



A303 Stonehenge Scheme

Briefing for Stonehenge Area Board Meeting, 23 September 2021

Update on the legal challenge

On 30 July the Judge Holgate handed down a decision on the legal challenge to the scheme.

Two grounds were upheld – the other eight were dismissed.

The judge ruled that the Secretary of State:

1. Did not properly consider all the heritage impacts contained in the Environmental Statement and Heritage Impact Assessment
2. Should have considered alternatives to the western cuttings and portal because of the "wholly exceptional" circumstances of the project

The judgement relates to the decision-making process – not the merits of the scheme, or the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

What does this mean for the scheme?

- The Development Consent Order is now quashed
- Scheme is not *cancelled* or *unlawful*
- Preliminary works – including archaeology and the A360 temporary closure – are postponed

Next steps

- Secretary of State for Transport will re-determine the scheme
- 'Statement of Matters' will set out what he requires from National Highways
- We are progressing the procurement process to secure main works contractor and delivery assurance partner