

Creating an expressway to the South West





The A303/A358 route

The A303/A358 route is a vital link between the South West, London and the South East, connecting people, communities and business.

Whether you live in the South West and use the route to get to work, to visit family and friends or to travel here from another part of England or abroad, you should expect to arrive on time after a safe and stress free journey.

This is why we are working to create a reliable transport network for the South West that connects people and places.

To achieve this we will:

- **Operate the route** by keeping traffic moving and better informing our customers
- **Maintain the route** by taking a longer term and more efficient approach to the way we plan and deliver repairs
- **Modernise the route** by providing more capacity and better connections

Whilst the majority of the route has been dualled, there are still over 35 miles of single carriageway.

These sections act as bottlenecks, particularly in the summer months and at weekends, causing delays to traffic travelling along the route.

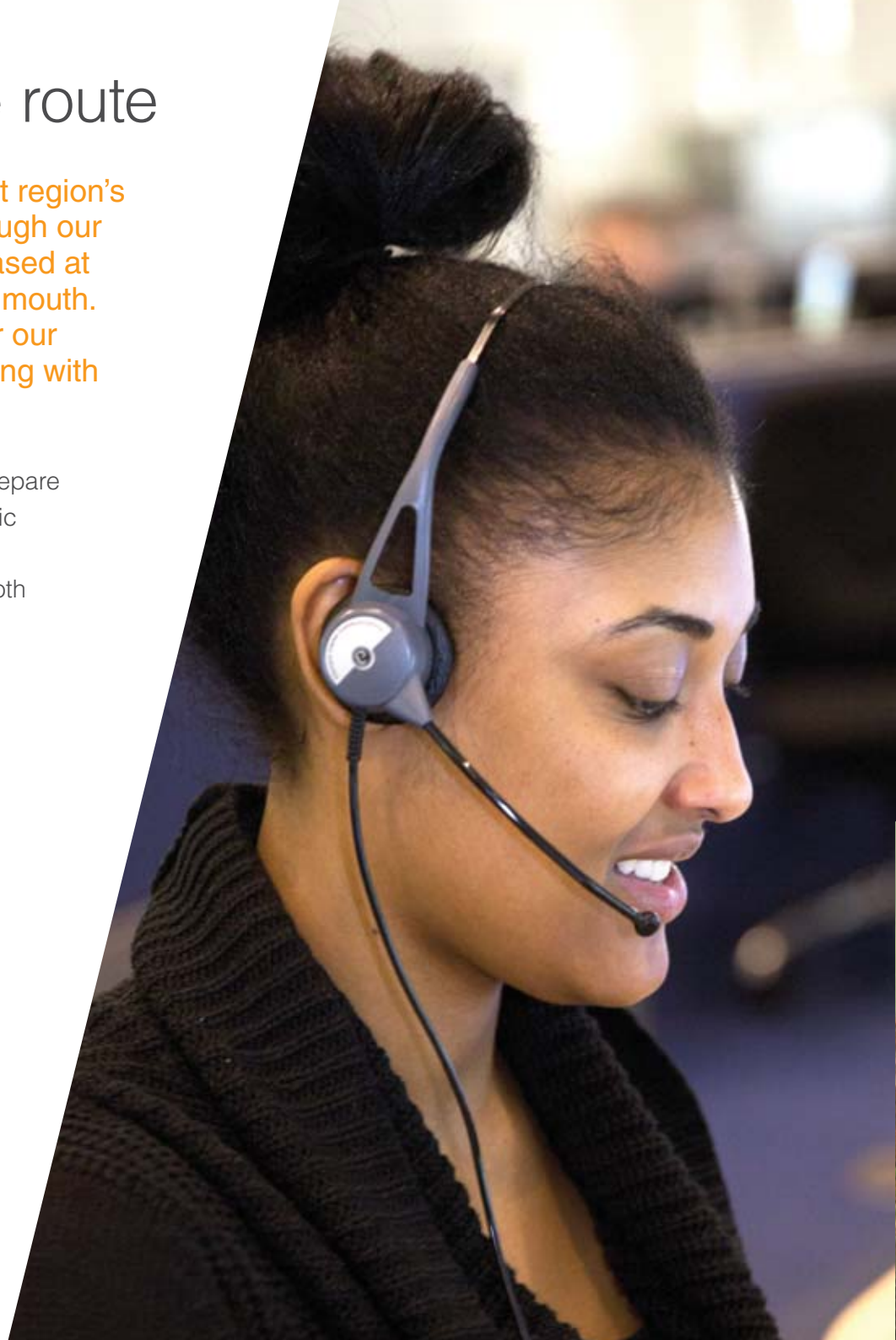
We recognise that the route needs to perform better and have designed a package of improvements which includes upgrading sections of single carriageway to dual carriageway. This is part of our long term commitment to developing the A303 to become an expressway to the South West.

