

A303 STONEHENGE IMPROVEMENTS INQUIRIES

held at

Cross Keys House
Salisbury

on

Tuesday, 30 March 2004

Before:

THE INSPECTOR

(Mr Michael Ellison MA (Oxford))

THE ASSISTANT INSPECTOR

(Mr Clive COCHRANE)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

DAY TWENTY - PM

1 THE INSPECTOR: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It is
2 two o'clock and the inquiries are therefore resumed. I
3 have two documents to mention before we start on this
4 afternoon's programme. First, I now have a copy of
5 missing core document CD/EH/3, which is the Stonehenge
6 World Heritage Site Archaeological Research Framework.
7 It is quite a hefty document. The copy that I have does
8 not include the maps. The maps are very large and
9 difficult to copy. So, the library copy, as I
10 understand it, of CD/EH/3 has all the maps in it if
11 anyone needs to refer to them, and the copy I have as a
12 working copy does not. I shall take away the library
13 copy to include in the pack for the decision makers when
14 we conclude the Inquiry.

15 The other group of documents, which have been
16 allocated a number, is SAWT/1/2. That is a collection
17 of documents referred to in Mr Jackson's proof of
18 evidence. There are eight documents mentioned in that
19 proof and I raised the question of their whereabouts on
20 day two of the Inquiry. What has now been produced as
21 SAWT/1/2 is documents numbered two to eight from that
22 list. I gather that it has not been possible for the
23 programme officer to track down a copy of the first
24 document mentioned, which is a letter of 19 December
25 2003. So, we need to raise that with Mr Jackson when he
26 comes to the Inquiry. Those documents have now been
27 provided, copied and included in the inquiry library.

28 Is there anything else of an administrative nature
29 which needs to be mentioned before we proceed this
30 afternoon? If not, I turn to Mrs Robertson's objection.

31 Mrs Robertson, I have four sets of documents from
32 you plus one from the Highways Agency. JR/1/1 is a
33 letter dated 6 December 2003, which has attached to it a
34 letter of 9 January 2004, and the drawing marked X3.
35 Then I have JR/1/2, which I think is the proof of
36 evidence which I think you will probably want to read to

1 us today. Then JR/1/3, which is headed "Selected
2 Highlights of Salisbury 1995 Stonehenge Conference", and
3 then JR/1/4, the illustrations which you provided a week
4 or ten days ago.

5 MRS ROBERTSON: There should be another one marked X3. There
6 should be two marked X3. One is a plan and one is a
7 vertical view of what is proposed.

8 THE INSPECTOR: I have a drawing marked X3, which is
9 suggested excavation under A303 at Stonehenge. I am not
10 sure that I have anything else marked X3. "Suggested
11 Arrangement for Stonehenge Visitors Centre and Dual
12 A303"?

13 MRS ROBERTSON: Yes, that is it.

14 THE INSPECTOR: Mine does not have X3 written on it, but
15 there we are.

16 MRS ROBERTSON: That must be my error; I am sorry.

17 THE INSPECTOR: Not at all. Mr Cochrane says that the one in
18 the rebuttal proof does. This one is different. It is
19 the one in the rebuttal proof that I should take notice
20 of, is it?

21 MRS ROBERTSON: I do not know. I do not have my rebuttal
22 proof here. That is the one, yes. This is the proposed
23 one. It is not the visitors centre. That is the
24 museum.

25 THE INSPECTOR: So, this one I do not take notice of?

26 MRS ROBERTSON: That one I just decided to colour in that
27 little block.

28 THE INSPECTOR: It is a "spot the difference job", is it?
29 So, the one to which I should make reference is the one
30 which is incorporated with the rebuttal proof.

31 **JUNE ROBERTSON, called**

32
33 MRS ROBERTSON: My name is June Robertson. I am a Blue Badge
34 tourist guide. I am qualified to guide particularly in
35 the Stonehenge and the Salisbury area as I am also a
36 local resident. I am a member of the Institute of
37 Tourist Guides and the Guild of Registered Tourist

1 Guides. I qualified initially in 1981, and mostly I am
2 employed to take tourists for one or two weeks' touring
3 around the whole of Britain, including Wales, Scotland,
4 Ireland - and Stonehenge. I do not have to tell you
5 that we do have Stonehenge here on the indicator. You
6 are all familiar with it, I am sure.

7 In any case, I am sure that you will agree that you
8 can see the 344 and behind you have the henge. It goes
9 all the way around, so that is the henge at the back.
10 You can see a single soul right there, very tiny
11 compared to the Stones, walking on the path beyond the
12 henge. Behind that, you have the 303 with two cars on
13 it. I judge from the position of the Stones - it is
14 difficult to be accurate about it - but I would say
15 somewhere round about three o'clock in the afternoon on
16 a summer's day because the shadows are fairly short, so
17 the sun must be fairly high.

18 I think that the pilot of this aircraft is also
19 pretty brave as well, because this is a non-low flying
20 area. There are lots of things that go bang all the way
21 around. So, on the whole this is quite a special
22 picture and I put it on especially because of the
23 writing underneath: Stonehenge From the Air, A344 in the
24 Foreground. If you were down on the ground you would
25 not see the A344 at all; you would just be looking up
26 at the fence along the front of it. You would not be
27 able to see the A303 at all. At that point you do not
28 see it at all. Even when you are walking in the henge,
29 you walk towards this monument, you go inside the henge
30 and look around for the 303 you have to look over to the
31 hill coming down from King Barrow Ridge. You cannot see
32 the 303 to the south; no way.

33 So, perhaps later on at some stage we can do a walk
34 around Stonehenge and check up on these things. Perhaps
35 we could just keep that there for a moment.

36 I am not here to speak on behalf of the tourist

1 guides; they can speak for themselves. I would rather
2 speak on behalf of the tourists who have no collective
3 voice, nobody to speak for them but who provide
4 Stonehenge with its income at £5 per head, or £10 if you
5 wish to visit the centre of the Stones out of hours.
6 That is going to go up in April, and it is April the
7 day after tomorrow. They still cannot tell me what the
8 price will be in April, and they still cannot say which
9 day in April it will be going up, but that is just in
10 passing.

11 Could we have the next slide? This is A3. It is my
12 plan for the extra bits at Stonehenge. I do propose a
13 dual carriageway along the line of the A303 as it is
14 now, just a dual carriageway so I assume it will be
15 added on the south side, but that is entirely up to the
16 roadmakers. I have only asked for one thing. When this
17 was discussed on the conference that we had in 1995 in
18 the Red Lion in Salisbury I was told that this was quite
19 impossible. There was a little cluster of round barrows
20 enclosed underneath the road at the moment. I had a
21 long talk with Dr Wainwright, who is the chief
22 archaeologist. He said that they are safe there but if
23 we start digging or anything else like that, they will
24 not be safe.

25 So, I have proposed that a covering should be
26 provided over the top and the road can run over the top
27 of a collection of arches so that the little round
28 barrows are enclosed underneath and then they are safe.
29 You will see that there is also a tunnel underneath the
30 dual carriageway so that the byway can go through. I do
31 have a little addition to that, a little access for
32 emergency vehicles on the right-hand side of the little
33 visitor museum, the excavation museum. I suggested in
34 1995 that the round barrows that were there should be
35 excavated and left exposed and that they are covered by
36 a little building to keep them safe. Then people will

1 know what a round barrow looks like when it is
2 excavated. I do feel that that is rather important.
3 Archaeology is becoming so important on the television
4 and children are asking just exactly what does it mean.
5 There are still means of telling them. You can walk
6 them on the grass but it does not tell them exactly what
7 it is you are talking about.

8 I should like to commend, sir, my suggestion for
9 Stonehenge because it does provide the three things that
10 the tourist needs. First, it provides distant views of
11 Stonehenge in its landscape. Secondly, it gets tourists
12 through the site quickly, realising the relationship
13 with the barrows on their ridge sites grouped around the
14 central monument, and the significance of the sequence
15 with a look over the long barrow, and thirdly it allows
16 those with more time to visit; to park their car in the
17 car park at the site itself. And, of course, they can
18 visit the monument at that time if they wish to.

19 The visitors centre would have to be enlarged. It
20 is in exactly the same place as it is at the moment.
21 The visitors centre is really rather a gruesome
22 collection of little huts; no welcome. No visitor
23 really wants to be there, particularly if it is pouring
24 rain. The administrators are all under cover but the
25 visitors stand around in the rain. The car park is
26 totally invisible from the monument itself; you cannot
27 see it. The visitors centre also largely has totally
28 disappeared. Some of the people this morning were
29 talking about putting it in a hollow. It is in a
30 hollow. The top of the visitors centre is level with
31 the road; you do not see it. I suggest that this should
32 be enlarged. Extra car park spacing can be put
33 underground but it would be unreasonable to put coaches
34 underground because that would require a very large car
35 park sliced out of the chalk underneath, particularly as
36 double decker coaches are coming in nowadays and

1 becoming more and more popular. There is one company
2 that has a bus stop there, so they have to be allowed in
3 regardless of whether or not the A344 is there. That is
4 what is there now.

5 I want to go through these three points that the
6 visitor does need, that I have spoken of. First, as
7 Dr Kate Fox said in her summary on landscape (reference
8 3.5) the view of Stonehenge is highly valued by many
9 local and long distance travellers. I do not think that
10 anybody could argue with that, but you do not get much
11 of a view from inside a tunnel. If the A344 is also to
12 be abolished, nobody will ever again be able to see
13 Stonehenge when passing in their car. My children know
14 what Stonehenge looks like but will their grandchildren?
15 The thought that we may have to surrender the view of
16 Stonehenge in its bowl when we approach over the King
17 Barrow Ridge is unthinkable.

