

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [A303 Stonehenge](#)  
**Subject:** Response to Consultation on the A303 near Stonehenge  
**Date:** 26 September 2022 11:59:02

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Dear Sir/Madam

I am a British citizen resident in Wiltshire, with a strong interest in our local history, landscape and archaeology. I write to express my deep concern about the irrevocable damage which will be done to the World Heritage Site at and around Stonehenge by the proposed 'short' tunnel. It is simply, deeply wrong for this situation.

Current archaeology is constantly discovering major new finds in the local landscape around Stonehenge, to a considerable distance. The responsible, precautionary approach is clearly to place a blanket ban on ALL further development within a WIDE perimeter of several miles around the central site – including a ban on ANY surface works such as tunnel entrances/exits and cuttings within that area.

A 'long', purely underground tunneling should still be allowed – and indeed, progressed – provided it is sufficiently deep to avoid any disturbance to the upper levels where anything of archaeological interest might lie. This would allow the return of the local environs to a more natural condition, and enhance the traffic flow.

Why do I put forward this case? Here are my main reasons:

- Stonehenge is a unique and highly significant source of tourist income for the UK. For instance I have many contacts in the USA, and nearly everyone of them wishes to come and see Stonehenge at some point. It is a national asset which will always be valuable in bringing money and prestige to the UK – provided it is protected, maintained, and indeed improved.
- As noted above, current archaeology around Stonehenge is finding many 'new' related sites, which indicate the original activity locally was spread over a much larger area than previously understood. Many related locations are now becoming recognized as sites from which we can learn more about our heritage, and from which we can earn more through additional tourism. To create large scale, irreversible damage within this area of known inter-connected potential is vandalous, cheap-skate and extremely short sighted. It is not only against the interests of archaeology, but against those of the local and national communities and economies. We should instead be maximizing the potential of this wonderful and unique for both earning and learning.
- The recent calls to remove or vandalise sculptures of historic figures associated with slavery etc. have met with considerable resistance from some members of the governing party. How then will it look to the general public (both here and abroad) if this Government decides to vandalise Stonehenge for evermore? It makes the debate about sculptures pale into insignificance: it is one of the most important archaeological sites in the whole world. To damage something so unique, with so much future potential, for a relatively small and short term gain is quite monstrous, and to many people is quite self-evidently wrong.

- Stonehenge is much more than an archaeological site and a money-spinner. It is also one of our national icons, and is better known around the world than almost any other. A British Government that decides to despoil such a thing, just as its true extent and worth is being realized, is not likely to be loved for that act. A more patriotic act would be to ensure the preservation and protection of the wider site, to permanently remind people how Stonehenge – and Britain – have been centres for great endeavours for many long millenia, of which we can all be rightly proud.

I hope these thoughts are given very careful consideration. The future of part of the legend and essence of Britain is at stake. A much longer tunnel, and a much longer term solution, is the only responsible way forward.

Your faithfully –

Richard Hinxman