

A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme TR010036

5.4 Annex C: Copy of the Draft SoCC provided to local authorities

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)
Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009
July 2018



Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009**

**A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme
Development Consent Order 201[x]**

**ANNEX C: COPY OF THE SOCC PROVIDED TO LOCAL
AUTHORITIES**

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A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Stage 3

Statutory Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

HE551507-MMSJV-VSS-000-RP-ZH-0028

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1 A303 Sparkford to Ilchester – Statement of Community Consultation

- 1.1.1 Highways England is inviting feedback from the local community and road users on our proposal to improve the A303 between Sparkford and Ilchester in South Somerset.
- 1.1.2 This statutory Statement of Community Consultation [the statement] provides background to the preferred route proposal and outlines how a future Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be made.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of the statement is to set out how we will consult the local community and road users about the preferred route proposal.
- 1.1.4 The statement provides details of where further information can be obtained or viewed and how feedback by the local community and road users about the preferred route proposal can be provided to us.

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2 Development Consent Order

- 2.1.1 The scheme is classified as a nationally significant infrastructure project under the Planning Act 2008 [the Act]. The Act sets out in Part 5, Chapter 2 (pre-application procedure) a number of requirements for NSIPs. This includes the duty to consult with the local community, statutory consultees, landowners, local authorities and other non-statutory consultees.

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3 Statutory Public Consultation – The Preferred Route

- 3.1.1 We are developing this scheme under the Act and this statement advises how we will consult with the local community and road users during the statutory consultation period for the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester scheme.
- 3.1.2 The A303 Sparkford to Ilchester scheme is at a formal statutory consultation stage, as required under Section 47 of the Act. Feedback received during the statutory consultation will be recorded and carefully considered by Highways England before a DCO application is made.
- 3.1.3 The A303 Sparkford to Ilchester scheme first commenced public consultation in February 2017 with a non-statutory route options public consultation. Two route options were presented for formal feedback to inform the selection of the preferred route. On 24 October 2017 Highways England announced the preferred route for the scheme, further details about how the preferred route was selected can be found by visiting the scheme website www.highways.gov.uk/Sparkford-to-Ilchester
- 3.1.4 Under the Act, we are required to consult with the relevant local authorities. As part of the statutory consultation preparation, engagement has been undertaken with host local authorities and adjoining local authorities. Their views have been taken into account to develop the statutory consultation approach and prepare this statement.
- 3.1.5 The Act requires us to submit an application to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for a DCO to build the scheme. The Secretary of State's role is to consider whether DCO approval should be given for major infrastructure projects like this scheme. We anticipate that a DCO application for the scheme will be published no later than summer 2018. The Secretary of State will consider the DCO application and decide on whether the scheme should go ahead.
- 3.1.6 The Government has published National Policy Statements (NPS) relating to the types of infrastructure projects the Secretary of State will examine. These provide frameworks for DCO applications to be considered against. Major road infrastructure proposals are subject to the NPS for National Networks.
- 3.1.7 When Highways England submits its DCO application, the Secretary of State must consider whether consultation undertaken has been adequate. This statutory consultation will provide guidance that assists us to select a preferred route option.
- 3.1.8 Consultation with people living in the vicinity of a proposed development site is an important aspect of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project proposal,

and feedback received from the local community and road users during the statutory consultation will help to deliver a better final scheme application.

- 3.1.9 More information about the PINS, the Act and how to participate in the DCO process can be found on the PINS national infrastructure planning website at <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/> or by calling PINS on 0303 444 5000.

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4 The road improvement scheme

