



# THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE PRESS RELEASE

President: Tom Holland

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Stonehenge tunnel and road scheme finally binned by Heidi Alexander

The Stonehenge Alliance warmly welcomes Heidi Alexander's decision to revoke the A303 Stonehenge road scheme. The Revocation Order marks the end of decade of campaigning against a scheme that never made sense culturally, strategically nor economically. [Notes 1, 2 & 3]

Acting chairman, Mike Birkin, said:

"The WHS is a designation of an entire landscape that is full of prehistoric monuments of incalculable value. The granting of the DCO was always perverse given the enormous damage it would have caused to the unique landscape of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site (WHS). The scheme was condemned by planning inspectors as well as UNESCO's experts yet the government at the time rode roughshod over the evidence." [Note 4]

The scheme's cancellation leaves untouched the issue of poor connectivity to the south west region, an area that has been overlooked by past governments. Revocation of the Stonehenge scheme is an opportunity to invest some of the saved budget in the region's active travel and public transport networks to grow business, jobs, housing and access for all.

Mike Birkin went on to say:

"The rail network to the South West suffers from a degraded infrastructure which is notoriously unreliable and vulnerable to extreme weather events. Upgrading the network would contribute to government's commitment to reducing car mileage as recommended by the Climate Change Committee." [Note 5]

Crucial first steps to improve the region's connectivity are recommended in a report that we supported, commissioned by our allies, Transport Action Network. [Note 5]

### EDITOR'S NOTES

1. The Revocation Order today cancels the [Development Consent Order](#). It was made on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and was due to expire on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2028.
2. Since the scheme's announcement by David Cameron in 2014, the Stonehenge Alliance, together with its quarter of a million petitioners have consistently objected

*The Stonehenge Alliance* is supported by Ancient Sacred Landscape Network, Transport Action Network, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Friends of the Earth, RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust, and individual specialists.

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to the A303 Stonehenge road scheme for the immense damage it would cause to the Stonehenge World Heritage Site. would represent poor value for money with scant benefits.

3. The National Audit Office considered the scheme to be poor value and unlikely to achieve its strategic economic objectives. National Audit Office, 2019: [Improving the A303 between Amesbury and Berwick Down](#)
4. Planning Inspectorate, 2 January 2020 [Examining Authority's Report of Findings and Conclusions and Recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport](#)
5. Climate Change Committee, December 2020, Table 3.1a [The Sixth Carbon Budget: The UK's path to Net Zero](#) December 2020
6. Transport Action Network, January 2025: [Connecting South West England: in place of A303/A358 widening](#) by Greengauge21