

STONEHENGE ALLIANCE PRESS RELEASE

Embargo: 01:00, Monday 6th February 2017

TIME TEAM STAR TONY ROBINSON JOINS STONEHENGE PROTEST

*** PHOTO OPPORTUNITY ***

Time Team presenter Tony Robinson and members of Stonehenge Alliance with banners outside Society of Antiquaries

WHEN: 3:00 – 3:30pm, Monday 6 February

WHERE: Outside Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BE

“Time Team” presenter Tony Robinson will add his voice to the growing outcry against UK government road building plans for the Stonehenge World Heritage Site (WHS)

Tony will join author and historian Tom Holland and members of the Stonehenge Alliance [1] at the Society of Antiquaries at Burlington House, London on Monday 6th February at 3.00 pm.

Highways England is holding an event at the Society as part of their 7 week consultation into the Stonehenge proposals [2].

The Stonehenge Alliance is calling for the consultation to be scrapped and re-run because Highways England is offering only two options. Both options would inflict severe damage on the WHS, contrary to UK planning law and the World Heritage Convention.

Tony Robinson said:

“The primary criterion if road widening or tunnel building are required, must be that no further damage is done to this very special landscape.”

Tom Holland said:

“The Stonehenge landscape, which is precious both for what we know and what we are yet to discover, is a millennia-old legacy to us. Do not let us be the generation that vandalises it irreparably.”

Kate Fielden of the Stonehenge Alliance said:

“We want a genuine consultation with real choice. Both of Highways England’s ‘options’ involve huge and damaging new road works gouged into our most important ancient landscape. Also, a 7 week consultation is far too short for this world-renowned site.”

ENDS

NOTES

[1] The Stonehenge Alliance is supported by: Ancient Sacred Landscape Network, Campaign for Better Transport, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Friends of the Earth, and RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust. <http://stonehengealliance.org.uk/our-campaign/about-us/>

The Alliance does not advocate new road building at Stonehenge and wants to see other options to manage and reduce traffic to be fully explored in the first instance. Its position is that there should be no further damage to the World Heritage Site.

[2] The consultation event on the A303 (Amesbury to Berwick Down) at the Society of Antiquaries starts at 2pm and ends at 8pm. It is the only event being held outside the local area, despite this site being of international importance

POTENTIAL STRIKE ACTION ON LONDON UNDERGROUND

At the time of writing we are aware that there is the potential for widespread travel disruption in central London on Monday 6th February due to planned industrial action by RMT. All Zone 1 underground stations are expected to close if the action goes ahead as planned.

As Highways England plan no other London events for their consultation, the Stonehenge Alliance protest will go ahead as scheduled. If attending, please be aware that you will need to allow extra time for journeys within London.