



# Department for Transport

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**(NOTE: All representations should be submitted by email to the Planning Inspectorate at the address below)**

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To: Highways England; Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (“Historic England”); Wiltshire Council; Council for British Archaeology; International Council for Monuments and Sites – UK; Stonehenge and Avesbury World Heritage Site Coordination Unit; Campaign for the Protection of Rural England; The National Trust; English Heritage Trust; Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport; The Consortium of Archaeologists and the Blick Mead Project Team; and the Stonehenge Alliance

20 August 2020

Copy recipients: Other Interested Parties

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

**Application by Highways England (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the construction of a new two-lane dual carriage way for the A303 between Amesbury and Berwick Down in Wiltshire.**

**REQUEST FOR FINAL COMMENTS ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE’S CONSULTATION LETTER OF 16 JULY 2020**

[Archaeological Find with the World Heritage Site](#)

Following a recent archaeological find within the World Heritage Site, the Secretary of State's consultation letter of 16 July 2020 sought comments from certain Interested Parties on matters raised in the Hidden Landscapes Project report and representations relating to the archaeological find and its: i) implications for the Development and any harm it may cause to the World Heritage Site; and ii) implications for the Applicant's Environmental Statement, including the Heritage Impact Assessment, and the proposed Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy.

The representations received in response to the Secretary of State's consultation letter have now been published on the project page for the A303 Stonehenge Development Consent Order ("DCO") on the Planning Inspectorate's website at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-stonehenge/>. The Secretary of State would be grateful if **the Applicant, Historic England, Wiltshire Council and other recipients** could provide any final comments they have on those representations.

#### Other Information Received by the Secretary of State

The Secretary of State considers the Applicant's response to the above consultation on the archaeological find contains other substantive information in relation to the environmental statement (defined as "*any other information*") under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. However, the Secretary of State has asked the Applicant to advertise the annexed notice of that other information as if it were "*further information*" as defined under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. **Copy recipients** are invited to comment on the other information produced by the Applicant.

#### DCO Drafting - Articles 22 and 50

Pinsent Masons, who act on behalf of the Applicant, has also made a separate representation dated 11 August 2020, which is published alongside this letter. The representation is in respect of a DCO drafting issue, relating to Articles 22 and 50 in the draft DCO concerning the compulsory acquisition of rights for the benefit of parties other than Highways England, specifically where rights are required:

- for the benefit of statutory undertakers whose apparatus is to be diverted in consequence of the scheme; and
- for the benefit of persons with an interest in land, the private means of access to which are proposed to be stopped up and subsequently re-provided across other land, which is not proposed to be acquired outright by Highways England.

The representation also includes the Applicant's updated draft Explanatory Memorandum, that accompanied its draft DCO.

The Applicant has asked that the drafting considerations raised in our letter be taken into account by Secretary of State. **Recipients and copy recipients** are invited to submit any comments they may have on the representation.

**To align consultation on the above matters, the deadline for any response is Monday 28 September 2020.**

To assist the Secretary of State, any reliance on information containing in previous representations made either during or since the examination should also include the relevant document reference number(s).

Given the coronavirus (COVID 19) emergency, the Planning Inspectorate are currently unable to accept hard copies of consultation responses. Responses to the matter outlined in this letter should therefore be submitted by email to: [A303Stonehenge@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:A303Stonehenge@planninginspectorate.gov.uk). If you will have difficulty in submitting a response by the consultation deadline, or difficulty in submitting a response by email, please inform the Case Team.

The responses will be published on the project page for the A303 Stonehenge DCO on the Planning Inspectorate's website as soon as possible after the above deadline at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-stonehenge/> .

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant development consent for the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down road scheme, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Kopala  
Head of Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit

**APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED A303 AMESBURY TO BERWICK DOWN DEVELOPMENT  
CONSENT ORDER (APPLICATION REFERENCE TR010025)**

**NOTICE REGARDING SUBMISSION BY HIGHWAYS ENGLAND OF OTHER SUBSTANTIVE  
INFORMATION UNDER THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017**

Notice is hereby given of publication of other substantive information provided by Highways England of Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6HA (“the Applicant”) in relation to the environmental statement submitted in support of its application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) under the Planning Act 2008 (“the Application”) for the Amesbury to Berwick Down Scheme (accepted for examination under application reference TR010025).

