From:
A303 Stonehenge

Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme

Date: 14 March 2022 17:11:34

Dear Sirs

I note that the Secretary of State for Transport wants to make a new decision on the Stonehenge road scheme. He has asked National Highways for responses to five matters he wishes to consider i.e. Alternatives, Policy, Carbon, Environmental Information and Any Other Matters.

The Secretary of State now wants comments on these submissions and any other relevant information.

I understand that National Highways has not:

- made any changes to the Scheme to take the 2021 World Heritage Committee Decision 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.

Further 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.

I would ask that the Planning Inspectorate takes into account the above and rejects the current proposal by National Highways.

Stonehenge is far too valuable an archaeological site to be cut through with an ill thought out and improperly costed scheme as has been suggested. Other alternatives are available. Having used the A303 the scheme would only push the hold ups further along rather than eliminate any problems at Stonehenge. Please do not destroy a World Heritage Site for the sake of moving a traffic jam a few miles down the road.

Your faithfully

Jane Walker

