

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: A303 road scheme.
Date: 01 April 2022 19:24:23

Dear Sirs,

I have considerable experience and a fair understanding of Stonehenge site and have great concern about the proposed road scheme for the A303. I have previously written to object. It seems you have not changed your intention despite the very adverse reaction from international bodies, so, I write again to encourage you to do the right thing for the long term future.

I am now [REDACTED] but in my younger days and middle age regularly visited the site and learned about our ancestors and their ways. I used to cycle past the site regularly on my journeys between Surrey and Plymouth and often diverted to look at it. I have eaten my sandwich sitting on a Stonehenge stone and have walked the site at 5.00 in the morning with mist swirling about. I have explored the wider site, and like everyone else that does this was astounded by how far it extends, certainly beyond the adjacent roads.

I have taken many people to see it, including professional colleagues from other countries who were always greatly impressed - indeed, gobsmacked! Stand against the stones and you feel it.

There are three central factors about Stonehenge. First, it is absolutely unique in the world. Second, it extends well beyond the central site and the adjoining roads and third, there is still much to find out - as I am sure the archaeologists have told government.

It therefore beholds you to hold this place in trust for the world. I anticipate that if the proposed scheme goes ahead you will one day be branded as vandals.

I am sure you have many professional submissions giving you the detail but I just return to my central tenet. THIS SITE SHOULD BE PRESERVED FOR POSTERITY. Better, that you should actively seek alternative solutions that treat Stonehenge as the precious jewel it is, and seek to improve its setting and utility by removing roads and traffic from its environment.

Dream a little. A site 3 miles across with Stonehenge presented as it should be, completely free from modern intrusions so it is presented to visitors in all its glory. Visitor centres and hotels, etc on the periphery. There are plenty of examples of such special sites around the world that are treated like this. Stonehenge is a match for the Coliseum or the Acropolis both of which we have seen.

I am aware that alternatives such as southern or northern bypasses would be expensive and that you are probably strapped for money, but this is more important than that. For goodness sake tell ministers that something better must be done.

Yours sincerely,
Michael bowden, CEng, MIMechE.