

June 2022

**RE: Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010  
Re-determination of the Application by Highways England for an Order granting Development  
Consent for the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down (“A303 Stonehenge”)**

Dear Sir /Madam,

I wish to OBJECT to the plan in its present state for the following reasons:

The 1.25 million cubic metres of spoil from the tunnel construction site is proposed to be dumped on the outskirts of Winterbourne Stoke on “THE ROBERT WALES MEMORIAL RESERVE” (document attached red cross is the spoil dumping area) This will mean the height of the Winterbourne Stoke bypass being 10 metres higher than the last plan, which will create more noise to the village and have problems for the rural environment.

This is a government scheme being promoted by National Highway. Approx. 2 miles north of the tunnels western portal the government own 150 square miles of land which they let to the MOD this is where the spoil should be dumped National Highways told me when I suggested it, they had approached the MOD they refused to have it, so it needs pressure on the government to work on Circular 18/84 and exert its ownership.

Also, I believe there is going to be a massive construction site just across the road from the spoil dumping site, marked with a red ? on the attached document I have asked for details from National Highways (not yet received) to its size and status will construction workers be housed there in porta cabins? I hope not as the village of just 90 households with little amenities would be overwhelmed.

Looking at the Wiltshire Core Strategy Document and the saved policies from the Salisbury District Local Plan Policies C1 to C8 and C11, C16,C17, C18, C19 part of the RURAL and NATURAL ENVIRONMENT these policies should protect from this unwelcome scheme.

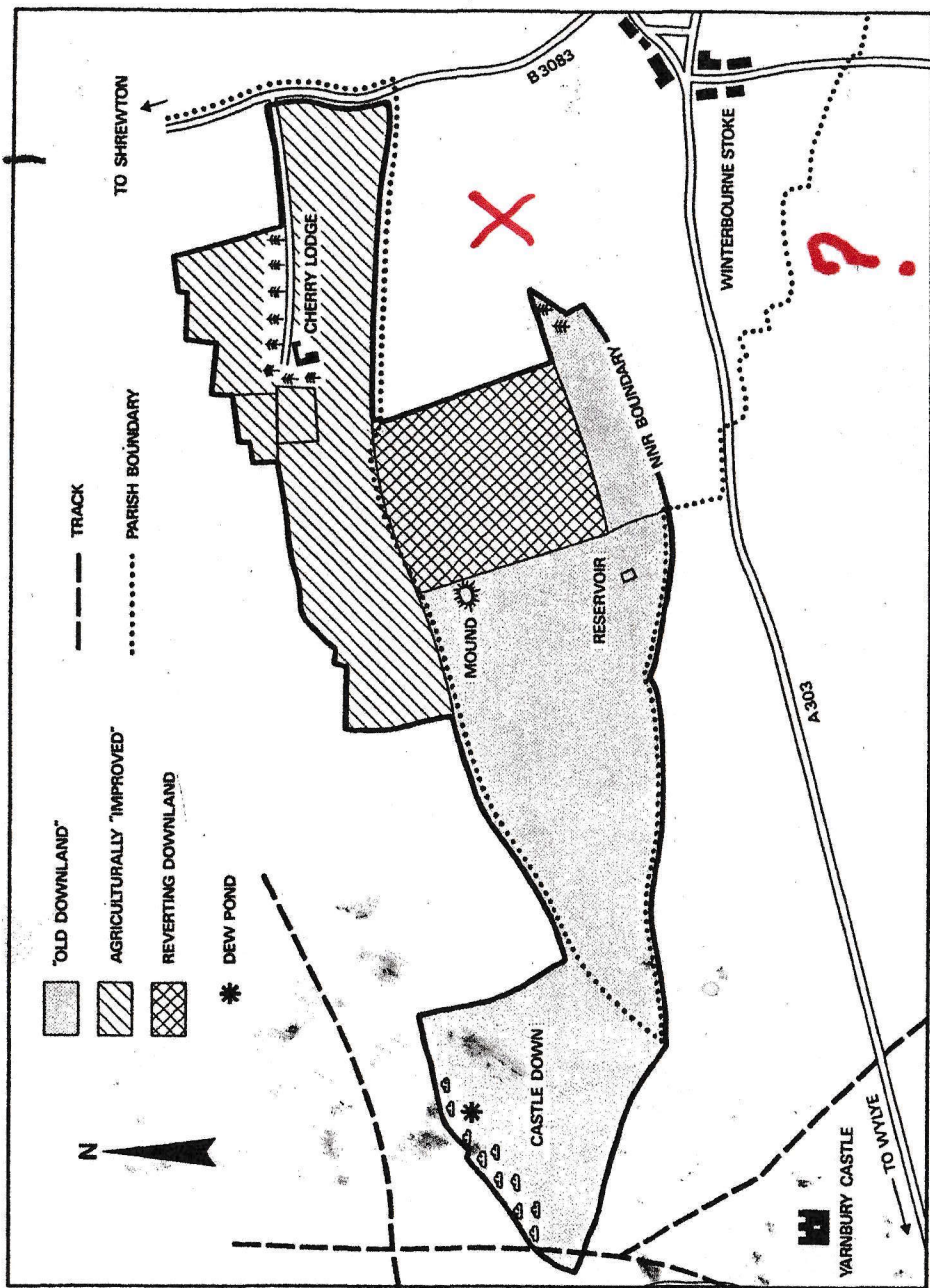
I am not a supporter of this present plan or the idea of a tunnel, your plan on the same subject 2004/25 was I believe approved, at that time I was an elected member of Wiltshire County Council and recognised the need for a solution mainly for a bypass of Winterbourne Stoke and the A303 to be dualled which would improve the quality of life for residents in Winterbourne Stoke, Shrewton and the surrounding villages. The 2004/05 gave Winterbourne Stoke an acceptable bypass much lower with no tunnel spoil in this area, the B3083 Shrewton Road had a bridge across the valley with the bypass running under it, near this point a bridge for farm traffic was provided for Manor Farm with the present By Way this would provide for all the farm equipment regardless of its height and safe route for pedestrians.

