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Welcome to the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester dualling scheme newsletter. This provides a project update, information about ongoing work and detail about the A303/A358 corridor.

Project update

Since we last provided an update in the winter 2018 newsletter, the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester dualling scheme has been progressing through the Examination period of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. This is the planning process required for the scheme, where the DCO application must be approved before the scheme construction can commence.

On 12 June 2019 the DCO Examination for the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester dualling scheme closed. The next step in the DCO process will be for the Planning Inspectorate to write a report about the Examination for the Secretary of State for Transport. This report will include a recommendation on whether to refuse or grant the DCO.

The report from the Planning Inspectorate will be issued to the Secretary of State for Transport by the end of September 2019. A three-month period will then commence enabling the Secretary of State to decide whether to grant or refuse the DCO.

This means a decision should be announced by the end of 2019. The decision will be published alongside the Planning Inspectorate report on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

If you would like any more information on the DCO process the project is going through please visit the [National Infrastructure Planning website](#)

Scheme timeline

The timeline below shows the key milestones for the project and the next steps for the scheme now the Examination has closed.

Date	Event
2014	Scheme included in the Roads Investment Strategy
2015 - 2016	Route identification
15 February - 29 March 2017	Non-statutory consultation on route options
October 2017	Announcement of preferred route
26 January - 9 March 2018	Statutory consultation on preferred route
27 July 2018	Submitted DCO (planning application)
12 December 2019	DCO examination commenced
12 June 2019	DCO examination closed
September 2019	Planning Inspectorate submit Examination report to Secretary of State for Transport
December 2019	Secretary of State for Transport DCO decision
2020	Start of Works, subject to the DCO being granted
2022/23	Open to traffic

Ecology surveys

Over the summer period we'll be completing some final ecology surveys in the local area. These surveys will help complete the environmental information we already have on protected species that may exist in the area. If we do find any protected species, we have details on how we will deal with this in our DCO application, which can be viewed on the [Planning Inspectorate page for the scheme](#).

We will be undertaking the following surveys this summer:

- Great Crested Newts
- Bats
- Breeding birds
- Hedgerows.



Highways England motorway campaign

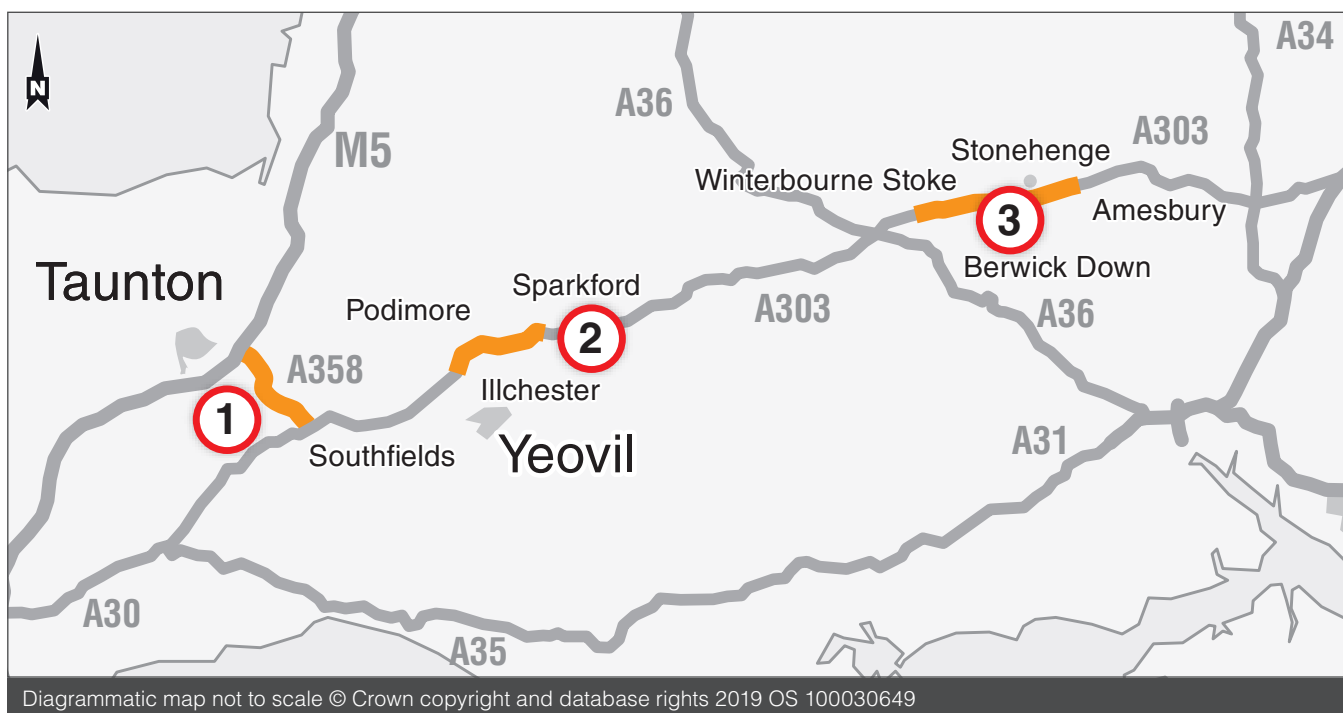


England's motorways connect people to families and friends, workers to jobs and businesses to their customers. Whatever part of England's motorways you are using, we want you to stay safe, follow the signs and keep us all moving. England's motorways are being upgraded. We now use technology to help monitor and manage the flow of traffic so you have a safer, smoother journey.

To learn more about how to stay safe on England's motorways, visit our campaign website: <http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/motorways>

Corridor update

The A303 Sparkford to Ilchester dualling scheme is just one of our three planned projects designed to improve the A303 / A358 corridor. Creating a high-quality dual carriageway link between the south east and south west.



Here is a summary of what's happening with each of the other two schemes at present:

A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling scheme

The A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling scheme recently selected the route they wish to progress the scheme with; this is the Pink Modified option. The scheme will now progress to a statutory public consultation ahead of making a Development Consent Order.

More details about the A358 can be found on the [scheme website](#).

A303 Stonehenge – Amesbury to Berwick Down scheme

The A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down scheme is in the middle of the planning application process. As a nationally significant infrastructure project we have applied for a Development Consent Order, which was accepted for examination in November 2018.

More details can be found on the [Planning Inspectorate's website](#).

For further information on the scheme:

@ A303sparkfordtoilchesterdualling@highwaysengland.co.uk

www <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a303-sparkford-to-ilchester/>

☎ 0300 123 5000

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

