

# AN INFRASTRUCTURE REVOLUTION

## A303 STONEHENGE SCHEME RECONNECTING AN ANCIENT LANDSCAPE

The A303 is one of the main routes across southern England, passing through five counties and connecting London to Devon and Cornwall. Severe congestion is common, particularly through the Stonehenge section, with over 26,000 vehicles a day passing along a single carriageway, including many visitors to the UNESCO World Heritage Site itself. This leads to long delays and unreliable journeys which don't work for people who live locally, visitors or those travelling through.

As part of its plans to deliver an 'infrastructure revolution' and level up the economy across Britain, the Government has granted consent for the **A303 Stonehenge Scheme** to relieve congestion and reconnect the northern and southern sections of the World Heritage Site.

## WHAT IS THE A303 STONEHENGE SCHEME?

The A303 Stonehenge Scheme will involve building eight miles of new and improved road, comprised of three sections of dual carriageway:

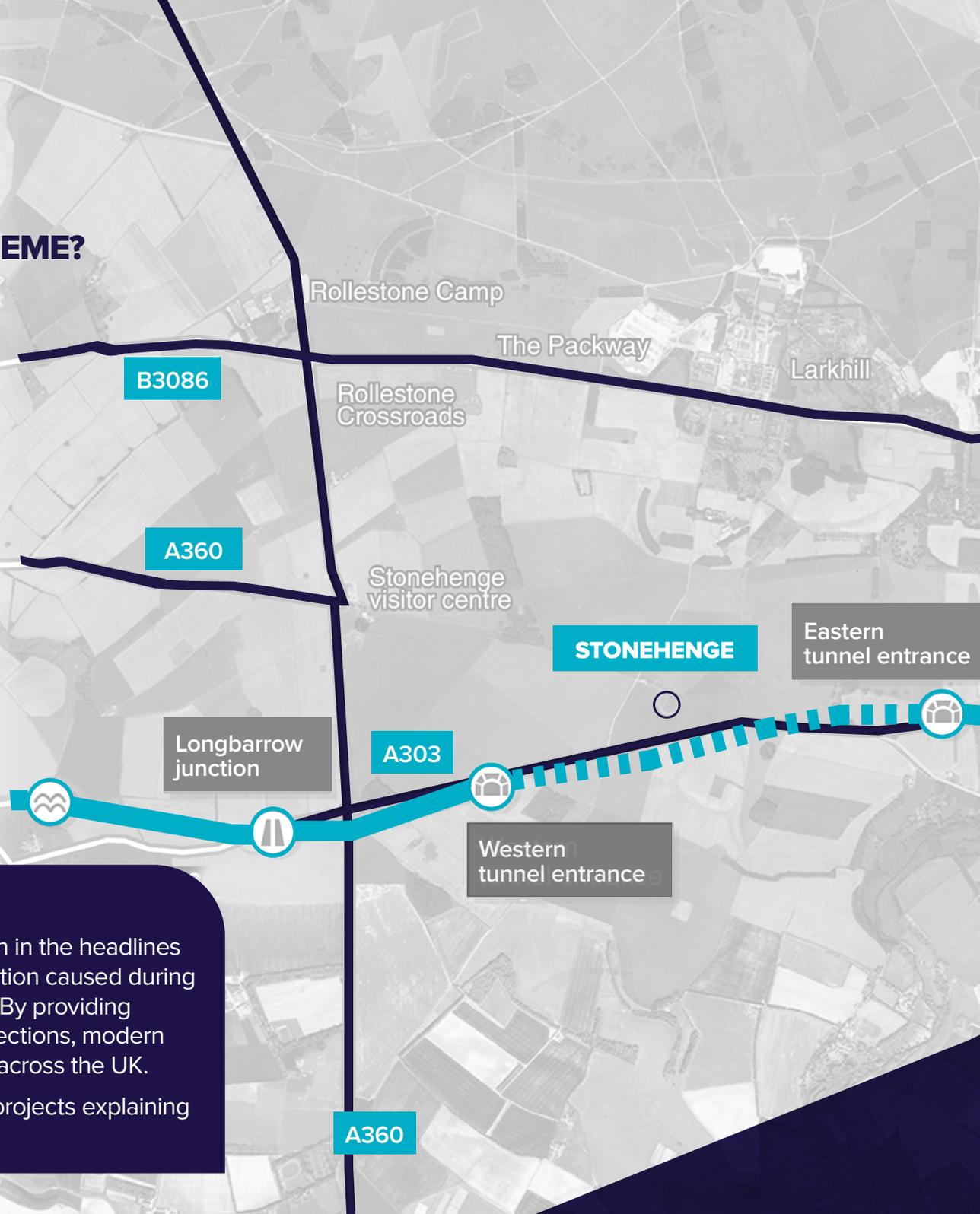
- **Western section:** starting north east of Winterbourne Stoke and including three new 'green bridges' for wildlife to cross safely, a viaduct passing over the River Till, and a junction with the A360
- **Central section:** passing beneath the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site and including a further green bridge and a two-mile tunnel re-joining the existing A303 where it passes the Iron Age hillfort of Vespasian's camp
- **Eastern section:** comprising a flyover carrying the A303 above the existing roundabout junction with the A345, separating fast and slow-moving traffic.