Improvements to this route will also support economic growth in the region, generate employment and increase visitor expenditure.

Operating the route

We operate the South West region's strategic road network through our Regional Control Centre based at St Brendan's Court in Avonmouth. Control centre staff monitor our roads 24 hours a day, dealing with incidents when they occur.

We have a dedicated team that prepare for emergencies and plan for public events such as the Devon County Show, Glastonbury Festival and both the winter and summer solstice.



Maintaining the route

As part of our plans for the route corridor we are moving to a more efficient, longer term approach to planning maintenance in order to keep this vital corridor in a reliable and safe condition.

Over the last two years we have carried out a significant amount of maintenance activity on the A303 including:

Making our route safer

- 2 safety schemes – A303 near Wylie and A303 Sparkford – these included new signs and new central reserve crash barriers
- Installed 1250 metres of central reserve crash barriers and bridge parapets
- Over 66 kilometres of resurfacing.

Making our route more resilient

- Over 5102 metres of drainage protecting the A303 during periods of bad weather.

Improving driver information

- Over 43 replacement traffic signs so our customers are kept informed about what's ahead.

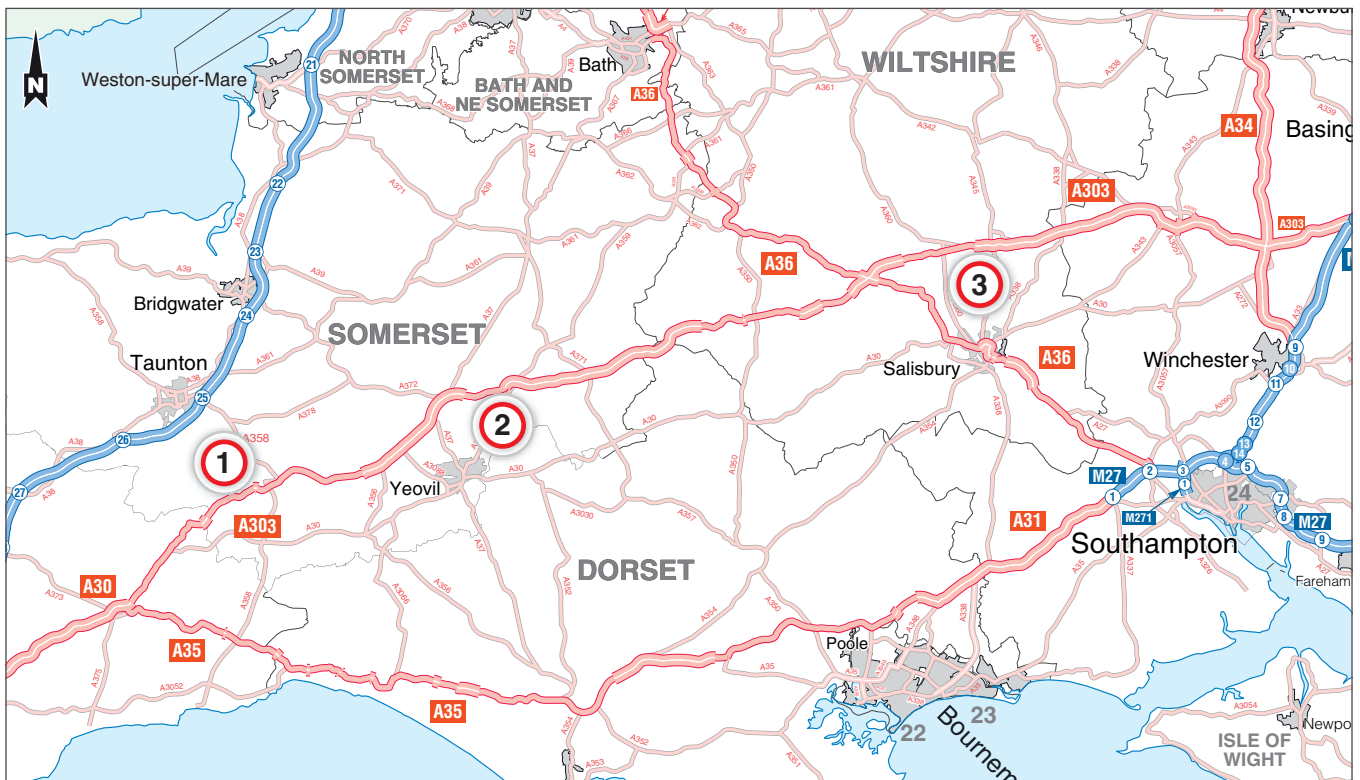


Modernising the route

As part of our long-term commitment to develop the A303/A358 route into an expressway to the South West, the Government's road investment strategy confirms the intention to upgrade all remaining single carriageway sections of the A303 between the M3 and the A358 to dual carriageway standard, together with creating a dual carriageway link from the M5 at Taunton to the A303.

We are therefore developing 3 schemes as part of the total A303/ A358 corridor package of improvements:

- 1 - A358 Taunton to Southfields
- 2 - A303 Sparkford to Ilchester
- 3 - A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down



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A358 Taunton to Southfields dualling

We will be investing in a dual carriageway link from the M5 to the A303. We are working in partnership with Somerset County Council and

Taunton Deane Borough Council to co-ordinate the development of this improvement scheme with other improvements planned to M5 junction 25 (to address capacity issues), and to bring forward the new 25 hectare strategic employment site at Taunton, at junction 25.



A303 Sparkford to Ilchester dualling

In recognition of the long standing problem of congestion at this location, we are developing a proposal to dual this single carriageway section between Sparkford and Ilchester to create approximately 30 miles of uninterrupted dual

