



Puzzling over the cross section in the bottom row? It's a diagram of the cantilevered cutting in a rather ineffectual attempt to hide this (belatedly acknowledged) huge blot on the landscape for the benefit of the World Heritage Committee's decision making. Together with an extra 'green' bridge, it would have cost £55m at today's prices.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

After 10 long years the Stonehenge road scheme has been scrapped. And it is all thanks to you. Rumours last week were rife: the Chancellor was going to delay the scheme until the Court of Appeal had ruled next autumn. We had even prepared a press release for that eventuality. But it didn't turn out like that and last Monday, Rachel Reeves confounded us and decided to cancel it. Why? Was it because nearly **2,000** of you responded to our last minute appeal to write to government? Did it tip the scales and give the Chancellor confidence to axe the wretched road? [Here's our press release.](#) The team work has been brilliant. Everyone from all walks of life, skills and backgrounds came together to support in whatever way they could.

THOUSANDS & THOUSANDS OF **THANK YOU'S!**

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LAST BUT NOT LEAST **FRIENDS & FAMILIES**

With ❤️ from The Stonehenge Alliance Team

@Tony4Place tweeted "right decision - wrong reason"

We have been inundated with messages of shared relief that the road proposal has been cancelled including UNESCO which had just gone through a bruising experience in Delhi. The Director General, Audrey Azoulay, posted this: "[@UNESCO welcomes the Starmer government's decision to cancel the construction of a road tunnel under the #Stonehenge World Heritage Site.](#) [UNESCO stands ready to support the UK authorities in reconciling the needs of development and conservation of this outstanding heritage.](#)"

On the other hand, Wiltshire Council lost no time to lobby against the decision: '[Wiltshire Council leader frustrated at A303 tunnel cancellation](#)' - repeated on BBC's World Tonight. Richard Clewar's reaction was promptly ridiculed by a Wiltshire blogger '[Wiltshire Council leader weeps over the scrapping of the Stonehenge tunnel!](#)' (worth a read).

SO IT'S NOT QUITE OVER

The scheme has only been cancelled due to a lack of cash. Its planning permission (the Development Consent Order) remains intact, and if the government suddenly found the money it could go ahead and build it. That's why we can't rest easy until the permission is quashed.

While the Court of Appeal has yet to consider the legality of the decision to approve the scheme (with a judgment expected in the autumn), the government could save us all a lot of time and effort and reverse the decision now. In the meantime, the World Heritage Site's future is still at risk.

So, don't go! We will be in touch again in due course.

Enjoy the sense of relief and the rest of the summer wherever you are.

With our very best wishes,

The Stonehenge Alliance team



CrowdJustice have just written to let us know that the appeal made the top 20 CrowdJustice cases from 2023-2024. This incredible result is entirely down to you, our fantastic supporters, who so generously donated. SSWHS couldn't have challenged the lawfulness of the DCO without your tremendous work. Read more [here](#).

[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.*

The Labour Government cancelled the scheme on 29 July 2024 on grounds of "low value and unaffordable commitment". We await the decision of the Court of Appeal expected this autumn.

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.

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