



END OF THE ROAD FOR STONEHENGE?

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Last year we shared the great news that the government had **withdrawn funding** from the highly damaging and expensive road scheme that threatened the **Stonehenge World Heritage Site (WHS)**. The WHS is a designation granted in 1986 for an *entire landscape* that is full of monuments of incalculable value. Although this decision effectively killed the scheme, and all work on it was stopped, the planning consent ("DCO") that would enable it remains in force until August 2028.

Transport secretary Heidi Alexander now proposes to **revoke the DCO and bin the scheme for good**. This is a very positive move that banishes the lingering threat of major road development in this unique landscape.

The notice to revoke the DCO is due "exceptional circumstances". We are not told what these "exceptional circumstances" are. But Local Authorities in the region cling to the fantasy that the road scheme might yet be revived and are staging a co-ordinated objection to the Secretary of State's proposal. Read more in the [BBC's report](#) '*Fantasy*' to expect U-turn on Stonehenge tunnel'.

We think Heidi Alexander should hear from those of us who want to see the last of this ill-judged scheme. We have written to her to support revoking the DCO. Can you take a moment to [take action with Stonehenge Alliance](#) by **Friday 21 November**? Click here for further information.

[I'll ask Heidi Alexander to bin the Stonehenge road scheme](#)

Thanks so much for continuing to support our campaign to secure Stonehenge WHS for the long term. And **a special welcome** to all the newcomers who have moved from the petition site to join us on this new email platform given to us by Friends of the Earth.

Best wishes,

The Stonehenge Alliance Team

We couldn't leave without paying our respects to our supporter, Harry Shearer, co-creator, co-writer and co-star in the hit satirical rockumentary [This Is Spinal Tap](#) (1984) who has been joined by Paul McCartney, Elton John and others for the new film Spinal Tap II. And here's their ironic question: "Will this concert be their triumphant return, or just another Stonehenge-sized catastrophe?" [Watch their trailer here.](#)



And [here is Harry Shearer's](#) video imploring the highway authorities in 2020 to "leave it as it is" and "take the humility way out." If the voice sounds familiar that's because he voice over for the Simpson's wicked Mr Burns amongst others.

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 at local, regional and national levels.*
- **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.

If this email has been forwarded to you, please consider subscribing to our occasional Campaign Updates [here](#).

Thank you for your support!