18 Our second important consideration for the tourist
19 is the speed that they can travel through the Stonehenge
20 bowl. I have timed this journey many times: three
21 minutes if it is during the day when there is no
22 congestion, but when there is a traffic jam, it takes
23 three-quarters of an hour from one roundabout to
24 another; a distance of about 4.8279 km - three miles.
25 May I whisper that? It is about three miles; I can only
26 measure it on my speedometer, so the journey time has
27 been multiplied by 15. There is 15 times as long for
28 that three miles or 4.8279 km just because there is not
29 a dual carriageway.

30 The dualling of the A303 from the M3 junction was
31 started in the 1980s. As it came closer and closer from
32 London, we would automatically expect a traffic snarl up
33 at the major engineering points: Bullington Cross
34 flyover, the A34; Andover bypass; a flyover at the
35 Tidworth Road; past Amesbury to Countess Road
36 roundabout. That was the first roundabout we

1 encountered since leaving London. We were looking
2 forward to having the next part completed. There would
3 be no more snarl ups, no more accidents, and then it
4 stopped at the top of King Barrow Ridge, and it was a
5 surprise.

6 When I saw a group of the road engineers with hard
7 hats standing beside the road I pulled in and inquired
8 why they had stopped the road building and they replied
9 that English Heritage had now taken over Stonehenge and
10 as the new part of the road required a strip of National
11 Trust land, this was inalienable and would require
12 parliamentary approval to continue.

13 The third need for the tourists is the visitors
14 centre. We will have a look at this particular visitors
15 centre. This is the one that is anticipated. I do not
16 intend to talk about it, just to say that I gather that
17 that front wall is made of pewter or a pewter
18 derivative. I am not sure; I think that that is one in
19 the eye for the Bronze Age. I was keen on this: the top
20 of it looks a little like a bowling alley, but
21 apparently it is not like that; it is flat. It
22 suddenly occurred to me that that could be put
23 underneath something and you could put a road over the
24 top. So, this was my inspiration. So, I had to have it
25 on, didn't I? We will have a look at the other one that
26 I have been considering.

27 The third need for the tourists is the visitors
28 centre, a place where visitors are welcome; welcome to
29 park their car; rest the drivers; admire the landscape
30 and visit the monument or decide to visit it later on on
31 the return journey home.

32 This is one that happens in Scotland. This is
33 north of Aberdeen. Nobody quite knows where the Romans
34 had their final battle, the most northerly battle they
35 ever fought. It is thought to be somewhere near
36 Aberdeen. It could be around this place, but you can see

1 the visitors centre that they built there. It is this
2 little round one in the middle. That is the entrance,
3 underneath a turf roof, so it is two-storeys high. You
4 enter on the ground floor and then it has this great arc
5 all the way round it. There is a lot of facilities;
6 large dining area; a big room for schoolchildren. It is
7 rather nice in this place. As well as the turf roof
8 which just makes it disappear into the landscape it is
9 built of real wood and real stone. There is a lot of
10 glass; the room for the children - they have a lot of
11 school parties going through. One thing you hear here
12 which you never hear at Stonehenge is the children
13 laughing. They have a lot of fun. They draw pictures. I
14 must say that very often it is the tourist guide in the
15 pictures with green legs and purple hair, but it does
16 not matter.

17 They sit on the floor of their room drawing it on
18 the floor because one of the Aberdeen stores gave them
19 chairs and tables but a rule from Europe came in saying
20 that children may not eat on the same tables that they
21 draw their pictures on, so the tables were pushed to the
22 side and the children squat on the floor and draw their
23 pictures. They come back again and again. You can see
24 at the back there something that they are terribly proud
25 of. They built a Celtic roundhouse. At the top of the
26 hill on the right-hand side there is an Iron Age hill
27 fort as well. But they are very proud of their Celtic
28 roundhouse. In fact, when I rang them up I said that I
29 would like some pictures if they could send me some of
30 their visitors centre. This is just in their
31 publicity. If anybody would like a copy of their
32 brochure, they are very welcome to it. I said that I
33 did like the look of that roundhouse right in the middle
34 of the visitors centre and they sent me lots of pictures
35 of the Celtic roundhouse at the back there. It looks a
36 lot of fun. They obviously have parties up there. Can

1 you see the Celtic roundhouse that I am talking about?
2 They built that with the help of the children. There is
3 a lot of creative activity there. It is a real
4 "zinging" place.

5 They are intending to cover up the parking space
6 over on the left. They were talking about that. This
7 had only just opened when I first went there. I think
8 you get the impression. This is what I would like to
9 have or something of this sort; a visitors centre with
10 integrity, one where you can get out of the rain and you
11 can also sit down. There is nowhere to sit at the
12 present visitors centre. Can I tell you, there used to
13 be a little low wall at Stonehenge and I used to perch
14 myself there so that I could see the people going into
15 the shop and when they came out just tell them there is
16 another 10 minutes before the coach leaves and just keep
17 an eye on things. When I went back there later the wall
18 had gone. I asked them, "Why has it gone?" and somebody
19 turned to me and said, "People used to sit on it" as
20 though they had done the most terrible sin. I sat on
21 it. It was very useful and it was the only place to sit
22 down.

23 They can visit the monument and visit the landscape
24 on their return journey home. We do not really have a
25 visitors centre at the monument at the moment. What is
26 there is a little room that was built as an office for
27 the two men who collected the money from the visitors.
28 It was one or two shillings to begin with. It was
29 possibly a little mobile shepherd's hut at one time, but
30 here one of the guardians sat behind a little window
31 collecting the tolls and issuing tickets. Next to him
32 was another little window and that was the shop. There
33 was a row of six or eight postcards of Stonehenge
34 arranged behind the glass and you said that you wanted
35 three cards of number two and one of number five and one
36 of the Blue Guide books. I am sure that you will all

1 remember the Blue Guide books, official Department of
2 the Environment in those days.

3 But that was all the shop there was, and that was
4 the visitors centre. Now, the office is the shop but
5 there is still no welcome for the visitors, no shelter
6 from the rain nor a chance to sit down. If we keep that
7 on for a moment, can I bore you a bit by telling you how
8 we managed with our coach groups on a rainy day? It is
9 probable that a group of visitors from a foreign country
10 have been organising and creating their tour for nearly
11 a year or more but this is agreed by the whole group in
12 advance and handed on to a tour operator. He or she will
13 organise the itinerary, book the hotels and arrange for
14 the visitations that they ask for and frequently that
15 includes Stonehenge.

16 This is the agreed itinerary that is handed on to a
17 coach company and a guide. It says, "10.30 to 11.30,
18 Stonehenge visit. 12 to 1, guided tour of Salisbury
19 Cathedral. Free time for lunch: 1 to 2 pm." As you can
20 see, because this was all arranged more than six months
21 ago and probably in a foreign country, nobody knew what
22 the weather would be like. But Stonehenge has to be
23 visited as arranged because in the afternoon it is the
24 Andover Iron Age Museum or Winchester, and the next day
25 you have to be in Plymouth or Stratford-upon-Avon. So,
26 what can you do if it is raining? You just go; you go
27 urging them to bring umbrellas and sensible shoes, and
28 they do not always. You see the round barrow as you
29 arrive; you see the Hele stone; the henge and the Stones
30 before you park the coach. If it is still raining: stay
31 on the coach and talk because there is nowhere else to
32 sit out of the rain. The visitors can see the large
33 white circles on the floor of the car park; Mesolithic
34 post holes and I might say that those were only
35 discovered at that point, because the car park was
36 there. The car park had been provided by the public for

1 the use of the public for free, and when they stripped
2 back the turf they found those Mesolithic post holes
3 that exactly doubled the age of the Stonehenge monument
4 and they would never have discovered it if it had not
5 been for the car park there. Then just follow your
6 instructions and you can see the position of the sun on
7 midsummer sunrise: behind Larkhill camp, the Cursus and
8 the round barrows in the open fields to the north. If
9 it is still raining, keep talking: blue spotted
10 dolerite; silica sandstone; deal with Druids and phases
11 of building; with dates and the methods of construction
12 and when the rain decreases, warn them to be ready to
13 walk at a moment's notice, that the paths and grass are
14 slippery when wet and that the tunnel and shop are the
15 best places to dash to if it rains again.

16 With the rain nearly gone - that is a "perhaps" -
17 go as fast as possible. You have to hand in your
18 voucher, which your company has given to you and mark it
19 "zero visitors" if none of the visitors follow you. If
20 they do follow you, you go round the Stones, because
21 that is the important part. But in this way the
22 visitors can hear what they need. They can get out and
23 visit if they choose, but above all they see Stonehenge.
24 If they do not see Stonehenge we have not fulfilled the
25 contract, and this can be accomplished only if the car
26 park is near the Stones. I rest my case.

27 The next slide: I do feel we should have a look at
28 this. It is rather horrific. This is what happens if
29 you put a tunnel through chalk. This is not at
30 Stonehenge. This is the M4, the tunnel at the Cheively
31 Crossing. This is what happens. I have two of these.
32 We can have both of them on. I have two different ones,
33 one from the north and one from the south. There will
34 be two of these cuttings for each tunnel, whatever the
35 length of it. There will be one at each end. You can
36 see - I think that it is almost a quarter of a mile long

1 and down to the bare chalk. We will have the other one
2 on as well and then you have done it and we have seen
3 exactly what we are talking about with the tunnel.

