

M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange TR010030

5.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment Annex B: Consultation report

Regulation 5(2)(g)
Planning Act 2008

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



Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

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

M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange improvement Development Consent Order 202[x]

5.3 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

ANNEX B: CONSULTATION REPORT

Regulation Number:	Regulation 5(2)(g)
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	TR010030
Application Document Reference	TR010030/APP/5.3
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Penance

Version	Date	Status of Version
Rev 0	June 2019	Development Consent Order application

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. When undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Advice Note 10¹ includes the following statements:
1. *“The approach contained within this advice note forms a key component of the preparation of an application, and has been designed to help applicants to submit a robust application, so that as few outstanding issues as possible are taken forward into the examination process. Applicants are strongly advised to make use of the Evidence Plan process. This process has been set up to assist applicants whilst complying with the Habitats Directive. Further information about Evidence Plans is available through the GOV.UK website² or by contacting the statutory nature conservation body”* (paragraph 4.4, page 5).
 2. *“Applicants are advised to consult the relevant SNCBs [Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies], and should confirm in their application, where appropriate, that the SNCB supports the conclusions of the screening stage. Evidence of this consultation and the SNCB views should be appended to the NSER³ or the HRA Report, as appropriate”,* (paragraph 4.21, page 9).
 3. *“The HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment (AA) information is typically presented in the applicant’s HRA Report and should include evidence to demonstrate that the applicant has fully consulted and had regard to comments received by the relevant SNCBs during pre-application consultation”,* (paragraph 4.24, page 9).
- 1.1.2. The GOV.UK website link that the PINS Advice Note 10 provides takes the reader to a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) document: DEFRA (2012) Habitats Regulations: Evidence Plans for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects⁴. This document advises that the first stage of the Evidence Plan process is to request an Evidence Plan from the Major Infrastructure Unit (MIEU) in DEFRA.
- 1.1.3. On the 10th November 2017 efforts began to contact the MIEU via email and telephone. However, after several lines of enquiry, it was determined that the MIEU has been disbanded⁵. Enquiries to DEFRA led to recommendations that Natural England should lead on producing an Evidence Plan. However, due to resource constraints, Natural England were unable to provide this role.
- 1.1.4. PINS offered to chair Evidence Plan Steering Group meetings, in order to ensure an Evidence Plan was produced. However, PINS could not be responsible for organising meetings, setting agendas or producing minutes. Therefore, under agreement with Highways England⁶, it was determined that the Evidence Plan process would be managed by the project team, who would engage with relevant stakeholders, arrange meetings, record minutes and produce evidence of the consultation process that has been undertaken.

¹ The Planning Inspectorate (2016) Advice Note 10: Habitats Regulations Assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-and-wild-birds-directives-evidence-plans-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>

³ No Significant Effects Report

⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69601/pb13825-habitats-evidence-plans.pdf.

⁵ An email from Graham Steven, Natural England, on December 12th 2017 confirmed that the MIEU had been disbanded.

⁶ Correspondence with Highways England on the 7th February 2018.

- 1.1.5. This document records the Evidence Plan process and the agreements made regarding the scope, methods and findings of the HRA for the M25 junction 10/ A3 Wisley interchange Scheme.
- 1.1.6. The key stakeholders identified in the HRA process are:
1. Natural England (SNCB for this project);
 2. Forestry Commission;
 3. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB);
 4. Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT);
 5. Surrey County Council (SCC).
- 1.1.7. The following topics have been discussed and agreed with all key stakeholders, and all key meetings and emails have been summarised in Table 1.1 below. The stakeholders present in individual meetings varied depending on its detailed scope. In addition, the meeting minutes have also been provided in Appendix A.
1. HRA Screening (the screening process, Natura 2000 sites to include in the assessment, potential impacts to assess and any additional evidence required, and the findings of the screening (including which Natura 2000 sites to take forward to the Appropriate Assessment stage));
 2. HRA Appropriate Assessment (the Appropriate Assessment process, potential impacts to assess and any additional evidence required, and the findings of the Appropriate Assessment);
 3. Assessment of Alternatives to consider whether there are feasible alternative solutions (approach to assessment);
 4. Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) (approach to providing reasoning); and,
 5. Compensation Package (approach to determining appropriate ratios, approach to identifying an appropriate compensation package, agreement on Special Protection Area (SPA) compensation land and proposed habitat management, agreement on SPA enhancement areas and proposed habitat management, approach to securing the compensation package within the Development Consent Order (DCO) process). PLEASE NOTE: during the reviewing process it was decided that the term 'Compensation Package' will be replaced with the title 'Suite of compensatory measures' to better reflect the terminology used by the European Commission in their guidance.

