

Stonehenge Alliance complains about fake news [read blog here](#)

 by the [Stonehenge Alliance](#)



“Protecting and enhancing the World Heritage Site”. Really?

Banner displayed at consultation

Highways England exhibition January 2017

Clearly the Stonehenge tunnel scheme will not protect the World Heritage Site.

Leaks from a Fake News report by a Select Committee of MPs have recently hit the media. Committee Chairman Damian Collins is quoted as saying:

“We are facing nothing less than a crisis in our democracy — based on the systematic manipulation of data to support the relentless targeting of citizens, without their consent, by campaigns of disinformation and messages of hate”. [The Irish Times](#)

Although the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee’s investigations appear primarily to focus on fake news in the social media, the [inquiry’s scope](#) includes the question:

“What is ‘fake news’? Where does biased but legitimate commentary shade into propaganda and lies?”

For some time the Stonehenge Alliance has been concerned about apparently propagandist misinformation surrounding the A303 tunnel project. Upbeat and reassuring press releases from Highways England and its scheme supporters Historic England, English Heritage and the National Trust include such statements as:

“We will continue to engage with international heritage advisors and others to help to ensure Highways England fully assesses the heritage impact and comes up with the right solution for the World Heritage Site.”

The bodies issuing such statements have no intention of ensuring “the right solution for the WHS” so long as Government is driving a project based on “affordability, deliverability and value for money.” Joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre and International Council on Monuments and Sites advisory missions have given firm advice to the Government to seek less damaging alternatives for the major road scheme through Stonehenge World Heritage Site. Clearly, “engaging with international heritage advisors” doesn’t extend to Government following their advice.

In March 2018, we submitted a [written statement to the Select Committee](#) with instances of fake news about the A303 scheme, most notably Highways England’s claimed commitment to preserving the World Heritage Site.

Since then, misinformation continues widely to distort public perceptions about what the A303 scheme involves. [Highways England’s website information](#), under “*Why we need this scheme*”, highlights the project as “*protecting or enhancing the environment*” and helping to “*conserve and sustain the World Heritage Site*”.

Misleading the public about so-called benefits of the A303 Stonehenge scheme, particularly in association with official consultations on the project, is both outrageous and repugnant. How much longer will Government support the undemocratic targeting of citizens with misinformation about the A303 proposals?

We look forward to the Select Committee’s final report expected later this year.

Consultation ends 14 August!

The supplementary consultation is **our last chance to keep the bulldozers out of the Stonehenge landscape.**

If you haven't already done so, please can you take a few minutes to tell Highways England that the scheme is hugely damaging and that they should follow UNESCO's advice?

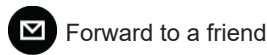
Please click the button below to use our template.

Write to Highways England today!

THANK YOU to everyone who has responded to this extra consultation.



Photo: Normanton Down Barrow Group, Neolithic and Bronze Age barrow cemetery at Stonehenge World Heritage Site, July 2018. "The area of chalk downland which surrounds Stonehenge contains one of the densest and most varied groups of Neolithic and Bronze Age field monuments in Britain." Historic England



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