



## A303 Stonehenge (Amesbury to Berwick Down) Community Forum

**Tuesday 5 March 2024**

### Project Attendees

Sue Manns	Independent Chair
Andy Clark	Project Manager
Holly Taylor-Price	Communications Manager
Charlotte Brown	Communications Team
Ben Jakes	Communications Team
Laura Ford	Communications Team
Matt Whale	Project Manager (Octavius)
Chris Hilldrup	Wiltshire Route Manager

<b>Sue Manns</b>	<p><b>Welcome</b> <b>Agenda</b> <b>Introductions</b></p> <p><b>Action tracker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sue introduced the new action tracker which will keep track of questions and topic suggestions at CF meetings and set out how and when they will be actioned.</li> <li>The tracker currently has questions/ topics raised at the July 2023 meeting, the November meeting and additional requests on 29 February 2024.</li> <li>The tracker will be updated regularly and will be an agenda item at the start of every future CF meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Andy Clark</b>	<p><b>Project Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The High Court hearing for the Judicial Review was held in December. The outcome was published on 19 February, when the JR was dismissed. Q: DCO? A: Development Consent Order - the type of planning permission we have for the scheme.</li> <li>Save Stonehenge World Heritage Site lodged an appeal on 22 February, but they didn't submit the grounds for the appeal. Once the grounds are published, it will likely take 4 to 8 weeks for the courts to determine whether an appeal will be heard or not. If the appeal is not heard we will continue, if the appeal is to be heard we still have our DCO but it's under risk so we will mitigate any further delays to the project. Q: How long do they have for the appeal? A: The appeal had to be lodged within 7 days of the High Court decision, but they asked for two further weeks extension. We haven't heard if that has been accepted by the courts or not.</li> <li>A Forum member added that the number of appeals that are granted is below 10%, so the chances in succeeding are very small.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andy added that National Highways is in an unknown situation at this point in time. We're continuing preparations to start at the end of month, however this is unlikely. A 1 month to 2 months delay is more likely but we're doing everything we can now to hit the ground running whenever we can do so. Q: On the assumption that the main works contractors have other contracts to carry out, what is the risk that they can't start work when needed? A: We are currently talking with them so they're aware of the situation and they are kept up to date. The first thing we will do when we know we can start is give them 3 months' notice to commence.</li> <li>Andy ran through the updated project timeline. Q: When you say design work, I thought it was already designed? A: There will be very little change. The main works contractors have been given the main elements of the scheme and are allowed to make small changes within the 'limits of deviation' set out in the DCO. The main works contractor will do the design themselves because they are then liable for that design. Q: At what point will the main works contractor provide the first duration for delivery? A: The total duration is in their contract. They must have it open within 5 years of starting and they have to prove to us that it will be done.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Matt Whale</b></p>	<p><b>Preliminary works</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matt provided an overview of the preliminary works to take place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Andy Clark</b></p>	<p><b>A360</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andy gave an overview of the A360 work. Information is included in the presentation.</li> <li>The A360 website is now live: <a href="https://www.a360temporaryclosure.co.uk/">https://www.a360temporaryclosure.co.uk/</a> Q: What additional measures will be in place to enforce weight limits? A: It depends on what Wiltshire Council are prepared to put in place. We are doing traffic monitoring throughout the works. One difficulty is that some of the diversion route is on the strategic network and some of it is on Wiltshire's network. We will keep talking to communities for feedback on how it's going. There is also a telephone number to ring and an email address to contact for any issues. 0330 175 5675. <a href="mailto:info@a360temporaryclosure.co.uk">info@a360temporaryclosure.co.uk</a> Q: Who is the lead from Wiltshire Council? A: Samantha Howell is lead officer and is supported by highways team. Q: In Devon there were roadworks and they've used a big sign in blue and white saying 'not suitable for HGVs'. This shouldn't be difficult to put up, nothing stops them coming through Berwick St James. We will be impacted and will need some help. A: We will feed this back to the A360 team. Q: Are you diverting other cables at the same time? A: This is just electricity cable work. Q: When and where are the diversion signs going up? A: This is being finalised. Signs will go up at an appropriate time, we don't want to divert people too early when the road is still open. National Highways and SSEN staff will regularly check the routes for signage. If there are any issues with signage, please contact us. Q: A Cllr from Till Valley. We're concerned about the bridge at Wilton, it's a very low bridge. There is also concern that there will just be diversion signs and it won't be policed. The Woodford Valley and Berwick St James areas should be closed except for residents (referenced a letter from Ken Marshall dated May 2022).</li> </ul>

