



*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

Our legal team has done its best at the Court of Appeal judges and now Stonehenge's fate rests in the three judges' hands. They will deliberate, handing down their judgment most likely in the autumn. This article in [\*The Guardian\*](#) gives a flavour of the debate that took place.

### **WHAT NEXT?**

We need as many people as possible to write straightaway to persuade the Labour Government that UNESCO's meeting in Delhi next week is the perfect opportunity to save this country's blushes and stop the project. There is no reason to wait. Otherwise, there is a real risk that the road construction could start next year because the DCO (Government's licence to proceed) has not been cancelled.

### **CAN YOU SEND AN EMAIL TO GOVERNMENT ASAP?**

Can you drop a quick message to Government now? Click on the button below to link to a letter that you can edit, sign and send directly to the Rt. Hon. Pat McFadden. He is a member of Cabinet anxious to see that the new government reviews poor value infrastructure, of which A303 Stonehenge is a prime example..

WRITE TO GOVERNMENT ASAP

**THANK YOU** you to everyone who brought their infectious enthusiasm and friendly spirit last Monday to the Royal Courts of Justice. Supporters came from Falmouth to Perth, from Stroud and Somerset to Cambridge, Kent and Wiltshire. Article and photos below.

Best wishes,

*The Stonehenge Alliance team*

## **"Save Stonehenge!" "No Stonehenge tunnel!" Will Government Act to save its blushes?"**

Protestors against the proposed £2.5bn tunnel and dual carriageway across the Stonehenge landscape gathered in the rain on Monday (July 15) outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London to mark the start of what they hope will be the final act in their campaign.

Earlier Save Stonehenge World Heritage Site (SSWHS) had opened its case in the Court of Appeal in support of its bid to overturn the Development Consent Order (DCO) for the A303 Stonehenge scheme. The then Transport Secretary Grant Shapps had approved the scheme in 2020, which was subsequently overturned by SSWHS's legal challenge. In 2023 Shapps' successor, Mark Harper, once again granted the DCO, the official go-ahead for the works SSWHS has been challenging it, in and out of court, ever since.

The crowdfunder launched to meet the costs of pursuing the legal action had overshot its target with days to spare. The strength of feeling was clear.



*Around 40 people joined the protest, chanting for the benefit of the cameras - and a wider audience.*

While John Adams, one of the campaign leaders, gave interviews to BBC TV and ITV, activists from a number of groups working to support the Stonehenge Alliance stood before the entrance to the courts peacefully holding signs, placards and the famous long banner which the campaign had unfurled in support of the cause.





Afterwards a group of campaigners made their way to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in Parliament St and onwards to the Department of Transport in Horseferry Rd to formally "hand in" at each place a petition letter in opposition to the Stonehenge scheme signed by 239,000 people in 147 countries. The petition was received by department officials on behalf of ministers.



*14 of us were permitted to pose outside the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (a copy of the scroll had been hand delivered to UNESCO in Paris). It listed the 147 countries whence our 239,500 petition signatories came. But delivery of the petition was not through the front door. Instead we were escorted to discreetly hand it in via the backdoor - see below. We were assured it would be delivered to Lisa Nandy's office.*

The Stonehenge Alliance is cautiously optimistic that the new government will look more favourably at the arguments against the road project than their Tory predecessors.



However they know the ruling of the Appeal Court will be crucial. The Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, has already given the classic lawyer's response, saying he will wait to see the outcome of the court hearing. As Starmer knows full well, the case rests on the lawfulness of the decision



not the merits of the scheme. But ministers have already hinted at a relaxation of planning rules, with growth a priority for the new government. Will the new government view the damaging road scheme as a growth opportunity, or an opportunity to save over £2.5bn and reinvest it in rail and other services that have reached crisis point?

The next important date in the campaign comes next week (21 – 31 July). UNESCO, which has already voiced its strong objections to the tunnel plans, could move one step closer to taking away the site's status altogether. UNESCO's World Heritage Committee is meeting in Delhi to decide whether to place Stonehenge on its List of World Heritage in Danger.

John Adams told the BBC that cancelling the project "would spare our international blushes and rebuild this country's reputation for looking after its heritage."



*Delivery of the petition letter and scroll to the Department for Transport was an altogether more festive ceremony.*

### [ABOUT THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE](#)



*[The Stonehenge Alliance](#) was set up in 2002 to protect the Stonehenge World Heritage Site from further damage. It has campaigned against the current road scheme since its inception in 2014. It is appalled by the Government's decision to go ahead with the short tunnel and road widening project in the face of:*

- *strong advice from its Planning Inspectorate not to proceed,*
- *UNESCO's World Heritage Committee's condemnation, and*
- *the High Court's quashing of the scheme in 2021.*
- *We await the decision of the Court of Appeal, as well as the Labour Government's decision.*

*The Stonehenge Alliance is run by a small team of volunteers and 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 worldwide.*

---

**~ Follow us on social media ~**



*Copyright © 2024 The Stonehenge Alliance, All rights reserved.*

*Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.*

