From:
To:
A303 Stoneheng

Subject: Redetermination of the A303 Stonehenge Road Scheme - response to request for comments

Date: 03 April 2022 17:49:44

FAO: A303 Stonehenge Case Team

Dear Mr Shapps,

Cc:

I am emailing in response to the request for comments on the Redetermination of the A303 Stonehenge Road Scheme application.

National Highways response continues to omit integral considerations on the matters specified in this redetermination:

- They have not included fully assessed alternative routes, such as a longer tunnel or a southern bypass, both of which have their own pros and cons but will create significantly less damage, and where ecological impact can be mitigated.
- They have not included options to reduce road traffic and emissions as an alternative or amendment to the scheme, despite the increasing urgency for environmentally protective policies on transport and the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.
- They have not updated the carbon assessment and costs.
- They have not made any changes to take UNESCO's July 2021 decision into account, which clearly states that the current scheme would have such 'deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, notably its integrity', as to put Stonehenge on the list of World Heritage in Danger.
- They have not made any changes, or acknowledged, that the Government's own Examining Authority concluded the impact of the scheme would be 'significantly adverse', and cause 'irreversible harm'.
- They have not even updated the scheme construction costs, which can be expected
 to have significantly increased, and will have increased again since their response, in
 light of recent economic changes.

This application cannot be allowed to continue. The benefits are relatively small and will be very short-lived, as we have seen in innumerable other such schemes. The irreversible damage to one of our greatest cultural, historical and scientific sites is an incomparable price to pay.

Please do not be the Government responsible for, in the words of your own Examining Authority: introducing a greater, irreversible physical change to the Stonehenge landscape than has occurred in its 6,000 years (5.7.225).

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Deacon

CC

Transport Secretary, The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP Culture Secretary, The Rt Hon Nadine Dorries MP