

Dear Sirs

### **A303 Stonehenge**

I object to the proposed tunnel on the following grounds:

1. Long term versus short term

Stonehenge has existed for thousands of years, has World Heritage Status and is important for tourism whereas the age of the car is relatively recent and transitory with indications that self drive will result in fewer cars. Already there is less car ownership among the younger generation living in towns and cities where there is good public transport.

2. Climate Change

With climate change the need is to reduce carbon emissions and this can be achieved by having more public transport. In Japan where space is limited, people travel by train and their luggage is delivered separately to their destination. There is currently a shortage of car hire firms in Devon and Cornwall. Many holiday makers, and it is these that contribute mainly to congestion, would happily travel by train if they could hire a car at the other end. Increasingly young people in towns are not learning to drive. It is accepted that electric cars help to reduce carbon emissions, but they still use electricity and minerals and having too many would cause congestion.

3. Cost

The huge cost would not be money spent wisely in the circumstances.

- a) The Planning Inspectors turned down the proposal after a lengthy examination and this was overturned by the then Secretary of State. The reasons why the Planning Inspectors reached their decision still stand.
- b) A smaller amount of money could make major improvements to public transport and car hire.
- c) Members of the public are more conscious of the cost of petrol and more willing to need to adapt to meet the need to mitigate against climate change.
- d) I understand there are problems with the type of soil for making a tunnel and there could be major problems for archaeological areas if ground dries out.

In brief, there are alternatives that meet the increasing challenges brought by climate change, the cost is not justified and indeed it seems it would represent gross mis-spending at a time of inflation and a sharp rise in the cost of living. I ask for the proposal to be dismissed and funding used to improve public transport.

Charmian Spickernell, [REDACTED]