

STONEHENGE ALLIANCE PRESS RELEASE

Friday 13 March

"Grotesque act of desecration" at Stonehenge moves one step closer - but [is it a done deal?](#)

Budget reaction from Stonehenge Alliance (note 1)

Rishi Sunak's budget announcement of £27 billion for road building stops short of a final commitment to build the A303 Stonehenge Tunnel.

Stonehenge Alliance president Tom Holland describes the proposal for widening the road through Stonehenge World Heritage Site as:

"... the most grotesque act of desecration ever contemplated by a British government: the driving of a great gash of concrete and tarmac through our most significant, our most sacred prehistoric landscape." [2]

However the road has yet to be given the official go-ahead. Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps, has to consider the recommendations from last year's Examination of the scheme and come to a reasoned decision to proceed with the project.

There are major obstacles to his doing so that include:

- The poor economic case for the road which would cost far more to build than it would ever recoup in economic benefit
- The risk of tunnelling in unstable phosphatic chalk, which could send costs skywards
- International opposition from UNESCO who have stated that the scheme should not proceed in its current form. A go-ahead would put the government on a collision course with its international treaty obligations.

ENDS

(1) The Stonehenge Alliance is supported by: Ancient Sacred Landscape Network, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Friends of the Earth, Rescue: The British Archaeological Trust, and Transport Action Network.

(2) Please see our blog <http://stonehengealliance.org.uk/act-of-desecration-by-british-government/>