



## Dear Friends and Supporters,

Our apologies for such a long silence but this last month has given our small team a chance to have a break and catch up with our lives.

Those of you who are on the Save Stonehenge WHS (SSWHS) CrowdJustice's mailing list will have heard that the Appeal was lost. This means that despite the government having cancelled the scheme the planning approval remains valid for nearly four more years. The legal team has advised that there are legitimate arguments of wider public importance, including the protection of World Heritage, so SSWHS is seeking permission from the Supreme Court to hear the case. We probably won't hear whether this has been successful until next spring. The CrowdJustice update is [here](#), and our public statement is [here](#).

Meanwhile the Stonehenge Alliance is focusing on alternatives to road building across the South West. We are also investigating ways of giving greater protection to World Heritage Sites in the UK. We'll be in touch about progress on both those fronts.

### ***A special lecture on Thursday 16th January 2025: *The dark, the light and the weird* - A brief history of Wiltshire with Tom Holland***

We have commissioned a painting of the Stonehenge landscape by Mark Wickham as a lasting tribute to our founder, the late [Kate Fielden](#) who worked tirelessly to keep the earth movers out of the Stonehenge landscape. It will be unveiled next month at Wiltshire Museum in Devizes, home to an important collection of artefacts found in the Stonehenge landscape. To mark the occasion, and to celebrate everyone's remarkable achievement, our President, Tom Holland has kindly agreed to treat us to the above talk in the lecture room where the painting is to be on permanent display. We hope that some of you will be able to make it. Booking is essential. A priority link to supporters will be circulated soon.

This is not the end of the campaign but there has been heart warming appreciation of our work from many quarters. Below we quote a magnificent

tribute from the Interim Director of Friends of the Earth that expresses so well what we have accomplished together.

With our very best wishes and thanks,

***The Stonehenge Alliance team  
in partnership with Save Stonehenge WHS***



The BBC headline [here](#) is correct in terms of the legal challenge, but it fails to appreciate that, thanks to many years of collective activism, we were able to hold out until a new Labour government was in a position to cancel the extravagant road widening scheme last July. **Jamie Peters, Interim Executive Director of Friends of the Earth**, wrote a letter of congratulations. His appreciation is written for the benefit of all our supporters:

*"I know that, like us, you would rather have the scheme rejected in principle. But the government's decision to abandon it on grounds of cost is still a very significant victory for the environment and for you. We know that it is entirely down to the tenacity and integrity of the Stonehenge Alliance and its members that the scheme was delayed until sense could prevail. Had it not been for your refusal to give up the fight, in all likelihood the bulldozers would by now have been tearing into the turf of the World Heritage Site, at huge cost to future generations and to the standing of the UK. We know that through your actions you have helped preserve the integrity of the Stonehenge landscape, precious nature - and helped the Chancellor find an extra two or so billion pounds to fund public services!"*

*"Friends of the Earth has always been an advocate of People Power - it is through individuals standing and organising together that we win over environmentally damaging and unjust projects. Stonehenge Alliance has been*

*a brilliant example of People Power in practice, and provided us all with much-needed inspiration!"*

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### [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 last 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 the grounds of "low value and unaffordable commitment". An application to the Supreme Court is in progress to challenge the Court of Appeal's judgment.*

*The Stonehenge Alliance is run by a small team of volunteers, 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 in the UK and worldwide.*

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