

Stonehenge Alliance News Release

For Immediate Release, Monday 13 October 2014

Short sighted tunnel vision grips road planners

The Stonehenge Alliance [1] has written to the Secretary of State for Transport [2] to express its concern at the short tunnel options [3] being considered for Stonehenge as part of a wider plan to upgrade the A303 [4]. It is urging the Secretary of State to investigate the option of a 4.5km tunnel which would avoid significant damage being inflicted on the World Heritage Site.

Recent archaeological investigations, as shown on the BBC mini-series Operation Stonehenge, have discovered a raft of new associated sites in the wider Stonehenge area. This highlights that we still don't know everything that is out there.

George McDonic, Chairman of the Stonehenge Alliance said:

“The current proposals for a 2.5 – 2.9km tunnel below Stonehenge might sound long enough, but they would still result in significant harm being done to the World Heritage Site. We are urging the Secretary of State to get this right and to protect Britain's iconic heritage site.

“A 4.5km tunnel might cost more but what price can you place on a landscape that means so much to so many people? This is part of our history, our past and our culture. Once damaged, it will be spoilt forever.”

Ends

Notes to editors:

[1] The Stonehenge Alliance is a group of non-Government organisations and individuals originally formed in 2001 which maintains a watch over any major new development that would adversely impact on the World Heritage Site. It includes: Ancient Sacred Landscape Network, Campaign for Better Transport, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Friends of the Earth, and RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust

[2] The text of the letter may be seen at <http://heritageaction.wordpress.com/2014/10/06/stonehenge-the-short-tunnel-is-back/>

[3] The Department for Transport is currently investigating putting the A303 in a tunnel of between 2.5 and 2.9km past Stonehenge.

[4] This study of a tunnel at Stonehenge is part of a wider corridor feasibility study looking at the A303 / A30 / A358 to the South-West. It is one of six long-standing areas around the country suffering from traffic issues that the Government is trying to address by building new roads.