

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [A303 Stonehenge](#)  
**Subject:** RE: A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down (TR010025) Question ref HW.1.6 replies as requested 23 May 2019 RR 20019656  
**Date:** 31 May 2019 15:06:20  
**Attachments:** [Extra evidence to Tunnel Inquiry re HW.1.6 Questions.docx](#)

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Hi Richard

Well I went home told everyone how interested and supportive you all were and then ended up with rather a lot of input of angst! I have attached my replies to the Question HW.1.6 plus colleagues' additional comments which I hope are acceptable?

Those who I said were unable to speak or write due to levels of frustration and fear of getting so upset they might cry, as they do with me, some of them have made concerted efforts to put that deep concern in writing. The seven have created a good cross section of those that see Stonehenge as their spiritual home and how not being able to access it freely and without having to pay English Heritage for a bus ride and still have no seating at the end of it, well, I offer these in good grace hoping they can explain why exclusion will affect vast amounts of folk who need Stonehenge access for their spiritual wellbeing.

ISH 6 - I think attending the Single Issue on 6 June re transport and traffic will see me repeating myself, don't you think? I cannot put it any other way than a tunnel = 303 grassing = Wiltshire Council permanent TRO to remove all vehicles that are not farm or working machines as per the WHS Management Plan = we who are [REDACTED] cannot walk that far and not have anywhere to sit if we could or used the £20 bus even?

Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Best regards

Lois Lloyd 20019656

**Lois Lloyd BSc(Hons) Archdruid Sacred Grove Western Isles and Astronumerical Druid Order  
Registered Respondent 20019656**

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010025/TR010025-000575-TR010025%20ExA%201st%20Questions%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

**Question ref. HW.1.6**

**The structure and basis of the religion/belief system that you or the people you represent have:**

Druidry is a sacred Nature based religion although many refer to the study and conduct of a druidic life as a philosophical interaction with the natural landscape, the changing seasons, the creatures that we share this planet with, essentially, to a druid, Nature is All. Druidry aims for peace, wisdom and justice via a spiritual practice that involves as other religions, a devotion, reverence or worship of deity or a divine principal but many druids refer to Mother Earth and Father Sky, Great Mother/Father, Goddess/God or simply Divine Nature. The Druid Network link can explain fully <https://druidnetwork.org/>

The teaching of Druidry and its ceremonial practice are often conducted outside in as green and natural environment as possible. Druids practice in the Eye of the Sun, in public and education of druidic principles and ceremonies are mostly in public areas where questions and participation by those seeking a natural pathway are encouraged. This aspect of educating in public a reverent honouring of all Nature is what was recognised by the Charity Commission as religious teaching in respect of the Druid Network when it sought charitable status as a religion.

Druids learn via various means, either as naturally attuned seekers of the connections between nature and ourselves or via learned written courses similar to other religions which have more of a written history than Druidry which like Islam, was learned by memory. Groups can be Groves or Orders with druids who learn over many years via Bardic craft skills, Ovate elemental meditational insights and eventually Druid ceremonial, history and law that evolves into Archdruid responsibilities of teaching, advocacy of the people and guiding.

**Implications the tunnel development would have on Druidic and other spiritual connections to WHS Stonehenge**

We Objected to the tunnel in particular whether it be from the physical assault on the landscape or the interruptions of the etheric and spiritual connectivity that exists there imprinted in the landscape from millenniums of human interaction with the area. We and others have noted the improved wellbeing that is gained from those that spend time there, especially those low in spirit and mentally at odds with the world.

***I want to draw attention to what would happen if the tunnel is approved and when the A303 is grassed.***

Custom and practice over generations has seen Stonehenge become a singularly pre-eminent monument of pilgrimage, a sacred constant in a turbulent world, drawing thousands every year from around the world.

Avebury has regular weekend public Gorsedds and Stonehenge has the famous Summer and Winter Solstices where thousands gather outside in all elements of weather: less numbers attend the Spring and Autumn Equinoxes but the wider accessible landscape surrounding Stonehenge draws many constantly throughout the weeks of the year to gather on the Avenue area adjacent to the Stones, the Hele Stone which has great sacred significance to many not just druids, and the ancestral nearby Barrows, the Cursus, Durrington and Woodhenge.

Signed via email : *L Lloyd* Lois Lloyd BSc(Hons) date: 30 May 2019

The loss of the ancestors' bones from the centre of the Stonehenge circle united many faiths in affront and abhorrence and it's an ongoing quest to have them returned.

