

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme
Date: 03 April 2022 19:16:42

To The Secretary of State for Transport

Dear Mr Shapps,

I am writing to you with regard to the redetermination, by the National Highways, who were asked by your department, for a new decision on the A303 Stonehenge Road Widening Scheme. They have now answered and you have asked for comments, on their submissions.

I think it important to state my concerns relating to their response as briefly as I can. The National Highways appear to have found nothing in the 2021 World Heritage Committee decision, in so far that there are no apparent changes to the scheme. They also do not refer to the Secretary of State's findings that the impact on the proposed western cutting, would be significantly worsened and perhaps more importantly, they have not assessed alternative routes proposed to them, which would be less damaging to this World Heritage Site.

I am, of course, referring to southern bypass route where admittedly there are some additional problems which need resolving but the longer tunnel approach would definitely reduce impact on the WH Site.

Surprisingly the National Highways have not explored alternatives to the hard engineering solutions by, for instance, reducing road traffic and improving access to the South West; they have not updated the scheme construction costs, nor updated the carbon assessment and its costs!

Please, also taking into account the current concern regarding climate change, the urgency to take action in reducing emissions and the necessity to take due regard of the Environment Act 2021 with its ambitions to ensure nature recovery, beg of you to re-examine the Development Consent Order.!

In my view, the omission on current cost estimates, UNESCO's position and new information since the Examination closed in October 2019, are compelling grounds for a re-examination by an independent panel BEFORE you redetermine an application for a DCO for the very same road scheme.

Sincerely

Martín Brent

National Highways has not:

- made any changes to the Scheme to take the 2021 World Heritage Committee **Decision** into account;

acknowledged that the Secretary of State found the Scheme's impact on the proposed western cutting area would be "**significantly adverse**";

- **fully assessed alternative routes less damaging to the World Heritage Site** e.g., a southern bypass route would be cheaper even if there might be some problems with it, while a longer tunnel would reduce impact on the World Heritage Site;
- **explored alternatives to hard engineering** solutions in the context of safeguarding and enhancing the World Heritage Site – e.g. a package of measures to reduce road traffic, road emissions and improve access to the South West;
- updated the scheme construction costs; nor
- updated the carbon assessment and costs.

Other changes since the Examination closed:

- concern for climate change has increased with the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and the need to take urgent action to reduce emissions, not increase them as any new Stonehenge road scheme would; and
- the Environment Act 2021 sets new ambitions around nature recovery.

Please ask for a re-examination of Development Consent Order

In our opinion the omission on current cost estimates, UNESCO's position and new information since the Examination closed in October 2019 are compelling grounds for a re-examination by an independent panel BEFORE the Secretary of State redetermines an application for a DCO for the very same road scheme.

Please email your responses by 4 April to:

A303Stonehenge@planninginspectorate.gov.uk, remembering to include your name and address.

THANK YOU for your help and continued support.