



To:  
The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Planning  
United Kingdom

Via email A303Stonehenge@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

**Submission on A303 Stonehenge: Request by Secretary of State for Transport for responses from Interested Parties to his Statement of Matters Letter (30.11.21) and to the responses of National Highways to his Statement of Matters.**

Berlin, 03. April 2022

World Heritage Watch is a non-profit organization registered in Berlin., Germany, coordinating a network of more than 200 civil society actors worldwide. We support UNESCO in obtaining information, principally from concerned members of civil society, about the situation of World Heritage sites. We help local communities to protect their sites and to derive an adequate benefit from them. We aim to support countries that cannot afford to maintain their properties satisfactorily and alert the public about threats to the common heritage of humanity.

The World Heritage Watch network aims to ensure that the world heritage is not sacrificed to political compromises and economic interests. Many of the people who work for the world heritage live near remote nature reserves or in developing countries. Others are excluded from meaningful decision-making. Often they do not have the possibility to make themselves heard.

### **The concerns of WH Watch in relation to the A303 Stonehenge Scheme redetermination**

We have been following the A303 Stonehenge scheme over some years with very deep concern. It is regrettable that the road proposal is now to be redetermined. This is in spite of:

- a High Court Judgment
- recommendation to refuse the scheme by the UK Government's planning inspectors
- recommendations of International UNESCO Advisory Admissions over recent years
- the decision of the World Heritage Committee to look for alternatives and
- the threat of losing the property's World Heritage designation.

In 2021, the World Heritage Committee warned that if the road scheme is agreed without being fundamentally amended, the World Heritage Site would be de-listed. After the delisting of Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City, the UK would be the first country to lose two World Heritage Sites.

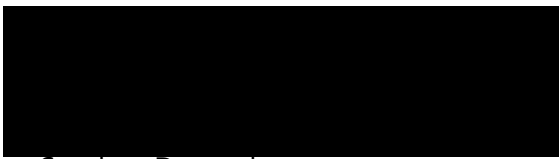


The shocking series of events listed above is viewed with astonishment and disbelief by members of World Heritage Watch, some of them struggling to ensure protection for their World Heritage Sites in situations of armed conflict, deep political unrest or lack of democracy.

Sharing Stonehenge as a common heritage of humankind, we demand that the UK Government will now aim to set the world a better example and make the preservation of the totality of the "Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites" World Heritage Property its highest priority .

Instead of redetermining the Stonehenge road scheme, consider a change of mind after the strong advice received from independent specialists, and your obligation under international law. We insist that an alternative will be found that will not damage the World Heritage Site and the reputation of the United Kingdom which accepted to take care of it on behalf of all humankind and for future generations by ratifying the World Heritage Convention.

Sincerely



Stephan Doempke  
Chair, World Heritage Watch

