From:
To:
Richard Price
Subject:
Re Question HW1.6
Date:
31 May 2019 16:15:00

I wish to submit to the Inspectorate one document which summarises the particular issue of our (druidic) belief structure in relation to continued use of the Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATS) in and around the environs of Stonehenge; it is my response as Stonehenge Officer to the Council of British Druid Orders given to the Stonehenge Traffic Regulation Order Public Inquiry of 22/6/2011.

This confirms the first part of my colleague Arthur Pendragon's answer to this question, where he points out attempts made by the Authorities to "re-route, downgrade, change use, place TROs on BOATS," etc., in order to remove traffic in the WHS once the tunnel is complete, thereby attempting to remove our most important amenity in practising our faith, i.e. the right to park in the vicinity of Stonehenge at the time of the four solstice and equinox seasonal observances, and, consequently, be able to observe them.

Since the above document was written, there have been further unsuccessful attempts made by both Wiltshire Council and English Heritage to limit access/parking still further, which, given the extremely limited extent of pay parking facilities at the Visitors` Centre, show disproportionate discrimination towards those of our faith and all faiths who seek to come to Stonehenge quarterly for but a few hours, in order to honour the ancient and sacred seasonal tradition. In particular, Byway 12 in its unbroken form is essential to us and our congregation.

In addition, whilst walking to the sacred mounds and barrows on the north side of the WHS from Stonehenge is encouraged by the National Trust, and much facilitated by the removal of the old A344, were the short tunnel to be implemented, all direct routes to the sacred mounds and barrows to the South West from Stonehenge, would still be "cut off" by the western approach to the western portal.

As world wide recognition by archaeologists and lay people alike, begins t focus on the importance of the "satelites" to these ancient religious centres such as Stonehenge, which accurate surveys show to be closely linked in proportional distance, as well as astronomical intent, so too we druids continue to revere them as links to our ancient past, our ancestors, and early man's consistently precise attempts to understand the cosmos.

A World Heritage site with one section of it "out of bounds" due to an extremely busy and impassable major main road, with all the light and noise pollution that I have highlighted elsewhere, does not allow us to practice our faith freely, in the environment which we believe was created not just for us, but for the public as well, to be one of peace and tranquillity and outstanding universal value, sanctified, since the earliest times in these islands, by generations of prayer and contemplation.

Once again, all these problems are resolved by the determination to do the job properly, and build a long tunnel beneath the entire World Heritage Site, thereby restoring the essential tranquillity to the Stonehenge environment.

Rollo Maughfling, Archdruid of Stonehenge & Britain.