3 April 2022

A303 Stonehenge road widening scheme

The Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps wants to make a new decision on the Stonehenge road scheme. He asked National Highways for responses to five matters he wishes to consider:

- Alternatives.
- Policy,
- Carbon,
- Environmental Information, and
- Any Other Matters.

I wish to respond to Any Other Matters:

I was born in Wiltshire, visited Stonehenge many times as a child, heard stories of the first world war airfield close by whenever we turned right at the gravestone at Airman's Corner. We sat on the stones, and my father described how they might have been built (he was a builder). It was special, like Avebury, Silbury Hill. So long ago, in the late forties and fifties, little of the archaeology was known.

For the first time in 2 years, due to Covid we went to London so I could visit the BM Stonehenge exhibition. Every single transport planner MUST be made visit it, so they can realise how much more there is to find in the vicinity, and the wondrous connections Stonehenge has to the rest of the UK, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Europe, and wider afield. Even Arran had a connection. Great new techniques of discovery and archaeology which will be lost for ever with this ridiculous scheme.

To Grant Shapps in reviewing this scheme, if he gives into pressure, it is likely to forever be known as if approval is given.

It is a wondrous area, beautiful, full of mystery, European in build and visitation over centuries, still so much more to discover and learn from. I loved it as a child, was amazed by the Exhibition at the British Museum in 2022, at the discoveries in recent years, and ask you not to destroy as yet unknown treasures for a speedy 2 minute car journey in a cutting. A waste of money, but much, much more. A complete disregard for culture, history and the wonders of the whole area.

Please ask for a re-examination of Development Consent Order

Yours sincerely Dr Sally Campbell