You have already been copied a Petition with over 1100 signatures which suggests a completely different solution it can be viewed at



Yours Sincerely

Ian West



# PARSONAGE DOWN

National Nature Reserve

## THE ROBERT WALES MEMORIAL RESERVE

Parsonage Down National Nature Reserve is situated on the southern side of Salisbury Plain between the villages of Shrewton and Winterbourne Stoke, and lies some 15 kilometres north-west of Salisbury. The reserve comprises 276 hectares, and was established to safeguard one of the most outstanding chalk downland sites in Britain.

Prior to the Nature Conservancy Council's acquisition, the land formed part of the 408 hectare Scotland Lodge Farm, which was farmed by Mr Robert Wales for 53 years, until his death in 1979. Under the terms of his will, Mr Wales granted to the NCC an option to buy the freehold of the farm at an advantageous price. Through the good offices of the Secretary of State for the Environment, money was advanced to the NCC so that finance was available to take up this offer. This money has now been repaid to Her Majesty's Treasury by selling off some of the improved agricultural land and the buildings at Scotland Lodge itself.

Wales Memorial Reserve, the NCC acknowledges that it was only through the endeavours and understanding of Mr Wales that the exceptional wealth of flora and fauna remained.

An unusual feature of the reserve is that much of the unimproved downland lies on flat or gently sloping ground, which could have been easily ploughed. Such sites have now all but disappeared due to changing agricultural practice, but here there has been a long history of non-intensive grazing by both beef cattle and sheep. As well as including some 147 hectares of species-rich unimproved old downland, the reserve also contains approximately 83 hectares of permanent pasture, which were last ploughed at various dates during the last 100 years. All these areas are grazed throughout the year by cattle and sheep hardy enough to winter outdoors. Except for the small breeding herd of longhorn cattle, the dominant characteristics come from Angus, British white, longhorn and Galloway breeds. The sheep flock has a significant proportion of Scotch half-breeds, with the remainder based on

By naming the reserve the Robert

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pure-bred or cross-bred Suffolk and Jacob sheep. The NCC will continue to manage this land by the mixed grazing of such hardy animals.

Over nearly all of the extensive area of downland there is a remarkably high diversity of plant species: typically, there are over 30 different species within a square metre, and up to 42 within such an area have been recorded. The commonest species on the downland are red fescue *Festuca rubra*, downy oat-grass *Helictotrichon pubescens*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*, and dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*. There are also many plants at Parsonage Down which have a restricted distribution in Britain, including some that are indicative of a long history of traditional grazing. Amongst the most noteworthy species are dwarf sedge *Carex humilis*, bastard-toadflax *Thesium humifusum*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, chalk milkwort *Polygala calcarea*, early gentian *Gentiana anglica*, field fleawort *Senecio integrifolius*, burnt orchid *Orchis ustulata*, green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*, frog orchid *Coeloglossum viride*, spiny restharrow *Ononis spinosa*, and dodder *Cuscuta epithymum*.

Some of the typical downland plants are now present in small quantities in the more recently ploughed pastures. For instance, salad burnet, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, and fairy flax *Linum catharticum* have been recorded in the 'Hundred Acres' field,

which was last ploughed in 1946. The regular grazing regime has prevented the establishment of significant areas of scrub, but at the west end of the reserve there is an area with hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, and gorse *Ulex europaeus*, and scattered plants of such species occur occasionally elsewhere. Close to this scrub a dew pond has recently been cleaned out.

The area of scrub and the woodland around the farm buildings are of particular value for birds. The birds breeding in these areas include yellowhammer, linnet and spotted flycatcher. Fewer species nest on the downland but there are breeding populations of grey partridge, lapwing and skylark. Birds wintering here and passing through on migration include golden plover, redwing, fieldfare and wheatear. Several species of mammal also visit or live on the reserve, amongst which are badger, fox, hare and wood mouse.

Over 20 species of butterfly have been recorded on the reserve. The caterpillars of many utilise one or more downland plants as their food supply, whilst the adults typically feed on the nectar of a wide range of flowers. Such species include marbled white *Melanargia galathea*, common blue *Polyommatus icarus*, and small copper *Lycaena phlaeas*. Only limited work has been undertaken on other invertebrate groups, but some uncommon spiders have been found.

There are also features of archaeological significance on the reserve. At the western end is a camp and extensive ranch boundary, with

the remains of a field system. Elsewhere there are strip lynchets, a bowl barrow, and possible Saxon field boundaries.

Permits are required to visit the reserve, and applicants should write to the Regional Officer at the address shown on the bottom of the back page.

The Nature Conservancy Council is the government body which promotes

nature conservation in Great Britain. It gives advice on nature conservation to government and all those whose activities affect our wildlife and wild places. It also selects, establishes and manages a series of National Nature Reserves. This work is based on detailed ecological research and survey. The Great Britain headquarters of the Nature Conservancy Council are at 19/20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY; the headquarters for England are at Calthorpe House, Calthorpe Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX16 8EX.