

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [A303 Stonehenge](#)  
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I have a few strategic comments on the latest proposal from Highways England (HE).

1. It is all too easy to be misled by the details of the proposal, many of which follow from the determination of HE for a narrowly defined highways scheme to reduce congestion and to a certain extent the visual intrusion on the Stonehenge monument itself, but not the whole World Heritage Area (WHA).
2. It is clear that a strategic intervention needs to be made to eliminate the disruption of the present A303. This requires a deep tunnel, without large sections of cut and cover or deep cuttings through this internationally sensitive area. The tunnel needs to be of sufficient length to avoid the majority of the WHA, especially at the western side. This indicates a more extensive tunnel than the current proposal and deep enough to avoid as many as possible of the archaeology remains.
3. We need to take more seriously the warnings on climate change (including the report publicised today). Serious attempts need to be made to divert transport to environmentally friendly modes - and the existence of the SW main line to Exeter provides the opportunity. Electrification should be extended at least to Salisbury, and the line redoubled to the west to provide capacity for both passengers and freight to the West country and intermediate stations. Many visitors to Stonehenge could come to the site by rail and linking coach / modern bus if a good coordinated service was provided via one of the existing (or a new) stations.
4. However, I recognise that the trunk road needs improvement for both traffic and environmental reasons, so a dual carriageway in tunnel should be provided. However, the objective to reduce traffic and ensure modal shift should influence the design of the elements, in particular the interchanges, which should take as little land as possible, and be in scale with the landscape. The current proposal will result in structures that intrude too much on the WHA and general openness of the Salisbury Plain area.

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