



Amesbury Museum & Heritage Trust

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13th August 2020

The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps, MP,
Secretary of State for Transport,
C/O Ms Natasha Kopala,
Head of Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit,
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Road,
London SW1P 4DR.

Sent by email on 13 August 2020 to: A303Stonehenge@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
and TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE@dft.gov.uk

TR010025 - A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of Amesbury Museum and Heritage Trust, I write in response to the Secretary of State for Transport's request for comment on the implications on the latest archaeological finds within the Stonehenge World Heritage landscape and wish to respond as follows.

1. The latest published finds by the Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes project and the ongoing work by the Blick Mead Team, highlight how undiscovered and significant the wider landscape is and why the World Heritage Site is so vast.
2. At the Planning Inspectorate hearing Professor Mike Parker Pearson demonstrated how a large percentage of the ploughed soil surface across the site will hold for us and future generations tens of thousands of artefacts which will provide decades of research. Crucially, advances in technology will enable future research to be undertaken of artefacts in situ without destruction or sterilisation of the site.
3. If consent is however granted for the proposed tunnel with a surface dual carriageway cutting through the site, then the archaeology within the ploughed soil, will, without extensive recording be all but lost and almost certainly unrecoverable.
4. A further demonstration of the importance of the site and the need to avoid any further damage is the recent discovery of the site of Queen Eleanor of Provence, Henry III's Queen, who is buried in the grounds of Grade 1 listed Amesbury Abbey, within meters of the proposed raised A303 Countess flyover. She is believed to be the



only Queen of England with no marked grave and will create international interest when investigated.

5. As has been explained by this trust before at the PINS hearings, the deeds of Stonehenge from 31st December 1915 (not the Deed of Gift from Cecil Chubb in 1918) has restrictive covenants which are in the public interest and help preserve and protect the site from any desecration. The proposed tunnel will be in direct breach of these important covenants, covenants that we are told prevented the A303 being dualled past the Stone circle in the late 1960's.
6. Highways England have stated the Stonehenge and surrounding land deeds are missing and therefore the covenants are not extant, but this Trust has seen a copy. We would urge the Secretary of State to request Highways England to locate the deeds and ensure the covenants are adhered to.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Rhind-Tutt

Chairman of the Amesbury Museum and Heritage Trust