

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme
Date: 31 March 2022 19:16:54

Secretary of State for Transport,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal concerns on the plans for the Western Tunnel entrance and cutting. It has come to my attention that the plans for the new A303 carriageway have not been reassessed and would be placing the world heritage site Stonehenge in the very precarious situation of being placed on the world heritage's in danger list. No changes have been made to the Scheme in order to take the 2021 World Heritage Committee's Decision into account in spite of the Secretary of State finding that the Scheme's impact on the proposed western cutting area would be "significantly adverse" on the surrounding areas. Construction at the site alone has the potential to irrevocably damage the area and any possible archaeological finds not just now, but in the future as well. Not to mention the increased exhaust from cars, trucks, and buses releasing chemicals such as nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide into the air. All of which are known causes of acid rain and would cause an increase to the acidity of the surrounding environment, posing further damages to Stonehenge over prolonged periods of time. The concern for climate change has increased, with the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report stating the need to take urgent action to REDUCE emissions, not increase them as any new Stonehenge road scheme would undoubtedly do. The Environment Act of 2021 sets new ambitions around nature recovery and the protection of these sites that should be taken into consideration.

There are in fact routes that would be less damaging to Stonehenge and its surrounding world heritage site that have neither been considered nor fully assessed by the National Highways. Such as a southern bypass route which would be cheaper, while a longer tunnel would reduce impact on the World Heritage Site as a whole. National highways has also not explored any alternatives to hard engineering solutions in the context of safeguarding and enhancing the World Heritage Site, nor have they offered any measures to reduce road traffic, road emissions or to improve access to the South West. All of which I feel is the responsibility of the state to propose alternatives to protect Stonehenge. While it is important for the future of a country to further improve the capacity for logistics and the transportation of goods and people, historical sites such as Stonehenge should not have to suffer due to these improvements. Any improvement is not truly an "improvement" if it also damages irreplaceable historical sites, landmarks and their surrounding environments in the process.

While I may be an American citizen and do not live in the UK, my own heritage goes right back to the UK and Scotland not too many generations ago. And so I strongly feel that Historical sites such as Stonehenge need to be PROTECTED at all costs. As these site's value are not simply in the dirt and stone which comprise them, but instead in the history for which they stand for. Sites such as Stonehenge are a symbol of our past, a past set in stone and one that deserves to be preserved for future generations to come. So much of the past has already been lost to time, let us not be the cause for more of that past to be lost but instead let us be it's caretakers and guardians. We should always strive to move forward, but we should not sacrifice our history in order to do so. So I implore you, let's work together to make changes to the proposed carriageway. Let's protect one of if not THE most famous landmark in the world that has stood for over five thousand years and lets make sure that it stands for thousands of years to come.

Thank you for your time,
Christopher Laws
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