The Applicant considers that information it has provided to the Secretary of State for Transport in response to his letter dated 16 July 2020 (which sought comments from the Applicant and other interested parties on new archaeological matters) is other substantive information (“Other Information”) but is treating it as if it were further environmental information under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and therefore invites any comments from interested parties on the Other Information, to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport c/o The Planning Inspectorate by no later than **23:59 on 28 September 2020**. The Secretary of State currently has a deadline of 13 November 2020 by which to determine the Application.

The Other Information relates to the recent archaeological discovery by the Hidden Landscapes Project, which relates to a series of pits in proximity to Durrington Walls Henge.

The Other Information is set out in the following documents: -

- Highways England’s overarching response;
- Environmental Statement (ES) Addendum; and
- Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Addendum.

### **Summary of the Project**

The Application seeks development consent for the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down Scheme in the south-west region, located within the administrative area of Wiltshire Council.

The DCO would authorise the creation of a high quality two-lane dual carriageway on the A303 trunk road between Amesbury and Berwick Down in Wiltshire (“the Scheme”). The Scheme would be approximately 8 miles (13km) long and would comprise the following key components:

- a) A northern bypass of Winterbourne Stoke with a viaduct over the River Till valley;
- b) A new junction between the A303 and A360 to the west of and replacing the existing Longbarrow roundabout;
- c) A twin-bore tunnel approximately 2 miles (3.3km) long, past Stonehenge; and
- d) A new junction between the A303 and A345 at the existing Countess roundabout.

If the DCO is made by the Secretary of State for Transport, it would allow Highways England, for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining the Scheme, to acquire compulsorily interests in and rights over land, including the power to create and acquire new rights over land, and to take possession of and to use land temporarily.

The DCO would also make provision for development, which would constitute associated development together with other ancillary matters, including those related to the diversion and stopping up of lengths of existing highways in the vicinity of the route, the classification and re-classification of highways including the trunking and de-trunking of sections of highway, the application of speed limits, the stopping up of private means of access and the creation of new private means of access, and the application and disapplication of legislation relating to the project.

## Environmental Impact Assessment Development and Other Information

The proposed works are environmental impact assessment development for the purpose of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and accordingly an environmental statement (ES) accompanies the Application.

The Other Information (comprising Highways England's overarching response, an Environmental Statement (ES) Addendum and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Addendum), as well as the ES, can be viewed online, free of charge, on the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down Scheme project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-stonehenge/?ipcsection=docs>

Enquiries relating to the Other Information and environmental statement may be made by phoning 0300 123 5000.

If the restrictions imposed by the Government in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) are lifted and libraries are open, hard copies of the Other Information will be available as soon as practicable at Salisbury and Trowbridge Libraries. Opening times may be subject to change (please check directly with Salisbury and Trowbridge Libraries).

Please observe the latest Government guidance and laws in force if planning to visit a venue to inspect the Other Information. Do not visit if you are unwell, have symptoms of coronavirus, or have recently been in contact with someone with coronavirus.

Location	Opening Times
Salisbury Library, Market Place, Salisbury, SP1 1BL. (Phone: 01722 324145)	Please check with Salisbury Library directly.
Trowbridge Library Ground Floor, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge. BA14 8JN (Phone: 01225 716700)	Please check with Trowbridge Library directly.

Electronic copies on USB of the Other Information (and ES where required) can be provided free of charge on request by:

- Email: [A303Stonehenge@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A303Stonehenge@highwaysengland.co.uk);
- **Post:** A303 Stonehenge Project, Highways England, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6HA; or
- **Telephone:** 0300 123 5000.

Copies of the Other Information only can be made available in hard copy format on request free of charge.

## **Deadline for Response**

Any comments from interested parties on the Other Information must be received no later than **23:59 on 28 September 2020**.

## **How to Respond**

Comments on the Other Information should be submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport via the Planning Inspectorate Case Team, by email to:

[A303Stonehenge@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:A303Stonehenge@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Given the coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the Planning Inspectorate is currently unable to accept hard copies of consultation responses.

If you will have difficulty in submitting a response by the consultation deadline, please inform the Planning Inspectorate Case Team as soon as possible at the above email address or by phone on 0303 444 5000. Responses will be published on the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down Scheme project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-stonehenge/> as soon as possible after the above deadline.

Highways England, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS16HA 20 August 2020