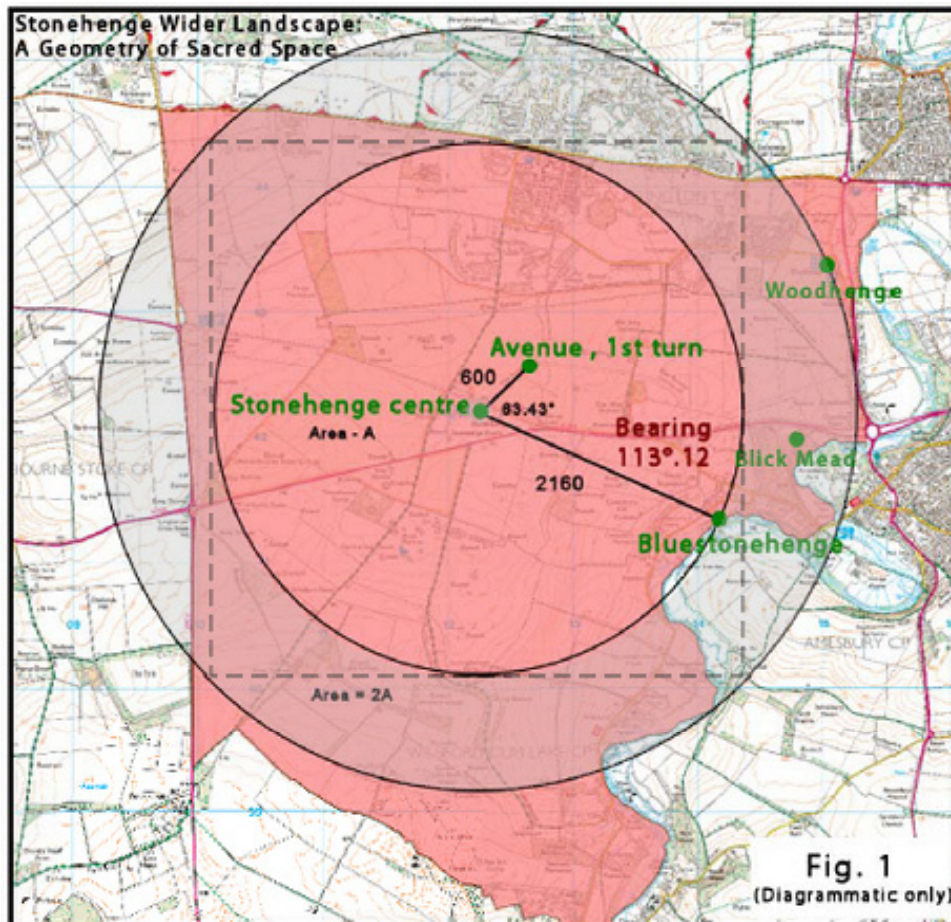
7) Obligations, at Inscription, are tied intimately to "Integrity", "Authenticity" and "Protection and Management". The application of LVIA, in this setting of a WHS, can only have the limited "benefit" of reducing the number of potential heritage assets requiring excavation before destruction. The application represents a significant failure in terms of WHS responsibilities.

C)

