From:
To:
A303 Stonehenge
Subject:
Saving Stonehenge.
Date:
04 April 2022 21:16:26

Dear Sirs,

## Stonehenge - A303 Road Improvement scheme

The proposed scheme does not provide the best possible outcome for the Outstanding Universal Value [Reference World Heritage Committee] of the Stonehenge site and surrounding prehistoric landscape. The relationship between the Stonehenge monument itself and the local landscape would be irrevocably despoiled by the A303 road improvement scheme as currently proposed. The huge cuttings within the site would severely damage the visual aspect of the monument within the landscape as would the so-called "mitigating measures".

The facts of the matter are that there would be approximately 1 kilometre of dual carriageway sited in an extensive cutting within the boundary of the overall Stonehenge site; literally an eyesore!

Notwithstanding the World Heritage Committee's dismay and objections, the Secretary of State also stated that the proposed scheme, in particular the cutting to the west, would have a "significantly adverse" impact.

It would also seem that National Highways has not adequately assessed alternative routes such as the southern bypass or examined the real value of the reduced impact that a tunnel spanning the totality of the Stonehenge site would generate. Cost cannot surely be a factor in determining the future of a World renowned, totally unique, irreplaceable monument. Once despoiled there would be no going back.

The majority of the scheme proposed seems to be reliant upon "hard engineering". Traffic reduction, emission control, carbon amelioration plans are barely covered in the proposals. Since the submission of the A303 scheme Climate Change has quite rightly taken World centre stage as a serious issue for all responsible Governments and International agencies. Such matters must be fully incorporated in any future engineering project decisions and this factor alone demands closer scrutiny and renewed consideration of the flawed proposals for the A303 improvement scheme and its disastrous effect on our Stonehenge.

This is a matter of vital importance to the peoples of this United Kingdom. The position of Stonehenge as a National [and International] Treasure cannot be understated or under-mined. Stonehenge is of inestimable value.

The current A303 Road improvement scheme "improves" the road only. In doing so it damages the wonderful, irreplaceable treasure that is Stonehenge. The proposals must be re-examined independently and real value, not cost, should be the main criterion to follow for the elected representatives of the people of the United Kingdom. To allow this scheme in its present form to go ahead would be a tragedy and a disgrace to our country. The children of today and tomorrow deserve to have the opportunity to view and marvel at Stonehenge unsullied by a concrete gash through its very heart. Please re-examine the Development Consent order for all our sakes.

Yours sincerely,

James Stephen Garside

Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> 2022