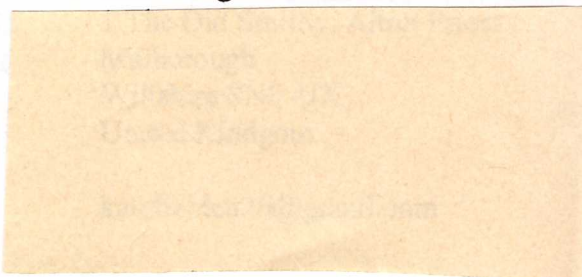




EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENVIRONMENT
Directorate E - Implementation & Support to Member States
ENV.E.3 - Environmental Enforcement
Head of Unit

Brussels, 03. 09. 2019
ENV.E.3/JLL/em/CHAP(2019)00169

Kate Fielden
Stenehenge Alliance



Dear Ms Fielden,

Subject: CHAP (2019) 00169 complaint concerning a proposed development of A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down road scheme across the Stonehenge World Heritage Site

Thank you for your complaint, which you have addressed to the EU Commission by letter of 17 January 2019 ref. CHAP(2019)00169 and supplemented it by an email submission of 12 March 2019. In this complaint, you raise concerns about the proposed development of the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down road scheme across the Stonehenge World Heritage Site by way of a tunnel. According to you, the proposed development is in breach of a number of international conventions and EU Directives, such as the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU), the Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (2001/42/EC).

The Commission has assessed your complaint. As it follows from the information provided by you and confirmed by the information published on the webpage managed by the UK Government's Planning Inspectorate¹, the project in question still appears to be under consideration. According to the publicly available information, the project in question is in the examination stage. As the Planning Inspectorate explains on the above-mentioned webpage:

“The Planning Inspectorate has up to six months to carry out the examination. During this stage Interested Parties who have registered by making a Relevant Representation

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-stonehenge/?ipcsection=overview>

are invited to provide more details of their views in writing. Careful consideration is given by the Examining Authority to all the important and relevant matters including the representations of all Interested Parties, any supporting evidence submitted and answers provided to the Examining Authority's questions set out in writing or posed at hearings." Therefore, as the public consultation stage appears still to be on-going, the Commission would invite you to raise and discuss the issues set out in the complaint with the competent authorities.

Considering that the application for the development consent in question is currently still being examined by the national authorities and that the final decision still has not been taken, it is premature to assume that the decision undertaken will breach EU law. Therefore, I will propose to close the investigation of your complaint. Should you have any comments on this proposed course of action, I would need to receive these within one month of your receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

A rectangular area of the document is redacted with a solid orange color, obscuring the signature of Paul Speight.

Paul SPEIGHT