

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are delighted to invite you to a special event on Thursday, 16 January 2025 at 7pm for 7.30pm Wiltshire Museum, Devizes SN10 1NS

Wiltshire Museum have been discounted tickets from £10 to £8 for those on this mailing list. Included will be refreshments in the Museum Gallery on arrival.

Numbers are however limited. The image below takes you to their special 'Alliance' booking page.

THE DARK, THE LIGHT AND THE WEIRD: A BRIEF HISTORY OF WILTSHIRE

A talk by Tom Holland

Since many supporters live outside Wiltshire, we have asked if the event could be made available on line. The museum director, David Dawson, is investigating that possibility. If successful we will circulate the link a few days before the event.

The event will open with the unveiling of a painting by <u>Mark Wickham</u>, specially commissioned by the Alliance to mark the end of a decade-long campaign, and honour the memory of our late founder, Kate Fielden. The painting will remain on permanent display at Wiltshire Museum.

This Campaign Update comes with our very best wishes and happiness for the mid-winter solstice and the festive season.

With heartfelt thanks for all your support over the years.

The Stonehenge Alliance team in partnership with Save Stonehenge WHS

MORE EVENTS AND NEWS

Friday, 20 December: Talk by David Jacques "The return of the light" 2.30pm to 3.30pm

A fundraising lecture for the Amesbury History Centre by David Jacques about the midwinter solstice and the Stonehenge landscape. Full details <u>here</u>.

Followed by ...

Friday, 20 December: Amesbury mid-winter lantern procession 2024 5.15pm

Would you like to join the magical annual event to put the old year behind you? The lantern bearers accompanied by folk singers will set off from Amesbury Central Car Park to celebrate the end of the dark nights. The walk is across uneven, slippery ground. Full details here.

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Supreme Court

The request for a hearing to challenge the appeal judgment has been submitted. We await further news from the Supreme Court sometime next spring.

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Protecting Stonehenge WHS for the long term

Two legacy projects are underway to make sure that road widening across the Stonehenge landscape *never happens again*.

The first is a study of the poor state of our regional railway network in the south west with recommendations for priority investment. The final report will be in time to respond to the new Transport Secretary's call for ideas and evidence for an Integrated National Transport Strategy. This is a Transport Action Network initiative which we are pleased to support.

The second project is an investigation into ensuring that all UK World Heritage Sites are given the legal status similar to that of National Parks and National Landscapes, thereby affording the Stonehenge landscape greater protection. This will require parliamentary action and wider networking.

We will share updates about both these initiatives in 2025 and explain how you might be able to help to further these worthy aims.

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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