

A303 Stonehenge: Amesbury to Berwick Down

Fact sheet - ecology



Ecology is the study of organisms. It helps us to understand the natural world and how it works by observing different species, looking at how many there are, how they interact with each other and how they relate to their environment.

There are lots of policies and laws to protect the environment and the A303 Stonehenge project will have to consider a number of ecological issues like designated sites, valuable habitats and important species.

Ecologists help us to navigate these laws and policies, avoid issues that will slow down the project and ensure that our work will both protect and enhance the local ecology, providing lasting benefits to the environment.

Our challenge

As with any major road project, the biggest ecological challenges facing the A303 Stonehenge project are loss of habitats, causing harm to wildlife, and pollution of both the air and water.

More specifically, there are a number of important sites in the area which could be damaged by the project, like the River Avon Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest, which also includes the River Till. Stonehenge is a special ecological area in itself, providing a home to rare lichen communities and other important wildlife. But while it will be important and challenging to protect the ecology in the area, the project also provides great opportunities to enhance it and we will need to adapt our approach in order to pursue them.

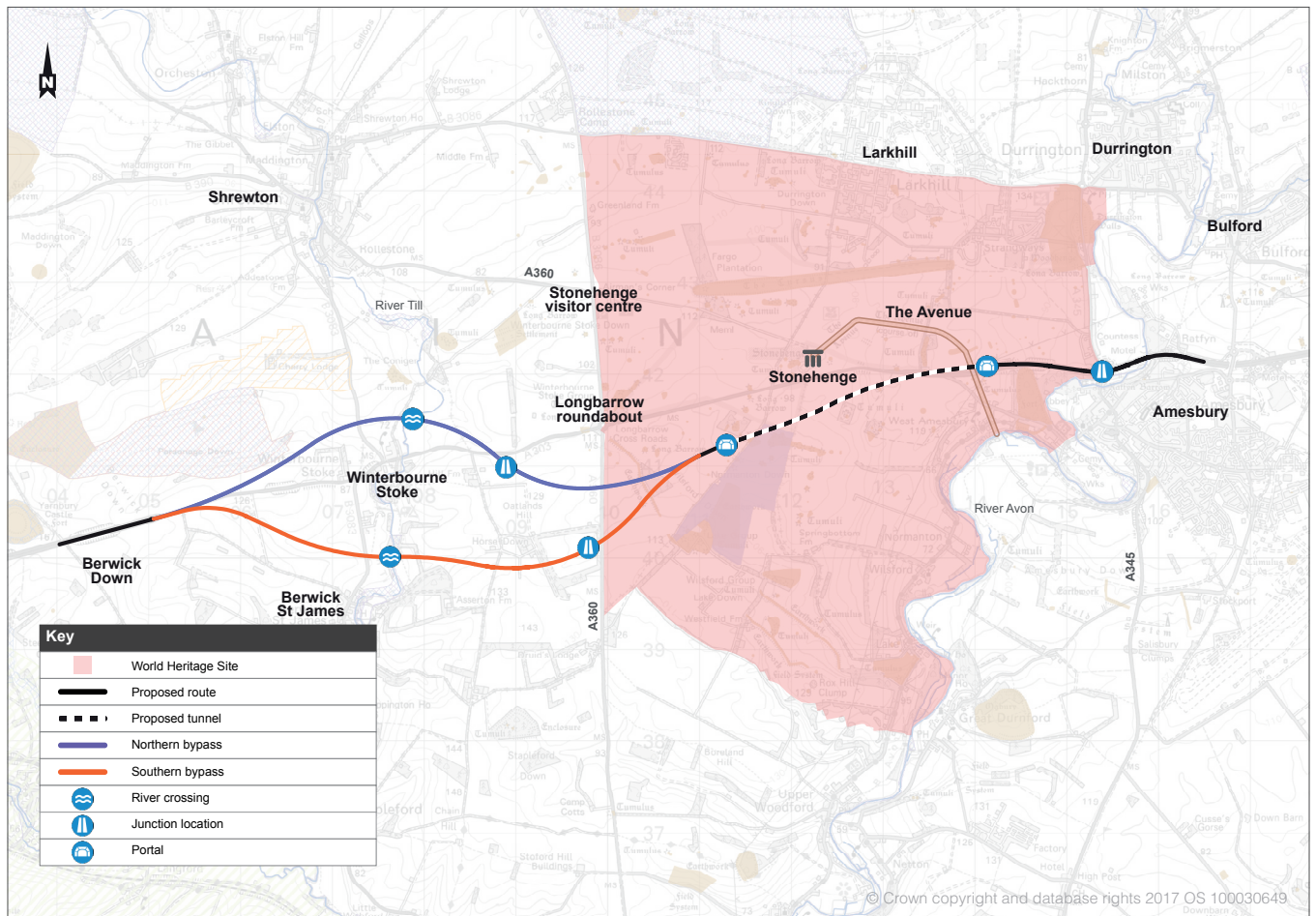


Our approach

Our team of ecologists have been involved from the start of the project, working alongside professional engineers and other environmental experts throughout the design process. We've been undertaking a whole range of ecological surveys and studies, looking at species from badgers to bats, lichens to great crested newts. This work has helped us to understand the wildlife in the area, consider the effects of different options and develop ways to reduce our impact and enhance the ecology where possible.

A tunnel solution, for example, would reconnect the landscape and restore the chalk downland, creating new habitats for wildflowers, bats, butterflies and birds, including the rare stone curlew.

We are also working closely with organisations like Natural England, the RSPB and the Environment Agency to further our understanding of the wildlife in the area and develop our approach. This work will continue throughout the project, informing our designs as they continue to develop.



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 www.highways.gov.uk/a303Stonehenge

© Crown copyright 2017.
You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence: visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/ write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

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 PR172/16.

Highways England creative job number M160393

*Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls. These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone. Calls may be recorded or monitored.

Printed on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources.

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