

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Redetermination of Stonehenge Road Scheme
Date: 04 April 2022 15:11:44

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a Trained Archaeologist and Professional Conservator about the proposed Stonehenge Road Scheme.

National Highways has not adjusted its original proposals in any dramatic way that would now make their proposals justifiable, let alone advisable.

The short bore tunnel would prove disastrous to the archaeological site - formally acknowledged by both the Secretary of State, and UNESCO's 2021 World Heritage Committee Decision.

Alternatives have not been fully assessed, largely it would seem due to financial concerns. If the main concern is really money based (which seems ridiculous given the globally unique nature of the Stonehenge site), not considering less damaging alternatives is very short sighted - think of all the money lost from tourism to the site when it loses its World Heritage status!

A longer tunnel to replace the A303 would actually allow the site to become whole again, the stone circle re-gaining its place in the historic landscape. This would lead to more profitable tourism - with a whole landscape to explore tourists would stay all day and leave with a better understanding of Stonehenge, rather than it being a quick coach drop-off site as it largely is at present. So, finances really shouldn't be the reason given to reject a longer tunnel.

Education should never be sidelined due to money concerns - schools would get much more out of their visits, and foster much greater appreciation for history in their students, if the whole landscape could be explored.

The environmental impact is also of great concern - maybe the focus shouldn't be on creating larger and larger roads, but on reducing traffic and emissions? Such alternatives have not been looked into at all by National Highways; surely this should have been the very first step taken? Especially with the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and the Environment Act 2021.

Other issues of concern that show lack of foresight are that construction costs and carbon assessments have not been updated by National Highways.

The "new" proposal by National Highways is basically the same discredited plan as before, thrown out by the High Court in July 2021, and should not be seriously considered at all.

Elizabeth McCormick

BA Archaeology, MA Principles of Conservation, MSc Conservation for Archaeology and Museums, all studied at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London