

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme
Date: 03 April 2022 16:41:08

To: Secretary of State for Transport

From: Dr A B Murray, [REDACTED]

I wish to contribute the following comments to your further review of the A303 Stonehenge road widening scheme which is planned in light of the response by National Highways to the five matters you asked them to consider.

- The response does not show any changes to the scheme that take the decision of the World Heritage Committee into account. This means that one of our major World Heritage Sites, and the oldest, will be in danger of losing its World Heritage status. More concerning than simply losing the status is that the scheme as it stands will irretrievably destroy the characteristics of a 5,000 year old site, possibly the world's most famous prehistoric monument, simply to facilitate motorised travel. As a country, we are quick to condemn others for destroying heritage sites that we see as of world importance; to do the same ourselves means that we lose all moral authority to criticise others.
- National Highways has not acknowledged that the Secretary of State found the Scheme's impact on the proposed western cutting area would be "significantly adverse".
- Despite the lengthy response, National Highways has still not fully assessed alternative routes that could prove less damaging to the World Heritage Site, for example, a southern bypass route, which would be cheaper (even if there might be some other problems), or a longer tunnel (which would reduce but not completely avoid impact on the Site).
- Other problems include that National Highways has not explored any alternatives to hard engineering solutions to help safeguard and enhance the Site, such as measures to reduce road traffic and road emissions and improve access to the South West.
- Neither have they updated the scheme construction costs or the carbon assessment and costs.

Furthermore, there have been other important changes in England since the Examination closed which need to be addressed:

- Concern for climate change 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.
- The Environment Act 2021 also sets new ambitions around nature recovery.
- Public attitudes towards nature recovery have been markedly strengthened following the lockdowns and experience of the Covid 19 epidemic.

In light of the above, I hereby request a re-examination of the Development Consent Order.

The omission on current cost estimates, UNESCO's position and new information since the Examination closed in October 2019 are compelling grounds for a re-examination by an independent panel BEFORE the Secretary of State redetermines an application for a DCO for the same road scheme.

Yours sincerely

A Beatrice Murray