Table 1.1: A summary of the Habitats Regulations Assessment topics covered under consultation with key stakeholders

HRA Topic	Stakeholder(s) involved	Time period and consultation type	Outcomes
Evidence Plans	Natural England, RSPB Emails and meetings	27 October 2017 – 2 February 2018	It was determined that the process of obtaining an Evidence Plan from the MIEU department of DEFRA was no longer possible. Enquiries were made with Natural England to see if they could fulfil this role, but this was not possible due to resource constraints. PINS offered to provide a supporting role in chairing meetings. However, due to the existing stakeholder engagement relationships and the ongoing progress that was already being made, it was agreed that the HRA would continue to progress via meetings with key stakeholders, and full documentation of all meeting minutes.
HRA Screening	Natural England, RSPB, SWT, SCC, Forestry Commission Emails and meetings	28 February 2017 – 5 December 2018	<p>The Natura 2000 sites and potential impacts to consider in the HRA Screening were agreed. A draft Screening report was produced and reviewed by Natural England, RSPB and SWT. All comments were taken into account. Natural England, RSPB and SWT agreed on the outcomes of the HRA Screening. This included the ruling out of likely significant effects on Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ebernoe Common SAC (i.e. only taking forward Thames Basin Heaths SPA) and agreeing the potential impacts to take forward to the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p> <p>The HRA Screening was updated in light of the People Over Wind ruling⁷, and Natural England, RSPB and SWT were informed of this, and agreed with the finding that this did not change the outcomes of the HRA Screening.</p> <p>An action was agreed for Natural England to provide a list of plans and projects that would need to be considered in combination with the Scheme. This information was not provided until the Appropriate Assessment stage. However, this is not considered to have affected the HRA Screening process, as a likely significant effect of the Scheme ‘alone’ was identified.</p>
Appropriate Assessment	Natural England, RSPB, SWT, SCC, Forestry Commission Emails and meetings	16 March 2018 - 5 December 2018	<p>The potential impacts to consider in the Appropriate Assessment (habitat loss, habitat degradation (by changes in air quality and/ or hydrology), and disturbance (visual, light, noise and changes in recreational usage patterns)) and the evidence that would be required to assess the potential for adverse effects on the integrity of Thames Basin Heaths SPA were agreed with the stakeholders.</p> <p>Guidance was obtained from Natural England on the scope of the in-combination assessment for the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>

⁷ People over wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17)

HRA Topic	Stakeholder(s) involved	Time period and consultation type	Outcomes
			After the Appropriate Assessment was carried out, the findings were discussed and agreed with the stakeholders. All parties agreed that the loss of SPA land will lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA.
Assessment of alternative solutions	Natural England, RSPB	16 March 2018 – 28 June 2018	Consultation emphasised the importance of clear reasoning in this section. The actual contents of this section were dealt with by the project team.
IROPI	Natural England, RSPB	16 March 2018 – 28 June 2018	Consultation emphasised the importance of clear reasoning in this section. The actual contents of this section were dealt with by the project team.
Compensation Package ⁸	Natural England, RSPB, SWT, SCC, Forestry Commission Emails and meetings	28 February 2017 – 13 February 2019	Once an adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA was determined, consultation with all stakeholders was undertaken to identify a suitable compensation package. This included agreement on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An appropriate compensation package i.e. a combination of SPA compensation land and SPA enhancement areas to compensate for the adverse effects caused by the Scheme; • Appropriate ratios for the SPA compensation land and SPA enhancement areas; • The appropriate land parcels to form the SPA compensation land and SPA enhancement areas; • Habitat management proposals for the SPA compensation land and SPA enhancement areas; • Appropriate habitat planting for the reinstatement of the temporary land take areas; and, • The timings of the compensation package works.

⁸ Please note: the term 'Compensation package' has been replaced with 'Suite of compensatory measures' to better reflect the terminology used by the European Commission

1.1.8. Table 1.2 summarises the key meetings and emails undertaken throughout the HRA process and forms an Evidence Plan to support the Statements of Common Ground required by each of the key stakeholders in the HRA process.

Table 1.2: A summary of all key stakeholder meetings and stakeholder emails with regards to the Habitats Regulations Assessment

