

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Response to invitation for comments on Stonehenge road scheme
Date: 11 March 2022 13:09:12

I would like to respond to the invitation for comments on the Stonehenge road scheme currently proposing a 3.3 km cut-and-cover tunnel. However, I am concerned that the tunnel would be too short considering the Stonehenge World Heritage Site is some 5.4 km wide and although such a tunnel would improve the view from the monument, its construction risks destroying vital archaeological evidence and would most likely result in the revocation of the site's WHS status by UNESCO.

I have so far only visited Stonehenge once back in 2004 and I live near another World Heritage Site. Although the geography and historical era associated with that WHS is completely different to Stonehenge, I would still object to projects risking archaeological damage to it as I doubt future generations would forgive us for such damage done to any WHS.

I am also concerned 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 bored 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.

I am also concerned that other changes since the examination closed have not been taken into account

- concern for the climate crisis which 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 which sets new ambitions around nature recovery.

Shaun Coster

[REDACTED]