Sirs

I am alarmed that the tunnel has just been included in the Growth Plan mini budget and totally object to the proposal. We should be preserving our heritage not building underneath it and ruining the WHS for us and future generations.

In response to the call for comments by 28 September 2022 I write as follows;

I have read the report of the Advisory Missionand agree with its principal finding, i.e. that the scheme would have an adverse impact on the OUV of the WHS and that a southern bypass should be further explored.

– The Mission admitted that at the very least the western limit of the tunnel should be extended to the WHS boundary.

– National Highways has simply reiterated many of the arguments it has raised previously to justify a scheme which is clearly unacceptable to:

- Government's independent specialist examiners,
- UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, and
- the former Transport Secretary himself who agreed with the examining panel that the scheme would be "significantly adverse" overall.

– The High Court judgment quashed the DCO in part because the Transport Secretary had not given proper consideration to alternatives.

– National Highways' response fails to alleviate any of the above concerns.

– I continue to object to the proposals and hope that the scheme will be abandoned.

– Should the Transport Secretary intend to proceed with the scheme, I trust that it will be subject of another formal public Examination so that all of the new information submitted by National Highways and others since 2020 may be fully and openly discussed, and taken into account and advised upon by the Government's independent Planning Inspectorate.

Sarah Raper

