From:
To: A303 Stonehenge

Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme

Date: 04 April 2022 14:50:53

Dear Inspectors

Here is my idea for resolving the present dilemma that is reflected in the comments of major organisations such as the National Trust, as well as environmental groups.

Since the scheme was initiated and during the time that it has passed through various consultations, the world has changed. The main concern now is for climate change and the environment, not only the local ecology but the effect on our planet of carrying out major road works and excavations in terms of emissions. It is understood that the need for the road, or rather the route, itself is not going to go away--at least for the foreseeable future, although the need might decrease in time.

I have to agree with those who say that creating a 4-lane tunnel so close to the ancient site is fundamentally wrong in terms of landscape violation and environmental pollution.

I am very familiar with the A303. As a visitor to Stonehenge at various times, I have never been troubled by the proximity of the existing road to the ancient monument, and neither has my family or anyone that I know. And traffic jams are a nuisance, but not everything. However, everyone is concerned about the environmental damage that a 2-way tunnel system and/or dual carriageway would cause. (Incidentally, I campaigned for the A3 tunnel at Hindhead which cut through a hillside, was less controversial and was largely welcomed by local authorities and residents.)

To avoid the massive works involved in creating the proposed tunnel system, a less damaging solution might be to create a single-direction tunnel, east-west, while the existing A303 carries traffic in the opposite direction, west-east. That would greatly reduce the amount of engineering works and allied environmental pollution. That apart, it must be possible to devise less ambitious and less damaging schemes than the proposed tunnel system.

In these times of national financial stringency, Government expenditure should be reduced where possible so as to release funds for more urgent, human needs such as the NHS.

Yours sincerely

Celia Savage

