From:
To: A303 Stonehenge

Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme

Date: 03 April 2022 11:40:38

Dear Mr Shapps

I am deeply concerned about the future of Stonehenge as a World Heritage site. I worry that the current plans for boring a tunnel under the site as part of the A303 improvement scheme will damage the archaeology and threaten the integrity and the 'Outstanding Universal Value' of the site (as defined by the World Heritage Committee). It cannot be beyond you and your officials to find a way of reducing the traffic problems on the A303 by improving the roads round the site rather than by putting Stonehenge's archaeology at risk. I suppose that money and local frustration with traffic congestion are doing much of the talking (and understandably so) but the decisions taken now will have such long-term consequences for our heritage that current short-term financial and political considerations will appear insignificant to the generations that succeed us if the Stonehenge site is irreversibly damaged.

What I find especially difficult to understand is why your department has ignored the advice of the World Heritage Committee. It warned in 2021 that unless appropriate changes are made to the Development Consent Order they will have little option but to put the Stonehenge site onto its List of World Heritage in Danger. I urge you, as Secretary of State for Transport, to take the World Heritage Committee's advice seriously and re-examine the Development Consent Order.

Yours sincerely

