From:
To:
A303 Stoneheng

Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme

Date: 09 March 2022 11:37:44

I am emailing you regarding the redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme.

As acknowledged by the Secretary of State, the Scheme's impact on the proposed western cutting area would be "significantly adverse". However, in response to this, National Highways has not made any changes to the Scheme. I find this extremely troubling, especially in light of the 2021 World Heritage Committee's decision that it:

- "11. Regrets that the Development Consent Order (DCO) has been granted for the scheme; and therefore, further considers in conformity with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines that the approved A303 improvement scheme is a potential threat to the property, which if implemented could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, notably to its integrity; State of conservation of properties WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add, p. 63 Inscribed on the World Heritage List"
- "12. Notes moreover that in the event that DCO consent was confirmed by the High Court, the property warrants the inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;"
- "13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022, with a view to considering the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger if the A303 route upgrade scheme is not modified to deliver the best available outcome for the OUV of the property."

Further, National Highways has not properly assessed alternative routes less damaging to the World Heritage Site. For example, a longer tunnel would significantly reduce impact on the World Heritage Site.

Finally National Highways has not updated the scheme construction costs, nor has it updated the carbon assessment and costs.

No further damage should be done to the archaeological landscape of Stonehenge. Future generations would be appalled at those who decided that road widening should be at the expense of England's most iconic World Heritage Site. If A303 widening at Stonehenge is felt to be essential it should be done by means of a deep bored tunnel at least 4.5km long. Anything shorter would cause irreparable damage to this landscape, in breach of the World Heritage Convention.

Best regards,

Dr Graham Small