Since time immemorial our ancestors travelled to this specific area in Wiltshire to gather together, first in building the monuments, and leaving the ancestral remains to guard them, [now moved to Salisbury museum against vast opposition] to creating the memories of their living and working together that are honoured every time those who visit the area to duly celebrate whether druid or of other religions or of none.

Gathering together after journeying vast distances in times past is the same today. A time of sharing our sacred joy of being in such a blessed area, of being with others of like minds and hearts and of sharing the history, crafts and teaching those who seek to learn of our past need to create such monuments – for people to cherish and interact with, to love and ensure they remain for future generations and ancestors yet to come. For many, as they arrive at Stonehenge today, they are following their own great grandparents, and each generation is adding to the tradition, creating the Wellbeing of Intangible Cultural Heritage that English Heritage are so proud of and UNESCO champion.

**Loss of Religious/Sacred Amenity to Stonehenge if BOATs are restricted after A303 is grassed.**

Stonehenge is now the major gathering place for many pagan religions worldwide.

1. There is no public parking in the nearby landscape, not even on the National Trust open lands.
2. Performance of ceremonies in the Avenue area next to the Stonehenge itself is often required as we are not allowed within the Stonehenge circle area by English Heritage to conduct moon and sun ceremonies, nor take astronomical and astrophysical measurements of the night skies as our ancestors did.

We are freely allowed to conduct these ceremonies within the adjacent National Trust lands that include the Avenue, Cursus, Barrows and other sacred sites.

3. The Avenue area needs to be accessed via the droves, the Byways Open To All Traffic especially BOAT12 that have been gated in 2018 under Experimental TRO by Wiltshire Council and then reopened after privately funded recourse to the High Court.

We also attend in those National Trust areas for ceremonies for the four other sacred days of the pagan druid year, which unlike the two Solstices and two Equinoxes, we are not allowed to celebrate within the Stonehenge circle.

These extra days are Imbolc, Beltane, Lammas and Samhain, latter is the pagan new year equivalent. The marking of different seasons and sacred rites, ceremonies, handfastings, child namings, cronings, and funereal and remembrance rites may be conducted during these times.

**Consequential Loss of Amenity to practice our spiritual faith by Gating or reduction to footpath/cycling status of BOATs affecting equitable access**

Consequential to the tunnel build and grassing over of the A303 we would have Wiltshire implement the full WHS Management Plan of NO Public Vehicles on the WHS resulting in reduction of all BOATs to restricted byways; a trial run of that via a gating of all BOATs happened in 2018 resulting in a High Court Approval for its removal but only after a crowdfunded Action by Trail Riders Fellowship.

If we were still able to park in the Larkhill military roads, we would then have to arrive in the Avenue and surrounding landscape for ceremonies on foot via the droves or from Woodhenge and other areas across fields due to no public parking.

Only the fit and able would be able to attend these ceremonial times, or be able to access these sacred places during any other times of the year that were not the two Solstice days or the two Equinoxes when managed open access if provided by English Heritage.

Those who could not walk two miles to the Stones and back having parked in the Fargo Road, will have to pay nearly £20 each and every time they wanted to visit for spiritual reasons, to enter the area via the buses from the Visitor Centre, even if their reason was not to enter the Stones but the surrounding landscape!.

Those who need to sit in a car and rest, for shelter in extreme elements as removal of all trees and bushes near the Stones has created open and windy spaces and those who need to take medication, need a vehicle with personal equipment and toilets as there is only one male/female/access toilets at the Stones for hundreds of people.

Many need their vehicles close by for safety in case of mental distress, autism, or physical equipment including those with Health & Safety needs such as oxygen bottles: a person with a large oxygen bottle was put onto a crowded bus during last Winter Solstice access time.

**My Personal example of how I was prevented from equitable access to practice my faith in the Stonehenge landscape and loss of amenity when the BOATs were recently gated reducing them to footpaths.**

I have a registered [REDACTED] and often am in extreme pain requiring regular [REDACTED] often for extended periods over many years. My partner [REDACTED] has had two [REDACTED], one of which is a second replacement. When the gating was in place last year we were unable to join our fellow druids in the Astronomical Druid Order led by our Archdruid Merlin England, because we could not drive up the drove BOAT 12 from Larkhill, and even if we wanted as pensioners to pay £18 each for the bus transport to the Stones area we could not have managed without having anywhere to sit, rest and recover from standing for a time in the deep grass in the Avenue. We normally manage as we can go back to our car parked on the drove near the gate into the Avenue and rest, take medication and recover but as we cannot enter the flat pathways and short grass area of the Stones to celebrate the full eight sacred days of our year, nor observe night observations, nor the Moon ceremonies, so we had to give up and not attend any of the ceremonies whilst the gate was in place. That will be the same for every day and year if the BOATs become restricted to vehicles.

