

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Response to National Highways answers to questions from the SoS - response form Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society
Date: 30 July 2022 12:03:21

Response from the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

About the Society

- Founded in 1853 to “educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit”
- The Society runs the Wiltshire Museum which holds many important collections from the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site (WHS). The collection is Designated by Government as being of national significance
- We work in partnership with Salisbury Museum which acts as the archaeological repository for archaeological archives from the Stonehenge part of the WHS
- The Society commenced the purchase of land around Stonehenge to protect it in perpetuity. The land was later transferred to the National Trust
- The Society took an active role in commenting on previous schemes for the A303
- The Society supported the development of the Stonehenge Visitor Centre and the closure of the A344
- The Society has endorsed the 2015 Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Management Plan
- We responded to the Highways England consultation process and gave oral evidence at a DCO Issue Specific Hearing in June 2019. Our response to the Highways England consultation was agreed by our Board of Trustees and incorporated the results of a consultation with our 1,000 members.

General Principles

In commenting on previous schemes for the A303, the Society identified key principles that guided its response. These were that any scheme should:-

- Minimise damage to known or potential archaeological remains
- Minimise physical impact or visual intrusion on open landscape
- Maximise the efficient use of existing infrastructure
- Maximise the reversibility of any new works

Our evidence presented to the Public Inquiry in 2004 also highlighted that there were a number of issues that should be considered:-

- The possibility of one day uniting the Avenue in its full length from the River Avon to Stonehenge
- Reducing the severance of the northern and southern parts of the WHS
- Improving the setting of the barrow cemeteries in and around the WHS
- Improving access and circulation to key archaeological sites within the WHS landscape

Our Response

We believe that extending the tunnel, in particular to the Western section, would be of significant benefit to the OUV of the WHS.

We repeat our conclusion in our response to the 2018 DCO Consultation:-

We feel that the current Scheme will have a significant impact on the OUV of the WHS.

Our view remains that the tunnel should be extended beyond the boundaries of the WHS and we feel that it is especially important that the western tunnel portal is located outside the WHS. We do not endorse the current Scheme and our responses to the questions in the consultation are given with the aim of minimising its impact on the WHS.

David

David Dawson
Director
[Wiltshire Museum](#)

My standard hours are Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm - I respect diverse working patterns and appreciate the importance for everyone of a work-life balance. This means that I expect you to reply within your usual working/volunteering hours.



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