

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: STOP the A303 Stonehenge road widening scheme
Date: 02 April 2022 10:14:45

Dear Grant Shapps MP,

I write to you today to urge you - please ask for a re-examination of Development Consent Order for the A303 Stonehenge road widening scheme by National Highways. This scheme would cause untold environmental damage to an ancient British landmark and the surrounding countryside, and it cannot be allowed to go ahead.

I find it strange that your government claims to care a great deal about British heritage, but is still willing to entertain this road-widening scheme that would threaten the structural integrity of Stonehenge, an iconic prehistoric monument. A widened road would gauge deep cuttings into the archaeological landscape, threatening Stonehenge's status as a World Heritage Site. It has enormous historical and cultural significance and attracts more than 800,000 tourists to the Wiltshire countryside.

Speaking of the beautiful countryside, National Highways' proposal to widen the A303 would irrevocably damage the beautiful area where Stonehenge is located, which we frankly cannot afford to lose in 2022.

Last November, you asked National Highways to respond to five matters you wished to consider regarding this scheme - Alternatives, Policy, Carbon, Environmental Information, and Any Other Matters. In return, National Highways issued a notice on 24th February 2022.

However, National Highways has failed to do the following in their response to your concerns:

- made any changes to the Scheme to take the 2021 World Heritage Committee Decision into account;
- acknowledged that the Secretary of State found the Scheme's impact on the proposed western cutting area would be "significantly adverse";
- fully assessed alternative routes less damaging to the World Heritage Site e.g., a southern bypass route would be cheaper even if there might be some problems with it, while a longer tunnel would reduce impact on the World Heritage Site;
- explored alternatives to hard engineering solutions in the context of safeguarding and enhancing the World Heritage Site – e.g. a package of measures to reduce road traffic, road emissions and improve access to the South West;
- updated the scheme construction costs; nor
- updated the carbon assessment and costs.

Additionally, since the A303 scheme was first announced, concern over climate change has substantially increased with the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and the need to take urgent action to reduce emissions, not increase them as any new Stonehenge road scheme would. The UK's own Environment Act 2021 sets new ambitions around nature recovery, that are also ignored in National Highways responses.

Therefore, I ask you to please ask for a re-examination of the Development Consent Order. The omission on current cost estimates, UNESCO's position, and new information since the Examination closed in October 2019 are compelling grounds for a re-examination by an independent panel before the Secretary of State redetermines an application for a DCO

for the very same road scheme.

I ask you to protect British Heritage and revoke the Development Consent Order until National Highways have come up with an alternative that would not damage Stonehenge or the environment any further.

Thank you for your time.

Best wishes,
Kathryn Twelvetree