That example can be duplicated by many others, and is a cause of extreme distress and marginalisation. Many had already given up challenging the tunnel as they had done this for over twenty years and felt I was wasting my time.

**Examples follow of a few others** who were not able to send in evidence before and their deep emotional and spiritual connections to Stonehenge landscape; also what loss of amenity of vehicular access to the BOATs mean. These are emotional connections to Stonehenge and why many cannot speak in public without getting angry or crying:

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1. Jo Elliott *"For me to be able to get to Stonehenge from the drove with any member of my family, young or old, is an honour! A privilege! Be it from a fleeting visit, a stay over, for a Sabbat or just because we want to, the drove access gives us this opportunity.*

*My Mum needs a [REDACTED] to move around with and the distance between the drove and the free route is ok for her to walk.*

*We have been there when it's been raining and it's been a treacherous, but on the whole, she can manage the walk as long as we're on hand to help her with ruts and mounds.*

*My nephew asks me to take him to Stonehenge! Standing just behind the Hele Stone is as thrilling, if not more so, than being in the designated walking area. People talk to you on the free route. Ask you to help them take a photo. Ask each other questions about their visit. It's genuinely an open space, in all senses of the word open.*

*To remove the use of the drove this would remove what we all get from these visits. The sense of wonderment and awe! The connection to thousands of years of history! The joy! The healing! The greatness! The spirit of Stonehenge!*

From Jo's little nephew, a new generation of children needing vehicular access to the BOATs - Jo Elliott A little something from my nephew when he sees a picture of Stonehenge. *"Stonehenge, I sleep in Jojo's car."* [REDACTED]

2. BB *"Well, up here [Bute] we call it the Skye angle a feeling effect that certain landscapes or landmasses have on your personal energy, emotional and physical self. It does not come from all parts of the landscape only some areas. Although one does usually have spirituality contact with the earth, rivers, sea, and sky some places have this effect very strongly. It can be positive or negative, sometimes both in a small area. It is as though the landmass itself can change the very way that you perceive it and act in it or with it. This can be very intense or mild. It is very often direct contact with the spirit or energy pattern in that place, this can be very overwhelming Sacred Salisbury Plain is clearly one of these places.*

*To not be allowed to access it with the transport of the age and gather is to be denied our human right to interact spiritually with Stonehenge and its landscape."*

3. Helen Hatt/Reynolds, [REDACTED]  
*"i'm a [REDACTED] celebrant and regularly attend the stonehenge temple monument, I cannot walk without resting frequently, I park on the drove to allow easy free and regular access to the temple monument, the drove is an essential parking place to permit me access to the whole of the temple landscape, without the drove I cannot have free access to this place of great spiritual importance to me, I've been regularly attending this sacred site since 1984. We regularly walk to the avenue and burial mounds to attend ceremonies and I cannot walk the 2 miles proposed by these changes without seats to rest or good flat close access [REDACTED] [REDACTED], this ancient place of connection to our ancestors would otherwise be inaccessible to me if the drove is closed. "*
4. J.P. *"By not having access to the drove will impact on my time out as I have worked in the charity sector for six years supporting families bereaved by suicide across Wiltshire. I spend time on the Drove in my vehicle as it gives me time out from working in the charity sector which can at times be traumatic and intense when dealing with suicide loss. I personally choose to spend time on the drove as it gives me time to reflect and restore my own well being and being so close to nature and the elements helps to improve my own health and well being.*

*I would appreciate the drove to remain open as to me it's a restorative spiritual sanctuary that gives me the time to be reflective and restore my health and well being. With working with so many who have been affected by suicide loss."*

