

UNESCO's Stonehenge views rebuffed

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The Government seems likely to ignore UNESCO's call for a rethink on plans to place the A303 in a 1.8-mile tunnel in the vicinity of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site.

In June UNESCO said the proposals were inadequate and the Government should consider either lengthening the tunnel or building a surface bypass further south (LTT 07 Jul).

Asked if the criticism was likely to prompt a rethink, Highways England chief executive Jim O'Sullivan told LTT: "I don't think so, I mean we have the support of the major stakeholders.

"A lot of people feel that this [our plans] safeguard that monument and make it much better than it is at the moment.

"When you look at the people who are in favour of us doing something they are the people who live somewhere on that corridor and they know the situation is desperate.

"When you look at the people who object they are, like UNESCO, from all over the world. The fact that somebody living on the Orkneys has an opinion but it's somebody else's problem is something we have to weigh-up in the consultation."