4 Of course, there are other ways of stripping the
5 turf off the top of the chalk. The average number of
6 visitors expected at Stonehenge annually is around
7 800,000. If they all decided to walk to Stonehenge
8 coming over King Barrow Ridge and walking down the hill,
9 what would happen to the turf? I think that the answer
10 is damage. You can forget the butterflies and the
11 precious flowers. Even the birds might be scared off.
12 Is that what we want?

13 English Heritage was given control of the monument
14 for two reasons. There were to be two points of
15 reference to decide if they are fulfilling the
16 expectations: one, to improve the interpretation and
17 two, to improve the access. Of the interpretation I can
18 only say that when English Heritage took over - I think
19 they took over from the Department of the Environment at
20 that time; there had been a succession of people who
21 were in charge of it one after another and nothing
22 seemed to go quite right - there had been one day a week
23 in winter time only when the public could enter the
24 centre of the Stones in daytime; no extra charge at that
25 time. English Heritage increased that to two days a
26 week and I might say there was great rejoicing. But now
27 there are none. Now they charge £10 per head for out of
28 hours visiting.

29 Of the improvement in the access there is a great
30 deal to be said, particularly about their new plans for
31 wheelchairs and the elderly and those with small
32 children, but we must not mention land trains and walks
33 of two miles each way at this Inquiry.

34 So, is there any section of the public that you can
35 think of that would enjoy seeing this great monument in
36 its special historic setting, enjoy the bowl, relish the

1 countryside but only has limited time to enjoy it, but
2 under no circumstance can they be allowed to walk on the
3 grass because their footsteps will damage the turf too
4 much? Yes, of course, the two million motorists, who
5 provide their own transport, pay for their own petrol
6 and enjoy breathing the fresh air as long as there is
7 not the pollution of a tunnel. Is there any quicker way
8 straight across the middle as their Bronze Age ancestors
9 walked?

10 Stonehenge was built to be seen, so why disguise
11 it? Why hide it away and cut out all the views?

12 May I now say a word about the frequent accidents
13 that have been occurring around Stonehenge? It is all
14 very distressing. This is a map showing you the
15 position of the accidents. You can see that this is
16 just the accidents on the 303. It does not include the
17 ones on the 344. You can see that they are arranged
18 around Stonehenge.

19 The map gives the pattern of accidents that have
20 occurred along the line of the A303. We have been told
21 that this happens because Stonehenge distracts the
22 driver's attention, but I suggest that this is not so.
23 There was another black spot for accidents on a main
24 road running north from Newcastle-on-Tyne. It is a
25 beautiful dual carriageway, three lanes each side, fast
26 traffic, well constructed except it slimmed down to a
27 single track each side and the congestion was
28 formidable; the accidents appalling. It needed to be
29 widened. The discussions and conferences went on and
30 on. There were two county councils involved. Everybody
31 had opinions. Discussions went on for years and then
32 the Deputy Prime Minister was called in. He had
33 interests in that area. He cut through the red tape and
34 the job was done: a beautiful dual carriageway, and now
35 there are hardly any accidents any more. I have to tell
36 you that there was no Stonehenge on either side of the

1 road there; it was just frustration that was causing the
2 desperation.

3 If we look to the west of this map we see Yarnbury
4 Iron Age Hill Fort, massive earth ramparts; I estimate
5 seven times wider than Stonehenge. It is nearer to the
6 road, it dominates it but there are scarcely any
7 accidents there. I think that there are two little
8 bobbles right on the left-hand side of the map. Could
9 it be because the road has been dualled? Isn't it
10 surprising?

11 We go to number eight, which is the map that has
12 been produced by the Highways Agency. You will have
13 noticed on my map that the eastern end of the A344 has
14 gone. Can I say immediately that this is the last thing
15 that I would wish to happen. This is a very special
16 feeling that you get on this road that happens as you
17 drive by and so close to the Stones. I feel that I am
18 lucky to live in a village beyond Shrewton and this is
19 my route home. I do not want it to go, but talking to
20 others since the 1995 conference I realise that there is
21 an enormous importance to others in connecting The
22 Avenue to the Hele Stone.

23 What I do want to make quite clear is that if the
24 tunnel is to take away our view of Stonehenge, then the
25 A344 must remain. There must be a chance still to see
26 Stonehenge in passing.

27 There are just a few more points. When the
28 dualling of the A303 was stopped so abruptly and then we
29 had the conference in 1995 we were told by English
30 Heritage that there were many precious archaeological
31 sites that would be endangered by the dual carriageway.
32 We did hear from Dr Wainwright, the chief archaeologist
33 for English Heritage who said that reference has been
34 made to the lack of archaeological impact of a yellow
35 route, but that route would destroy 22 sites including
36 six scheduled ones. I have just added an NB for you:

1 the yellow route is the one line route. I did send you
2 a map as well with a yellow route on the middle. The
3 highways people cannot discover that. Have you
4 discovered it now, a map with the yellow route?

5 MR JONES: I am sure we have it.

6 MRS ROBERTSON: You have not?

7 MR JONES: Sir, the yellow route is one of the drawings in
8 the Environmental Statement. You will find it in there.

9 MRS ROBERTSON: That is the map that I was talking about,
10 that Dr Wainwright was talking about. Mr Turner on the
11 same day asked how many sites would be destroyed by an
12 online improvement and the answer was echoed by
13 everybody there because we had gone through and through
14 the whole thing over and over again: 22 individual sites
15 including six scheduled monuments. I did check up where
16 the special scheduled monuments were. They were in the
17 Normanton Down area. There was much discussion about
18 the value of these precious and valuable sites. They
19 were the ones that were so special that they had caused
20 the dualling of the A303 to be stopped, even though it
21 had been ordered by a previous Minister of State.

22 The six scheduled sites were the six Normanton Down
23 barrows on the closest ridge to the road, and the two
24 surface monuments that are still there on either side of
25 the existing A303 and, I believe - they certainly were
26 unscheduled; I do not know if they are scheduled now -
27 that there is a small long barrow to the south and a
28 round barrow to the north. The round barrow to the
29 north we thought originally was all one round barrow
30 that had been robbed and had been dug into so it looked
31 like two round barrows. Now I gather that it is two
32 round barrows, and possibly it was not robbed; I do not
33 know.

34 The rest of those 22 precious sites were in a
35 cluster close to the south of Stonehenge and some of
36 them partially underneath a neighbour and all buried

1 about 2 metres deep underneath the A303 roadway to
2 protect them. All of this is in the documents that I
3 had from that conference.

4 I asked if you wanted a view of the sites at the
5 time, but you did not want to have a look. I did ask if
6 you wanted to have them but you said that you would just
7 make do with the references that were on a separate
8 piece of paper. Do you want those references now?

9 THE INSPECTOR: Yes, please.

10 MRS ROBERTSON: The conference, 1995, Dr Wainwright speaking
11 on day 3 in the morning, section 12.

12 THE INSPECTOR: This is number four on your list, is it not?

13 MRS ROBERTSON: I do not know, I think I have different
14 numbers.

15 THE INSPECTOR: JR/1/3. You have noted that at number four
16 on that.

17 MRS ROBERTSON: I think that that might be it, like this.
18 You remember the pages that I copied and marked and I
19 made a list of the references on the top.

20 THE INSPECTOR: Yes, day 3 in the morning, paragraph 8,
21 Dr Wainwright, Chief Archaeologist, English Heritage,
22 said that they were the government's expert advisers on
23 archaeology and historic buildings. English Heritage
24 had undertaken their own assessment of the
25 archaeological constraints in the area of Stonehenge
26 World Heritage Site, and so on. It is a three-paragraph
27 extract.

28 MRS ROBERTSON: Yes, but there are still those paragraphs
29 that I did want to note. You were told me that you
30 would be getting copies of these.

31 THE INSPECTOR: Yes, I think that the Highways Agency will
32 have a copy of JR/1/3.

33 MR CALVERT: We do sir, yes.

34 THE INSPECTOR: All the references are in there.

35 MRS ROBERTSON: But these are not word for word. It is not
36 the same as it is today. I think they were typed at the

1 time.

2 THE INSPECTOR: Yes, it was not a transcript; it was a
3 summary.

4 MRS ROBERTSON: Yes, you have the right words. Later on
5 there was section 17, just after that, when Mr Turner
6 asked the questions.

7 THE INSPECTOR: Yes, that is reference 5 on JR/1/3.

8 MRS ROBERTSON: There were quite a few, including the Arch
9 Druids' recommendation there.

10 THE INSPECTOR: Yes, that is reference 1 on day four.

11 MRS ROBERTSON: Day four in the afternoon?

12 THE INSPECTOR: Yes, at paragraph 20.

13 MRS ROBERTSON: The other one I did want to mention from the
14 conference in 1995 was day three in the morning,
15 paragraph 16 the four principles of the Council for
16 British Archaeology.

17 THE INSPECTOR: Yes, that is reference 6 on JR/1/3.

18 MRS ROBERTSON: Perhaps I may continue. It is very
19 remarkable that all records of these 14 round barrows
20 have now disappeared, especially when this precious
21 strip of land had caused the dualling of the A303 to be
22 stopped. My suggestion is to have the position of this
23 cluster of 14 barrows identified by the archaeologists.
24 When this has been marked, the second lane of the A303
25 can be constructed with a special flyover crossing the
26 site of the barrows, like the crossing over the river
27 Till. I was rather impressed when I saw a picture of
28 that one up on legs.

