

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Response to redetermination of project
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I have known and deeply respected Stonehenge ever since first encountering it in the 1950s ([REDACTED]). I have to say I am deeply ashamed that the plans ever got this far as they will be massively damaging to the whole area and further will endanger Stonehenge's WHS status -- for ever, in all probability.

It would seem that very many objections already raised have not yet been properly considered. Among them are these --

-- Building new roads, or massively changing extant ones, must surely be out of court in this time of climate crisis. Road traffic needs to be severely curtailed in order to limit harmful (GHG) emissions. Attempts to remove one cause of delay (bottleneck) are widely recognised merely to shift the problem downline, thus requiring further damaging changes. The sensible way to improve access to the southwest would be to improve other transport links.

-- The relevant Minister, Grant Shapps, has already admitted that this scheme would be significantly adverse to the WHS. If he has been able to visit the excellent Stonehenge exhibition currently at the British Museum it would surely have confirmed that view even further. Do we as a country value our unique monument sufficiently or not?

-- Do we even have a reliable estimate of the proposed construction costs? I believe there should be a complete re-evaluation of costs/benefits, especially in the present economic downturn.

--The tunnel(s) and their portals are far too damaging to the setting of the Stones, destroying the sense of majesty that they currently invoke, both to our own population and to the thousands of visitors from overseas. Moreover the portals' massive nature would require the removal of tons of unexamined material containing untold numbers of informative artefacts. We must not lose that knowledge but have a responsibility to leave it for future generations to study.

-- Indeed, the more we learn about Stonehenge and its setting the more we realise we have barely begun to understand its immensely long centuries. Some centuries even passed before the present stone setting was achieved, each alteration having meaning to its builders. The Plain had been a place of human gatherings from Mesolithic times (eg Blick Mead, currently dated from 10,000 BC). And while the sarsen setting is now realised as a place of the dead, only a short distance away down the Avon river is the enormous site of Durrington Walls where very many people (probably those engaged in assembling and erecting the stones) would have lived. Those were our forebears.

In conclusion I fervently hope that this damaging scheme will now be abandoned.

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