

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Re-Determination of Road Scheme near Stonehenge World Heritage Site
Date: 03 April 2022 15:34:58

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask for a re-examination of the Development Consent Order for the A303 road scheme near Stonehenge World Heritage Site.

I am particularly concerned as National Highways do not seem to have taken some important points into consideration in their latest proposals.

There has not been any changes made to take into account the decision of the World Heritage Committee in July 2021 which stated that should the plans go ahead for the proposed road scheme Stonehenge and its environs would be placed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites in Danger. This is a serious development which must be taken into consideration. Stonehenge and its surroundings is an extremely important historical site with cultural importance not just for Britain but for many people across the world. To not make some suitable changes to this scheme in light of this decision is not only irresponsible but could also be classed as historical and cultural vandalism. We have a clear duty to protect such important sites.

National Highways has also not acknowledged or made some significant changes to the western cutting area which the Secretary of State has already assessed as having significantly adverse affects on this area.

There also doesn't appear to have been any consideration of alternative routes, e.g. a southern by-pass which may have some problems attached to it but would create less impact on the World Heritage Site itself and would be cheaper. Surely in these times of financial hardship the Government should be looking at the cheaper option in a case like this, especially as it impacts the World Heritage Site less. There is also the option of a longer tunnel. The proposed tunnel is only 3km long whereas the World Heritage Site is 5.4km wide.

There also seems to have been no serious consideration of alternatives to hard-engineering solutions, such as measures to reduce road traffic on the existing road, which would reduce harmful traffic emissions. Concern about climate change has increased since the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report. Things are getting worse faster than previously predicted. A new road will only increase road traffic and therefore increase harmful traffic emissions. We should be looking at measures to decrease road traffic, not increase it as the proposed new road would. Also the Environment Act 2021 has set new ambitions about the recovery of nature which a new road, underground or not, would not be helping but hindering.

I note too that National Highways have not updated their assessment of the costs of the proposed scheme, or their carbon assessment for the scheme, and these should both be of major concern.

In light of the above points I ask for a re-examination of the Development Consent Order for this proposed A303 road scheme.

Many Thanks,
Julie Bond