The A303 Stonehenge Scheme is expected to cost £1.7 billion, with preliminary work scheduled to begin in 2021.

### Delivering an Infrastructure Revolution

Whilst economic and social infrastructure projects are often in the headlines due to the amount of money spent on them and the disruption caused during their construction, they generate huge long-term benefits. By providing better local services, new jobs, cleaner air and faster connections, modern infrastructure helps to level up opportunity and prosperity across the UK.

**Build UK's factsheets** cover a range of local and national projects explaining what they are and why they are being built in Britain today.





## WHY WE NEED THE A303 STONEHENGE SCHEME

The A303 Stonehenge Scheme will unlock economic growth in the South West of England by improving journey times and strengthening connections with neighbouring regions. Once completed, it will:

- Provide a high-quality, reliable route between the South East and the South West that meets future needs and opens up the region to new businesses and residents
- Conserve and enhance the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site by removing the sight and sound of traffic from much of the landscape, whilst making it easier for visitors to reach and explore
- Reduce congestion, which will significantly improve local journey times and make the surrounding villages safer
- Boost biodiversity by transforming the existing A303 road into a new public right of way for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, with green bridges helping wildlife move freely over the A303 and more than 300 acres of new chalk grassland, supporting habitats.

## A303 STONEHENGE SCHEME IN NUMBERS



**£1.7bn**  
estimated investment



**10**  
miles of new  
public rights of way



**8**  
miles of new road

## KEY ISSUES

- Whilst the tunnel will remove the sight and sound of traffic from much of the Stonehenge landscape, opponents claim construction could **threaten the wider World Heritage Site**. Highways England has conducted an extensive public consultation process and received input from a range of stakeholders, and specialist archaeology experts and contractors will be engaged during construction to ensure the site is conserved and enhanced.
- There are concerns that the project may impact **endangered bird species**. However, the scheme will provide an increase in breeding opportunities for rare stone curlews through the creation of breeding plots in farmland close by.
- Local residents have voiced concerns about the potential **disruption** caused by construction. Traffic management plans will ensure vehicles can keep moving with minimal disruption, with plans to separate construction traffic from A303 traffic via a purpose-built haul road.

# WHO WILL BENEFIT?

## The Environment

- The scheme will create 300 acres of chalk grassland, allowing plant life to thrive
- Wildlife will be able to move freely over the A303 thanks to the series of green bridges and the removal of the existing road
- By reconnecting the northern and southern sections of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site and removing the road that currently runs less than 200 metres from the monument, visitors will have the chance to explore the full area without visible and audible traffic
- 'The Avenue', an ancient processional and religious route currently severed by the A303, will be reconnected with the Stonehenge monument.

## Motorists

- The modern dual carriageway and free-flowing junctions will significantly reduce longstanding congestion issues and delays
- Journey times will be significantly improved, with a peak-time trip between Amesbury and Berwick reduced by up to an hour
- Better connections across southern England will boost economic growth, particularly through greater numbers of tourists visiting the area.

## The Local Community

- The scheme will eliminate the need for traffic to run through local villages and the new road will be significantly safer
- Much of the existing A303 road through the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site will be repurposed for the use of cyclists, walkers and horse-riders.

With thanks to National Highways for their help in producing this factsheet.



## Further Information

Highways England (2020) [Our Work – A303 Stonehenge](#)

Highways England (2019) [Outline Environmental Management Plan](#)

Stonehenge Alliance (2019) [Summary of the Stonehenge Alliance's Case](#)

**Find out more**

[www.HighwaysEngland.co.uk](http://www.HighwaysEngland.co.uk)

**Contact us**

[www.BuildUK.org](http://www.BuildUK.org)

