

[Copy email to Kate Fielden, Hon Secretary to the Stonehenge Alliance, from Andrew Alcorn, of Highways England, dated 1 December 2016]

Hi Kate

Thank you for your email that attached a letter from your Chairman, George McDonic. May I apologise for not replying sooner.

I will respond to the questions from your Chairman in the order of his letter.

1. In developing our proposals to take to public consultation in the New Year, Highways England has considered compliance with National Networks National Policy Statement (NNNPS) by undertaking an options assessment. Our methodology for assessing these options will be included in the information presented at the public consultation.
2. We look to reconcile the Government's obligations under Article 4 of the World Heritage Convention by completing an assessment of the impacts in line with ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessment (HIAs) for assessing impacts on Outstanding Universal Value. It is worth noting the views of the Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS within their Advisory Mission Report of their 27-30 October 2015 visit where they state that "The upgrade of the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down through the Stonehenge World Heritage property by relocating the existing road underground into a "tunnel of at least 2.9km" could readily adopt appropriate, well-established construction methods. Hence, with good design and construction controls, the tunnelled length of road would be expected to have a beneficial impact on the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)."
3. The latest Advisory Mission Report from the Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS is from their 27-30 October 2015 visit and is available via their website, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/373/documents/>. In presenting our proposals for public consultation in the New Year we will also be seeking the views of ICOMOS/UNESCO.
4. Highways England welcomed the engagement with ICOMOS and UNESCO and also welcomed the recommendation they made in their Advisory Mission Report referred to above. We are carefully considering these recommendations in the development of our proposals for public consultation in the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Regards

Andrew

Andrew Alcorn

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