To Grant Schapps, Secretary of State for Transport

Dear Grant Schapps

I am writing to strenuously object to the road-widening scheme that has been proposed by National Highways in relation to the A303, close to Stonehenge. I find it unconscionable that recommendations and warnings by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee appear to have been so summarily ignored and that if the current proposals go ahead, this astonishing and world-famous site could end up on the list of World Heritage in Danger. Anyone who has seen the brilliant Stonehenge exhibition, currently on view at the British Museum, cannot fail to be aware that even the current roadway has caused irreversible damage to the site. But that roadway is historic and was constructed at a time when such considerations were not given due value. Today we have no excuse. There are alternative schemes that should be seriously considered, such as the Southern by-pass or a longer tunnel.

In addition, as the threat to our environment, caused by climate change, becomes ever more apparent, any proposal that increases carbon emissions should be resisted. COP 26 was this Government's opportunity to lay out its agenda in the fight against climate change and, since then, it has shown its willingness to support alternative energy. But a scheme that would increase carbon emissions close to such a historic and irreplaceable site as Stonehenge, is counter to the message that I believe the Government wishes to convey. It is now more essential than ever that the natural environment is protected in a way that has not been given consideration before.

I understand that the impact of this National Highway's scheme has already been deemed to be "significantly adverse" by your department and I am, therefore, begging you to reject this outdated and unacceptable proposal and to protect a part of Britain's heritage that is irreplaceable.
Sincerely,
Andrea Kiernan