

Stonehenge Alliance Press Release

Stonehenge Appeal Court hearing next week, but will Labour cancel scheme before then?

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, 9 July, 2024

Photocall: 13:00, Monday, 15 July, outside the Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London

Next week, 15-17 July, Save Stonehenge World Heritage Site (SSWHS) [1] will be at the Court of Appeal to try and get the Development Consent Order (DCO) for the A303 Stonehenge road scheme overturned. The following week UNESCO's World Heritage Committee is meeting in India [2] to decide on the recommendation to place Stonehenge on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Stonehenge would then be only one step away from losing its World Heritage status altogether.

SSWHS is urging Labour to scrap the scheme and to reestablish the UK's international standing. This would be in line with the chancellor's request on Monday [3] that the transport and energy secretaries prioritise decisions on infrastructure projects that have been "sitting unresolved for far too long". It would save at least £2.5bn and valuable time and money in the courts. It would also result in the site not being placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

John Adams, chair of the Stonehenge Alliance and one of the 3 directors of SSWHS, said:

"Next week the Court of Appeal will hear why we believe that the decision to grant the DCO and the reasons for dismissing our challenge, were wrong. Labour could save us all a lot of time and money by scrapping the scheme now. This would spare our international blushes and rebuild this country's reputation for looking after its heritage."

Tom Holland, president of the Stonehenge Alliance:

"Any scheme that manages to be at once ineffective, hugely damaging and grotesquely expensive is ripe for cancellation. The new government should seize the opportunity to consign the Stonehenge Tunnel to the dustbin where it belongs."

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Notes to editors:

[1] Save Stonehenge World Heritage Site is a legal entity set up by three members of the [Stonehenge Alliance](#) to take the legal action against the previous Government. 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] UNESCO's [World Heritage Committee](#) is holding its 46th meeting in New Delhi, India, from 21 – 31 July, 2024

[3] The chancellor, Rachel Reeves, made the [speech to business leaders](#) on Monday, 8 July, 2024

