

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: STONEHENGE ROAD SCHEME; RESPONSE TO THE REDETERMINATION OF STONEHENGE ROAD SCHEME AS REQUESTED BY THE TRANSPORT SECRETARY
Date: 04 April 2022 19:44:32
Importance: High

Dear Sir,

I set out my comments on the responses submitted by National Highways as a member of the public who has known and loved Stonehenge since childhood in the 1950s. My desire for the best outcome has been increased significantly by visiting the magnificent exhibition at the British Museum: The World of Stonehenge. I hope everyone who is involved in planning this road scheme will have visited this exhibition and reminded themselves, if necessary, of the significance of this historic site, and the nearby Greater and Lesser Cursus as well as the amazing Durrington Walls henge. I think every step should be taken to ensure that this vast historic area should be protected to the greatest possible extent. It is extraordinary that in this age when every country in the world is at long last awakening to the dangers of climate change and the need to reduce the use of fossil fuels this Government intends to proceed with the current road scheme. We should be reducing motor traffic and investigating other means of transporting individuals and goods etc by ways which will inflict less damage to the environment.

I have looked at the responses of National Highways and have read other commentary on these as well.

I wish to make the following comments:

1. I am very concerned about the World Heritage Committee decision made in 2021. I very much hope that this important status for Stonehenge will not be lost. It appears to me that National Highways has not made any changes to the Scheme notwithstanding the Committee Decision and I think this is a significant failure on the part of National Highways.
2. Similarly it is my opinion that not enough work has been done with the objective of causing less damage to the World Heritage Site and instead safeguarding and enhancing it for the benefit of future generations. By this I mean I would expect National Highways to have investigated ways of reducing road traffic and emissions (taking into account not only the archaeological artefacts but their being damaged by traffic emissions which emissions the Government has acknowledged do need to be reduced as a matter of urgency) and it is extremely unfortunate that these investigations have not been carried out.
3. Also arising out of this I am concerned by the failure of National Highways to fully assess alternative routes to the south west which would cause less damage to the World Heritage Site.
4. I am also greatly worried that National Highways has failed to respond to the finding of the Secretary of State that the impact of the Scheme would be “significantly adverse” on the proposed western cutting area and this together with my other comments makes me question the capacity of National Heritage to carry out a critical review and reassessment of its own proposal. Is it appropriate to proceed on the closed mind approach of National Heritage ?
5. In the current global economic situation the UK is facing significant increases in the cost of living. This emphasises even more to me the failure of National Highways to update not

only the construction costs of the existing scheme but also, in the light of our at long last acknowledging the dangerous position we are in regarding climate change, National Heritage's failure to update the carbon assessment and the connected costs.

In summary to me it seems that the responses of National Highways amount to a inadequate and lazy failure to take the opportunity to critically review and re-examine the proposal for the A303 in the vicinity of Stonehenge and I hope that the Secretary of State for Transport will recognize this. This country needs better quality reports from its national agencies. If the current scheme is given the go ahead the land will be irrevocably damaged. I hope this will not happen and that future generations may enjoy and learn more about the significance of Stonehenge and its environs.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs. Mariota Garside

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4th April 2022