

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Transport Secretary consulting on UNESCO Advisory Mission report
Date: 28 September 2022 17:02:00

Madam --

I agree wholeheartedly with the Mission's main finding that the scheme in its present form would have an adverse impact on the OUV of the WHS-- indeed in my view a disastrous, nullifying effect. Moreover I agree that the southern bypass option has not yet been fully explored so that should now be done without further delay.

For one thing, the proposed scheme would drive a bulldozer through the government's commitment to reducing its carbon emissions. Surely the need is to cut down the use of fossil fuels: we know that every road improvement tends to lead to more vehicle use. It would be more climate-friendly to improve rail access to the southwest.

The proposed tunnel portals in particular are very intrusive and would appear to be competing with the wholly distinguished ancient achievement of the Stones themselves -- and with other monuments in the vicinity. Not a desirable outcome in my view. The UNESCO Mission found that the minimum requirement would be for the western limit of the tunnel to be extended to the WHS boundary -- ie a longer tunnel is needed, if indeed the scheme goes ahead.

National Highways has not responded fully to objections, indeed has mostly repeated its previous arguments. It thus disregards the government's examiners and the UNESCO's WH Committee. Even the former Transport Secretary (Grant Shapps) had accepted the view that the scheme would be 'significantly adverse' to the WHS.

The High Court considered that the then Transport Secretary had not given full consideration to possible alternatives like the southern circuit. I hope the new Secretary would remedy that.

I continue to object to this destructive scheme whose realisation would give us a desperately bad reputation globally. Stonehenge should be with us for ever, the only soil disturbance being devoted to better understanding of this unique monument.

Cherry Lavell [REDACTED]