*5. A.E." I am over 60 and use byway 12 as my refuge for silence and spiritual practice away from my council estate and work that I am being forced into past 60. Without this opportunity to walk the sacred landscape and feel where my ancestors walked and had ceremonies in the past I feel that I have no hope. Stonehenge landscape is the place I connect to on a spiritual level and I attend the solstice, equinox, full and new moon ceremonies when I can and feel a glimmer of hope to wake up to it when I am feeling stressed or depressed. I feel sick when I see trees being cut down and destroyed for money. I sometimes feel like my mum said to me as she was dying. I don't want to live in this World of evil men who are destroying our World for greed which I believe is exactly what is happening with the tunnel, drove and the stones. "*

*6. Paul Davis "For me, the stones and drove is a gathering place of the tribes, now as was then, a sacred site within a sacred landscape, to deny the right for people to come together and commune with the spirits of our ancestors and of the land is an abomination, in these days of modern technology and within a society which is built on greed and corporate consumerism, our sacred sites are more important now than i think they have ever been, the importance of tribe, the feeling of belonging and the continuation of tradition must not be lost, our grandchildren will blame us, if we let the greed of the few destroy what we have now"*

*7. Jan Phillips [Jan is a [REDACTED], she also cannot walk the two miles there and back if the droves become gated and vehicles prohibited]*

*"I am a retired special needs teacher with close family bonds in Hampshire and Devon and Cornwall and have been travelling the A303 since I was 17, exactly 50 years tomorrow June 1st. I have seen many changes to the route in that time, mostly by-passing villages which deserved their peace and quiet due to the high volumes of traffic.*

*Stonehenge however, is in the middle of nowhere, so to speak, so in general the traffic is only a problem to the road-users themselves, it doesn't destroy anyone's quality of life except the users of the road itself.*

*I do not feel that there was enough investigation into the southern rd route, a by-pass that could serve Salisbury and the residences of all the little villages and hamlets around.*

*Salisbury has a huge problem with traffic that will need to be addressed in the future so why not build a rd that would serve a much greater locale than just Stonehenge?*

*I remember the A30 from Exeter to Penzance years ago, extremely congested, bottleneck after bottleneck. Since the A30 was updated, bypasses almost all the way, mostly all dual carriageway,*

*The journey for the road-user is so much easier and more pleasant, the lives of the residents of Okehampton, Launceston, Bodmin to name but a few places, and all the satellite villages around is so much better. Why would another road not raise the quality of life for all concerned? It is a joy to travel that road now.*

Now I have to mention the emotional rupture that would be caused by this tunnel plan.

*I do not label myself as a traveller, Pagan, Druid but over the years I have met so many people that feel as I do...that Stonehenge is my spiritual go-to place in times of need and just simply to pay my respects to the spiritual effects that Stonehenge has, and has had pre-history.*

*I try to get to Solstice and Equinox and I need to park on the drove, especially now* [REDACTED]

*I have talked to all kinds of people that go to pay their respects as I do. Without access to the drove it becomes near impossible for me and many others, some who come from Scotland, Wales, all over the UK in order to fulfil their spiritual needs. They would ALL be excluded if the current plans go ahead.*

I object to the tunnel plans both on a very personal level but also a financial aspect too.

*These plans will run over-budget, as these things always do. With the current uncertainty in our country I am appalled that such a short-sighted plan, a plan that will only push the congestion further down the A303, is considered anywhere near- viable.*

*We are already hearing about the problems with HS2, Crossrail, the Garden bridge and probably many more projects, I feel we would be lacking foresight for this to be applied...already I feel there has probably been far too much spent already for a plan that is clearly not in the best interests of anyone other than the actual EH aspirations to keep the site itself in their own order without taking the bigger picture into account.*

**Previous Legal Actions resulting from loss of amenity on gated BOATs** I have already referred in my submission on 23 May 2019 to the precedents of Judge Behrens and Planning Inspector Alan Boyland regarding loss of amenity to public byways via Wiltshire Council attempted TROs preventing vehicular access.

I have still pending a personal Complaint under the Equality Act lodged with the Equality Commission. This is in respect of the above noted prevention of amenity enjoyment and equitable access as described above when as a member of my Order and as an Archdruid with those responsibilities I was unable to attend any ceremony due to the gating period until overturned by the High Court on 21 December 2018. That EA Complaint of mine will be resurrected if Wiltshire Council reinstate its application for a Gating Order and prevention of vehicle access to any BOAT on the Wiltshire WHS. That may escalate with judicial reviews as indicated by other organisations.

**We all wish to thank the Inspectors for their interest and consideration in asking these questions**

With best wishes

Lois Lloyd

Archdruid Sacred Grove Western Isles & Astronumerical Druid Order.