


**From:**   
**To:** [A303 Stonehenge](#)  
**Subject:** A303 Stonehenge road widening scheme  
**Date:** 03 April 2022 16:49:02

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To whom it may concern,

I registered as a person of interest in the planning application for the A303 Stonehenge road widening scheme, and am sending this e-mail to provide my comments on the resubmission by National Highways for the planning redetermination.

I am concerned that the scheme, as planned, will cause irreparable harm to the UNESCO world heritage site. Although the aim of the tunnel is to remove the sight and noise of the road from people standing at the stones themselves, the wider landscape in which Stonehenge stands forms a unique and internationally renowned archaeological and cultural landscape. The current plans do not adequately take into account the damage to the wider landscape. The length of the tunnel requires two large entrance portals to be built within the boundaries of the world heritage site. Indeed, the Secretary of State found the scheme's impact of the proposed western cutting would be significantly adverse. The plans for archaeological discovery ahead of building and recovery from spoil are completely inadequate for a site of such importance. Additionally, I am concerned about the impact of tunnel building on the water table, which is likely to significantly and detrimentally damage the Mesolithic site at Blick Mead.

The recent National Highways response to determination has not made any changes to the scheme to take the 2021 World Heritage Committee decision into account and fails to address the significantly adverse impact of the western portal. Loss of UNESCO world heritage status for Stonehenge would be a significant and highly visible international loss of status and would reduce the ability of the United Kingdom to lead in matters of heritage. The National Highways response does not fully assess alternative routes or alternatives to hard engineering that would be less damaging to the World heritage site. This lack of alternatives severely limits the ability of the Secretary of State for Transport to take a fully informed decision on the scheme.

Finally, since the initial examination of the scheme, concern over climate change has grown. There is a need for urgent action for the environment, and the Environment Act 2021 has set out new ambitions for carbon capture and nature recovery. It is therefore also of great concern that scheme construction costs, and carbon assessments and costs have not been updated in the National Highways Response.

In light of the above comments, I ask for a re-examination of the Development Consent order for the A303 Stonehenge road widening scheme.

Sincerely,

Dr Philippa Dall

