

Issue Specific Hearing 2: Wednesday 5 June 2019

Subject: Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A303 Stonehenge - Amesbury to Berwick Down (TR010025)

Hearing Issue: Cultural heritage including implications for Blick Mead

Transcript: Oral Representation by Richard Bartosz, Reference 20020818

1.0

In the five minutes I have, I would like to offer supplementary evidence to the geometry model presented in my written representation, which I believe adds to the understanding of the Stonehenge setting and its OUV. I will very briefly refer to the issue of stellar astronomy before closing on where I stand with regard to the subject of this Examination.

2.0

(Slide)

2.1 In the case of Geometry I identified a right-angled triangle which confirmed the Midsummer solstice sunrise alignment. Current consensus is that the Midwinter solstice sunset was the primary focus behind the design. To test whether this could also be confirmed by the same geometry I focused on the ceremonial area between the Altar Stone and the Great Trilithon, this being a 16-foot square. If one flips over the triangle (coloured red), it will neatly fit into the square, with the narrow apex pointing to the sunset position. I suggest this is no accident and that both directions were important in terms of function, with sunrise and sunset being represented by the respective apex angles.

2.2 If one flips over the triangle again (coloured blue) the angle is doubled to $53^{\circ}.13$. This is effectively the angular diameter of the Sun, at a x100 scale. It is also an angle every archaeologist has used, or continues to use, even if they are unaware of it.

2.3 The preceding may be evidence, for a two-way model, where a newborn is introduced to the ancestors, before returning to the community, via the Avenue. Perhaps this privilege was reserved for the ruling elite, and perhaps even provision made for birthing within the monument. There is evidence for such practice on the Hawaiian Island of O'ahu, at the Kukaniloko Birth Site, a site reserved for royal births, as well as considered to have had a secret astronomical function.

2.4 It may also support the interpretation, from the evidence of skeletal wounds, of an execution within the Stonehenge stone monument - i.e. an individual was unlucky to have strayed into restricted sacred space, either unwittingly or wilfully - but such interpretation was not universally accepted. It is worth reminding that the "execution", estimated at 2000 years ago, clearly suggests Stonehenge retained continued significance well after abandonment.

3.0

3.1 In terms of stellar astronomy I intended to embark with you on a trip north to three sites in Scotland, on Professor Parker Pearson's theme of Stonehenge having been inspired in the interests of "political unification". I don't have time to illustrate the potential contribution to OUV, however, at one site I was able to estimate that the

designers were capable of observing to an accuracy of at least one-sixth of a degree. This I've taken back to Stonehenge, and with the metrics from my earlier illustration, I am currently drafting an essay on the possible character of the end-of-year ceremony.

4.0 With regard to my standpoint:

4.1 Firstly, Highways England claim that OUV is well understood. I accept the argument from their point of view. The problem is that the story they have been given can be at best only half the story. Furthermore, Stonehenge itself, is only half the story of the WHS as a whole. I've heard nothing effectively considering the impact of such a precedent on Avebury, particularly in the context of the square feature discovered there in 2017, its relation to the southern circle and the potential connection of its OUV with that of Stonehenge's.

4.2 Secondly, I see Stonehenge as being on a fast track from conservation, as I know it, to commodification. Not necessarily a bad thing, but with support for this application, as it stands, very dangerously close to being so - "pay to see", threatens the ability to engage intimately, either spiritually, physically or emotionally, with the Monument and its setting. Arguably this has already begun to happen, and I concur with those who argue this will only get worse if consent is granted.

So finally:

4.3 Many say that, in respective different ways, that the realities of modern life should prevail. I would say that WHS Inscription **is** an important part of the reality of our modern life, with a key aim to always have an eye to future realities.

In my opinion, a modification to the late Jacquetta Hawkes' well known quote should be,

***To** every age Stonehenge is only lent - it is that age's responsibility to seek to discover the missing parts of the story, and then pass it on to the next age in better health than when received.*

It seems to me the Expressway has reached a point of no return, and Stonehenge is to be the victim in order to achieve its delivery. Stonehenge should not be, and should never be the subject of, or subjected to, a point of no return. I fear that many who might be inspired to pursue the challenge in the future will simply turn round and say "what's the point". We will lose what should be a breathing and living authentic entity. We will fail future generations.