From:
To:
A303 Stonehenge

Subject: A38 roadwork proposals

Date: 26 September 2022 13:04:21

Dear Sirs.

Cc:

Re the latest version of the proposals for road works at Stonehenge.

I have written in detail before (copy of that letter below) but I understand from recent information that the authority is intent on pursuing what is effectively the original plan.

If this is so then you have completely ignored all the very pertinent facts about destruction of archeology, and, worse in my book, the destruction of atmosphere at an absolutely unique world site.

This decision puts you in the category of philistines of the worst order, and all for a few shekels of public money.

It is my firm conviction that our country should do all it can to preserve and enhance Stonehenge and its environs for the nation, for the world, and for public pleasure and education. I am sure that if you proceed future generations will not look on you kindly.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Bowden.



There is only one Stonehenge in the world. It is unique. Unesco has threatened to derate it if the A303 road scheme for a tunnel goes ahead.

Have no doubt that the Government will be seen as vandals if the scheme goes ahead.

Records of our ancestors are buried, waiting to be found, within a circle of approximately 2 miles radius. The tunnel and road would plough straight through them and continue to damage the ambience of Stonehenge itself.

I fully support the objections of the Stonehenge Alliance to the scheme, and this support is based on personal knowledge. I note that their objections raise serious technical questions as well as moral ones.

I am 88, so old enough to remember Stonehenge when it was quiet and you could walk among the stones and touch them. In my youth I regularly cycled past Stonehenge, and sometimes called in and sat on a stone for a snack. I did this at all times of the day and at quiet times, especially with a mist, it was easy to imagine ancient ceremonies being carried out. An ambience no longer available to todays visitors.

Over the years I have walked the site, including The Cursus and The Avenue, as well as much to the south and west.

There is no doubt that the A303 has become more and more intrusive on the site and I can see that something needs to be done, but this scheme will not stop the intrusion. For that the road needs to be moved away. Stonehenge needs no traffic within a mile, preferably two. I do not know the solution, but I am sure experts can design one. A loop road well to the North or South perhaps. I guess it comes down to money and in my view the country should bite the bullet and put showing off Stonehenge to its best advantage first, thus preserving our history and our international reputation.