THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE [1]

Road to drive chasm through World Heritage Site

For Immediate Release: Thursday, 12 November, 2020

The Stonehenge Alliance deeply regrets the decision by Grant Shapps to give permission for the A303 Stonehenge Tunnel scheme [2]. The decision potentially breaches the UK's international treaty obligation (WH Convention) not to damage the WHS and will undermine the UK's legal commitment to address Climate Change.

It will send shock waves around the world, not least because the independent Examining Authority recommended it be refused permission. The decision also goes against the advice of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee [3] and many experienced archaeologists.

Tom Holland, Alliance President, expressed his horror:
> *"This is a shocking and shameful decision. A supposedly Conservative government, advised by the Planning Inspectorate to cancel the scheme, has decided instead - at a time when COVID has already blown its budgeting to pieces - to proceed with a £2 billion white elephant. The decision to inject a great gash of concrete and tarmac into Britain's most precious prehistoric landscape is one that ranks simultaneously as spendthrift and sacrilegious. We shall continue to oppose it as vigorously as we can."*

The Alliance is taking legal advice and will carefully consider its next steps.

-ENDS-

Contacts
Tom Holland, Stonehenge Alliance President.
Kate Freeman, Friends of the Earth South West.
Kate Fielden, Stonehenge Alliance Hon. Sec.; Vice-chairman, Rescue.

Notes
1. The 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 decision and supporting documents can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website
3. UNESCO World Heritage Committee Decision 2019
4. The Stonehenge Alliance's Summary of Case at the 2019 Examination into the road Scheme can be accessed via the National Infrastructure Planning website