

A303 Stonehenge

Amesbury to Berwick Down

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) - Update



Introduction

Highways England is publishing this updated Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in connection with its proposal to upgrade the A303 past Stonehenge between Amesbury and Berwick Down (the Scheme). The need for an update has arisen because recent adverse weather has necessitated re-arrangement of some of the planned consultation events, as detailed below. The purpose of this document is to set out how Highways England will consult the local community about its proposals for the Scheme. The SoCC provides details of where further information can be obtained or viewed and how comments and representations on the proposal can be made. A plan of the Scheme can be seen in Appendix 1.

The Application

The Scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 as amended (PA 2008) which means that Highways England is required to make an application to the Secretary of State for Transport for permission to build and operate the proposed Scheme. The permission is called a Development Consent Order (DCO). Highways England intends to submit the DCO application in autumn 2018. The Planning Inspectorate will examine the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will then make a decision as to whether the Scheme should proceed.

Highways England has a duty under Section 47 of the PA 2008 to prepare a SoCC. Highways England has consulted Wiltshire Council, the local authority responsible for the area where the proposed Scheme would be built, about its plans to consult on the proposals and has taken the Council's views into account in developing this statement.

Government policy relating to the development of the national road network is set out in the National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN). This provides the policy context for this DCO. The NPSNN is available on the Government's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-national-networks>

Under the PA 2008, Highways England is required to consult on its proposals for the Scheme prior to the submission of the DCO application. This pre-application consultation is an important opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal. Feedback from the consultation will be recorded and carefully considered by Highways England in developing its proposals for the Scheme. As part of the application process, the Secretary of State will consider whether the consultation undertaken by Highways England has been adequate.

More information about the Planning Inspectorate and the PA 2008 can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning Portal website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/> or by calling them on 0303 444 5000

The Scheme

Highways England is proposing to upgrade the A303 past Stonehenge between Amesbury and Berwick Down to a dual two-lane carriageway. The Scheme is approximately 8 miles (nearly 13km) long and comprises the following key elements:

- A bypass to the north of Winterbourne Stoke with a viaduct over the Till valley;
- A new junction between the A303 and A360 to the west of and outside the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site (The World Heritage Site), replacing the existing Longbarrow roundabout;
- A twin-bore tunnel at least 1.8 miles (2.9 km) long past Stonehenge; and
- A new junction between the A303 and A345 at the site of the existing Countess roundabout.

The Scheme has four broad objectives:

- Transport – To create a high quality reliable route between the South East and the South West that meets the future needs of traffic.
- Economic growth – To enable growth in jobs and housing by providing a free-flowing and reliable connection between the South East and the South West.
- Cultural heritage – To help conserve and enhance the World Heritage Site and to make it easier to reach and explore.
- Environment and community – To improve biodiversity and provide a positive legacy for nearby communities.

Consultation

In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, Highways England is consulting people on the Scheme proposal.

An options consultation was undertaken between 12 January 2017 and 5 March 2017 on route proposals for the Scheme. The consultation was followed by the announcement of the preferred route in September 2017. More details of this consultation and the preferred route are available at:

www.highways.gov.uk/A303Stonehenge/consultation

Since the 2017 consultation and the announcement of the preferred route, the Scheme has been developed further. Highways England is now able to present the proposals in more detail and seek further views on the Scheme.

To do this Highways England is holding a ten week public consultation, starting on **Thursday 8 February 2018** and ending on **Monday 23 April 2018**. The consultation will focus on the development of the details of the proposed Scheme. The consultation materials will provide information on the proposed layout, tunnel and junctions.

As a consequence of recent adverse weather conditions in the Wiltshire area, Highways England made a decision to cancel consultation events in Mere on Thursday 1 March 2018 and Salisbury on Saturday 3 March 2018. In consultation with Wiltshire Council, Highways England has rearranged these events, the details of which are set out in the table below, and has extended the consultation period to Monday 23 April 2018.

The proposed Scheme is the type of development that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations).

Highways England is continuing to gather environmental information and this is an ongoing process for the purposes of EIA, which will result in an Environmental Statement (ES) being produced and submitted as part of the DCO application. At this stage, a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report) has been produced and will form part of the consultation material. The PEI Report is preliminary and the findings will be developed further in the Environmental Statement to reflect the evolution of the design of the proposed Scheme, informed by the feedback from the consultation, and the ongoing EIA process.

