

THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE

From the Chairman, George McDonic, MBE, BL, DIPLTP, FRTPI, DPA, FFB
1 Peppercorn Orchard, Great Hinton, Trowbridge
Wiltshire BA14 6DB

The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin, MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

Sent by email on 28 October 2014

Dear Secretary of State,

Proposals for the A303 at Stonehenge

Thank you for your reply to my letter of 3 October 2014, from which we understand that examination and costing of a bored A303 tunnel of at least 4.5km will not be considered.

Such a tunnel would afford protection and rehabilitation of that part of the World Heritage Site (WHS) not already compromised by dual carriageways. A shorter tunnel would damage the WHS's archaeological landscape for ever.

Are you aware of the Stonehenge Hidden Landscape Project, an international collaborative undertaking by universities in England, Austria, Scotland and Belgium? The Project's newly-revealed findings include hundreds of hitherto unknown archaeological sites and features in the WHS awaiting analysis and identification. This raises pressing concerns about destruction of WHS archaeological remains by road engineering at each end of a 2.9km or shorter tunnel.

Our Government's duty under the World Heritage Convention is to ensure the "protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations" of its World Heritage Sites, and "to take appropriate legal, scientific, administrative and financial measures necessary" to fulfil those tasks.

The Government is also committed to

"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."

[Our italics]

Does the Government intend to withdraw its signature to the World Heritage Convention, in view of its apparent determination not to observe the commitments to which it binds us?

Yours sincerely,



George McDonic
Chairman, the Stonehenge Alliance

Copies to:

Rt Hon David Cameron, MP, Prime Minister
Rt. Hon Nick Clegg, MP, Deputy Prime Minister
Rt Hon George Osborne, MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt Hon Eric Pickles, MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local
Government
Baroness Kramer, Minister of State for Transport
Rt. Hon. John Hayes MP, Minister for Roads
Julian Glover, Special Adviser
Mary Creagh MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport
Richard Burden MP, Shadow Minister for Roads
John Glen, MP for Salisbury
Claire Perry, MP for Devizes
Sir Simon Jenkins, Chairman, The National Trust
Dame Helen Ghosh, Director General, The National Trust
Simon Thurley, Chief Executive, English Heritage
Susan Denyer, Secretary, ICOMOS-UK
Petya Totcharova, Head of Europe and North America Unit, UNESCO
World
Heritage Centre
Dr Mike Heyworth, Director, Council for British Archaeology
Alistair Sommerlad, Chairman, Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership
Panel

THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE IS SUPPORTED BY:
Ancient Sacred Landscape Network; Campaign for Better Transport;
Campaign to Protect Rural England; Friends of the Earth; and
RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust