From:
A303 Stonehenge

Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme

Date: 14 March 2022 11:28:49

Dear National Highways,

I find it quite bizarre that after the round condemnation of this plan by everyone who cares about the environment and the international heritage status of Stonehenge that you are still even considering it.

Your organization has not made any changes to the proposal to take the 2021 World Heritage Committee Decision into account; do you actually want Britain to lose this heritage site? Because that's what you are proposing.

You have not even acknowledged that the Secretary of State found the proposal's impact on the proposed western cutting area would be "significantly adverse".

You have not performed with due diligence by fully assessing alternative routes less damaging to the World Heritage Site e.g., a southern bypass route would be cheaper even if there might be some problems with it, while a longer tunnel would reduce impact on the World Heritage Site.

You have not explored alternatives to hard engineering solutions in the context of safeguarding and enhancing the World Heritage Site – e.g. a package of measures to reduce road traffic, road emissions and improve access to the South West.

You have not updated the scheme construction costs, nor updated the carbon assessment and costs. What is the problem with doing this?

If you take account of the increasing urgency people feel about the climate crisis, you need to look beyond the present culture of 'anything to shave two minute off a car journey', even if it means the destruction of something irreplaceable and of world value. This is the worst kind of short-termism, and needs to be dropped.

Yours faithfully

David Lee