From:
To:
Subject:
Redetermination of A303
Date:

30 March 2022 21:21:19

Sacred Sites International Foundation

March 30, 2022

RE: A303 Road Scheme

Dear Transport Secretary,

We are writing from Sacred Sites International, a non-profit organization, dedicated to the protection of natural and built sacred sites. We are deeply concerned about the A303 Road Scheme and feel it poses an extreme threat to Stonehenge and its associated sites within a great sacred landscape.

If A303 goes through as currently planned, it would cause the World Heritage Committee to demote this iconic sacred site to its List of World Heritage Sites in Danger. This kind of demotion would be a stain on the reputation of England and how it treats such world-class sites.

We are concerned that <u>alternative road plans</u> have not been adequately explored to better protect Stonehenge. Your own Secretary of State found the A303 plan would be "significantly adverse", considering the proposed western cutting area. We believe the A303 would make deep cuts into a sacred landscape and thereby, not only ruin the land as we know it, but likely unearth and damage other archaeological material and sites. In fact, a southern bypass route would be less expensive; even if it would have issues, a longer tunnel would reduce the impact on Stonehenge and associated sites.

Measures should be seriously considered to reduce road traffic, road emissions and improve access to the South West. Such alternatives would respond to the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* report. Urgent action must be taken to reduce carbon emissions. <u>A303 would increase emissions</u>. This is simply not acceptable!

The *Environmental Act 2021* establishes clear statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water and waste, and includes an important new target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030. Now is the time to act boldly and consider a more comprehensive way of viewing the issues of our time. A303 as proposed does not do so! <u>Please consider and act upon</u> alternative road plans.

Sincerely,
Nancy & Leonard Becker

