

PRESS STATEMENT
by
THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE [1]

THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2018

**Expressway threat mars centenary celebrations of Stonehenge
donation: Leading archaeologist speaks out**

Today (26 October 2018) is the centenary of the gift of Stonehenge to the nation by Sir Cecil and Lady Chubb, an occasion marked this weekend by English Heritage with a specially commissioned tea party designed by Turner prize winning artist, Jeremy Deller. Deller's installation chosen for this occasion, an almost life-size inflatable Stonehenge, could not have been more aptly named: **Sacrilege!**

A joyous public celebration for some, but for thousands of others it marks impending sacrilege. Highways England has applied to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order to build the A303 tunnel and Expressway across the nation's most famous World Heritage Site (WHS).[2] All pleas to afford the WHS the respect it deserves have been disregarded.

Among those who has condemned the scheme is distinguished archaeologist, **Professor Mike Parker Pearson, leading authority on the British Neolithic**. He explains in a video specially produced for the Stonehenge Alliance why he opposes the A303 tunnel scheme and the legacy it would leave future generations. [3]

Professor Parker Pearson says

“[The Stonehenge World Heritage Site] is one of the few places, not just in Britain, but in the World, where you can see a special, sacred landscape developed over thousands of years. A landscape that is unique in World terms, and really should be protected in perpetuity.”

To tunnel beneath part of the WHS and gouge huge cuttings through archaeologically sensitive ground for a 4-lane Expressway is a disastrous decision by Government. The Stonehenge Alliance, with other organisations, specialists and thousands of individuals from around the world, are challenging the Government to withdraw the scheme and find a solution to the A303 that would protect the WHS surroundings of Stonehenge and properly respect the gift of the Stones to the nation. [4]

NOTES AND LINKS

[1] The Stonehenge Alliance is supported by: Ancient Sacred Landscape Network; Campaign for Better Transport; Campaign to Protect Rural England; Friends of the Earth; RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust and many concerned individuals in the UK and abroad.
<http://stonehengealliance.org.uk/>.

[2] The A303 Stonehenge application was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by Highways England on 19 October <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-stonehenge/?ipcsection=overview>

[3] **Link to video clip** (1:09) here <https://youtu.be/yT7NR5YfRZg>
Full video (5:21) here <https://youtu.be/qLGBBTt1JnI>

[4] Please see Stonehenge Alliance petition here: <http://stonehengealliance.org.uk/our-campaign/petition/>