

A303 Stonehenge: Amesbury to Berwick Down

Fact sheet - economics



As with every road project we have looked closely at the economic benefits the scheme will deliver. Economists have assessed how the scheme might impact the national and local economy and the value for money that we think it will deliver.

Transport underpins our economy. Road improvements can create economic growth; enable increases to jobs and housing; and improve living standards. So we look at how our scheme is likely to affect these things. A Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) then helps us to measure value, comparing the benefits we expect to see (like journey time savings), with the estimated costs of delivering the scheme. We can use this to compare different options.

Our challenge

The A303 offers the most direct route between London and the South West, playing a vital role in the economy of the region. However, it suffers from high levels of traffic, particularly at weekends and during summer months. So, upgrading the route could provide a major boost for the South West, by easing congestion and making the road more reliable for residents, businesses and tourists. Along with other schemes, our work on the A303 Stonehenge will contribute to this.

We also need to take into account the benefits linked to the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site (WHS). Our scheme aims to reduce the impact of the A303 on the WHS through building a tunnel past Stonehenge. While this means it would cost more than would otherwise be the case, the scheme could also lead to other economic benefits, like increased



tourism. With this in mind, it's important that our economic assessments capture the full picture, including the benefits linked to the WHS.

Our approach

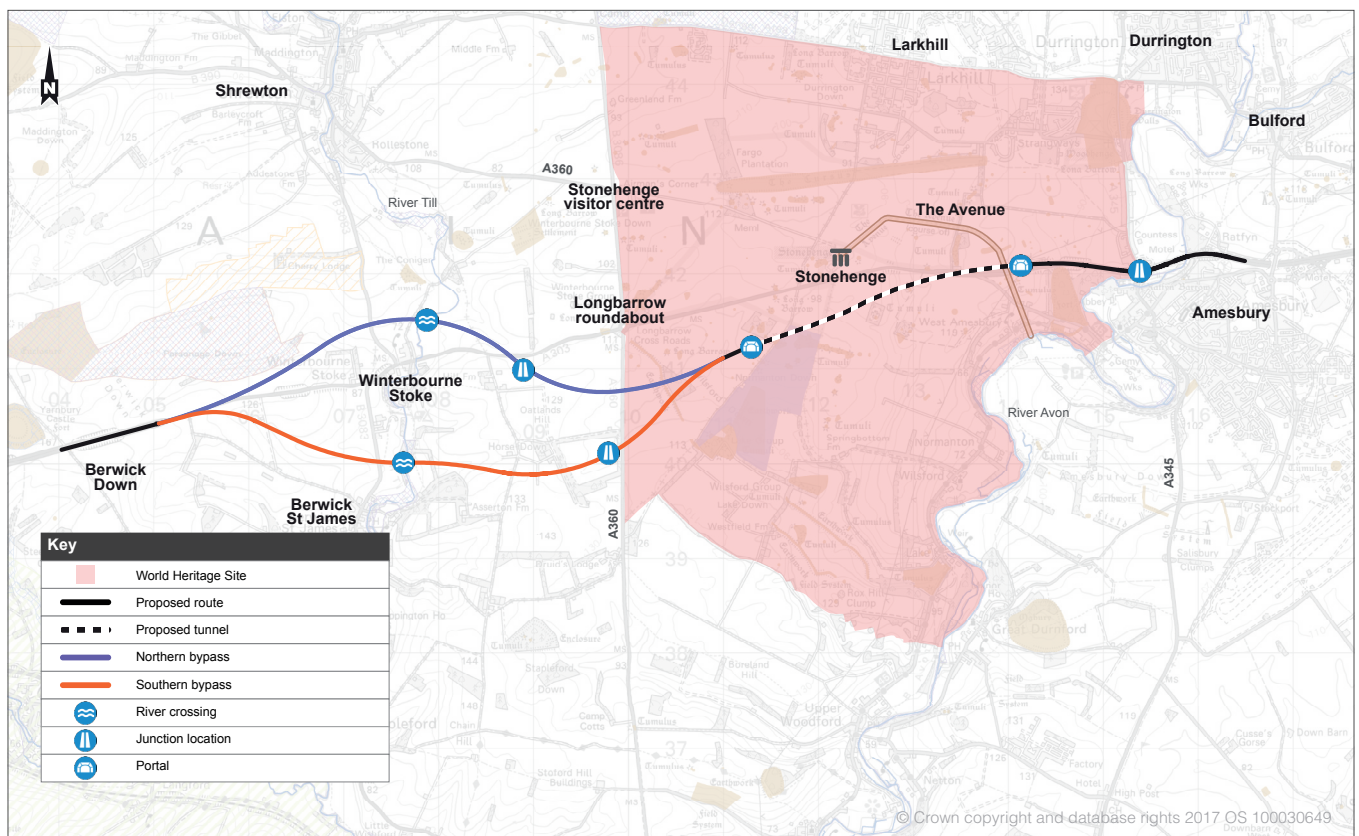
To find out if the A303 Stonehenge scheme can be delivered in a way that offers good value for money, we've followed the Treasury's 'Model' for business case development. This includes a detailed economic appraisal. Drawing from a broad range of evidence, we looked at the economic, environmental and social impacts of the scheme in comparing the financial costs and benefits of different options.

We've also developed new approaches, making

sure that we capture all of the potential benefits of the scheme. We looked at the contribution our scheme will make as part of wider work on the A303 corridor, delivering an 'expressway to the South West' which is expected to transform connectivity to the region.

We've also commissioned research to understand the value of removing the existing A303 from the WHS, surveying visitors to Stonehenge and UK residents on the impacts that different options would have.

What we've arrived at is a healthy business case for the A303 Stonehenge scheme, highlighting the benefits our plans could bring to the national and local economy.



Contact us

Visit our webpages for information about the schemes and to find out when you can have your say, or call or email us to find out more.

A303Stonehenge@highwaysengland.co.uk

0300 123 5000

www.highways.gov.uk/a303Stonehenge

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Please quote the Highways England publications code PR172/16.

Highways England creative job number M160393

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Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ
Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales
number 09346363