

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [A303 Stonehenge](#)  
**Subject:** A303 Stonehenge letter of support from South West authorities  
**Date:** 04 April 2022 20:26:49  
**Attachments:** [A303 Steering Group Letter DCO Stonehenge April 2022 .docx](#)

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Dear Sir or Madam

Please find a copy of a letter signed by Cabinet Councillors on behalf of Somerset, Devon and Wiltshire councils and the Heart of the South West LEP in support of A303 Stonehenge scheme proposed by National Highways

Kind regards

**Matthew Prince**  
**Service Commissioning Manager – Transport Policy.**

[REDACTED]

Transport Policy  
Economic and Community Infrastructure - Commissioning  
B2South  
Somerset County Council  
County Hall, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4DY

**As a result of Coronavirus, all Somerset County Council staff have been asked to work from home, where this is practically possible, or to support other services if their role is not critical to the Coronavirus response. This will have an impact on our ability to deliver some services, so we thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.**

[REDACTED]

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Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

**Please ask for:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Direct Dial:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 04 April 2022

Dear Secretary of State

### **A303 Stonehenge (Amesbury to Berwick Road Down)**

We are responding to the publication of your 'Statement of Matters' letter and the subsequent deposit of further materials by National Highways as representatives of Somerset County Council, Devon County Council, Wiltshire Council and the Heart of the South West LEP.

As the A303 Steering Group, we continue to support this important infrastructure scheme and the benefits it will bring to the South West.

In February 2020 we wrote in support of the original application identifying the key benefits the improvements to the A303/A358/A30 corridor would bring. Since then, work has commenced in bringing forward other elements along these routes and we are keen to see the critical A303 pinchpoint at Stonehenge be approved; without it the benefits to the South West will not be as significant, impacting the region's ability to Level-Up in line with the rest of the country. As noted in February 2020, the following key benefits of an end-to-end route improvement are:

- Create 21,400 jobs
- £41.6bn boost to the economy (GVA)
- Deliver £21.2bn of taxation, welfare savings, disposal income and tourism benefits
- £1.9bn in transport benefits from reduced journey times and greater resilience
- Improve transport resilience to cope with incidents and during flooding
- Save over 1800 fatal or serious casualties over 60 years

## Somerset County Council

County Hall, Taunton  
Somerset, TA1 4DY



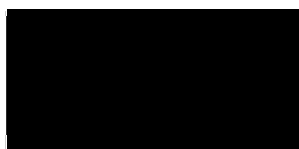
This demonstrates significant potential benefits to the South West; a region that underperforms nationally and suffers from a lack of connectivity. It must be noted that these benefits will only be realised as a result of a whole corridor improvement. Whilst the Amesbury to Berwick Down scheme is a key catalyst to this, the remaining schemes to upgrade the full A303/A358/A30 corridor, including the A30 Blackdown Hills, must also be prioritised in future investment strategies to fully unlock the economic potential of the South West.

We maintain that commentary on scheme details, including any preference for junction layouts, viaduct proposals, green bridge locations or tunnel approach options, is primarily a matter for the local communities and locally elected authorities.

Our desire is for the road improvement scheme to maximise both the transport economic benefits and safety benefits by gaining the greatest possible reduction in journey times and collisions; providing junctions with adequate capacity to accommodate peak traffic flows at strategic points of access to other key road links; and ensuring there are good strategic connections with economic growth centres to maximise the wider economic benefits of the scheme for business productivity.

The Amesbury to Berwick Down scheme, along with the other schemes currently being progressed at Sparkford-Ilchester and Ilminster to M5 at Taunton, are vital steps towards achieving a whole route improvement, and as such are strongly supported.

Yours sincerely,



**Cllr David Hall – Somerset County Council**

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure.



**Cllr Andrea Davis -Devon County Council**

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

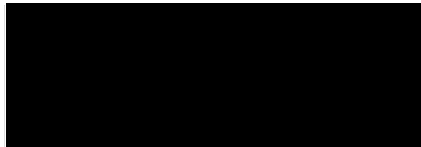
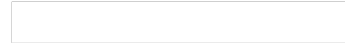
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County Hall, Taunton  
Somerset, TA1 4DY



**Cllr Dr Mark McClelland – Wiltshire Council**

Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste, Street Scene and Flooding.



**David Ralph – Heart of the South West LEP**

Chief Executive