carriageway between Mere and South Petherton. The scheme will also include a series of junction improvements which will help through traffic.

As well as reducing congestion and improving journey times the scheme will make our network safer for customers.

A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down dualling

Again we recognise the long standing problem of congestion on this section of the A303. We are looking to address this by increasing the road width from single to dual carriageway to provide more capacity, improving junctions to help the flow of through traffic and by moving the road so that it no longer passes through the village of Winterbourne Stoke.

Our proposals also aim to reduce the impact that the A303 has on Stonehenge and this unique World Heritage Site, maintaining and enhancing this national treasure for current and future generations.

Planning process

There is a formal planning process attached to these larger road schemes which are classed as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and require a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 before construction can start. Extensive consultation will be undertaken on each scheme before DCO applications are submitted. You can find further information on the DCO process on the Planning Inspectorate's website:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>



Stonehenge





Have your say

We are seeking your initial views on our maintenance and major improvement plans for the A303/A358 route.

You can tell us what you think by completing a short questionnaire available at our events and information points or via our website:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/a303a358-work-to-create-an-expressway-to-the-south-west/>

We plan to publish a report in April 2016 summarising your comments and will say how we have taken them on board as we progress more detailed plans.

Between now and 2020, as part of the planning process, we will consult our customers and local communities close to the A303 and A358 giving you the chance to express your views on the design and layout of these schemes before we submit our applications for development consent to allow construction to start.

Our first round of public consultation for the schemes will be as follows:

Late 2016

- A303 Sparkford to Ilchester
- A358 Taunton to Southfield

Early 2017

- Amesbury to Berwick Down

These consultations will allow us to our work towards identifying preferred routes for each scheme by mid-2017.





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Highways England creative job number M150413

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