29 When the new piece of road is ready to use, the
30 two-way traffic can be transferred to do that and the
31 original A303 can then be altered where necessary to
32 match the new road. Over the excavation, the central
33 reservation on the dual carriageway could be glass
34 panels to allow daylight to reach the exposures below.
35 Walls and windows can now be built around the barrows to
36 protect them and then the archaeologists can reveal the

1 buried round barrows and leave them on site as an
2 excavation museum. The A303 dual carriageway travels on
3 the top of it.

4 The archways at the end of this building will be
5 passages for the fire engine and emergency vehicles at
6 one end and for wheelchairs, bicycles and wheelbarrows,
7 etc at the other end. It will also be an underpass for
8 Bridleway 11.

9 We had to rethink it entirely because the barrows
10 are not there so we had to choose another site to cover
11 up by a flyover or the 303. if the archaeologists are
12 unable to pinpoint these 14 barrows, I feel sure that
13 there is some explaining to do, since they were so
14 precious that the original dualling of the A303 was
15 abandoned and it has cost the taxpayer millions of
16 pounds since then.

17 I would accept a movement of the museum to the west
18 to cover the long barrow and round barrow and it could
19 then include the new linear feature mentioned by
20 Professor Whittle of the Prehistoric society that might
21 have been a palisade. I rather think that that is on
22 its side. We shall have to stand on our heads, but you
23 can see the fork. Just to the left of the fork, which
24 makes a triangle for Stonehenge we have that feature,
25 they call it a pinch point to the south. I can see
26 where it is. That is it, to the south. It is a very
27 little long barrow and to the north there are two round
28 barrows. Just to the left of it that is the linear
29 feature that Professor Whittle talked about. That, I
30 think, could make a very interesting archaeological
31 exhibition on the ground floor. Of course, we would
32 have to dig down to a certain extent to get down to that
33 level, and that is the floor. So, to a certain extent
34 it would be partially underground, and then you have the
35 road going over the top of it. Is that clear?

36 If I might refer again to the 1995 Stonehenge

1 Conference at the Red Lion in Salisbury, the Council for
2 British Archaeology were keen to put a set of principles
3 before the conference governing any work in an
4 archaeological site, which should involve (1) the
5 minimum damage to archaeological remains; (2) the
6 minimum impact on undeveloped land; (3) minimum visual
7 intrusion on monuments and the landscape; (4) the
8 maximum reversibility at the end of road life. Those
9 were put on day three in the morning at paragraph 16,
10 the four principles of the CBA, the Council for British
11 Archaeology. They have been mentioned already in this
12 inquiry. Each of these principles is respected in my
13 suggestion.

14 On the Thursday of the conference, the Arch Druid,
15 Mr Maughling said, a lot has been heard about
16 underground tunnels. At best a tunnel is an expedient.
17 If we are going into a tunnel in order to re-route
18 roads, why are we thinking of transferring a surface
19 noise problem into an underground seismic problem? A
20 green tunnel would have a similar seismic fall out.
21 Tunnels must be at least 600 yards or further from
22 Stonehenge Stones. Anything passing under or near the
23 Stones themselves would cause tremendous protests".

24 I looked up the meaning of the word "seismic" and
25 it said "to do with earthquakes". I think that that
26 speaks for a tunnel fairly fiercely. This was on day 4
27 in the afternoon, paragraph 20, the Arch Druid talking.

28 I have been asked how much my suggested alternative
29 route will cost. Of course, I could not say accurately.
30 Others will be more competent to do that, but perhaps I
31 could make a suggestion. On the last day of that
32 Stonehenge conference, I heard a shout from someone in
33 or near the engineering group, but I could not see who.
34 It was a shout of, "I will build you your dual
35 carriageway. It will cost £1 million and it will be
36 built in one year". There was a gasp of surprise. But,

1 remarkably, everything just continued as though nothing
2 had been said. I thought I would find out his name from
3 the record of proceedings, but nothing was said at all,
4 and, even more remarkable, nothing was even said by
5 people who were close beside me and I knew that they had
6 heard the outcry because they reacted just as I had. I
7 could not find out who had shouted and I wondered if I
8 had imagined it until a couple of months ago. I had to
9 ring up Mr Carpenter, the representative of Highways
10 Agency in charge of publicity for this inquiry, but the
11 jobs had been changed and I found myself talking to Mr
12 Alcorn, who said he had been at the earlier conference
13 in 1995. I said that I had been interested in a shout
14 from the engineering group and was immediately answered,
15 " That was not one of us ". So, I had not imagined it.
16 He would not give me the name of the individual but said
17 that he had changed his firm and was now engaged as a
18 consultant elsewhere. I would still be interested to
19 find out his name but I am not permitted to call
20 Mr Alcorn as he is an officer of the Inquiry. But he
21 did tell me that if something had been omitted from the
22 record of the proceedings, then I should have rung up
23 the road department the same day and it would have been
24 added, except that I did and it had not. However, the
25 offer was made nine years ago: £1 million.

26 I have said that I am here to speak for tourists,
27 but we are all tourists at one time or another: business
28 tourists, sports tourists, music or holiday tourists; we
29 all have an interest in being able to move around safely
30 and efficiently and view those things we hope to see. I
31 wonder how people would react if they went up to London
32 today and found that they were no longer permitted to
33 look at the Tower of London; millions of pounds had been
34 spent on erecting a barricade so that it was invisible
35 and to visit you had to park at Greenwich and catch a
36 special ferry boat 5 km away that would deliver you

1 through Traitors' Gate by special arrangements? Would
2 they make a comment? Would they say that this is a
3 waste of money, ludicrous? Each of these remarks has
4 been said about a tunnel under a field to hide away a
5 view that we particularly wish to see. I feel sure that
6 to make a visit to Stonehenge three-and-a-half hours
7 instead of one hour will damage Wiltshire's tourist
8 industry.

9 May we go on to the last one? Before I conclude,
10 sir, may I ask you to consider my presentation not just
11 as a cheaper option or one that can be completed
12 quickly, or one that is completely reversible; it can do
13 all of that. It is also one that I am completely
14 convinced, after years of experience, will produce the
15 answer that we are all seeking: it will relieve the
16 traffic jam and it will keep the visitors centre and the
17 car park at their present site. The site is perfect. It
18 is completely invisible from the monument. It is just
19 that the buildings are so inadequate and they should
20 have been replaced by English Heritage by a proper
21 visitors centre ages ago.

22 But the road that I envisage is not to be done on
23 the cheap. Cutting corners to cut costs is not an
24 option. A beautiful and well-built road is an asset to
25 any community. It has to be built with the meticulous
26 precision which is used to create fine porcelain. It has
27 to have the appeal that is apparent in the window of a
28 Gothic cathedral. It has to have integrity; the correct
29 camber; the correct drainage; the correct surface and,
30 above all, the correct width to deal with the expected
31 traffic. Thank you, sir. We have missed one. It is a
32 view of the south front of the museum that I had to put
33 up.

34 THE INSPECTOR: In X3?

35 MRS ROBERTSON: Yes, I had hoped that it was there.

36 THE INSPECTOR: That is it.

1 MRS ROBERTSON: Thank you very much. Here you can see that
2 the road goes over the top and this is dug down to the
3 level of what I imagine the round barrows were, which we
4 were told was about a couple of metres down. The level
5 of the land on the north side of the road is at a higher
6 level, so I have marked it in the archways at each end.
7 These are through points. The archway on the right is
8 for emergency vehicles and the fire officer gave me the
9 special height and width that it had to be to
10 accommodate all the emergency vehicles. I had hoped he
11 would come and just confirm that this would work.

12 The archway on the left is for small, normal
13 humans. People would enter from Stonehenge, which is
14 behind this building and they would enter from the other
15 side. I would imagine that school parties might come
16 in. They would enter on a higher level and find that
17 they were on a mezzanine layer and they could look down
18 on the excavations, with their teachers. But there is a
19 problem about drainage of the road. I think that it
20 would probably have to come down what looks like pillars
21 on the front. They would have to have drains down the
22 inside of them so that they can drain down to the
23 ground. I do not think I have anything else to say,
24 except I have to rebut a rebuttal. Is that right?

25 THE INSPECTOR: Yes, by all means if you wish to do so.

26 MRS ROBERTSON: It is called something different here.

27 THE INSPECTOR: It is called the response. Perhaps the
28 Highways Agency think that that is a gentler word than
29 "rebuttal".

30 MRS ROBERTSON: Is this especially because we are very
31 delicate creatures?

32 THE INSPECTOR: Absolutely so. This is Highways Agency/13/26
33 and you want to take us through that in terms of
34 responding to any of the points that are raised there?

35 MRS ROBERTSON: Yes, I do not think it has a number on it.

36 THE INSPECTOR: On the front page towards the top.

1 MRS ROBERTSON: 13/26?

2 THE INSPECTOR: That is it.

3 MRS ROBERTSON: Page 2 is the first one I have here,
4 paragraph 2.2.2: a similar line and level to pass
5 through the pinch point it mentions there. If we move
6 this building to the west, the pinch point will be
7 underneath us, so we can make the building as wide as we
8 like, more or less. Does that follow? There will not
9 be a pinch point because we are going over the top of it
10 and the pinch point will be included underneath.

