

## THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE [1]

### Threat to Stonehenge Landscape continues!

Press release 15 February 2022

**Photo opportunity: Stonehenge Alliance supporters with banners and placards will be outside the British Museum's main entrance on 17 February (12:30 – 1:30pm)**

On Thursday, the opening day of the British Museum's major exhibition "The World of Stonehenge" – Stonehenge Alliance supporters will be outside the British Museum's main entrance on Great Russel St, London, warning that the Stonehenge World Heritage Site (WHS) is **STILL** under threat from a major road scheme. They will be handing out fliers to explain the threat to the public.

The Government's A303 Stonehenge road-widening project includes a new dual carriageway through the WHS, with deep cuttings to twin-bore tunnels for part of its length, along with a massive flyover beside Blick Mead Mesolithic site on the eastern WHS boundary. There is also a motorway-scale interchange at the western boundary, close to Longbarrow Roundabout and the magnificent Winterbourne Stoke prehistoric barrow cemetery. [2]

The road scheme has been rejected at every stage by:

- the majority of those responding to public consultations; [3]
- the team of five senior Planning Inspectors who formally examined it; [4] and
- UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, who threaten loss of WHS status if the project goes ahead unaltered. [5]

Even though permission for it was **quashed by the High Court** in July 2021, [6] the Transport Secretary now intends to re-determine the scheme. [7]

Tom Holland, Stonehenge Alliance President said:

"Enough is enough. It is time for the Government to accept its defeat in the High Court gracefully, and put the white elephant that it has been threatening to unleash on Britain's most sacred prehistoric landscape out of its misery for good."

The British Museum's major exhibition considers Stonehenge in its wider context at a time when its surrounding landscape is under threat of what the Examiners predicted:

***"permanent, irreversible harm, critical to the OUV [Outstanding Universal Value] would occur, affecting not only our own, but future generations."*** [8]

For more information, please see: <https://stonehengealliance.org.uk/>.

#### **Notes**

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 and many individuals throughout the World.

2. See, e.g., [Highways England booklet](#) showing scheme overview (2019).

3. See [Stonehenge Alliance Written Representation to the Examination on Consultation](#), Section 3.

4. [Examining Authority Report](#), Section 10.

5. UNESCO [World Heritage Committee Decision 2021](#).

6. [High Court Judgment](#) 30 July 2021.

7. See [Secretary of State's Statement of Matters](#), 30 November 2021.

8. [Examining Authority Report](#) (January 2020), para. 7.3.32.