

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge Scheme
Date: 31 March 2022 10:16:36

Dear Max Baldwin,

I am writing because the Secretary of State for Transport wants to make a new decision on the Stonehenge road scheme.

However, strong reasons have arisen, since the announcement of RIS2 and its funding, to abandon the road scheme and for less damaging and more sustainable solutions to be brought forward, especially at a time when public expenses are overstretched. The 2021 World Heritage Committee warned the WHS might be considered for placing on the World Heritage in Danger List, should the scheme proceed unaltered. The support for the scheme of Historic England, English Heritage and the National Trust, on which he relies, may partly arise from their managerial responsibilities which would be made easier were the project to go ahead but do not accord with their conservation and protection responsibilities.

As regards the Climate Emergency, the Government must ensure cuts in carbon emissions, of which transport is the highest emitting sector. The recent IPCC Working Group's report highlights the need for urgency. Action to reduce road building and regulate for reduction in private car use would be a positive contribution to COP26. Dualling the London to Exeter rail line would assist in the 'levelling up' of poorly connected regional centres. The Transport Secretary intends to revise the National Policy Statement on National Networks to include matters on climate change: the responsible approach would be to delay all RIS2 projects until this revision has been undertaken.

We understand your aim for renewal of economic growth after Covid- 19 and that you may see expenditure on infrastructure schemes as one way forward. We do urge you, however, to reconsider Government support for the A303 Stonehenge scheme which has serious implications for the UK in terms of: expenditure and poor economic return; climate change and addressing carbon emissions; and the credibility of our leading heritage organisations' advice on heritage protection. Our country's international reputation for responsible care of its World Heritage Sites and addressing climate change are gravely imperilled.

We hope that you will assure us that the A303 Stonehenge scheme will be abandoned and that less damaging and more appropriate options will be sought in view of the significant and unforeseen changes that have arisen since the scheme was first announced.

I also have several other concerns in regard to this road proposal:

- Around 26 sq. km (10 sq. miles) at Stonehenge(together with a similar area at Avebury) was designated a WHS in 1986 for its remarkable Neolithic and Bronze Age remains. These designed landscapes, with inter-related monuments and sites, include avenues and other features linked to the topography and water. Deep dual-carriageway cuttings ,tunnel entrances and a massive flyover would severely destroy the archaeology and the integrity of the WHS.Already at least 20 archaeologists have strongly objected to the A303 Preferred Route .
- The cost has now risen to around £2bn(with also £7m maintenance costs per annum) and is to be paid for by the Public Purse.This money could be better spent on more worthwhile causes such as public transport

improvements. Indeed in May 2019 the National Audit Office and July 2019 Public Accounts Committee reports have cast serious doubts on the Scheme's value for money.

- The WHS is a major wildlife haven which has seen rare species such as Stone Curlews and Great Bustards - the new road will be a major threat to their habitats.
- This new road will increase traffic, which will in turn increase CO2 emissions and also air pollution (a serious health emergency).

Yours faithfully,

Simon Barber

