

A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Scheme layout

Environmental impact

At National Highways, we're committed to making the environment a priority. Our design for the new road has lots of environmental and wider community benefits - some of these are:

We're building ditches along the new road to collect runoff water during storms. This will protect land at known flooding locations and keep road users safe. We're also creating 10 miles of permeable grass drainage channels - these will protect the landscape from surface flooding and blend in with the rural landscape.



We're installing 220 new bat boxes to help support the local population of bats. We've found 9 different species across the site, including some of the UK's rarest types of bat.



bat house, 1 perch and lo boxes around making sure we keep access to Where we need to re-

We're making sure we keep access to
the area open for local people to use.
The new underpasses at Steart Hill
bridge and Hazlegrove will provide two
safe road crossings for walkers,
cyclists and horse riders.

Where
hedge hedge

We're working with local landowners to install a bat house, 16 barn owl nest boxes, a barn owl perch and lots of other small bat and bird boxes around the scheme.

Where we need to remove hedgerows our ecologists will move the eggs of the protected brown hairstreak butterfly to hedgerows that won't be disturbed as part of the scheme.



We've built two 'hibernaculars',

which are wildlife habitats made

that offer shelter to local wildlife.

out of branches, hedges and wood

We've installed 180 dormice boxes across the scheme. They're a protected species so we will regularly check on them - and we'll keep monitoring them for six years after we finish building, to make sure they're properly established.



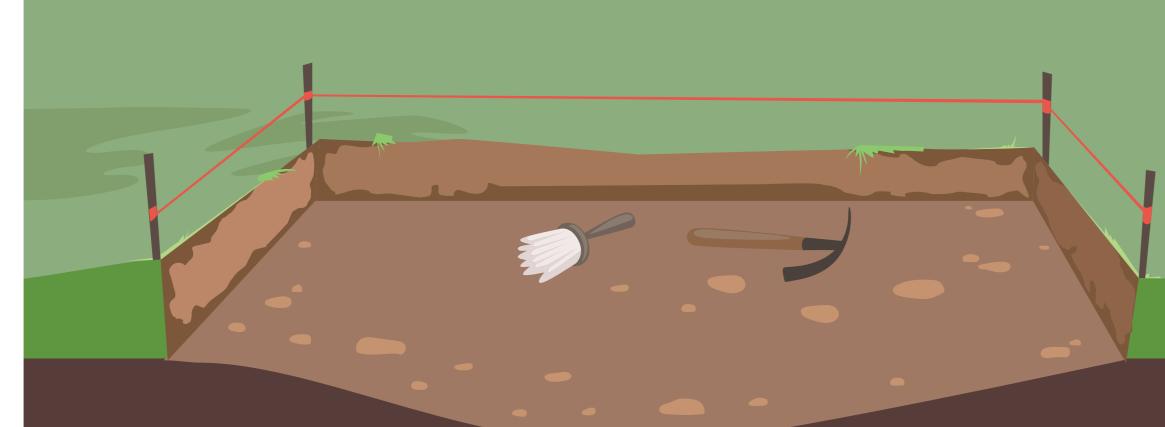
We're installing nearly 2 miles of wildlife proof fencing to protect wildlife such as badgers and deer. Badger fencing will also be installed to direct badgers to a specially designed wildlife tunnel under the new road to keep them away from the traffic.



Where we're planting new shrubs and trees, we're using native species to help blend the old with the new and help establish a healthy, biodiverse landscape.

We're creating 30 hectares of wildflower grassland on the road verges and embankments.

We're building five drainage ponds to help us store and control the flow of water around the site. We're also reinstating a disused wildlife pond to its former biodiverse glory.



We're protecting archaeology in the landscape as we work. Specialist archaeology contractors survey all the site for us and carefully extract and assess any objects and artefacts. These finds go to local museums for display and safe storage.

We're building **1 new** specially designed badger sett.

