



Dear Madam,

25 September 2022

### **THE A303 STONEHENGE TUNNEL PROJECT**

I am writing to implore you to reconsider your decision to route the A303 through a tunnel to be constructed under the World Heritage Stonehenge Site.

As you know, UNESCO has serious misgivings about destroying a World Heritage Site, which your proposal would entail. Particular places of known historical value would be completely obliterated; the landscape would be completely altered; and future generations would be denied being able to see what should be kept for posterity. No-one knows what archaeologically important artifacts might be dug up in the process of building the tunnel and its associated roadworks. Even preliminary archaeological testing might not reveal precious features which should be preserved.

Previous decisions by Government have been against building this tunnel, or a similar Scheme. The Government's own independent examiners have rejected the Scheme. A previous Transport Secretary agreed with the examining panel that the Scheme would be 'significantly adverse' overall. A High Court judgement quashed the Development Control Order because the Transport Secretary had not given proper consideration to alternative schemes. It is difficult therefore to understand why you have come to your present decision.

Can you please explain why it is not possible to build an alternative route following the A338 (which could be straightened in the process) from its present junction with the A303 south-westwards from that junction, to south of MOD Boscombe Down. From there could it not go westwards passing High Post and Netton to the north, to cross the A360 near Redlynch Agricultural Engineering so as to then follow the railway line near Little Wishford towards Bapton, where it could re-join the present line of the A303?

Could you also please tell me the expected cost of the proposed Tunnel Scheme compared with the cost of the above-suggested alternative, in terms of 2030 projected costs?

I ask you, please, to call for another Public Inquiry into your proposed Scheme, so that full consideration may be given to it.

Yours sincerely