Feedback received during the consultation period will be considered and will inform further refinements to the Scheme and the approach to environmental mitigation.

Highways England will be using a range of methods and channels during the consultation period to ensure that the local community and other interested parties have an opportunity to view and comment on the proposals. This will include:

Method	Detail	Dates and times
Public Information Events	Public information events will be held during the following dates, times and locations: Antrobus House 39 Salisbury Rd, Amesbury, SP4 7HH Kennet Valley Village Hall Overton Road, Lockeridge, Marlborough, SN8 4EL	Friday 9 February 2018 at 14.00 to 20.00 and Saturday 10 February 2018 at 11.00 to 17.00 Thursday 22 February 2018 at 14.00 to 20.00

	<p>Warminster Civic Centre, Sambourne Road, Warminster, BA12 8LB</p> <p>Shrewton Village Hall Recreation Ground, The Hollow, Shrewton, SP3 4JY</p> <p>The Laverton Hall Bratton Road, Westbury, The Laverton, BA13 3EN</p> <p>Society of Antiquaries Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BE</p> <p>The Manor Barn High Street, Winterbourne Stoke, SP3 4SZ</p> <p>Avon Valley College Recreation Road, Durrington, SP4 8HH</p> <p>Larkhill Primary School Wilson Road, Larkhill, SP4 8QB</p> <p>Antrobus House 39 Salisbury Rd, Amesbury, SP4 7HH</p> <p>Mere Lecture Hall Salisbury Street, Mere, BA12 6HA</p> <p>St Paul's Salisbury The Church Centre, Fisherton Street, Salisbury, SP2 7QW</p> <p>Highways England will have consultation materials, information displays and staff available at these events to explain the proposals and answer any questions.</p> <p>The public will be informed of the information events through channels including advertisements in appropriate local newspapers, via our website, the media and direct communications.</p>	<p>Friday 23 February 2018 at 14.00 to 20.00</p> <p>Saturday 24 February 2018 at 11.00 to 17.00</p> <p>Tuesday 27 February 2018 at 14.00 to 20.00</p> <p>Thursday 8 March 2018 at 12.00 to 20.00</p> <p>Friday 9 March 2018 at 14.00 to 20.00 and Saturday 10 March 2018 at 11.00 to 17.00</p> <p>Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 14.00 to 20.00</p> <p>Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 16.00 to 20.30</p> <p>Friday 23 March 2018 at 14.00 to 20.00</p> <p>Friday 13 April 2018 at 14.00 to 20.00</p> <p>Saturday 14 April at 11.00 to 17.00</p>
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	<p>Response forms will be available at the information events for members of the public to record their comments. These can either be completed and left with the project team or sent back separately instead via the Freepost address noted below, or completed and submitted online using the Scheme website.</p>	
Scheme website	<p>A full summary of the Scheme, copies of the supporting project documents and a response form will be provided on a dedicated project website: www.highways.gov.uk/A303Stonehenge/consultation</p>	
Scheme leaflet	<p>A scheme leaflet and details of the planned public information events will be delivered to homes and businesses in the locality of the Scheme at the start of the consultation period and to inform them of the rescheduled events. See Appendix 2 for the plan of the distribution area. Copies will also be provided to the Parish Clerks for inclusion on community notice boards.</p>	
Council and community area forum briefings	<p>Local council officers and members and community/area forums within close proximity to the Scheme will be offered briefings to discuss the proposal.</p>	
Stakeholder forum briefings and groups	<p>When invited, and where possible to do so, the scheme team will attend meetings of local community groups affected by the Scheme.</p>	
Ad Hoc meetings	<p>Meetings with residents, businesses and interest groups about either the Scheme in general or particular issues can be arranged upon request to Highways England using the published email address, postal address or telephone number.</p>	
Media	<p>The consultation will be advertised in local newspapers (<i>Stonehenge Trader, Wiltshire Gazette and Herald, Salisbury Journal, Wiltshire Times</i>) for at least two successive weeks and once in the national newspapers (<i>The Times and The Guardian</i>) and the <i>London Gazette</i>. In addition adverts will be placed in local newspapers ahead the launch of the consultation and reminders will be placed ahead of the public information events. Press releases providing details of the consultation and how the community and other interested parties can participate will be issued.</p>	
Social media	<p>The consultation will be advertised on Twitter: @A303Stonehenge We will also provide information about the consultation to the Wiltshire Council 'Our Community Matters' for them to include on the community blog</p>	

	pages	
Education	We will offer to attend Stonehenge School with a view to providing information about the consultation.	

