

THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE [1]

Legal action launched on Stonehenge road decision

EMBARGOED: 00:01 hrs, Monday, 30 November, 2020

Save Stonehenge World Heritage Site [2], a new organisation set up by The Stonehenge Alliance, has instructed counsel and Leigh Day to investigate the lawfulness of the Secretary of State's decision [3] to approve the A303 Stonehenge dual carriageway. A letter is being sent today (Friday 27th) to the Department for Transport outlining its concerns.

To make this possible, campaigners are launching an appeal on CrowdJustice [4] to raise £50,000 to cover the initial costs of the legal action, which will go live at 6am on Monday.

The decision by Grant Shapps to approve the road on 12 November, despite a recommendation by the Examination Panel that it be refused [5], sent shock waves around the world.

Tom Holland, Stonehenge Alliance President, expressed his backing for the legal action:

"I fully back the move to test whether Grants Shapps acted legally in approving this highly wasteful and destructive road scheme. The Government has ignored advice from both UNESCO [6] and the independent panel who presided over a six-month examination. To have won the arguments based on reason and evidence, and then to have them overruled on a ministerial whim, shows just how broken the roads approval process is.

"I urge everyone who cares about the Stonehenge World Heritage Site to support this legal action. There is still a chance to stop the bulldozers moving in and vandalising our most precious and iconic prehistoric landscape."

-ENDS-

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. Save Stonehenge World Heritage Site is a company established by the Stonehenge Alliance to take forward the legal action.
3. Save Stonehenge World Heritage Site is being represented by Rowan Smith of Leigh Day LLP (solicitors) and David Wolfe Q.C. of Matrix Chambers and Victoria Hutton of 39 Essex Chambers.
4. The [crowdfunder](#) will be on the [CrowdJustice](#) website and will go live on 06:00hrs, Monday 30 November, 2020, titled [Save Stonehenge World Heritage Site](#)
5. The [decision](#) and supporting documents can be found on the [Planning Inspectorate website](#)
6. [UNESCO World Heritage Committee Decision 2019](#)
7. The Stonehenge Alliance's Summary of Case at the 2019 Examination into the road scheme can be accessed via the [National Infrastructure Planning website](#)