	<p>A: We have looked into that before (May 2022) with Wiltshire Council. There is an issue with making public roads essentially private, in essence it cannot be done. We also cannot pay police to control access to roads 24/7.</p> <p>Q: These works are purely in association with A303 project, so hypothetically if the scheme gets cancelled then this work stops?</p> <p>A: Yes. We wouldn't have a budget if the scheme gets cancelled.</p> <p>Q: Will the cable follow the route of the new bridleway from Druids Lodge to Longbarrow roundabout?</p> <p>A: No, the cable will follow the A360 itself.</p> <p>Comment: SSEN have had two and a half years to take legal steps to force a way alongside the A360. I want to share disgust that they haven't done so.</p> <p>A: Noted.</p>
<b>Andy Clark</b>	<p><b>Public Rights of Way</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andy ran through Public Rights of Way improvements. The maps are available in the presentation.</li> </ul> <p>Q: Thinking back to an early iteration of the forum, there were a few suggestions to connect Shrewton to the visitor centre. Is this included?</p> <p>A: This isn't included as part of the scheme.</p> <p>A Wiltshire Council Officer added that using National Highways designated funds, Wiltshire are doing a feasibility study to look at further routes in the area.</p> <p>Q: Do you have the details of the surfacing along the old A303 route?</p> <p>A: That will be part of the detailed design, but it will be a 'bound' material, so not gravel or grass. Something which is suitable for a range of users.</p> <p>Q: On the feasibility study, please try and include horse riders and carriage riders, we are very limited.</p> <p>A: Wiltshire Council will take that away and pass to the team.</p> <p>Q: How can we engage with Wiltshire Council on this?</p> <p>A: We have consultants looking at possible route options. We've had discussions with the MoD. There has been some community engagement. We can take this away and provide an update via National Highways.</p> <p>Q: Can I have a copy of the maps?</p> <p>A: The maps are on the website and are in the presentation which will be sent round to Forum members.</p>
<b>Holly Taylor-Price</b>	<p><b>Future community engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holly gave an update on the future of community engagement. It has been difficult over the last year or so with the DCO redetermination, Judicial Review and appeal etc.</li> <li>Public information events have been rearranged due to the appeal.</li> <li>Octavius will have a Public Liaison Officer in place shortly.</li> <li>If we are missing anything in our community engagement, please let us know.</li> </ul> <p>Q: When the forum started, one thing we were dealing with was legacy benefits. When can we start talking about legacy again?</p> <p>A: Once we've got the legal processes out of the way, we can talk about that. We can cover that as a topic for the next forum.</p>
<b>Q&amp;A</b>	<p>Q: Will there be a compound where you will build the tunnel?</p> <p>A: The contractor can build tunnel segments on site at the tunnel location or build them offsite and bring them in. That's their decision.</p> <p>Q: Work is being stopped by Stonehenge Alliance. When there is anything in the press, papers always ask Stonehenge Alliance what they think about it. No one has a rival opinion. Should we not setup a rival opinion? The local blog is not being continued as the authors have moved away.</p>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Forum member: The local blog is being continued by others. It is encouraging in the last few months that National Highways have rebutted bad press stories. An open letter by the archaeology community was made public in December. <a href="https://openletter.earth/the-stonehenge-debate-must-be-reframed-8a170f58">https://openletter.earth/the-stonehenge-debate-must-be-reframed-8a170f58</a><br/>Q: Is the Octavius Public Liaison Officer in post?<br/>A: They will be in post in the next 3 weeks and will be at next forum.<br/>Q: The other elephant in the room is who will be in government later this year? What will happen if Labour gets in?<br/>A: As National Highways we cannot comment.</li></ul> |
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