Deposit of consultation materials

Information about the proposed Scheme including this SoCC, the PEI Report, the consultation booklet, response form and other relevant documents will be available online and at the deposit locations below. The information may be added to throughout the consultation. They will be available to view free of charge between Thursday 8 February 2018 and Monday 23 April 2018 at the following community facilities:
(Please note that the following times may be subject to change during bank holidays).

Location	Opening times
Amesbury Library Smithfield Street, Amesbury, Salisbury, SP4 7AL	Monday to Friday 10.00 to 16.00 Saturday 10.00 to 12.00
Tidworth Leisure Centre Nadder Road, Tidworth, SP9 7QW	Monday to Friday 09.00 to 21.00 Saturday 08.00 to 17.00 Sunday 08.00 to 20.00
Salisbury Library Market Place, Salisbury, SP1 1BL	Monday 10.00 to 19.00 Tuesday & Friday 09.00 to 19.00 Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 09.00 to 17.00
Wiltshire Council Offices County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN	Monday to Friday 09.00 to 17.00
Wilton Library South Street, Wilton, SP2 0JS	Tuesday 10.00 to 19.00 Thursday & Friday 10.00 to 17.00 Saturday 10.00 to 13.00
Devizes Community Hub and Library Sheep Street, Devizes, SN10 1DL	Monday to Friday 08.30 to 17.30
Marlborough Library, 91 High Street, Marlborough, SN8 1HD	Monday 14.00 to 19.00 Tuesday closed, Wednesday & Friday 09.30 to 17.00 Thursday 09.30 to 19.00 Saturday 09.30 to 13.00
Warminster Library, 3 Horseshoe Walk, Warminster, BA12 9BT	Monday 10.00 to 19.00, Tuesday & Friday 09.30 to 17.00 Wednesday 09.30 to 12.30 Thursday 09.30 to 19.00 Saturday 09.30 to 16.00 Sunday closed

Westbury Library, Westbury House, Edward Street, BA13 3BD	Monday 14.00 to 19.00, Tuesday & Friday 09.30 to 17.00 Wednesday closed Thursday 09.30 to 19.00 Saturday 09.30 to 13.00 Sunday closed
The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham, SN15 3QN	Tuesday to Friday 09.30 to 17.30, Saturday 09.30 to 17.00, Sunday & Monday closed

In addition, consultation booklets and response forms will be available throughout the consultation period at the following locations:

Location	Opening times
Stonehenge Visitors Centre, Near Amesbury, Wiltshire, SP4 7DE	Every day 09.30 to 17.00
The Barcroft Medical Practice, Barcroft Medical Centre, Amesbury, Wiltshire, SP4 7DL	Monday to Friday 08.00 to 13.00 and 14.00 to 18.30 Weekends closed
St Melor Surgery, Edwards Road, Amesbury, Salisbury, SP4 7LT	Monday to Friday 08.00 to 18.00 Weekends closed
Larkhill Medical Centre, Willoughby Road, Larkhill, Salisbury, Durrington, Wiltshire, SP4 8QY	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 08:00 to 12:30 and 13:30 to 16:30 Wednesday 08:00 to 12:30 and 14:45 to 16:30 Weekends closed
Till Orchard Surgery, High Street, Shrewton, Salisbury, SP3 4BZ	Monday to Tuesday 08.00 to 13.00 and 14.00 to 18.30 Wednesday 08.00 to 13.00 Thursday & Friday 08.00 to 13.00 and 14.00 to 18.30 Weekends closed
Cross Plain Health Centre, High Street, Shrewton, Salisbury, SP3 4DB	Monday & Tuesday 08:30 to 13.00 and 14.00 to 18.00 Wednesday 08:30 to 13.00 Thursday & Friday 08.00 to 13.00 and 14.00 to 18.00 Weekends closed

