

A303 Stonehenge: Amesbury to Berwick Down

Fact sheet - landscape



Landscapes surround us. They are the settings of our lives, our work and our leisure. Every landscape is different, made up of a combination of natural and man-made features, which gives a place its unique sense of character.

While landscapes will be appreciated by different people for different reasons, road projects can harm them, resulting in the loss of valued features and having an undesirable visual impact on an area. But there is also an opportunity for schemes to improve a landscape, bringing in new features and enhancing biodiversity. So, when going through the design process, it's important to consider landscapes and how our work affects them.

Our challenge

Set partly within the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site (WHS), the scheme is surrounded by some of the UK's most historically significant landscape. So, our main challenge will be to avoid damage to important features within the landscape. We also need to carefully consider views of the landscape and its features, to try and protect the existing views of residents, walkers and tourists and the Outstanding Universal Value attributed to the WHS. The landscape in the area brings together open chalk downland, woodland, and narrow river valleys. It is recognised for its high quality, designated as a special landscape area in the Wiltshire Core Strategy. Further to the west is the nationally designated Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs area of outstanding natural beauty.



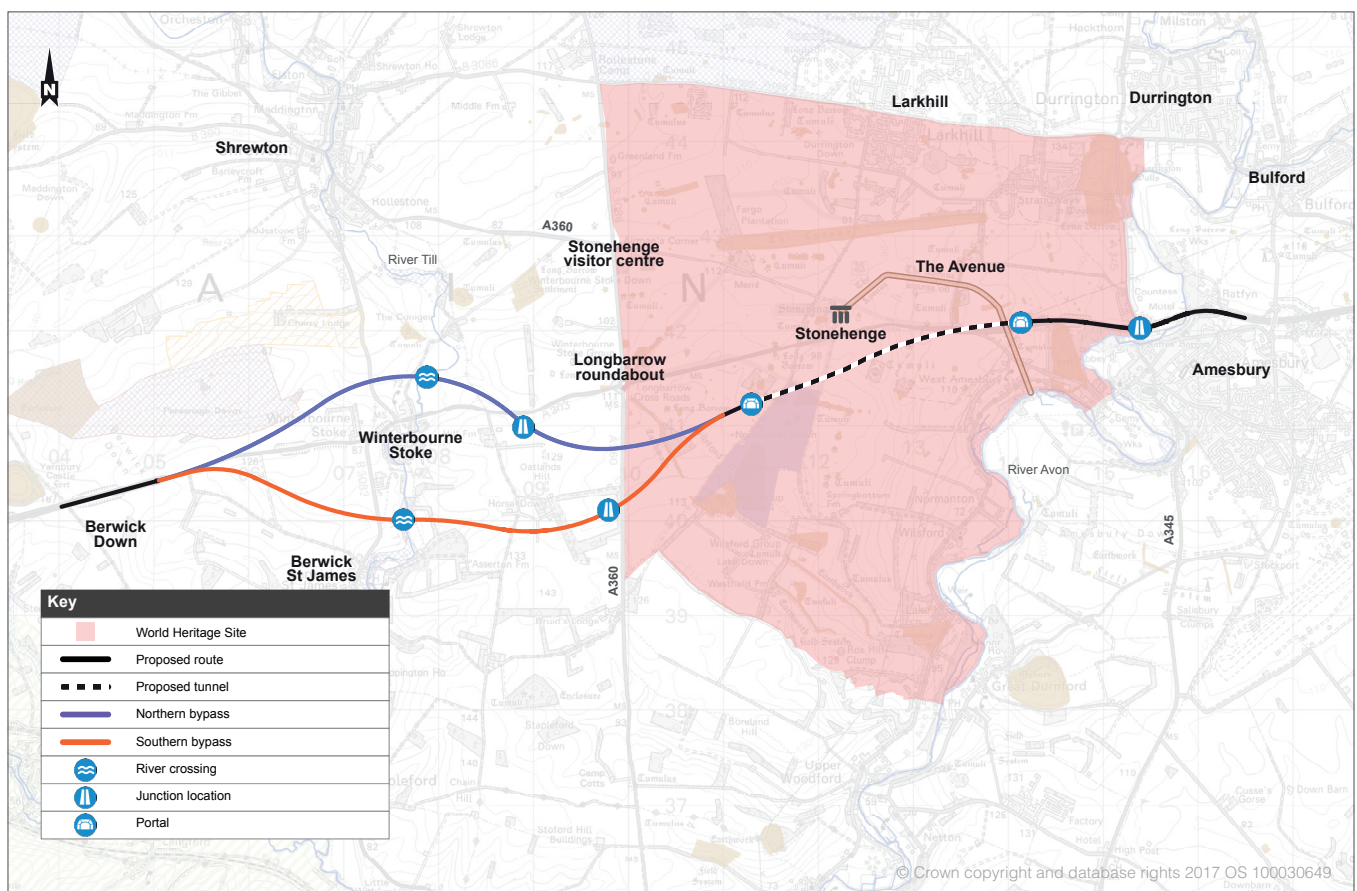
As this downland landscape is very open, there are not many opportunities to reduce damage to views with planting, particularly in the WHS. This could result in open views of the road from the wider landscape.

Our approach

Our landscape team work closely with our professional engineers and other environment experts to inform our designs for the project. As well as using existing studies on the landscape, we've carefully surveyed the area surrounding the scheme, using photography to capture the views from different points. We've also been working

closely with organisations like the National Trust, Natural England, English Heritage and Wiltshire Council, to help us understand potential issues and find solutions.

As the options have been assessed and developed, this information has helped us to avoid important historical features and other aspects of the landscape, using existing features like woodland or valleys to hide the road from key viewpoints. A tunnel solution would take this even further, removing sections of the A303 from the landscape completely and enhancing the area surrounding Stonehenge.



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