From:
A303 Stonehenge

Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme

Date: 04 April 2022 09:35:55

Dear Sir/Madam,

In 2021 the World Heritage Committee said the "A303 improvement scheme is a potential threat to the property, which – if implemented – could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, notably to its integrity" and that "in the event that DCO consent was confirmed by the High Court, the property warrants the inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger"

National Highways has not taken the decision by the World Heritage Committee into account, putting at grave risk a precious part of our history, which belongs to everyone.

Furthermore 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".

Alternative less damaging routes to the World Heritage Site (e.g., a southern bypass route would be cheaper even if there might be some problems with it, while a longer tunnel would reduce impact on the World Heritage Site) have not been explored.

Neither have alternatives to hard engineering solutions been explored by National Highways, especially in the context of safeguarding and enhancing the World Heritage Site – e.g. a package of measures to reduce road traffic, road emissions and improve access to the South West; updated the scheme construction costs; nor have they updated the carbon assessment and costs.

We are in a climate emergency, (see the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report), we need to take urgent action to reduce emissions, not increase them as any new Stonehenge road scheme would; and the Environment Act 2021 sets new ambitions around nature recovery. None of this has been taken into account.

Will you please re-examine the Development Consent Order. By ommitting current cost estimates, UNESCO's position and new information since the Examination closed in October 2019, there are compelling grounds for a re-examination by an independent panel BEFORE the Secretary of State redetermines an application for a DCO for the very same road scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Joanna Millett