11 Amesbury 12 would pass beneath the dual
12 carriageway. In fact, this would give us three access
13 points for the bridleway, for the footpath and also for
14 the fire engines, because I think that the fire engine
15 will still have to have an access point down closer to
16 where the 344 was at one time. I am sorry that those
17 little Iron Age round barrows have gone. I had a feeling
18 at the time that they are not very far from where the
19 floods pool at the junction of the 344 and the 303.
20 just before that conference they unearthed the chap that
21 is always known as Mr Peat Bog. He is in the British
22 Museum in London, or rather half of him has been
23 excavated, and he has survived, poor chap. He was
24 murdered five times over. He had a very nasty bump on
25 the head, possibly with an axe; he was strangled. He
26 had the chord round his neck still. And he had his
27 throat cut. Then he was placed in a peat bog - that is
28 where he gets his name - and he was left there; nobody
29 helped him out at all. There he was. This all happened
30 in Cheshire, but I did wonder if this little collection
31 of round barrows might have a connection with that. Did
32 any of those bodies ever have a chord round their neck
33 or a very sore head? Now we never will know. They
34 could have been popped into the bog. They would have
35 been helped out and given a decent burial afterwards. It
36 was clearly somebody who had sacrificed himself out of

1 great heroism. There he was, Mr Peat Bog. But we might
2 have had 14 of these bodies to examine. Just think what
3 that would do for the museum; alas -

4 Number 223, the viaduct be the location of a
5 museum. I am not sure that I would call it a viaduct.
6 I do not know just what the correct term is but in the
7 next paragraph it says that my plan resembles a
8 Victorian railway viaduct. Do you think that that
9 resembles a Victorian viaduct?

10 THE INSPECTOR: It has been written by a Latinist who
11 considers that it carries a road, perhaps.

12 MRS ROBERTSON: Of course; that is true. It might also be a
13 bit of an aqueduct as well, unfortunately. "Any remains
14 that may be found nearby". We know the other two. I
15 hope that the long barrow and the round barrow do not
16 also disappear.

17 Number 225: the new road would cross Stonehenge
18 Bottom on an embankment up to 7 metres high. I have not
19 said any heights at all; I just told them to do the best
20 that it could be. Stonehenge Bottom, as far as I know,
21 is the bit that floods, is it not? Am I right, because
22 there always is a little pool, or almost every year.
23 The ground gets very soggy and then a little pool
24 appears when the water table is high enough. Whether
25 you have to be 7 metres high; I do not know. There is a
26 very sharp decline on the left-hand side of the road as
27 you are coming over King Barrow Ridge, and that
28 presumably would be where they would put the extra
29 carriageway.

30 The next page: the road would be open for emergency
31 access, and slip roads and access tracks would be
32 provided for this purpose. I am assured by the Fire
33 Department that you do not need special roads; the fire
34 appliances and all the emergency vehicles can travel
35 over grass, over rough territory; they are specially
36 made. But that is quite right, there would be an access

1 point for emergency vehicles. An extra one would have
2 to be made if these two access points, which would cover
3 bridleway and another footpath, would be moved to the
4 west.

5 Lay-bys would not be provided on AR9. Lay-bys are
6 fine but I would rather have a lay-by next door to
7 Stonehenge in the shape of a car park. The visitors
8 always want to get off to take photographs and it is
9 very much better if they get right off the road and then
10 take their photographs when they go into Stonehenge.
11 However, if there is room for a lay-by, possibly on the
12 top of this little museum place here, that would be a
13 very good thing, I am sure.

14 "The viaduct museum to carry the A303 near
15 Stonehenge would be an unusual structure, which would be
16 visible from Stonehenge." I do not believe it would.
17 We are, in fact, right behind a little spur of hill that
18 comes down and completely screens off. I do not know
19 how high that spur is. I know that Stonehenge is not
20 visible from the Winterbourne Stoke roundabout, but
21 possibly if one was raised up above the Winterbourne
22 Stoke roundabout on a flyover we might get a view of
23 Stonehenge; it just depends. I highly doubt if this
24 particular structure, since it is right down and
25 certainly six or eight feet below the level of the
26 ground, would be visible from Stonehenge.

27 The next page: World Heritage Site at ground level
28 or above would be in direct conflict with a number of
29 the fundamental objectives of the World Heritage Site
30 Management Plan. Can I agree with people who spoke this
31 morning: the World Heritage Management Plan was
32 completely new to me. The first time I heard about it as
33 a plan was when the Highways Agency had an exhibition in
34 Amesbury, and this is what it was. This is a summary of
35 the Management Plan. It is full of platitudes and
36 pleasantries endlessly saying how terribly clever

1 everybody is, endlessly saying that they have experts.
2 Yes, they have experts, but they have not got experts
3 who consult with anybody. This was secret. There have
4 been secret arrangements. They collected a group of
5 experts around them but only people who would say "yes"
6 to them. There were people invited to come and join in
7 the discussions but they were not the people who were
8 going to say "no", and this is the result. It says
9 nothing except platitudes. We have endless talk about
10 whether it is a World Heritage Site or an international
11 - just exactly the same things that have been going on
12 and on and on. It says nothing that we do not already
13 know. We know what we want, and we do not want a tunnel
14 - from local people. But they were not asked to
15 comment.

16 I am sorry; I am very, very suspicious of World
17 Heritage plans - the World Heritage Management Plan
18 which relies on a tunnel to improve the setting of the
19 core area. We have heard, again and again, what is
20 core, what is bowl, what is the MILS. It makes no
21 difference; we want to see Stonehenge, and we want to
22 see it from the road in passing; it is only a tiny
23 little stretch of road where we can see it. Why should
24 it be taken away, just simply because that makes it
25 easier to create a new visitors centre two miles away,
26 which will finish off Stonehenge as far as I can see,
27 and that would be a shame; it really would be a shame.

28 The World Heritage plan: we feel that this proposal
29 would not provide a solution to any of the tragic
30 impacts on the World Heritage Site and therefore would
31 not be addressing the World Heritage Site Management
32 Plan and objectives. It would probably increase the
33 degree of severance. This is another word that we have
34 heard; it applies to the ridge of the hill that comes
35 right across the site. The road passes to the south of
36 it. Stonehenge is in the north part of it and it is

1 referred to as "the severance". Why can't we have a
2 severance? We could, perhaps, use the south part of the
3 site for something that might be a little bit fun.
4 Nobody laughs at Stonehenge. The children in Scotland
5 were all laughing. They all enjoyed themselves and
6 there were things going on. They helped to build the
7 huts and things. Nothing like that happens at
8 Stonehenge. None of the children laugh. How about a
9 tug-of-war between Oxford and Cambridge? I use that
10 just as something that people have heard about. Of
11 course, it would have to be between all the
12 universities, and instead of hauling themselves around,
13 they could haul great lumps of Sarsen stone around, all,
14 of course, dressed rather like the picture that appears
15 at Stonehenge painted on the wall, where they are
16 dressed in suitable costumes for the Bronze Age. That
17 might be quite an attraction. I think that it would be
18 fun; something the children could do: a pantomime, or a
19 pageant. But at least it could come to life and it
20 could happen south of the severance and to the north
21 everybody could be as long-faced as they wished going
22 round the monument. No vibrations: there would not be
23 any laughter to worry them then.

24 So, I do not mind if I decrease the degree of
25 severance. As far as we see, this revised proposal
26 brings no additional factors which would make us wish to
27 reconsider it. You bet it doesn't. I want Stonehenge
28 to be seen. I want everybody to be able to see it and I
29 want the visitors centre to stay where it is, where it
30 has to be if we are to fulfil our contract in showing it
31 to the visitors.

32 The next one: united, undated, square enclosure. I
33 gather that that undated square enclosure in table 3.1
34 has now been reconsidered. It does not get in the way
35 of the road as it is: highly beneficial. There are lots
36 and lots of these things. I want to get to the one:

1 visual intrusion from additional traffic. That is
2 something that I do think I have improved with this dual
3 carriageway. There will be only one-fifteenth of the
4 traffic on the road at any time during the rush hour.
5 Fourteen-fifteenths of the traffic will have
6 disappeared. I have not put it elsewhere; I have just
7 sent it through faster. Fourteen-fifteenths has gone
8 and they say that I do not make any impression on the
9 traffic on this road.

10 The higher adverse effects resulting from the
11 interruption to views caused by the elevated 303 and its
12 bridges and traffic: the traffic will be a tiny fraction
13 of that traffic that is there at the moment during the
14 rush hour. It happens each weekend, particularly in the
15 summer. I do hope when you visit Stonehenge perhaps you
16 could try to go twice, once when there is a lot of
17 traffic - there will be a lot there at Easter time,
18 particularly Good Friday, the Saturday, Sunday and
19 Monday as well with the traffic going back to London,
20 and then also go during the day when there is not the
21 same amount of traffic.

22 THE INSPECTOR: I have actually seen the road when, indeed, I
23 have been in traffic on the road, when it has been built
24 up.

25 MRS ROBERTSON: And it was congested?

26 THE INSPECTOR: Yes. I was rather hoping that I might go
27 home at Easter.

28 MRS ROBERTSON: Good. I am sorry; that was horrid of me. It
29 is not good that you were held up. It is very
30 frustrating and it does cause accidents. There is pages
31 and pages of this. I think that I have said all I want
32 to say.

