

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme
Date: 04 April 2022 15:36:35

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

I am writing to comment on the redetermination of A303 Stonehenge road widening scheme. I believe there should be a re-examination of the Development Consent Order.

I was born in Dorset and lived there as a child and a young adult, and have visited this part of the south west of England over many years, including Salisbury. I am aware of the roads in the area and problems of congestion. I have been to Stonehenge as a child and with my children and also Avebury. Over the years I have become interested in archaeology and the history of the land and the people. This is an ancient and richly historic landscape where more and more exciting archaeology remains to be cautiously explored, and should not be damaged by ill-thought-through roadbuilding.

I am also deeply concerned about the climate change emergency and the decline of the natural world. Everyone in my family and all my friends are concerned about the future of nature and humanity on the planet. We need to drastically reduce carbon emissions, and also tackle the wider problem of chemical pollution affecting biodiversity and causing large scale extinctions and dying-off in the natural world. We cannot carry on regardless, it will not be business as usual in the future. Most people who drive cars, who live in or visit the area, are deeply concerned about reducing carbon dioxide emissions so we can avoid a climate catastrophe. The same people are equally concerned about the destruction of wildlife in the country. We must stop polluting the atmosphere, we must allow nature to recover, otherwise the destruction will have major impact on our lives. The costs of not acting will be immense.

My observation, driving past Stonehenge in busy times, is that traffic slows down significantly to look at the standing stones. The bottleneck clears after you are past, in both directions. So a simple solution would be a longer larger screen. No-one would love it, but it would be a cheap non-destructive partial solution to the local effect on traffic.

The proposed new road scheme for the A303 near Stonehenge would increase emissions of carbon dioxide. The government signed up to reduce carbon dioxide emissions last year, and in the long term we must reduce road traffic to reduce our impact on the planet. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report underlines the need to take urgent action to reduce emissions. Even if we are all using electric cars, the production of cars also produces carbon and other pollutants. We need good efficient public transport, and many of us would prefer that. Just today we hear that we are hosing CO2 into the atmosphere and must remove it as well as rapidly reducing emissions.

The best solution will be to do as little engineering work as possible. It does not appear that National Highways has given sufficient consideration to finding other less dramatic measures to reduce road traffic, emissions and improve access to the South West.

The Development Consent Order should be re-examined. National Highways has not made any changes to its scheme in the light of the 2021 World Heritage Committee Decision. National Highways has not acknowledged that the Secretary of State's finding that their scheme would be significantly adverse on the "western cutting area". National Highways has not fully examined alternative routes that would be less damaging to the World Heritage Site, Stonehenge and surrounding landscapes. National Highways has not reviewed or updated its estimates of the financial cost of its scheme, or the cost in carbon production. It is frankly careless and dishonest as well as ridiculous to apply for consent for exactly the same road scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Belinda Brett

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]