



Department  
for Culture  
Media & Sport

Our Ref: 293121

Ministerial Support Team  
4th Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

T: 020 7211 6000  
E: enquiries@culture.gov.uk

[www.gov.uk/dcms](http://www.gov.uk/dcms)

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Dear Ms Fielden,

Thank you for your correspondence of 28 October to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, about Stonehenge and the A303. I am replying as a member of the Ministerial Support Team.

As you will be aware, a joint World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS advisory mission to Stonehenge WHS took place in Autumn 2015, which led to the production of the mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/373/documents/>. Since its publication, we have been working closely with Historic England, National Trust, Highways England and Wiltshire Council to address the recommendations made in this report, and in January 2017 we will host a further advisory mission to allow us to demonstrate to the World Heritage Centre the measures taken and progress made to this end. None of the previous mission's recommendations suggest that the World Heritage Site status is at risk, and UNESCO have welcomed the collaborative upstream process that has taken place to date. The Government remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under the World Heritage Convention, and we believe that the creation of a tunnel that would reunite the ancient landscape of Stonehenge WHS would be a welcome enhancement to the site.

As part of A303 programme in which the tunnel scheme sits, Highways England will undertake extensive consultation with all interested parties and stakeholders, commencing in Spring 2017. You will therefore have the opportunity to input directly into this process, including highlighting your concerns regarding the justification for the tunnel scheme.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Pointon  
Ministerial Support Team

