

On behalf of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre we are formally submitting the report of the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS / ICCROM Advisory Mission in April 2022 to view the impact of the current road and to reconsider the proposed scheme.

The report does not constitute the views of DCMS, this representation is solely for the purpose of ensuring that views of the Advisory Mission are taken into consideration by the Secretary of State.

We are grateful to the Advisory Mission for their time and consideration. We welcome the recognition from UNESCO of the valuable role of the Heritage Monitoring and Advisory Group, and the positive and detailed heritage-led work that has been undertaken to develop a scheme that will improve and protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site.

The UK Government cares passionately about the UK's heritage, our World Heritage Sites and Stonehenge. There have been more than 50 proposals to improve the road infrastructure around Stonehenge over the last 30 years. We welcome recognition in the report that the current A303 scheme is a result of methodical and detailed analysis of options to respond to a complex set of demands and needs including those of the communities and villages around the World Heritage Site.

The report makes a number of helpful recommendations, which we, as the State Party, will seek to address to the fullest extent that is reasonably practicable.

We support the proposed £1.7 billion A303 scheme and its investment into the UK's heritage, which will significantly improve the area around Stonehenge and remove the vast majority of the road from view, providing a positive impact on the World Heritage Site and the Outstanding Universal Value of the inscribed property.

DCMS

2 August 2022