From:
To:
A303 Stoneheng

Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme

Date: 09 March 2022 08:38:44

Comment made by me:

Clifford Jones

A303 Stonehenge Plan re Determination

Dear Minister,

I appreciate that something practical must be done to alleviate the living hell of the villages along the route of the A303; especially at pinch points. The UK needs a safe modern highway and I accept that National Highways has attempted to find an efficient solution.

However.

The present solution has major practical flaws.

Weather. The plain can be a wicked spot when it snows. Even if you can keep some of the A303 open, with the present design of approach at either end will become impassable a clog and compact quickly and easily. Especially with the proposed ventilation system. Might I suggest you ask the Met Office for details of snow fall and the general wind direction across the plain. Your positioning of the tunnel may cause considerable instability within the tunnel. Wind vortexing may well cause difficulty for the ventilation, indeed, I should go as far as suggesting that as it stands it will create a regular audible noise. But buffeting if vehicle is a more serious issue.

In brief the actual position of the proposed tunnel is seriously compromised.

In brief the debate appears to be that the tunnel will damage the heritage. Any intervention creates a disturbance, I have no issue with disturbing the past. As an Archaeologist I do it all the time. Where I have an issue is where a major intervention takes place. The National Highways are in an impossible position. Wherever the suggest it creates problems. In this instance they seem to have decided to go for the most controversial bit of intervention.

Bluntly. This is wrong. The answer is to build a new road, alleviate the problem for the villages and improve road safety and traffic flow by moving the plan further South East as already considered and if that includes major works so be it. A landscape is not stuffed in aspic it changes with time.

Can we please just get on and solve this problem using the work already prepared over many years by accepting the need to move the route.

I remain

Yous Sincerely

Clifford Jones Archaeologist

