

Summary of oral representation following Issue Specific Hearing 8, 21 August 2019.

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Reference number: 20020830.

6 September 2019.

Agenda item 4.4.ii. In responding to a prompt from the chair on the subject of potential suicide, I mistakenly referred to 'Green Bridge 1' instead of Green Bridge 4.

The potential for suicide leaps from the tunnel portals and Green Bridge 4, which would lie nearest to Stonehenge and adjacent to the western tunnel portal, is a readily imaginable issue because of the views and proximity of monuments together with the spiritual pull of this landscape.

Suicides are not unknown at Stonehenge, as evidenced by a suicide on Byway 12 shortly before the spread of social media.

Following the mass suicide of 48 members of the Order of the Solar Temple sect on 5th October 1994, it was reported by the national director of Christian Rescue, Revd. John Celia, that the group had visited Stonehenge. The group had possibly visited Stonehenge on other occasions other than during summer solstice in 1992, but the headline: 'Mass suicide group seen at Stonehenge solstice', featured in the *Liverpool Echo*, Thursday 6 October 1994, page 4. See also reports in the *Guardian*, 6 October 1994.

Given how readily the news spread online only yesterday (5 September) of a body found in fields adjacent to the A303 between Countess and Longbarrow roundabouts, it surely cannot be doubted that news of any future suicide or attempt by leaping onto the A303 within the World Heritage Site (WHS) would spread quickly online and potentially induce copycats.

In addition to the impacts of a personal nature that come with any suicide attempt, the impact on and unexpected interruption to the traffic adjacent to the tunnel would have enormous potential for any number of accidents in the vicinity.

Increasing the height and robustness of the fencing, in view of the climbable height of the fencing proposed by Highways England, may not be an option as visible fences would clash with Outstanding Universal Value.

There has as yet been no full discussion of the views of the western tunnel portal and future expressway from the present A303, and the impact that this would have on potential suicides.

There has been no full discussion of the impact of the loss of the surrounding view of the landscape of the WHS in addition to the loss of the renowned view of the stones from the A303, and how this might relate to mental health. See my original submission.