From:
 A303 Stonehenge

 Cc:
 Elaine Salter

Subject: A303 Stonehenge road scheme
Date: 10 March 2022 16:23:30

Dear Secretary of State for Transport

I understand that you are considering making a new decision about the Stonehenge road scheme and you have recently invited comments on the submission made by National Highways.

It appears that National Highways has acknowledged that the Secretary of State found the Scheme's impact on the proposed western cutting area would be "significantly adverse" but it has not made any changes to the Scheme to take the 2021 World Heritage Committee decision into account.

In my opinion, it has not fully assessed alternative routes which would be less damaging to the World Heritage Site, for example, a southern bypass route which would be cheaper even if there might be some problems with it.

It has also failed to explore alternatives to hard engineering solutions in the context of safeguarding and enhancing the World Heritage Site. This could include measures to reduce road traffic, decrease road emissions and improve access to the South West.

There is no update on the construction costs of the scheme and they have omitted an update on the carbon assessment and costs.

Recently and since cop26 hosted by the UK last November, there is a far higher concern for climate change. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report has emphasised the need to take urgent action to reduce emissions, not increase them as any new Stonehenge road scheme would.

In addition, the Environment Act 2021 sets new ambitions around nature recovery.

I hope you will take my views into account when reaching your decision.

Yours faithfully Ms. Elaine Salter