

A303 Sparkford to Ilchester

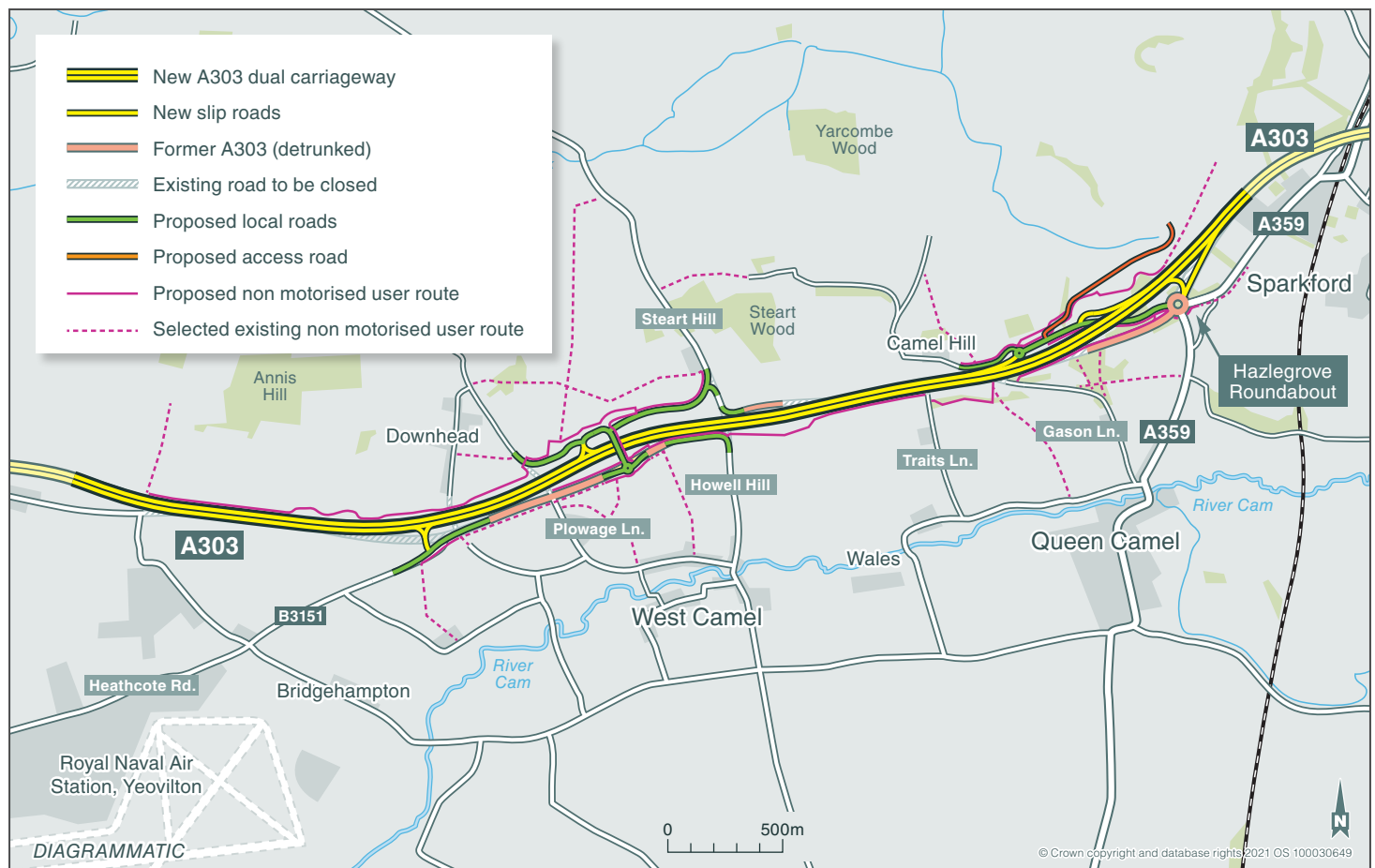
The government outlined, in its first Road Investment Strategy (RIS 1, covering the period 2015-2020), that dualling the three-mile single carriageway section of road between Sparkford and Ilchester was a priority* for improving connections between London and the South East and South West.

On an average day the A303 between Sparkford and Ilchester carries 23,500 vehicles, but numbers increase significantly in the summer. This makes journeys unreliable and unpredictable.

The Secretary of State granted our Development Consent Order (the type of planning permission needed for large infrastructure schemes) for the scheme in January 2021.

In 2015 we began to develop the scheme, holding consultations on our proposals in 2017 and 2018.

We started construction on the scheme in September 2021 and aim to finish work by spring 2024.



* Along with tackling other sections of the A303 and A358

Overview of the scheme

The new dualled section will start east of Podimore Roundabout and will follow the alignment of the existing A303 to Downhead. Travelling eastwards, it then moves north of the existing A303 single carriageway, allowing the existing road to be kept for use as a local road in this section.

The route then rises up West Camel Hill before crossing over the existing A303 at the junction with Steart Hill/Howell Hill. It then takes a southerly alignment before meeting up with the existing road again to pass between Vale Farm and the MOD signal station at Eyewell/Traits Land.

In delivering the scheme, we're aiming to:

- improve the capacity of the road to reduce delays and queues that occur during peak hours and at key times of the year
- support economic growth, facilitating growth in jobs and housing by providing a free-flowing and reliable connection between the South East and the South West
- make the road safer, by providing additional capacity and reducing driver stress. We'll make routes safer for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders in the area.



If you'd like any more information on the scheme you can visit our virtual exhibition on our website or contact us using one of the methods below:

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www www.highwaysengland.co.uk/a303-sparkford-to-ilchester

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