

THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE

Chairman, George McDonic, MBE, BL, DIPLTP, DPA, FFB

From the Hon Secretary, Dr.Kate Fielden

The Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson, MP, Prime Minister
and the Secretaries of State for Transport and Digital, Culture Media and Sport
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

19 February 2020

Dear Prime Minister and Secretaries of State,

Petition concerning Stonehenge World Heritage Site: A303 Stonehenge

Supporters of the Stonehenge Alliance (1) present you with a list of almost 50,000 signatories to our petition worldwide, more than 20 per cent of whom are from over 100 countries (2). On their behalf, we ask that you ensure that there is no further damage to the archaeological landscape of Stonehenge.

We urge you to reconsider the proposed A303 Stonehenge scheme, primarily in the interests of the heritage and the public purse. The scheme would scar almost half the width of the World Heritage Site (WHS) with deep cuttings to tunnel portals, and major interchanges on its boundaries. Crucial archaeological evidence would be lost, the landscape permanently re-configured and the World Heritage designation possibly withdrawn. The project is considered poor value for money by Highways England, returning only 21 pence in benefits for every £1 spent, if you ignore the discredited heritage valuation survey which implausibly accounts for over £700 million of benefits.

There is world-wide condemnation of the project, including from UNESCO, much of it from people who, like us, value the unique surrounding landscape of the Stones for what it represents to mankind and to future generations. It should be noted that the UK postcodes include local people and others who regularly use the A303.

Since setting up our petition in 2014, we have informed petitioners that any "Stonehenge tunnel" would need to be constructed under the whole World Heritage Site in order fully to protect it as demanded under the World Heritage Convention.

We urge the Government to find other ways to tackle the traffic in the area that meet its obligations concerning the World Heritage Convention and climate change.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kate Fielden

- (1) Stonehenge Alliance supporter-organisations are: Ancient Sacred Landscape Network; Campaign to Protect Rural England; Friends of the Earth; Rescue, the British Archaeological Trust; and Transport Action Network
- (2) The signature lists come from two petition platforms: 38 Degrees for UK addresses and change.org for signatories from abroad. One hundred and thirteen pages of signatures from 38 Degrees are published without post codes since, under GDPR, they are unable to keep personal data for more than five years. Up until March 2018 signatures were imported to a single tally on the 38 Degrees platform. This arrangement ran into technical problems when GDPR was implemented and we separated the two totals. Thus, the published tally on 38 Degrees is incorrect. The actual totals at the time of printing amounted to 48,740; **as of today, the total number of signatures is 50,194.**