

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [A303 Stonehenge](#)  
**Subject:** Re-examination of Development Consent Order  
**Date:** 01 April 2022 18:34:14

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Sirs,

Following National Highways' response to matters raised by the Secretary of State for Transport regarding the Re-examination of the Stonehenge Development Scheme, I wish to express the following concerns.

National Highways has not:

- made any changes to the Scheme to account for the 2021 World Heritage decision.
- acknowledged that the Secretary of State found the Scheme's impact on the proposed archeologically sensitive western cutting area would be significantly adverse.
- fully assessed alternative routes such as a shorter southern bypass, which would be cheaper and less damaging to the World Heritage Site.
- explored alternatives to hard engineering solutions, such as a package of measures to reduce traffic, road emissions and improve access to the South West, without impacting the World Heritage Site so severely.
- updated the Scheme construction costs
- updated the carbon assessment and costs

It is also worth bearing in mind that since the original Examination closed, concern about climate change has increased as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report makes clear. There is an urgent need to reduce emissions, not increase them as any new Stonehenge road scheme undoubtedly would. Furthermore, the Environment Act 2021 has set new goals for nature recovery.

In conclusion, I ask for a thorough re-examination of Development Consent Order by an independent panel. The glaring omission of current cost estimates, UNESCO's position on this much-loved World Heritage Site and new information since the Examination closed in October 2019 are compelling grounds. This needs to be instigated before the Secretary of State redetermines an application for a DCO for the very same road scheme.

I would also add that in the light of the vastly unpopular, massively over- time and budget HS20 scheme, the Government would risk reputation and votes by a determination to rubber-stamp yet another costly and environmentally damaging venture. Stonehenge is an invaluable asset to the Nation, not only in terms of tourist revenue. Undermining this sensitive, iconic site would not only jeopardise its World Heritage Status, it would underestimate the emotions of the nation. Can any Government afford to do that now?

Yours sincerely,

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Victoria Bentley

