

**Avebury Parish Council**  
**6 Rhylys Cottages, Lockeridge, Marlborough, Wilts SN8 4EE**  
**Tel 01672 861424**

[5 December 2017]

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
[address]

Dear Secretary of State

**A303 Expressway at Stonehenge**

I am writing following a meeting of Avebury Parish Council on 4 December about the proposed A303 Expressway at Stonehenge announced on 11 September.

The Parish Council is concerned that Avebury may lose its World Heritage Site status, or be put on UNESCO's list of 'Sites at Danger', because the Expressway, as proposed, ignores the recommendations of UNESCO's second Advisory Mission on 6 July.

The central purpose of the World Heritage Site (WHS) is to protect the archaeological features and settings for which the Site's Outstanding Universal Value has been inscribed by UNESCO. Government is signatory to the World Heritage Convention, of which Article 4 states:

*'Each State Party to this Convention recognises that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage [of WHSs] situated on its territory, belongs primarily to the State. It will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain.'*

Yet the construction of the proposed surface roads and portals will destroy a number of archaeological features and damage WHS settings.

The Parish Council is concerned that:

- Neither the F10 option of a by-pass to the south of the WHS nor the provision of a 4.5km tunnel has been proposed.
- About a mile of new dual carriageway will be cut into the WHS, and the new portals for the proposed tunnel will be within the WHS.
- Despite archaeological features being fundamental to the preservation of WHS status, the Technical Appraisal Report published by Highways England on 12

January did not include a chapter on archaeological impacts, and no Technical Appraisal has been published since.

- The design of the scheme does not appear to take account of the rapid development of electric and autonomous vehicles. Both are being given high priority by government, and very large commercial investments are being made by the car manufacturing and cyber sectors. By the time the Expressway opens in 2026, electric cars are likely to be commonplace. Autonomous vehicles, allowing more precise traffic management through 'convoying' or 'platooning', could well reach DfT's Competence Level 4 shortly afterwards.

The Parish Council urges that:

1. The scheme be amended in the light of the above points
2. All ICOMOS / UNESCO recommendations be included in the final design so that ICOMOS / UNESCO agreement is obtained.

I attach a copy of the Parish Council's response to Highways England's consultation dated 1 March.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Williamson OBE  
Chairman

cc: Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP  
Rt Hon John Hayes CBE MP (Minister for Transport)  
Dr Anatole-Gabriel, UNESCO  
Ms Susan Denyer (Secretary, ICOMOS-UK)  
Mr Alistair Sommerlad (Chair, WHS Partnership Panel)  
Ms Sarah Simmonds (WHS Partnership Manager)