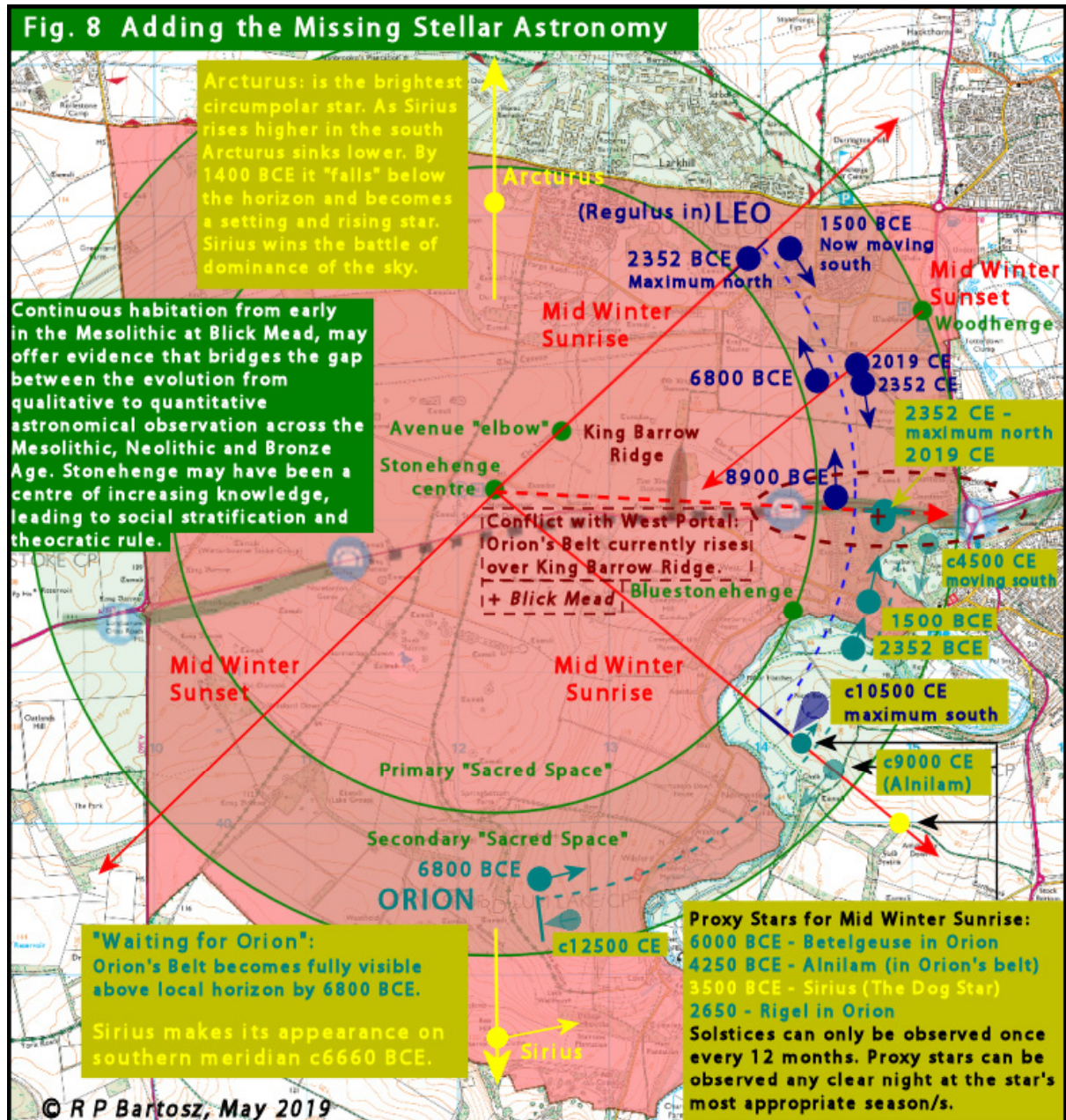
8) The WR brings forward evidence, that the time frame of the WHS as a repository of knowledge may extend to the early Mesolithic and gaps in understanding across the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age may be filled. This would directly expand and enhance the current accepted OUV of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites, WHS.

9) Evidence focuses on two key areas as below (Fig. 1, 2 & 8).

i) **The extent to which the prehistoric setting of the heritage asset of Stonehenge may be identified and fixed geographically.**



ii) The identification of missing astronomical elements at play, considered significant to the understanding of Stonehenge and its setting.



10) With respect to i), the methodology is briefly explained in terms of square and circle geometry. The graphic identifies the extent of the "sacred space", within which activities were largely tied to (Fig. 1). The basis for future consideration is linked to the work of Professors Parker Pearson (Riverside Project and subsequent research) and David Jacques (Blick Mead). Supporting evidence by way of Scottish stone balls and Folkton Drum geometry is illustrated.

11) The preferred tunnel option is considered in terms of "dominance" of engineering structures. The "dominance" of the modern portal constructions will fundamentally relegate prehistoric "engineering" to lesser status. It is not clear how this conflict with respect to OUV can be reconciled, if at all.

12) Section ii), requires some focused attention. The reader is taken on an astronomical journey through the stated epochs (see Paragraph 8). Factual astronomy is illustrated by a) reference to the star Regulus in the constellation of Leo (the Lion) and various stars of the constellation of Orion (the Hunter) and b) astronomy at the northern and southern meridians with respect to the stars Sirius in Canis Major (the Greater Dog) and Arcturus in Boötes (the Herdsman).

13) Elements highlighted include a) confirmation of the midsummer solstice alignment through geometry, b) a potential Date Stamp for Stonehenge, c) explanation of the nature of travel of the stars and constellations along the horizon d) the potential use of stars and asterisms as proxies for alignments to solstices and equinoxes, and e) the potential for creating sky mythology by reference to Leo as "the Beast" alongside Orion as the "Hunter".

14) Significant conflict is identified at King Barrow Ridge, as observed from the centre of Stonehenge, and behind which is the site of Blick Mead. The potential impact here, in terms of current observable astronomy is not addressed anywhere within the application documents.

D)

15) A short section follows identifying comments, with sources, which highlight changing attitudes to the residents of the area at the epochs concerned. They illustrate significant contribution to the understanding of the area, by way of archaeological finds and DNA analysis, and hence the potential for enhancing OUV.

E)

16) The WR concludes with references to a) the importance of the contribution of the longstanding habitation, in particular tied to evidence at Blick Mead, for activities at the WHS, b) the need for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration to further understanding of OUV, and c) the need to build evidential bridges between the epochs identified.

17) The WR closes with,

a) the engineering difficulties, and cost, of future decommissioning is a burden which should not be passed on to future generations, and

b) the "sacred" setting of Stonehenge, should remain "sacred". It is our legacy to those future generations.

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