From:
To: A303 Stoneheng

Subject: response to the redetermination of the A303 Stonehenge road scheme

Date: 09 March 2022 16:35:57

Dear Planning Inspectorate

I have been disappointed by this redetermination plan. As a lay citizen who loves Stonehenge and wants to preserve it, intact, for future generations, can I make the following observations?

National Highways has not made any changes to the scheme to take the 2021 World Heritage Committee decision into account, thus putting the World Heritage status in jeopardy.

Nor has it acknowledged that the Secretary of State found the Scheme's impact on the proposed western cutting area would be "significantly adverse"; or assessed alternative routes less damaging to the World Heritage Site. For instance, 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.

I would have expected it to explore alternatives to hard engineering solutions in the context of safeguarding and enhancing the World Heritage Site. A package of measures to reduce road traffic, road emissions and improve access to the South West would have had advantages. But that route has not been taken. It has signally failed to update the scheme construction costs or the carbon assessment and costs.

Since the Examination closed, the 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. Also, the Environment Act 2021 sets new ambitions around nature recovery, and this has not been taken into account.

Can you understand why lovers of Stonehenge, an icon with worldwide recognition, are still determined that this plan should not be carried out in its present form?

With all good wishes, Alison Leonard.