- 4.1.1 The A303/A30/A358 corridor is a vital connection between the South West and London and the South East. While the majority of the road has been dualled, there are still over 30 miles of single carriageway. These sections act as bottlenecks for users of the route resulting in congestion, particularly in the summer months and at weekends, delays to traffic travelling between the M3 motorway and the South West and an increased risk of accidents.
- 4.1.2 The route corridor comprises multiple road standards, including single carriageways, single carriageways with overtaking lanes and dual carriageway sections with associated road junctions and varying speed limits between 40mph and 70mph.
- 4.1.3 The section of the A303 between Sparkford and Ilchester includes the Hazlegrove Roundabout, which has five arms and forms a junction with the A359, including access to a service station located at the western end of the existing dual carriageway standard Sparkford bypass. Continuing westwards from the roundabout, the A303 comprises a single carriageway with a two-way overtaking lane that is subject to a 50mph maximum speed limit.
- 4.1.4 The remaining length of the Sparkford to Ilchester section is characterised by single carriageway sections with double white lines prohibiting overtaking and subject to a 50mph maximum speed limit. There are a number of priority junctions along the route enabling access to the settlements of Queen Camel and West Camel to the south of the road, as well as a number of farm accesses and parking laybys. The road continues until it becomes a dual carriageway just before the Podimore Roundabout.
- 4.1.5 The section of the A303 between Sparkford and Ilchester is approximately 3 miles in length.
- 4.1.6 The proposed scheme will link existing sections of dual carriageway and is likely to include new junctions and road bridges to replace existing sub-standard junctions and direct accesses.

5 Consulting the community

- 5.1.1 The consultation is a process by which the local community living in the vicinity of the A303 between Sparkford and Ilchester and those that make use of the A303 road network between Sparkford and Ilchester are invited to participate and provide feedback to the statutory preferred route consultation.
- 5.1.2 We want to ensure that the local community and road users have the opportunity to understand the preferred route proposal and to provide feedback. To do this we will undertake a period of consultation from **2018 dates**, at which time we will ask for feedback on the preferred route proposal.
- 5.1.3 Consultation materials will detail information about the preferred route proposal, including route improvement alternatives, proposed road access arrangements, traffic modelling and the scheme timescales.
- 5.1.4 We will be using a range of methods during the consultation period to ensure that the local community, road users and any other interested party have an opportunity to view and provide feedback on the preferred route proposal.
- 5.1.5 The statutory consultation will include the following consultation methodologies:

Method	Detail
Public information events	<p>Public information events will be held at locations along the route of the scheme to offer people an opportunity to view the proposed route speak with the project team and provide feedback.</p> <p>The local community, businesses and road users will be informed of the events through channels including written communications, the Highways England website and local media.</p> <p>Information on how to provide consultation feedback will be available at the events and the Highways England website.</p> <p>A printed questionnaire will be available for members of the public to provide feedback and these can be left with the project team, posted free of charge to Freepost Consultation, FPN 4016 or emailed to us.</p> <p>Information will be available to members of the public detailing how to provide feedback online at the Highways England website.</p>
Public information points	<p>Information advertising the public information events will be on view at specified public information points.</p> <p>Consultation brochures will be available at public information points for the local community and other road users to review and take away.</p>

	<p>Information about how the local community, businesses and other road users can provide consultation feedback will be available at the public information points.</p> <p>A printed questionnaire will be available for members of the local community and other road users to provide feedback at the public information points and these can be posted free of charge or emailed to us.</p> <p>Information detailing how to provide feedback online at the Highways England website will be available.</p>
Project website	<p>Details of the scheme background, the need for the scheme and information on the preferred route will be provided on the scheme website at www.highways.gov.uk/Sparkford-to-Ilchester</p> <p>Supporting preferred route documents including the consultation brochure will be available to download or print.</p> <p>A questionnaire will be available for members of the local community and other road users to provide feedback online.</p>
Written communication	<p>We will send residents and businesses inside the consultation zone (see Appendix 1.1) an information letter that explains the preferred route proposal and the issues being consulted on. The letters will invite people to the public information events and detail how consultation feedback can be provided to us.</p> <p>Other key stakeholder organisations and special interest groups will also receive information letters that explain the preferred route proposal and the issues being consulted on. The letters will invite recipients to the public information events and detail how consultation feedback can be provided to us.</p> <p>Individuals or organisations that have registered to receive further communications on the Highways England scheme website will be sent information emails that explain the preferred route proposal and the issues being consulted on. The emails will invite recipients to the public information events and detail how consultation feedback can be provided to us.</p> <p>Details of public information events:</p> <p>Possible venues to be used are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sparkford Inn, High Street, Sparkford, Yeovil, BA22 7JH • Queen Camel Memorial Hall, High Street, Queen Camel, Yeovil, BA22 7NF • Davis Hall, Howell Hill, West Camel, Yeovil, BA22 7QX

