

Stonehenge Estate: Review of A303 trunk road improvements

Client: The National Trust

Project dates: 1999 - 2004

The 9km length of the A303 trunk road between Amesbury and Berwick Down in Wiltshire is the first section of single carriageway to be met, when travelling west, after some 45km of dual carriageway. For many years, the Highways Agency have been planning to upgrade this section of road, part of which runs close to the Stonehenge monuments and passes across estate lands owned by The National Trust.



Between 1990 and 1993, the Highways Agency examined 24 route options for achieving the desired up-grading. After many studies, options were gradually eliminated until, in June 1999, a Preferred Option was announced which would involve placing 2km of the road into tunnel through the area of land visible from the Stonehenge monument.

the engineering and environmental implications of the proposals and providing the National Trust with independent advice. The Trust was supportive of the plan to build a tunnel in principle, but had reservations about a number of detailed aspects. Judith Teasdale gave evidence about the landscape implications of the proposals, on behalf of the National Trust, at a Public Inquiry held in the spring of 2004.

In 1999, Teasdale Environmental Design was appointed as part of an advisory team, reviewing

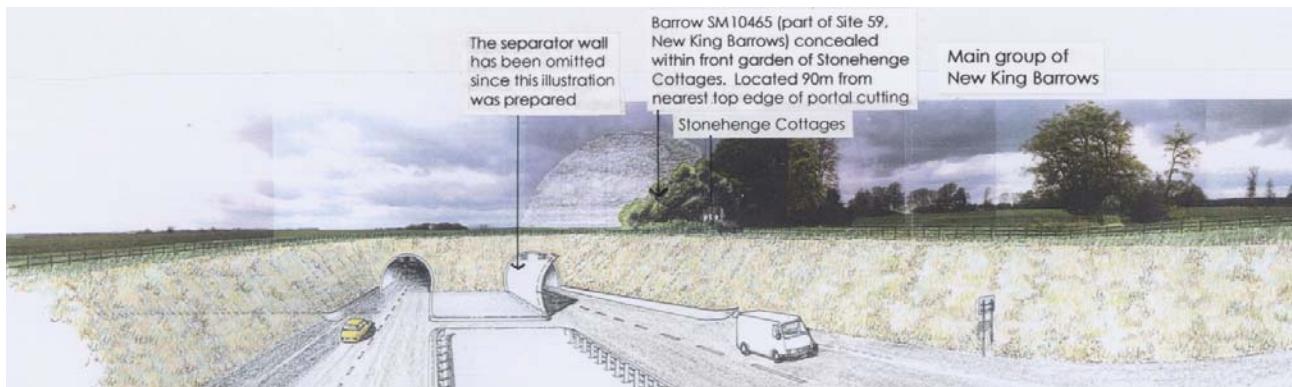


Illustration of Highways Agency's proposals for eastern tunnel portal

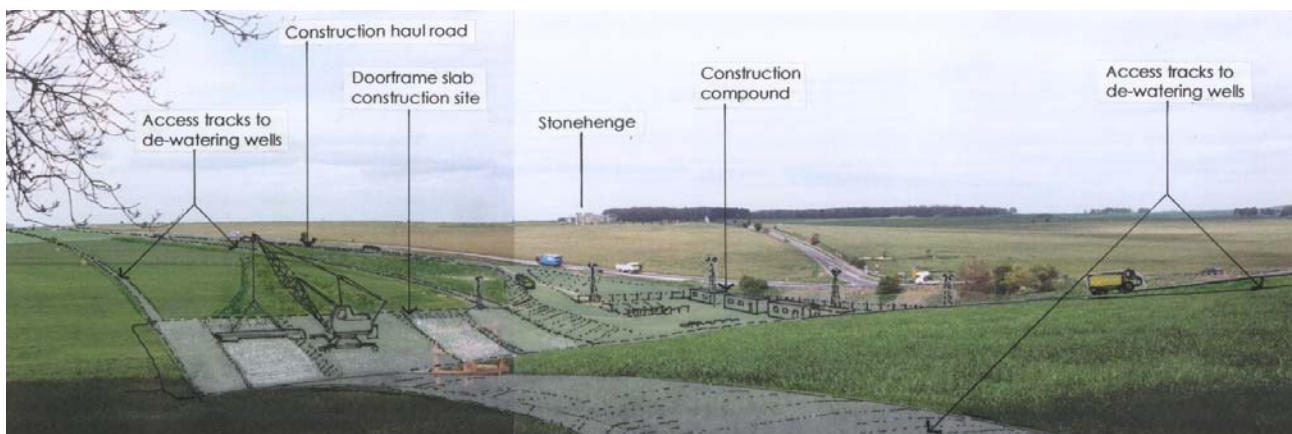


Illustration of proposed construction works at Stonehenge Bottom