

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Stonehenge Road Widening Scheme comments
Date: 03 April 2022 00:10:58

There is something profoundly depressing upon being required to again submit comments on this scheme, having seen it quashed by the High Court but I wish to do what I can to try to preserve part of the nation's unique heritage.

National Highways has not made any changes to the scheme to take into account the World Heritage Committee decision that Stonehenge could be placed on the "in danger" list. That it could come to this would be a national disgrace.

National Highways has not acknowledged that the Secretary of State found the Scheme's impact on the proposed western cutting area would be "significantly adverse".

National Highways has not fully assessed the possibility of alternative, less damaging routes, e.g. the Southern Bypass would be cheaper, even if there were problems with this. Reduced impact could result from a longer tunnel.

National Highways has not explored alternatives to hard engineering solutions to safeguard & enhance the WHS, e.g. measures to reduce road traffic, improved access to the South West etc.

National Highways has not updated the scheme construction costs. This despite the UK having a long record of woeful under-estimations on schemes of public works, especially where transport is concerned.

National Highways has not updated the carbon assessment costs.

Recently there appeared an Intergovernmental Report on Climate Change, which made alarming assessments of where this world stands at present. Crucial to the crisis will be the largest concerted effort to reduce carbon emissions in global history. That's if it ever happens at all. National Highways is attempting to enact a Scheme that would actually increase emissions. This almost makes it seem that climate change has not been considered the priority that it must always be from now on.

The Environment Act 2021 set new ambitions for nature recovery. This country is one of the most nature depleted on the face of the Earth & so these aims are not out of place, or to be taken lightly. It is common knowledge that while we urge other countries to preserve their rare & exotic species, we have difficulty in safeguarding the future of our hedgehogs. This is largely because nature has never been a priority but the time has long past when it should be. More roads won't help. Lack of consideration will perpetuate current trend towards the complete destruction of nature.

I wish to ask for a re-examination of the Development Consent Order, in the light of current cost estimates, UNESCO's position & the accumulation of new information since the original examination closed in October 2019. I believe these provide compelling grounds for an Independent Panel to re-examine the issues before the Secretary of State redetermines an application for a DCO for the very same road scheme.

Yours Faithfully
Trevor Sykes