

WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add. **Item 32: Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 373bis)
<https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2018/whc18-42com-7BAdd-en.pdf>, pp.35–38.

Statement from the Stonehenge Alliance¹

The [Stonehenge Alliance](#) is a group of five independent NGOs. We are working together for civil society worldwide, to raise awareness of the severe threat to the Stonehenge landscape from the A303 road-widening scheme. Our supporter organisations have many thousands of members and our petition to safeguard the World Heritage Site has 38,000 signatures from over 100 countries.

Although unable to attend as observers today, we are grateful to the Committee for the opportunity to address you via Stephan Dömpke of World Heritage Watch.

We understand that proposed amendments to the Draft Decision by Spain have been circulated. These changes would significantly weaken the wording of the original Draft Decision, so that it would no longer correspond with the advice given by the 2018 Advisory Mission to Stonehenge; nor with the World Heritage Centre's Report to your Committee: specialist advice we strongly support.

The amendments ask for changes in tunnel design rather than tunnel length. But it is the tunnel length that is crucial in protecting the World Heritage Site and its OUV, since both western and eastern dual carriageway cuttings for the tunnel would seriously damage the Stonehenge landscape.

¹ *The Stonehenge Alliance* (<http://stonehengealliance.org.uk/>) 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.

Last year, the Committee urged the UK Government to seek options that would not damage the Site's OUV. That advice is endorsed by the recent Advisory Mission and is also in the original wording of the Draft Decision.

We commend that advice and urge you not to accept the proposed amendments by Spain in their present form. We believe the State Party should be advised not to proceed with the current length of tunnel and to explore other options which would not damage the property and its OUV.

Kate Fielden, Hon. Secretary to the Stonehenge Alliance

Kate Freeman, Friends of the Earth South West Representative