I wish to comment on the A303 Stonehenge road scheme

National Highways has not:

- made any changes to the Scheme to take the 2021 World Heritage Committee <u>Decision</u> into account;
- acknowledged that the Secretary of State found the Scheme's impact on the proposed western cutting area would be "**significantly adverse**";
- fully assessed alternative routes less damaging to the World Heritage Site e.g., a southern bypass route would be cheaper even if there might be some problems with it, while a longer tunnel would reduce impact on the World Heritage Site;
- **explored alternatives to hard engineering** solutions in the context of safeguarding and enhancing the World Heritage Site e.g. a package of measures to reduce road traffic, road emissions and improve access to the South West;
- updated the scheme construction costs; nor
- updated the carbon assessment and costs.

Other changes since the Examination closed:

- concern for climate change has increased with the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and the need to take urgent action to reduce emissions, not increase them as any new Stonehenge road scheme would; and
- the Environment Act 2021 sets new ambitions around nature recovery.

Judith Hible,