A303 Stonehenge Road Widening Scheme

I am concerned by the National Highways proposal for the A303 as it passes through the World Heritage site on the Wiltshire plain near Stonehenge. This landscape is saturated in unique prehistoric remains, which are currently only partially studied and understood. The planned tunnel would brutally cut through the geology and archaeology of the area. Of course, National Highways would have to allow excavations at the site before the tunnel was cut, but the archaeological integrity of the site (which is beyond compare) would be irretrievably damaged.

It is also astonishing that such an enormous civil engineering project is being considered at a time when scientists are warning in graphic terms about the climate crisis. Any roadbuilding scheme emits huge quantities of carbon, and a massive tunneling exercise would do so excessively. And are we not being encouraged to drive less, not more? There will need to be far fewer cars on all our roads, including the A303, if we are to attain net zero, so the project is unnecessary.

It goes without saying that the construction works would cause great harm to the biodiversity of the plain.

The initial decision, to reject the proposed tunnel, was the right one.

