

PRESS STATEMENT
by
THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE [1]

19 October 2018

**Highways England determined to wreck Stonehenge
World Heritage Site**

The Stonehenge Alliance is appalled that Highways England has applied for a Development Consent Order for the A303 Expressway and tunnel at Stonehenge, regardless of international advice [2] and widespread condemnation of the scheme. [3] The road widening would cause major harm to the internationally famous UNESCO Stonehenge World Heritage Site. [4]

The scheme involves about a mile of deep cuttings gouged through the landscape to accommodate new dual carriageways leading to twin portals of a 1.8-mile road tunnel. To the east, a flyover would descend beside the renowned Mesolithic site of Blick Mead. To the west, a major underpass and interchange would be constructed close to a magnificent group of upstanding prehistoric burial monuments. The road would destroy archaeology and deeply scar this iconic landscape and its setting forever.

Kate Fielden, Vice Chairman of Rescue and Hon. Secretary to the Stonehenge Alliance, says:

“Thousands of people who have objected to the A303 proposals and want to see no further damage to the World Heritage Site have been ignored.

In this centenary year of the gift of Stonehenge to the nation [5] Government appears determined to break its international agreement to protect the World Heritage Site. [6] If this scheme goes ahead UNESCO could withdraw the World Heritage Designation: a prospect that brings shame upon our nation and those who should be the guardians of our heritage.”

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; RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust and many concerned individuals in the UK and abroad.
<http://stonehengealliance.org.uk/>.

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[2] UNESCO World Heritage Committee Decision, July 2018:

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7261>

[3] Highways England has held three consultations on its Expressway through the Stonehenge World Heritage Site, each resulting in well over 50% outright objections to the scheme. See Stonehenge Alliance's A303 Stonehenge Briefing at <http://stonehengealliance.org.uk/mp-briefing/>.

[4] See Map produced by Stonehenge Alliance: <http://stonehengealliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/92AE0439-B8F5-4B42-B337-A7DBFBEBE903.jpeg>.

[5] Stonehenge was given to the nation by Sir Cecil and Lady Chubb in October 1918. Many acres of land around the henge were purchased by public subscription in the 1920s and vested in the National Trust for safekeeping.

[6] 1972 World Heritage Convention, especially Article 4:

<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/convention-en.pdf>.