



One year on, painting marks the scrapping of the Stonehenge tunnel scheme and celebrates the late Kate Fielden's achievements



"Stonehenge landscape - a favourite walk of Kate Fielden", a view from Byway 12 looking north across the A303 towards Stonehenge in its landscape by Mark Wickham takes pride of place in [Wiltshire Museum](#)'s lecture room. The painting was commissioned by the Stonehenge Alliance following the cancellation of the road scheme on 29 July 2024 in memory of its founder, [Dr Kate Fielden](#), who tragically did not live to see the road scheme cancelled. It was presented by the Alliance to [Wiltshire Museum](#), home of Britain's best Bronze Age archaeology collection and features gold from the time of Stonehenge. Above L-R: Artist Mark Wickham, Kate Freeman from Stonehenge Alliance, and Director of Wiltshire Museum David Dawson.

Dear friends and supporters,

Happy 1st anniversary of the scrapping of the Stonehenge tunnel road scheme! This milestone has not only been marked by us at Wiltshire Museum but it will be marked by a special radio programme on BBC Wiltshire as well on 29 July.*

Long may those highway plans remain buried (see [National Highways puts lid on Stonehenge road scheme](#) below). But... much as we would love to put our feet up, we are acutely aware that the road building agenda across Stonehenge has not disappeared. This *Campaign Update* is therefore concerned with our legacy project to protect world

heritage, and the good news that a group of parliamentarians wants to help!

Read on and stay tuned,

All the best,

The Stonehenge Alliance team

* Details will be available on [BBC Wiltshire](#) nearer the date

How can we protect World Heritage in the UK for future generations?

Our ambition: That Stonehenge WHS should never again face such a damaging road proposal across its unique landscape ever again. One fundamental problem for our campaign has been that World Heritage Sites in the UK are a matter of national and local planning policies, unlike National Parks, National Landscapes and National Nature Reserves, which enjoy a statutory designation in planning law.

WHSs are thus vulnerable to politicians' priorities. Groups like ours are currently fighting to protect their local WHSs at Blenheim Palace, Derwent Valley Mills in Derbyshire, Saltaire Village near Bradford, the Lake District and the Jurassic Coast of Dorset and East Devon. All are under pressure from development.

In other words, UNESCO's World Heritage Convention alone is not sufficient protection. **A change in the law is required.**

June 2025 heralds an All-Party Parliamentary Group for World Heritage



Front row L-R: Chris Blandford OBE, Wera Hobhouse MP, Jonathan Davies MP, Lord

Wallace of Saltaire Back row L-R: Alison Smedley MBE UKNC, Lord Parkinson, John Whitby MP, Lisa Smart MP, Lloyd Hatton MP, Liz Saville Roberts MP (Photo: Derwent Valley Mills) Not pictured is the APPG's Co-Chair, Danny Kruger, Conservative MP for East Wiltshire which includes Stonehenge and Avebury.

Parliamentarians have also noticed the statutory gap in the protection of WHSs and set up a new All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for UNESCO World Heritage Sites last month chaired by Jonathan Davies, newly elected Labour MP for mid Derbyshire. An inaugural reception attracted around 120 parliamentarians. At the APPG's launch Jonathan Davies said:

"UNESCO World Heritage Sites articulate the pinnacle of human existence and the best of the natural world. However, some of the UK's sites face challenges that risk them being delisted by UNESCO. The special reasons these sites were designated of global importance must be safeguarded for future generations. This group campaigns for that."

Press release is [here](#).

We're taking action. Can you?

Our long campaign experience has much to offer the APPG and we have reached out to both the parliamentary group as well as other NGOs like ours who want to see greater protections of WHSs in the UK. If successful, this action could have international influence.

If you live in the UK, could you send a short email to your MP asking them to support the APPG and WHSs in the UK?

Key points you can make

National Highways puts a lid on Stonehenge road scheme



Statement from National Highways: "Following the government decision to withdraw funding of the A303]Stonehenge project in summer 2024 [...] as part of the Development Consent Order, we're required to decommission the boreholes originally put in place to carry out a variety of soil and water table tests. We've now completed the surveys to access the work needed and can begin to conclude this element of the close down. Work began on the 14 May and will be completed by winter 2025. During this time, you may see National Highways and members of our supply chain working in the surrounding area." Photo sent to us by a supporter 26.06.2025.

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".

We are progressing two legacy projects to permanently protect the Stonehenge landscape from inappropriate development:

- *First is a study of the dire state of our railway network in the south west with recommendations for priority investment. Now completed, the report commissioned by our allies, Transport Action Network, is currently being promoted widely.*

- *Second is an investigation into strengthening the planning status of UK World Heritage Sites. It requires parliamentary action and wider networking.*

If you can support either of these initiatives, [please get in touch](#).

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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