

STONEHENGE ALLIANCE UPDATE



Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>

We promised to keep you in touch with developments on the A303 Stonehenge road scheme. The fact is there is little to report. As a result of the marvellous news that the High Court quashed Grant Shapps' planning approval, the Transport Secretary is required to 're-determine' the scheme application (the Development Consent Order).

Scheme not abandoned but delayed?

Unlike other high profile road schemes there is no deadline for this process. We noticed, however, that Stonehenge was not mentioned in the Chancellor's budget last week. [National Highways spokespersons are indicating](#) that the scheme has not been abandoned, simply delayed.

Correspondence with Prime Minister and others

Leading scheme supporters, Historic England, English Heritage, the National Trust as well as the promoter, National Highways, formerly Highways England, have expressed disappointment with the High Court judgment. We have written to them, along similar lines to those in [our open letter asking the Prime Minister](#) pointing out that much has changed since the road scheme was announced in 2014:

- Far more is known about the damage the scheme would cause to the Stonehenge archaeological landscape, described by the planning inspectors as 'permanent and irreversible'.
- The planning inspectors recommended the scheme be refused; the Transport Secretary himself accepted that it would cause significant harm to Outstanding Universal Value attributes of the World Heritage Site; and UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has advised that if the project went

ahead unchanged, the site would be [considered for placing on the List of World Heritage in Danger](#) next year.

- Government has committed to a net zero CO₂ target, a position actively supported by many organisations, when it is now understood that the building and operation of new roads massively increases carbon emissions.
- The Alliance also suggested the time was right for a new approach that improves people's access to the South West without damaging the WHS or increasing carbon emissions.

Reply from the Department for Transport

In response to our open letter to the the Prime Minister [the DfT said](#), amongst other things, that *"Protecting the heritage and archaeology of the site is a first order priority for Government and National Highways"*. We hope they mean what they say.

Parliamentary question concerning inalienable land

It was interesting to note the answer to a recent [parliamentary written question](#) confirming that the National Trust would play a pivotal role in enabling the Stonehenge tunnel beneath its inalienable land purchased by [public subscription in the late 1920s](#), and entrusted to the National Trust.

We will update you once we learn of any further developments.

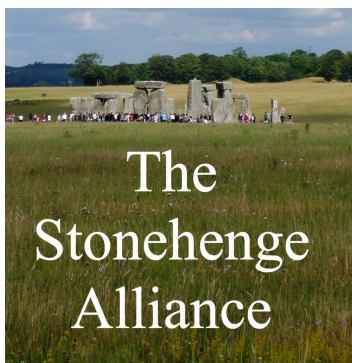
With best wishes,

John Adams OBE
Chairman



Suggested hashtags if you wish to use the above graphic on social media:

#SaveStonehenge #ClimateJustice #COP26Glasgow



ABOUT THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE

The Stonehenge Alliance is a group of non-governmental organisations and individuals that seeks enhancements to the Stonehenge World Heritage Site and opposes development that would cause it significant harm. [More about us](#)



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