

## THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE\*

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

From the Hon. Secretary, Dr Kate Fielden

Matt Rodda, MP,  
Shadow Minister for Local Transport  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Sent by email on 30 September 2020 to [matt.rodde.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:matt.rodde.mp@parliament.uk)

Dear Matt Rodda,

### A303 Stonehenge

The Stonehenge Alliance is a network of organisations and individuals that has been campaigning against a dual carriageway across the Stonehenge World Heritage Site for many years. As you may know the Transport Secretary intends to decide on the road by 13 November, having twice put off a decision since April this year. We would like you to know our principal concerns, which are:

**1. Breaking international commitments.** UNESCO's 2019 World Heritage Committee condemned the A303 scheme in its current form as it would seriously and irreparably damage the unique archaeological landscape of the World Heritage Site. Should this proposal go ahead, it would breach Government's World Heritage Convention obligations and set a shocking international precedent.

**2. Poor value for money.** Highways England considers the scheme to be low value for money. Most of the total claimed benefits derive from a seriously flawed cultural heritage valuation without which the scheme would be poor value for money – at a mere 29 pence return for each £1 it would cost to construct. These matters, along with rising costs and only partial corridor upgrade, are highlighted in Reports of the National Audit Office (May 2019) and the Public Accounts Committee (July 2019).

**3. Worsening climate change.** This scheme will likely create over a million tonnes of carbon dioxide through its construction and the traffic it will generate. In 2019, the Committee on Climate Change stated that "Transport is now the highest-emitting sector and must be a key contributor towards the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions needed over the period to 2030." This road takes us in the wrong direction.

In conclusion, the scheme is very expensive, costing far more than any benefits it would realise with a high risk of cost overruns; it would cause significant damage to the World Heritage Site and breach International treaty obligations; and it would make net-zero carbon emissions harder to meet. Failure to provide a Strategic Environmental Assessment of intended A303 upgrades has also denied the public full understanding of the impact of these schemes and of more sustainable alternatives. If you would like further information about our concerns, we would be happy to meet with you.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Fielden (Dr)  
Hon Secretary to the Stonehenge Alliance

\*The Stonehenge Alliance is supported by: Ancient Sacred Landscape Network; Campaign to Protect Rural England; Friends of the Earth; Rescue, the British Archaeological Trust; Transport Action Network and many individuals throughout the World.