33 THE INSPECTOR: Do not feel inhibited.

34 MRS ROBERTSON: No, I do. I feel that I am intruding on
35 everybody's time. There was one little thing: the
36 retention, widening and elevation of the A303 through

1 the World Heritage Site as well as the introduction of
2 an incongruous and unnecessary visitors centre viaduct
3 adjacent to Stonehenge increases substantially the
4 landscape and visual impact on the road. I do not think
5 that this is necessarily an incongruous building and I
6 do not think that it is unnecessary. I feel that it has
7 become more and more necessary that children can be told
8 about archaeology. They get it on the television; why
9 shouldn't they learn about it?

10 I feel that I have done everything. It just
11 needed to be put in its context. I did just want to
12 mention that Management Plan, which I knew nothing about
13 at all, and having been just presented with that
14 summary, I feel that the rest of it is probably in
15 exactly the same format; it just goes on and on about
16 bowls and access and things of that sort, which you do
17 not have to consider if you keep a part of the 344. I
18 know that some of the people have decided that the 344
19 should have already gone, and they have been very urgent
20 about taking it away. It is a connection between
21 Stonehenge and four of the Chubb villages; the five
22 villages in the locality that were mentioned by Mr Chubb
23 in his will when he made over the site of Stonehenge to
24 the public. Five villages were mentioned. Four of them
25 are at the other side of the 344, so they will be
26 separated from the monument that to a certain extent has
27 been left in their care. They were the ones that were
28 left with access to this monument, any time of the day
29 or night as far as I know. They do not have that now,
30 so Mr Chubb's will would be rather put aside if English
31 Heritage gets its way.

32 I do feel very strongly, so perhaps I had better
33 leave that. I do want to commend to you that tourists
34 are important. They will not come if they do not feel
35 that it is proper. At the moment, coaches come down from
36 London every day during the summer, and many of them.

1 They have to leave London at the right time to be able
2 to collect people from their hotels or from Victoria
3 Station, I think. That is usually one of the picking-up
4 places. So, they do all tend to arrive more or less at
5 the same time in the morning. They have been offered a
6 tour of the West Country. That is what is advertised.

7 It usually includes Stonehenge and Bath and one
8 other site in between because they have to have a lunch
9 stop, and you cannot have lunch at Stonehenge. So, they
10 come down and they do Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral or
11 a walk round Salisbury City; Wilton House, Longleat or
12 sometimes a visit to Avebury as the central part and
13 then on to Bath. That is their visit. Now, if
14 Stonehenge is going to take three-and-a-half hours, they
15 will not be able to get that middle one at all. They
16 would have to bring sandwiches or else buy their
17 sandwiches at Stonehenge or stop somewhere for a picnic,
18 a snack on the way. But the whole of that middle
19 section would be out and that is where Wiltshire does
20 get a number of its visitations during the morning.

21 In addition, can I say that I am also one of the
22 Welsh guides to guide in Wales and we did have one of
23 our annual general meetings about five years ago in
24 South Wales. We were taken to view the site of the new
25 botanical garden that was about to happen. The great
26 house has gone. It did have a very famous garden there
27 but they were going to build that enormous great
28 greenhouse on the top of the hill. Perhaps you remember
29 that occasion? It was constructed. The house has gone
30 but the stable block was to be used as their office and
31 their café and their museum at that time.

32 The guides were taken in while it was still a
33 building site. We had to put on hard Wellington boots
34 with toecaps, and hard hats. We were taken round the
35 site and then we said, "But where is the car park?"
36 because there is no car parking space outside the front

1 gates of what used to be the front gates of the house.
2 They said, "Oh, we are not going to do front gates
3 there. The front gates are going to be moved right down
4 to the bottom of the valley over there". We said, "But
5 why? That will be a long walk up to the top of the hill
6 to visit the important part", and they said, "The
7 visitors will enjoy the walk through the garden". Our
8 visitors do enjoy a walk through the garden, but just
9 exactly that same phrase has been said again and again.
10 We have heard it from English Heritage and the Highways
11 Agency: "The visitors will enjoy", or, even worse, "The
12 visitors will have the choice", and the choice for the
13 Highways Agency is: will they be able to walk or travel
14 in a land train? Visitors will not have a choice if
15 they are in wheelchairs, on crutches, or just too aged
16 to walk four miles.

17 They will not be able to choose. This makes me
18 cringe each time because that is exactly what we said at
19 the time. The guides got together and they said, "That
20 is the wrong place to put the entrance; the wrong place
21 for the car park. Visitors will not want to come".
22 Now, they are thinking of closing down that whole garden
23 complex. That is only three-and-a-half years since it
24 was opened and that is a shame; they will not come.

25 THE INSPECTOR: Thank you very much. Any questions,
26 Mr Calvert?

27 MR CALVERT: No, thank you.

28 THE INSPECTOR: Mr Cochrane? No? (To the witness) You
29 wanted to ask Mr Jones some questions, I think.

30 MRS ROBERTSON: Mr Harries.

31 THE INSPECTOR: Is Mr Harries available? Yes.

32 MRS ROBERTSON: And Mr Jones as well, afterwards. It is just
33 a couple of tiny points.

34 THE INSPECTOR: Would you like to come down here, Mr Harries?
35 Is there anything you want to advance in chief?

36 MR CALVERT: No, there is not, sir. There is just the same

1 change as this morning to the Highways Agency's
2 response. If you go to page 18, sir, and the section on
3 biodiversity, the second column: the words "to moderate"
4 should be deleted.

5 THE INSPECTOR: Yes. Fire away.

6 **MR KEITH HARRIES, called**
7 **Cross-examined by MRS ROBERTSON**

8
9 Q. Please can I change my hat now because I am not talking
10 about tourism, but as a local resident about the water
11 because I am deeply concerned. Can you define for me
12 what an aqueduct is?

13 A. Yes, it is a water bearing rock strata.

14 Q. So, it is not pools of water?

15 A. No.

16 Q. But when the water has trickled through that rock
17 bearing strata and it cannot get through something, then
18 it will pool, will it not?

19 A. It will discharge as springs or to rivers.

20 Q. It is not artesian, is it?

21 A. The chalk is not artesian, no.

22 Q. The chalk is not, so what is artesian?

23 A. I am sorry, the chalk is not artesian. Artesian is when
24 water is held under pressure, so that for example if the
25 chalk was covered by a thickness of clay and you drilled
26 through the clay into the chalk which was saturated,
27 then the pressure head in the chalk would rise up above
28 the top of the chalk into the clay. That is artesian.
29 If it rose to ground surface it would be called flowing
30 artesian, so you could put a well down and get flowing
31 water out.

32 Q. And get water coming out? I just wanted to make quite
33 sure. Can you use the word that we use in the villages
34 to the north - the water table. We refer to the water
35 table constantly. It is not the last one, but second to
36 last. Table really is the wrong word because it is not
37 level, is it?

1 A. It is an old expression, really. It is still used but
2 you are perfectly right; it is not flat.

3 Q. That is the one that we use constantly and people give
4 us the reading of the water table, particularly when the
5 Winterbourne is about the flow. And this shows that.
6 We do not have any alps on Salisbury plain but we do
7 have quite a sizeable hill area, highland, with the
8 water table. This is just rather a magnification of
9 everything, I think. That is what I wanted to talk
10 about because the tunnel, when it goes in, will be not a
11 clay lining; it will be solid and will be quite
12 impermeable to the water. Do you know how high it is?

13 A. How high?

14 Q. The tunnel.

15 A. It is about 12 metres in diameter.

16 Q. Twelve metres. That is a colossal amount of water
17 behind it that it would hold up, would it not?

18 A. We have done our calculations for the situation where it
19 would intercept the water table at Stonehenge Bottom and
20 yes, it would block off the main flow horizon in the
21 chalk aquiver.

22 Q. Yes, and it would rise up because it cannot escape?
23 Well, if it could escape it would escape now but in fact
24 it pools at that point, just beside the junction. When
25 you put the tunnel in, will it be to the north of the
26 pool or the south of the pool?

27 A. I am not sure where the pool is.

28 Q. The pool does not happen every year, certainly not, and
29 did not happen this year because apparently so much
30 water was taken out of the aquiver that really we ran
31 very low during the summer. At the end of the summer
32 water was coming out of the taps as chalky water. It
33 was a bit worrying. So, we have been bled dry in my
34 village to the north. It is not one of the Stonehenge
35 villages, but it is one of the five villages that is
36 affected by this business with the water table. I have

1 never asked a man before: do you have public sanitation
2 at home? A very delicate question, but it is relevant.

3 A. What do you mean by "public sanitation"?

4 Q. We do not have public sanitation.

5 A. We have sewer mains.

6 Q. We have septic tanks; we have cesspools. There used to
7 be earth closets in our village and we do not have
8 public sanitation. We make our own arrangements. Now,
9 if the water table is rising and it floods, I can assure
10 you it can cause a lot of trouble. In your summary at
11 page 27 there was a comment: "Without mitigation, this
12 would lead to raised ground water levels to the north of
13 the tunnel. It is likely that ground water would be
14 forced to ground surface more frequently just north of
15 the tunnel and for longer periods than presently
16 experienced".

17 THE INSPECTOR: It is 6.1.3

18 MRS ROBERTSON: That is the bit that I am talking about. It
19 would be there for longer, it could rise faster. Then
20 presumably it would go down, and that is the period
21 where there is trouble in the villages that do not have
22 public sanitation. I might say that they turned it down
23 recently. I think that it is very satisfactory to be
24 able to cross that off your rates bill, and you do not
25 have to pay for it.

