

We have seen this report. It changes nothing in respect of any of our previous objection to this appalling scheme. On the contrary it reinforces it.

It has become painfully obvious, even if entirely expected, that National Highways ploughs on with its scheme against all the economic, environmental and heritage evidence. It presents no arguments for countering the conclusions of the Examination in Public or the High Court. It presents no argument to gainsay the very clear concerns of UNESCO and ICOMOS.

This is the National Highways way, as always: evidence-free decision-making, elaborately contrived but fundamentally dishonest and baseless economic appraisal, airy dismissal of all environmental concerns, including especially the carbon consequences of its programme, vacuous and tendentious 'consultations' and the contemptuous assertion that it knows best.

Never mind that Britain will have the shameful reputation of losing another World Heritage designation, the most important prehistoric site in Europe. Carry on doing the bidding of climate change deniers, motor lobbyists and oil companies and keep yourselves in work by wrecking every last bit of the world that was worth keeping for those that come after us.

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