

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme
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A303 Stonehenge road and tunnel scheme

I would like to make the following comments with regard to the Secretary of State's re-determination of the National Highways scheme for the A303 in the area of Stonehenge.

As far as I can tell National Highways have made no change to the original application or offered any significant supplementary evidence that would counter the Planning Inspectorate's recommendation the application be refused on the grounds that the effect on the World Heritage Site would be 'significantly adverse' and 'irreversible'. UNESCO have also warned that Stonehenge would lose its WHS status if the scheme went ahead. So my opposition to the scheme remains the same, primarily for the reason that it would result in the loss of thousands of archaeological artefacts, particularly at the western end, that are key to our understanding of the prehistoric landscape surrounding Stonehenge. Evidence for this potential loss has been fully explained by Professor Mike Parker-Pearson a leading expert on the archaeology of the Stonehenge landscape.

Secondly, in the light of the agreed need for the UK to drastically reduce carbon emissions to meet our obligations to prevent global temperature rises, we should be looking for alternative solutions to massive road building schemes and should be aiming to reduce road traffic not encourage it. And solving the traffic jams on the A303 near Stonehenge would only push the problem further down the A303 to the west where there are other bottlenecks. The financial cost to achieve a 20-30 minute reduction in travel times would be huge and the price to pay in terms of environmental and heritage damage is way too high. We may have to accept some inconveniences when we travel and at least when we are going slow along the A303 we are able to view Stonehenge for free. If the tunnel were built, the only way of seeing Stonehenge at all would be by paying English Heritage for the privilege, currently about £20 for one person and £50 for a family. That's a lot of money for most people.

It would certainly be very welcome not to have a noisy major road cutting through and dividing the Stonehenge landscape as the A303 does now. But there could be much less damaging ways of linking up the areas north and south of the existing road perhaps with some well-designed pedestrian bridges over the road. Traffic noise should be much reduced in the future with electric vehicles and can also be mitigated with special road surfaces to reduce tyre noise.

Before the Secretary of State of Transport re-determines National Highways re-application for the same road scheme, it should be re-examined by an independent panel. The UK's reputation and record with regard to the protection of heritage would be severely damaged were the scheme to be approved. There is a lot at stake here.

Yours sincerely
Stella Maddock