26 THE INSPECTOR: Would you like to comment on that,
27 Mr Harries?

28 A. There are two points to make here. One is, as I say, we
29 recognise the effect that the tunnel could have if we
30 did not provide measures.

31 MRS ROBERTSON: And it could be like that.

32 A. And it could be like that, so we are providing
33 mitigation so that that does not happen.

34 Q. It says "mitigation" and it says "with sandbags".

35 A. No, I am sorry, I think that the mitigation for this
36 raising of ground water levels behind the tunnel is the

1 pipes in the concrete slab above the tunnel.

2 Q. That is just what I meant, if we could go on to the next
3 one here.

4 THE INSPECTOR: This is the cross-flow arrangement.

5 MRS ROBERTSON: I have seen this once. No, that is the two
6 tunnels, isn't it? There was one on the water summary;
7 figure WAT.5 and the third of these. At the top it
8 shows the ground surface and the water flow just flowing
9 over the tops of the tunnel. On the next one, the
10 ground surface has moved a little bit higher and you get
11 a surface flow, which then infiltrates just south of the
12 tunnel.

13 Now, the third picture is the worrying one: raised
14 ground water level. There it is, flowing through a pipe
15 and going into the line of wells. That is perfectly
16 adequate, except that the water is going to go up and up
17 until it has gone higher than the tunnel and higher than
18 the slab of concrete over the top. There, you have it
19 flowing very neatly through the line of wells, but it is
20 going to go on rising, and when it reaches the top of
21 the surface, by then the loos will be flooded, and by
22 the time it gets to that height as well.

23 THE INSPECTOR: If you could just pause for a moment there,
24 would you like to comment on that, Mr Harries?

25 A. Yes, the capacity of the pipes will be more than
26 sufficient to deal with the groundwater flow and the
27 peak conditions and the winter condition.

28 MRS ROBERTSON: But as you have it, the water is flowing very
29 neatly through those pipes, but the pipes are not going
30 to be continuous all the way along everywhere. There
31 were two or three on the picture that I wanted to have
32 up there, and there were big spaces in between. I know
33 from this water that you never know where it is going to
34 emerge. You do not know where it is.

35 Q. In principle, the design is for a series of pipes 200 mm
36 in diameter at 4 metre intervals over the length of

1 aquifer where most of the ground water is flowing
2 beneath Stonehenge Bottom. That is our interpretation,
3 that the ground water feeds -

4 Q. How do you know where most of the water is and that
5 something will be coming down in between the two pipes?
6 The two pipes will take the strips that coincide with
7 that.

8 A. Okay. Just at the gradient of the pipes there will be a
9 gravel trench, which will be very coarse material, which
10 will be of high permeability. So, basically, that will
11 be a collection trench.

12 Q. So, that will be where it says "ground surface - raise
13 the groundwater level"?

14 A. Yes, but this is a fairly simplistic schematic section
15 to illustrate the principles. But when we come to
16 detailed design and we have got a preliminary design for
17 this, an engineering drawing - I can show you that if
18 you wish - on that design we have just to the north of
19 the pipes a gravel trench which will act as a collector
20 for the ground water in that area. All that ground
21 water has been funnelled into Stonehenge Bottom, and
22 that is the natural flow regime.

23 Q. But that is just what I mean. You cannot funnel ground
24 water. It is all underground. You do not know where it
25 is. I have it coming through my garden and it spits out
26 into the road. Now, you can block up one hole but it
27 will appear from two other holes and the following year
28 it will appear from quite different holes. It is
29 different each time. There are no two years when it is
30 in the same place that the water flows.

31 A. We have a pretty good understanding of the hydrogeology
32 of the groundwater regime of this particular area.

33 Q. You can know for this year -

34 THE INSPECTOR: Let him finish.

35 MRS ROBERTSON: I am sorry.

36 A. Pumping tests, packer tests, ground water level

1 monitoring; we understand the flow regime. We have a
2 ground water catchment which is similar to the
3 topographic catchment, of round about 7 square
4 kilometres, and that is at the point where Stonehenge
5 Bottom crosses the A303, so we have a catchment of about
6 7 square kilometres. We have rainfall infiltrating into
7 that catchment and groundwater level monitoring showing
8 us where it is going. It is being funnelled naturally -
9 this is nothing to do with the pipe system here -
10 because the permeability and the fissures are all well
11 developed beneath Stonehenge Bottom and that acts as a
12 preferential route for the groundwater from that
13 catchment and it is fed into that valley system. I
14 heard you mention that you were from Chitterne, and I
15 know that valley as well. The groundwater in all these
16 areas is concentrated into the dry valleys. That is the
17 preferential route and that is where the ground water is
18 going.

19 Q. But that is what the people in Chitterne say: nobody
20 knows which is the preferential route for this year.
21 What is there for one time does not apply. It is
22 different each time. Even a water diviner will never
23 say that it is there for ever. There are some who know
24 exactly where they are and you know where they are going
25 to finish up going into a well, but you do not know
26 until you have actually dug down and found it and there
27 have been only two bore holes. Did Mr Reid say that?

28 A. There have been two pumping tests and two bore holes,
29 but there has been long term monitoring at many more.

30 Q. If the loos start flooding before it even gets up to
31 those pipes -

32 A. Can I get on to that point? There is not any
33 residencies to the north of Stonehenge Bottom that would
34 be affected.

35 Q. No, it is not north; it is north and west. Shrewton had
36 a ghastly flood. You have heard of the ghastly flood in

1 Shrewton?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. The Shrewton flood in the 19th century; they are still
4 talking about it. They made a massive collection to
5 help the people that had had their cottages swept away
6 in the dreadful flood and they collected 4,000
7 shillings; that was the collection. But that flood was
8 in the winter. It was melt from the snow which had piled
9 up at Imber and that is the direction of the flood. The
10 water travels in that direction. It comes down from
11 Imber. It comes to Chitterne and it comes through
12 Shrewton, through Orcheston as well, both the
13 Orchestons, and Tilshead. Also, it was Winterbourne
14 Stoke in the Shrewton flood that was mentioned; all of
15 those.

16 A. Could I point out that we are talking about different
17 groundwater catchments?

18 Q. Yes, this is what would happen in the winter, though.
19 This is the water -

20 A. Yes, but the residencies you are talking about,
21 Orcheston and Shrewton and Winterbourne Stoke, are in
22 the Till Valley. That is the Till groundwater catchment
23 and we are in a different situation. We are quite a
24 distance from that area. As I say, in the Stonehenge
25 Bottom, there are not any residencies.

26 Q. But all of these places get water that is stored under
27 Salisbury Plain. That is the major hump, not the alp
28 around there. The major place where they collect the
29 water is Salisbury Plain and up on Imber. That is one
30 of the highest points. The hills above Imber - in fact
31 you go down, but it has happened. I am fairly sure that
32 this will be happening for longer periods in the
33 villages. At the moment we just get a cry from our
34 neighbour and we have to make arrangements and they come
35 and stay. It is very, very difficult for elderly people
36 who naturally go prowling around at night. If they just

1 have a couple of days staying with a neighbour, that is
2 all right, but now you are arranging to put in a
3 barricade that will be there all the time, how many
4 metres high, 17 metres high? How high will the tunnel
5 be?

6 A. The diameter of the tunnel is 10 to 12 metres. I could
7 not tell you precisely but that sort of order.

8 Q. And then with the concrete over the top?

9 A. No, that is the whole thing; that is it.

10 MR JONES: I think that it is about 10 metres.

11 MRS ROBERTSON: 10 metres. I have to hand this on. I took
12 it to the parish council. They did not really want to
13 know because they said there is going to be mitigation
14 and they have interpreted that as "we need not bother
15 because everything will be all right". I did point out
16 that mitigation actually means to render less harsh.
17 How do you render a flood less harsh? It is not just
18 that.

19 THE INSPECTOR: Let us stick with that question because there
20 was a question there. Would you like to answer that
21 rather lengthy question, Mr Harries?

22 A. Let us just drop back. If we did not do anything, you
23 are quite right, the ground water level would rise to
24 the surface more frequently and for longer periods than
25 it does at present, and it does not happen that often
26 there. That on its own is not the big problem for
27 flooding in terms of residential properties. It would
28 mean that we would just get surface flow in Stonehenge
29 Bottom for longer periods at greater frequencies than we
30 do at present. It would rise up; it would go over the
31 tunnel, in the valley and then discharge back into the
32 aquifer and follow on its course down to the river Avon
33 at Lake. So, it would not actually cause any flooding
34 problems for any residencies because there are not any
35 residencies to be flooded.

36 MRS ROBERTSON: There are no residencies -

1 THE INSPECTOR: Let us finish the answer to the question
2 before we move on.

3 MRS ROBERTSON: But you did say that it would rise up and it
4 would not be able to escape until it had risen the full
5 height of 10 metres, which would be higher than the
6 normal height because it cannot get over until it has
7 risen the full height and then it can escape. So, we
8 know that on this figure WAT.5 it has to go up to the
9 top of the barricade before it can get over, before it
10 could start escaping. The normal flow - it would just
11 disappear gradually but every time water appeared at
12 Stonehenge Bottom we would know that this was a flood
13 situation.

