

Please reply to

Friends of the Earth SW
Wayside Farm, Etchilhampton
Devizes, Wiltshire
SN10 3JT

23 April 2018

By Email
Highways England

Dear Madam or Sir,

Response to A303 Stonehenge consultation

Friends of the Earth and FOE South West are members of the Stonehenge Alliance. We fully endorse their response [dated 16 April 2018](#). We wish to reiterate the points we made in our response to your informal consultation last year, attached [here](#) for ease of reference.

In addition we wish to make the following additional points:

Biodiversity

- We share the RSPB's grounds for reiterating their objection since the proposal continues to directly impact on the habitat of the Stone Curlews. Reference [here](#). The work by the RSPB on the Salisbury Plain Special Protection Area should be properly safeguarded.
- We are alarmed to learn of the dramatic decline of water quality along stretches of the River Avon in the last three years. Development from housing, increased traffic and road building in the immediate vicinity will add to the polluting pressures already suffered. Please see the letter from Salisbury and District Angling Club and Salmon and Trout Conservation UK to the Environment Agency copied to DEFRA [here](#) requesting urgent action in response to the crisis.
- We are dismayed that a report from the Environment Agency was not available in time to inform this consultation on the impacts of the road and tunnel scheme on the River Avon as well as the River Till by Winterbourne Stoke.

Air quality

Air quality and pollution is a priority area for Friends of the Earth. However we note that in the Preliminary EIR you state in 5.3.1 "The detailed air quality assessment in the EIA and ES 5.3.1 will be based on detailed traffic modelling data which is currently being prepared....."

You go on to conclude in 5.8.24 that there is "no risk of non-compliance with the EU Air Quality Directive". We trust that the compliance risk assessment for the Environmental Statement will be in compliance with the most up to date assumptions using the most up to date information.

To consult on a scheme without adequate information is, we conclude, most concerning and premature. We echo the concerns by Stonehenge Alliance about the serious lack of information that should have been made available at the outset of a consultation for a major infrastructure project within this country's most important cultural landscape.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Freeman
Stonehenge Campaigner