Dear Minister,

I remain very concerned about the future of our national treasure, Stonehenge - the monument itself and the crucial surrounding area. As the Advisory Mission says, the proposed scheme "would have an adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site (WHS) and that a southern bypass should be further explored". They go on to say that at the very least the western limit of the tunnel should be extended to the WHS boundary.

National Highways (NH) has just repeated many of the arguments it raised before, but the scheme is clearly unacceptable to the Government's independent specialist examiners, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, and the former Transport Secretary himself who agreed with the examining panel that the scheme would be "significantly adverse" overall.

The High Court judgment quashed the Development Consent Order partly because the Transport Secretary had not given proper consideration to alternatives.

NH's response does not address any of these concerns.

I would like to restate my strong opposition to the scheme which I hope will be abandoned.

If however you decide to go ahead with the scheme I hope it will be the subject of another public examination so that all the new information submitted by NH and other parties since 2020 can be fully considered and advised upon by the independent Planning Inspectorate.

Your support for efforts to protect the coastline around Druridge Bay demonstrate your understanding of the importance of safeguarding our heritage for future generations, and I do hope you will show the same wisdom in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Peter Croft