14 A. As I said earlier, we have done our calculations to the
15 kind of ground flow that we would have to deal with in a
16 peak flow condition. The hydraulic analysis that we
17 have done are that the pipes, the diameter and the
18 intervals would be more than capable of dealing with
19 that flow. So, it would stop it rising to surface.

20 Q. Can I give you a quote from your summary: "Analysis
21 indicates that as a result, groundwater would rise to
22 ground surface in the valley floor more frequently and
23 for longer periods than is currently the case". So, we
24 would expect more flood and there for a longer time.

25 THE INSPECTOR: Is that so?

26 A. Yes, pre-mitigation.

27 Q. So, tell us about mitigation.

28 MRS ROBERTSON: No, that is with the mitigation. That is
29 what the analysis tells you, and the result will be -

30 A. Can you please point me to that?

31 Q. Yes, page 4 of your summary: "Post-construction effects
32 and mitigation".

33 A. Yes, paragraph 5.1?

34 Q. Yes, paragraph 5.1. "Analysis indicates that as a
35 result" - as a result of the tunnel being in and pipes
36 over the top - "groundwater would rise to ground surface

1 in the valley floor more frequently and for longer
2 periods than is currently the case".

3 A. Could I read the first sentence of 5.2?

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. "Consequently, drainage measures would be provided to
6 promote the passage of groundwater across the top of the
7 tunnel to prevent undue rise to the surface".

8 Q. Exactly, but that is to prevent it rising to the
9 surface, but it has already risen. Before it gets to the
10 surface it has already risen the 10 metres.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. That is 30 foot?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. An enormous amount. It is all the same water table,
15 too. It is the same line; it might be dotted but it is
16 the same thing. That is what we will be - however,
17 perhaps I could ask Mr Jones just one little question.

18

19

20

21

MR CHRIS JONES, recalled
Questioned by MRS ROBERTSON

22 Q. When you were being questioned by Mr Lambrick on page
23 85, we had a question for you. This is where in my
24 evidence I said that the scheme would permanently
25 consolidate the severance of the landscape caused by the
26 existing road, so we are on to a different thing now.
27 "In your rebuttal you say that the proposed tunnel and
28 cuttings could be removed and infilled in future. When
29 do you suppose that might happen?" The answer: "I have
30 absolutely no idea but it is one of the things that has
31 been speculated about here. As to exactly how long into
32 the future, we should be trying to look forward. You
33 can look forward thousands of years as long as the
34 Stones have been there. Nobody has got any idea as to
35 what sort of transport demands and needs there are going
36 to be in thousands of years time, and that is just a
37 statement of fact but these things can be reversed."

1 So, the only thing that cannot be reversed is any direct
2 impact on remains that are there at the moment".
3 Question: "What about the direct impact on the
4 authenticity of the World Heritage Site?" Answer: "It
5 depends on what that is getting at, but if we are
6 looking at the effects that you are concerned about
7 here, those effects potentially could be reversed. The
8 cuttings could be filled in." Question: "This is
9 effectively a decommissioning scheme, is it not?"
10 Answer: "Yes". So, it seems to me that you are
11 anticipating a time when the tunnel is no longer wanted,
12 or perhaps they want a different tunnel going in a
13 different direction and a different length and you are
14 going to decommission the tunnel that is there. What do
15 you do? Do you just lock the gates and fill in the
16 cuttings and then grow grass over it?
17 A. Anything is possible. The cuttings themselves could be
18 totally backfilled and the ground restored to current
19 levels. The tunnel itself could be backfilled.
20 Q. But the tunnel would still be there. You would fill it
21 up with earth, would you?
22 A. That is one possibility.
23 Q. So, this mighty barricade, 10 metres high that is going
24 to cause such trouble to the villages to the north, will
25 still be there in hundreds of years, thousands of years,
26 and never be removed?
27 A. That is a distinct possibility, yes.
28 Q. Thank you very much. That is what I thought you said. I
29 am sorry I consider it terribly irresponsible. Am I
30 allowed to say that?
31 THE INSPECTOR: It seems to me that you just did.
32 MRS ROBERTSON: I have had enough.
33 MR JONES: Sir, one of the things that might help
34 Mrs Robertson is maybe we could look at an ordnance
35 survey map which shows the river valleys and shows the
36 direction of the flow from the likes of Shrewton and

1 Winterbourne Stoke and out towards Salisbury.

2 MRS ROBERTSON: I am very concerned about the likes at
3 Chitterne. I know that we get the Imber water in
4 exactly the same way as Shrewton does.

5 MR JONES: Yes. We can show you on the map how all of that
6 would look.

7 MRS ROBERTSON: All of it might change because there is a
8 great barricade. The water table will change,
9 inevitably and there will be an enormous back up. Just
10 think of a wall of water 10 metres high.

11 MR JONES: We can show you why the tunnel will not affect it
12 because we are talking about a different water regime
13 from those villages that will not be interrupted by the
14 tunnel.

15 THE INSPECTOR: A different catchment area.

16 MRS ROBERTSON: And yet mitigation is going to be needed. We
17 have heard that it is going to be needed.

18 THE INSPECTOR: Any re-examination, Mr Calvert?

19 MR CALVERT: No, sir.

20 THE INSPECTOR: Is there anything you wish to say in closing,
21 Mrs Robertson?

22 MRS ROBERTSON: I have to, if I may, reserve my closing
23 remarks. I gather that everybody has a chance to say
24 things at the end?

25 THE INSPECTOR: Yes, as long as they do not raise new
26 material. If they do raise new material, people will
27 find me incredibly fierce because that will involve
28 reopening the Inquiry and starting all over again and
29 that is not something that I wish to do. So, I shall be
30 vigilant in stopping people raising new material in
31 closings, but by all means you can reserve your closing.
32 Most people have done so, and it gives you the
33 opportunity to prepare something considered and
34 preferably put in advance.

35 MRS ROBERTSON: Put it in in advance?

36 THE INSPECTOR: No, if as soon as it is ready, you let us

1 have a copy, then it means that people will be able to
2 see what it is that you want to say.

3 MRS ROBERTSON: It just occurred to me that something turns
4 up every day that I would like to comment on.

5 THE INSPECTOR: Yes, but nothing new is going to turn up in
6 your closing or in anybody else's. Thank you very much
7 indeed.

8 MRS ROBERTSON: Something that is mentioned here can be re-
9 mentioned or emphasised or put a different way?

10 THE INSPECTOR: Yes, indeed. The purpose of a closing is to
11 emphasise the points you wish to make in your case in
12 the light of the evidence and the challenges to that
13 case, and so on, and just to restate your case as you
14 want me to take it away and consider it for the writing
15 of my report. It is an opportunity to explain away any
16 damage to the case; explain any changes to the case that
17 you feel may have taken places and simply to restate
18 that which remains your case, but it is not an
19 opportunity to recast your case or to piggy-back on to
20 something that someone else has raised. Leave them to
21 run the items that they have raised in their cases; you
22 just deal with your case.

23 MRS ROBERTSON: I cannot mention something that crops up
24 tomorrow or the next day or comment upon it?

25 THE INSPECTOR: I think the answer to this is going to be
26 "suck it and see", but I have said what I have said. I
27 am not going to be interested in sitting for two or
28 three days to hear what I think at the moment are about
29 eight or nine closings and then as a result of that have
30 to start the inquiry all over again. It is not going to
31 happen.

32 MRS ROBERTSON: No.

33 THE INSPECTOR: So, there we are. It is an opportunity to
34 restate your case in the light of the way in which it
35 has been dealt with during the inquiry. It is not an
36 opportunity to pick up ideas that other people have run

1 and seek to run with them or raise entirely new material
2 or anything of that sort.

3 So, you wish to reserve your closing. In that
4 case, no doubt you would wish to reserve your closing on
5 this objection, Mr Calvert. That being so, I think we
6 have come to the end of our list for today. Is there
7 anything that needs to be raised of an administrative
8 nature? If not, then I think we have also disposed of
9 what had been our list for tomorrow as well, so I
10 adjourn until 10 o'clock on Thursday, unless someone is
11 about to tell me that there is something for tomorrow?

12 MR JONES: Sir, I think at one stage Friends of the Earth
13 were due to be on tomorrow?

14 THE INSPECTOR: No, my understanding is that Dr Gillham is
15 down for Thursday 1 April and then probably on Friday we
16 have Mr Bush followed by Mrs Freeman. That is the list
17 for this week, as I understand it. The only items that
18 could have been brought forward were items which the
19 Highways Agency would not have been in a position to
20 respond to because the response proofs could not be
21 ready in time, for perfectly understandable reasons.

22 It is just that I had looked at the possibility of
23 bringing forward some objections because I do confess to
24 a certain amount of concern about the number of closings
25 which are being reserved. It is rather more than I
26 anticipated. We shall have a good deal of time on
27 closings at the end of all this if we are not careful,
28 but there we are.

29 So, unless anyone else has any bright ideas about
30 business for tomorrow, I do believe that I need to
31 adjourn until Thursday at 10 o'clock when we will have
32 Dr Gillham. With the list of cross-examinations that we
33 now have from Dr Gillham I suspect that we will deal
34 with Mr Bush first thing on Friday morning followed by
35 the conclusion of Mr McDonic's cross-examination of
36 Mr Parsons and then Mrs Freeman's objection for Friends

1 of the Earth. So, I adjourn until 10 o'clock on
2 Thursday.
3 **(Adjourned until 10 o'clock on Thursday 1 April 2004)**