Making your comments

Comments on the proposals can be made by:

- Completing the consultation response form. This will be available at the public information events and deposit points and is also available to complete online on the Scheme webpage at: www.highways.gov.uk/A303Stonehenge/consultation
- Alternatively a paper copy can be printed from the webpage or requested free of charge by:
 - Emailing the Scheme at: A303Stonehenge@highwaysengland.co.uk
 - Writing to us at: Freepost, A303 STONEHENGE CONSULTATION
 - By calling 0300 123 5000

Written responses can then be submitted by email and by post using the scheme email address or freepost address set out above

If you have any questions about this consultation, please contact the project team using any of these details.

The deadline for all responses to be **received** is 23.59 on **Monday 23 April 2018**.

Next steps

- All of the consultation material is available to view free of charge on the Scheme website or at the library locations listed above.
- A single set of paper copies of the consultation booklet, Non-Technical Summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, response form and Statement of Community Consultation will be supplied free of charge. A digital copy on a USB drive of these items will be supplied free of charge through the post if requested. Please contact Highways England for further details using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided below:
 - By emailing: A303Stonehenge@highwaysengland.co.uk
 - In writing: Freepost, A303 STONEHENGE CONSULTATION
 - By calling: 0300 123 5000
- If you do not have access to a computer a printed copy of the scheme plans and the PEI Report can be sent to you if requested. A charge of £135 + VAT/delivery costs will be made for each copy provided.

Following the consultation period, Highways England will review all of the responses received and produce a consultation report. This report will summarise the views and comments received and outline how these have been taken into consideration in further developing the Scheme. Highways England will send this report to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the DCO application.