	Detail to be added once consultation dates are confirmed.
Consultation brochure	<p>We will produce a consultation brochure providing information about the preferred route proposal, the need for the scheme and the issues being consulted on. The brochure will be available to view on the Highways England scheme website.</p> <p>The consultation brochure will also be available at public information events and public information points.</p> <p>Copies of the consultation brochure can be provided free of charge by request to Highways England.</p>
Use of local authority and parish council communications channels	We will promote the statutory consultation through local authority and parish council communication channels, including their respective websites, newsletters and social media pages.
Representatives at local groups and forums	We welcome contact from local groups and forums. Where it is considered that there is a relevant interest and where a visit is considered proportionate and appropriate, we will attend a local event to discuss the statutory consultation.
Hard to reach groups	<p>An appropriate and proportionate 'hard to reach' engagement plan will be developed with the assistance and agreement of relevant local authority personnel and third sector organisations.</p> <p>Appropriate and proportionate consultation tools for hard to reach groups could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations to community groups and organisations • Appropriate direct engagement with, for example, younger people and disabled people and representative groups • Provision of appropriate and accessible materials in local community/hard to reach centres • Provision of appropriate and accessible materials (i.e. in large print and alternative languages if requested) • Venues chosen for public events to be compliant with the Equality Act 2010
Statutory consultation updates	The local community and other road users will be updated about progress of the statutory consultation through channels including written communications, the Highways England website, local media and local authority websites, newsletters and social media.
Consultation feedback	<p>Written feedback can be made either online or in writing to Highways England at the following addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A303SparkfordtolchesterDualling@highwaysengland.co.uk • A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling, 2/07K Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6HA
Media	The statutory preferred route consultation will be publicised through local print, radio and online media channels by means of a Highways England press release detailing the consultation

	process and explaining how the local community and road users can provide feedback.
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6 Next steps

6.1 Feedback

6.1.1 Feedback provided by members of the local community and road users during the statutory consultation will be recorded by Highways England.

6.1.2 Please contact Highways England to find out more about this scheme by:

- visiting the scheme website at www.highways.gov.uk/Sparkford-to-Ilchester
- emailing the project team at A303SparkfordtoIlchesterDualling@highwaysengland.co.uk
- calling the project team on **0300 123 5000 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)**
- writing to the project team at **A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling, 2/07K Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6HA**

6.2 Consultation zone

6.2.1 The consultation zone covers a geographical area of approximately 1.5 kilometres from any point along the preferred route being consulted on. In certain areas, the 1.5 kilometre zone has been extended to include additional population centres. A map showing the consultation zone boundary is in appendix 1.2.

6.3 Local authorities consulted

6.3.1 Host local authorities: (Somerset County Council, South Somerset District Council)

6.3.2 Adjoining local authorities: (Bath and North East Somerset Council, Devon County Council, Dorset County Council, East Devon District Council, Mendip District Council, North Dorset District Council, North Somerset Council, Sedgemoor District Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council, West Dorset District Council, Wiltshire Council)

7 Public information event venues, dates and times

- 7.1.1 A minimum of three public events will be held during the consultation period. These events will be located at strategic locations along the preferred route. The venues will be chosen based on the suitability of the building, ease of access for all members of the local community, and available facilities.
- 7.1.2 The public events will be open from late morning until the early evening, with at least one event held at the weekend.

Date	Location	Time
	Detail to be added once dates confirmed	

7.2 Public information point locations

- 7.2.1 Consultation materials will be available to view at a number of venues and beyond the consultation zone. Materials available for viewing at these locations will include the consultation brochure and questionnaire for the preferred route. Visitors will be able to take a copy of the consultation brochure and questionnaire away with them. All other materials will be available to view on the Highways England website - www.highways.gov.uk/Sparkford-to-Ilchester.

Public Information Points	
Wincanton Library, 7 Carrington Way, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9JS	Barrington Court, Barrington, Ilminster, TA19 0NQ
Yeovil Library, King George Street, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 1PZ	Lytes Cary Manor, near Somerton, Somerset, TA11 7HU
South Petherton Library, St. James Street, South Petherton, Somerset, TA13 5BS	Montacute House, Montacute, TA15 6XP
Taunton Library, Paul Street, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 3XZ	Somerset County Council, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4DY
Martock Library, The Shopping Centre, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6DL	South Somerset District Council, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2HT