

National Highways proposed A303 Stonehenge road widening scheme

Strong objection

I object strongly to the latest National Highways proposals because:

1. They start from the presupposition that any works must be immediately local to the Stonehenge World and National Heritage Site (the Site). No meaningful attention has been given to the most obvious way of avoiding the desecration of the Site, namely, to take a strategic view of the traffic problems and evaluate solutions which provide for traffic management improvements over a much wider area, developing routes that would serve the South West of England and avoid the Site altogether.
2. The latest proposals fail to reflect the changes in the nation and the world since the original proposals were made. The demands now in place in the areas of climate change and environmental protection are more far reaching and present challenges that the latest proposals for the Site fail completely to address.
3. Inflation being what it now is, it is alarming to see that no new costs for the proposed project have been provided, in terms of construction, or carbon emissions or environmental protection.
4. It is disturbing to find that the proposers appear to have chosen to ignore the World Heritage Committee decision about the site, announced in 2021. At the very least the proposers should have identifiably addressed the issues raised. In the same insular way, the proposers seem to have ignored the Secretary of State's view that the western cutting would have a significantly adverse effect on the Site.

I trust that this strong objection will be placed on the record and taken into account in the current review of the proposals by the Secretary of State.

This strong objection was submitted by Mr M C Murphy

