

From the Hon Secretary



24<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Ref 2001889

**Response from the Avebury Society to the Secretary of State's 14th September 2022 request for comments from all interested parties on the Report of the UNESCO Advisory Mission in April 2022 and the response of the Applicant to that report.**

The Avebury Society wishes to support the Recommendations of the latest Advisory Mission to Stonehenge which we consider National Highways has addressed unsatisfactorily in its response to the Mission's report with well-rehearsed and unconvincing arguments.

The Advisory Mission points out, as does the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, that the present A303 road scheme as it stands is not acceptable owing to the adverse impacts it would have on the WHS, its setting and its OUV. National Highways misunderstands the role of the World Heritage Committee since it can decide whether the World Heritage Site designation should be withdrawn owing to the serious threat the road scheme poses to the designated landscapes at Stonehenge and Avebury.

We fear not only the damage to the Avebury monuments that National Highways has now admitted would occur as a result of implementing the road scheme (see our previous consultation response of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022) but also, should the road scheme go ahead, the implications for future developments unconstrained by the WHS designation which has for nearly 40 years allowed Avebury to be considered a special place and treated with particular care for planning purposes.

We would also like to draw your attention to our request for publication on the A303 Stonehenge Planning Inspectorate website of our submission to the Secretary of State of 31 March 2022 sent by email on 1 April and acknowledged by Max Baldwin of the Infrastructure Planning Inspectorate on 4 April 2022. This submission has still not been published. Should you wish me to resend the submission, I would be glad to do so.



Susan J Rogers  
Hon Sec the Avebury Society