

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Stonehenge Redetermination
Date: 04 April 2022 14:49:43

Dear Secretary of State,

I have followed the Stonehenge road widening and tunnel scheme for some years: I write as someone who has driven past the site many times (having family in the West Country), walked there, taken part in some 'celebrations' more latterly allowed by English Heritage and who first visited Stonehenge in the 70s.

Having considered as much of the evidence as an ordinary citizen can, I was relieved when the scheme was turned down. I now think, following National Highways repeat submission, that the Development Consent Order should be re-examined before the Secretary of State reconsiders the Application. In the years since the practical arguments against the scheme have strengthened:

- the real threat of climate change has accelerated
- the need to re-think our reliance on fossil fuel has grown
- the need for us to reconnect with nature and our heritage has likewise grown and been underlined by the 2021 Environment Act
- and it needs no reminder that the public finances need more than usually careful husbanding

On that last point, I was very unimpressed by the earlier Highways England / National Highways costing, which is now out of date. They have not updated carbon assessments. UNESCO have stated their clear objections, which have not been answered. Perhaps they can be easily brushed off, but it's a reminder that this government is a custodian of our heritage, on our and future generations' behalf.

The proposed tunnel is significantly shorter than the Heritage site; the disruption from road building will go on for years; the loss of archeological wealth impossible to estimate; the 'benefits' fail on every calculation; and Stonehenge would become just another isolated and decontextualised tourist destination.

National Highways are not entirely to blame: their job is to build roads. But even if it 'made sense' in road building terms — it doesn't — it behoves the Secretary of State to take in the bigger picture and turn down the Application once and for all.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Moore

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