

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: A303 Stonehenge
Date: 20 September 2020 18:05:38

Dear Secretary of State for Transport,

I have been a Civil Engineer for the last 40 years, and a highways engineer for the last 38 of those. I fully understand the drivers for increased capacity on the network, and the limitations that certain stretches of road create.

I have to say that the further my career develops, and particularly with the knowledge we have today of what damage increased carbon emissions are causing to our future existence, I am leaning more and more towards the point of view that the old protesters had in the 90s; new roads are counter productive.

Fortunately for my conscience perhaps, my own career path has led me to specialise in making the most of the infrastructure we have (bridges specifically), rather than covering even more of our precious land with dense bitumen and hot rolled asphalt, but I can see that there are sites where congestion is a major issue and it may be thought by some that they require new investment in infrastructure. Alternatively, perhaps, after the experience of 'lockdown', we should now be seeing that we really do not need to increase road capacity; what we actually need to do is to reduce it and rethink our transport needs altogether.

We have recently experienced that, with essential distribution, and the essential maintenance required to allow that, we can exist satisfactorily without too much detriment to our way of life, and importantly, without filling our air with environment with non-essential traffic; noise and pollution.

We can exist and still enjoy our locality and our nation with more limited travel demands. In short we can exist without new roads.

I have witnessed the land take required to dual roads; it has always shocked me how much is required, and it makes me feel sick in my stomach. The resources, the cement production, the gravel extraction, the carbon emissions for construction and haulage plant, these things damage not only the new site, but the source environments throughout the nation.

To build a dual carriageway adjacent to Stonehenge is unthinkable. It is remarkable that our Government would even entertain the idea, and illustrates perhaps just how little respect for our ancient heritage our Govt. has.

Stonehenge is the spiritual navel of England, of Britain even. There are many fascinating sites of the period, but Stonehenge is something special, it is our most treasured place. It is far more important to many of our society than anything London has to offer. To subject this environment to the devastation dualling will cause in the short term will be an archaeological disaster. How many of our ancient forebears risk being 'discovered' by this proposal, their burial places destroyed and the sanctity of whatever they believed being treated with total ignorance by our society? In the long term, the environs of Stonehenge will be graced with even greater traffic noise, speed and emissions.

I did not want to get emotive about this issue when I decided to write, but it is emotive to those of us who value our land and our ancestors. So, emotively, I can say without a doubt,

I would rather see St Paul's Cathedral or Buckingham Palace demolished than see this scheme go ahead. It is not right.

yours faithfully,
R.A.Waters