



Rosemary Cottage, West Overton, Marlborough, SN8 4ER

To whom it may concern,
Highways England supplementary consultation
re the A303 at Stonehenge

11th August 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

A303 Stonehenge supplementary consultation 2018

The Avebury Society was founded as a civic society in 1994. Its interests are those normally expected of a civic society and relate principally to the Avebury part of the WHS. We have around 100 members, most of whom live in or close to Avebury. We are represented on the Avebury WHS Steering Committee and the Avebury and Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group. We comment on planning applications and took part in consultations on the new (combined) WHS Management Plan.

The Avebury Society was represented at the recent joint WHS Steering Committees' meeting in Amesbury at which Highways England's representatives outlined the proposed changes to the A303 preferred route scheme and the heritage impact assessment work undertaken to date.

There seems to be little point in commenting on insubstantial changes to a scheme which is deeply flawed. We would like our letter to Highways England of 6 April 2018, in response to the statutory consultation on the A303 Stonehenge scheme, to be considered entirely relevant as the main response also to the present consultation.

We note that the proposed changes, apparently arising following comments made by respondents to the statutory consultation, did not extend to modification to the scheme to adopt the advice given by us and others, including the most recent UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory Mission to Stonehenge – and the World Heritage

Committee – to reconsider the scheme to avoid damage to the WHS and its OUV and, by implication, avoid loss of World Heritage status.

We also note the advice of the latest Advisory Mission that “a sustainable tourism strategy should be prepared for the WHS in its entirety, including the Avebury component”. This has not been undertaken as far as we know and certainly not with our participation. Such a strategy ought to have been undertaken to *inform the project* rather than as an afterthought.

The third Advisory Mission also recommends that

“A more broad-ranging consultative process, which particularly includes the Avebury community, should be established, to allow civil society to express their views, on an ongoing basis, about any aspect of the project, not only on the legacy benefits being considered through the benefits and legacy forum process.”

So far, our input to the formal consultation process and at Steering Committee meetings in respect of the proposed A303 scheme appears to have been ignored. Furthermore, we are informed that the so-called “benefits and legacy forum” has not yet been convened and, despite our enquiry, its membership was not revealed at the recent Steering Committees’ meeting referred to above. Discussion on the legacy of the scheme ought to have been part of its planning from the start, including the implications of ignoring UNESCO’s advice.

We continue to hope that the present A303 scheme will be withdrawn and, if revived at all, brought forward in a form that is not only compatible with planning policy and advice along with the advice of UNESCO’s WH Centre and Committee and ICOMOS, but also with proper consultation based on agreed parameters.

Yours faithfully,



SUSAN J ROGERS

Hon Secretary

cc. The Rt.Hon Jeremy Wright, MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Dr.Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel, UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Susan Denyer, Secretary ICOMOS-UK
Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn and Tim Loughton MP, co-chairmen, All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group
Stephen Stacey, Chairman, Avebury Parish Council
Andrew Williamson, Avebury PC rep., Avebury WHS Steering Committee