

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: A303 Stonehenge Consultation Response 2022
Date: 28 March 2022 10:29:46

Dear Madam/Sir

Response to A303 Stonehenge Consultation 2022

As a registered interested party for the "A303 Stonehenge" application, I ask that the following comments be forwarded to the Secretary of State for Transport:-

The High Court order dated 30 July 2021 quashed your decision of 12 November 2020 to grant a development consent order under s114 of the Planning Act 2008 for the construction of a new two-lane dual carriage 13km long for the A303 between Amesbury and Berwick Down on two counts: the impact on heritage assets and the failure to consider alternative schemes. Frankly, I cannot see what has materially changed since then.

Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Monuments is a World Heritage Site (WHS) of huge cultural, historical, scientific significance. And yet throughout this project Highways England, now National Highways, has ignored concerns expressed by our government, by scientists, by the public, and even by the World Heritage Committee for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); National Highways has not altered its plans to take account of the majority of concerns for the WHS or reasonable requests to safeguard the WHS; instead, National Highways has rather arrogantly and doggedly pursued a route running right through a World Heritage Site!

We are all custodians of this vitally important WHS and should be doing everything in our power to protect it. And yet it is clear that National Highways has not properly considered alternative, less damaging solutions to the current traffic and south-west-access issues - eg a longer tunnel or a southern WHS bypass.

Furthermore, when assessing such schemes, I believe that the climate emergency should be given much higher priority than it is currently. The latest IPCC report advises that there is still a brief window of time to avoid the very worst effects of climate change. We should not ignore this. Indeed, our government declared an "environment and climate emergency" in 2019, and yet the GHG emissions from this scheme have not been properly taken into account - including the *true* and *full* effects of construction and future operation. Why?

I believe that biodiversity should also be given much higher priority, and apparently the government agrees - hence the Environment Act passed into UK law in 2021. But the proposed scheme largely ignores that. Why?

But perhaps even more significantly, we are now dealing with the economic recovery from a pandemic, and the resulting cost of living CRISIS. Especially when so many *existing roads* are currently in a *dangerous state of repair*, I simply can't understand why such a low value for money scheme is even being considered. Even though up-to-date cost estimates are currently missing from the proposed scheme, I strongly believe that the same money that would be spent on this scheme could be much better spent on a package of measures that ease current traffic and south-west-access issues AND reduce rather than increase GHG emissions.

The world has changed dramatically since this project was first conceived. We need new

solutions that properly address current and future needs - preferably options that do not involve building more new roads. Instead, why not improve and increase opportunities for active travel and public transport, which would be more cost efficient and have more longer term benefits for everyone and our planet?

In summary, I strongly object to the A303 Stonehenge proposals and ask that - if such a scheme is to go ahead - you first consult on options that:

- truly safeguard the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Monuments World Heritage Site and the Grade 1 listed Amesbury Abbey together with its park and gardens for future generations to explore and understand in their true context
- protect Special Areas of Conservation and wildlife - especially rare birds like the stone curlew in the nearby RSPB reserve
- comply with UNESCO advice and our World Heritage Convention obligations, and avoid damaging our reputation on the world stage for heritage protection
- meet the UK planning policy requirement to protect the WHS and its setting

Yours faithfully

Sonia Davey (Ms)