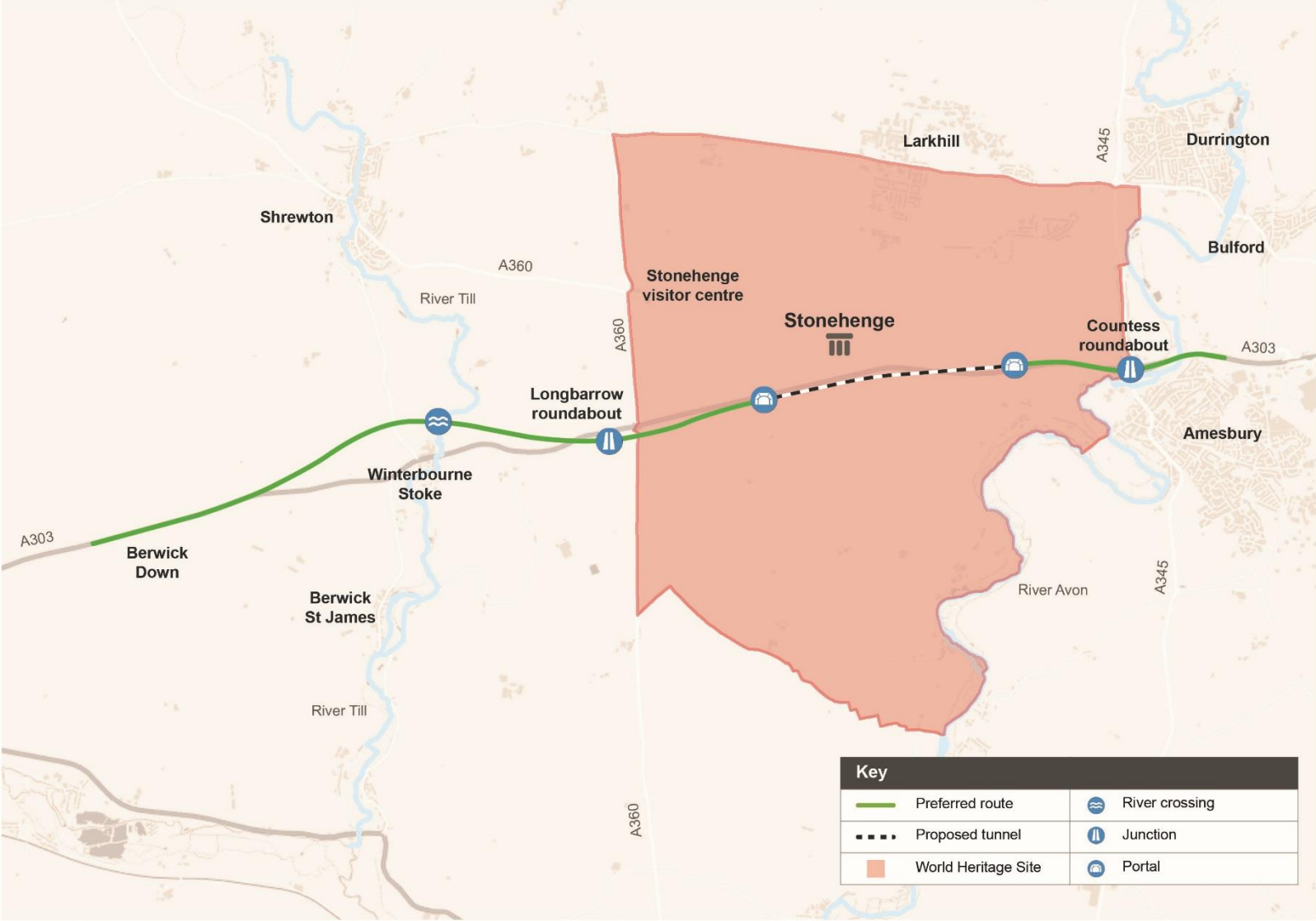
Data protection

Your comments will be analysed by Highways England and any of its appointed agents. Copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that your comments can be considered as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application process. We will request that your personal details are not placed on public record and will be held

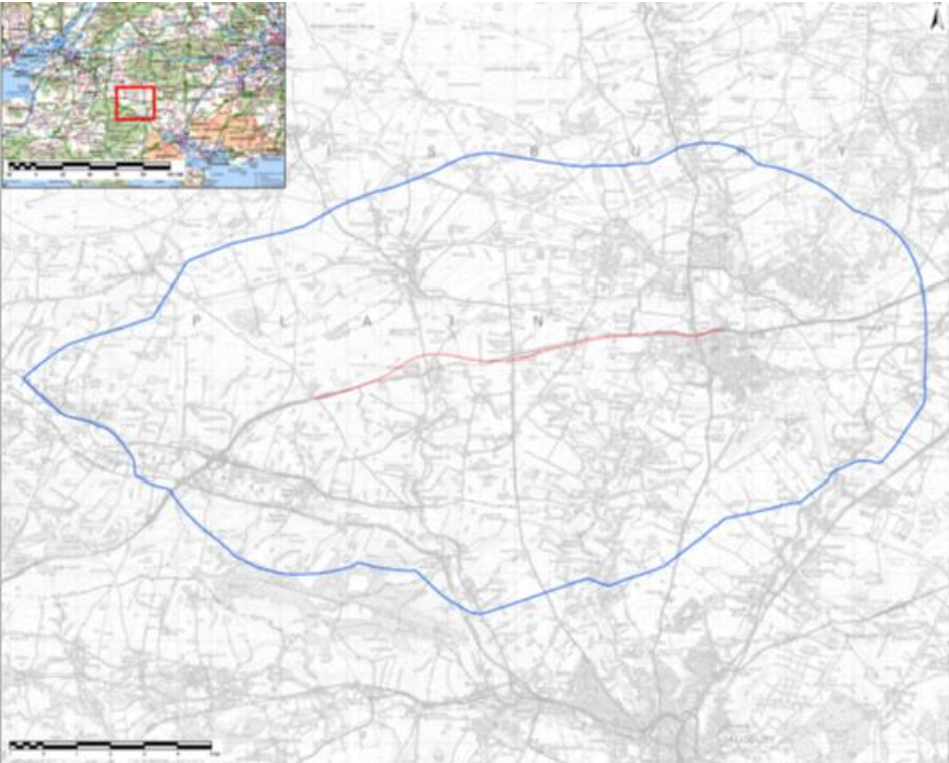
securely by Highways England in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties.

Date: 21 March 2018

Appendix 1



Appendix 2 – SoCC Scheme leaflet distribution area



If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

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This document is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/highways

If you have any enquiries about this publication email info@highwaysengland.co.uk or call **0300 123 5000***. Please quote the Highways England publications code **PR174/17**.

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