Date and consultation type	Stakeholder(s)	Key HRA topics covered	Summary of outcomes
26 April 2016 Meeting (office based)	SWT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Natural England [REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRA introduction. 	Identification that the Scheme falls within an SPA, and that IROPI is likely to be required to take forward any option which involves significant loss of SPA (i.e. the land take within the SPA will lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA).
28 February 2017 Meeting (office based)	Natural England [REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option selection and potential impacts on SPA; Compensation package; HRA impacts to assess. 	[REDACTED] noted that Natural England had examined the proposals presented at the consultation exercise and whilst noting that Option 14 had a smaller land take from designated land, Option 9 may be preferable if it provides a longer-term solution and avoids the need for further works in this area in the short-medium term that might otherwise have a greater overall impact. [REDACTED] commented that he thought compensatory habitat would be an inevitable requirement for both options (9 and 14) on the basis that they would be likely to affect the integrity of the SPA. This means that both options would be subject to IROPI tests. [REDACTED] noted that nitrogen deposition from air pollution will be a further key consideration. Other issues and concerns for Natural England included: noise, lighting, extent of parking and associated disturbance to the birds, water quality and pollution risks at Bolder Mere. [REDACTED] (Atkins) noted that the scheme would provide a low noise surface on new/resurfaced sections of road and lighting would be minimised and designed to reduce light spill.
12 June 2017 Email	Natural England [REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird survey methodology. 	[REDACTED] confirmed that Natural England approved the breeding bird survey methodologies. This included species-specific surveys for the SPA qualifying species.
28 July 2017 Meeting (office based)	Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensation package. 	The merits of the different Scheme options being considered were discussed. It was noted by Natural England that the SWT already have proposals for thinning some specific areas of woodland around M25 junction 10 and any similar proposals as part of

Date and consultation type	Stakeholder(s)	Key HRA topics covered	Summary of outcomes
	<p>[Redacted]</p> <p>RSPB [Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Forestry Commission</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>		<p>the scheme could not be considered as mitigation (i.e. they would need to be over and above existing proposals).</p> <p>[Redacted] showed the draft red line drawing in confidence to indicate potential areas of compensation land for SPA/Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The information needed to justify the choice of land parcels was discussed.</p>
<p>27 October 2017</p> <p>Meeting (office based)</p>	<p>Natural England</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Forestry Commission</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>RSPB [Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome of HRA Screening – Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on SPA and ruling out SACs; • Habitat reinstatement within SPA temporary land take; • Recreational disturbance; • Evidence Plans. 	<p>Discussion of the two Scheme options being considered for statutory consultation. Option 14 has the least land take of the SPA and is likely to be the preferred option.</p> <p>[Redacted] (Atkins) outlined the view from the project team that they want to ensure that all parties can work together to be sure they are all in agreement on the impacts of the Scheme and the mitigation and compensation proposals.</p> <p>[Redacted] outlined the bat survey work undertaken to date and confirmed that likely significant effects on SACs designated for bats can be ruled out based on our current findings.</p> <p>[Redacted] outlined the 2017 breeding bird survey results for the qualifying features of the SPA. Due to the qualifying bird species being confined to existing areas outside the footprint of the Scheme, initial findings suggest that no displacement is anticipated as a result of the Scheme.</p> <p>[Redacted] recommended obtaining qualifying species breeding survey data from 2J's.</p> <p>Atkins clarified that due to the land take within the SPA, they will be saying there is "likely significant effect" on the SPA within the HRA Screening report and as such they will be going to a full appropriate assessment with regards to the SPA (SACs have been ruled out). There were discussions on whether the Scheme would lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA. [Redacted] and [Redacted] advised that the combined temporary/permanent land take of c 12ha would suggest it would lead to an adverse effect and hence trigger the IROPI test. It is a complex decision because although the area of land take does not directly support breeding territories of the qualifying SPA species in its current state, it may provide other benefits, such as supporting invertebrate food sources.</p>

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			<p>Atkins explained that specialist advice on the Habitats Regulations is to be obtained to ensure the final decision is robust. This was welcomed by all attendees.</p> <p>Traffic modelling for the Scheme has not yet been finalised. Should the traffic modelling data identify any additional European sites that could be impacted by the Scheme, the HRA screening will be revisited to include these in the assessment.</p> <p>██████████ queried the condition of the SPA. ██████████ advised that there are a number of parcels so it is difficult to give a single answer but this years' record bird numbers suggest it is in favourable condition. ██████████ proposed that condition assessment should be based on the recent 5-year mean, due to annual fluctuations.</p> <p>██████████ queried if there is an opportunity to increase bird habitat. Graham Steven advised that it under the current management strategy it would be via ongoing heathland management rather than further opening woodland.</p> <p>██████████ raised concerns over effect of windthrow on retained vegetation when clearance had taken place and highlighted the need for sensitive felling and management. It was considered by all parties that the cleared areas should not necessarily be replanted in the same way as before. There is potential to incorporate open areas of heathland features, such as sandy mounds/banks (suitable for invertebrates, a qualifying feature of the SSSI) and heather, with some scrub planting along the road edge for visual screening purposes.</p> <p>With regards to improving non-motorised user (NMU) routes, ██████████ raised the issue that access and habitat mitigation / compensation need to be considered holistically to ensure that the access arrangements do not undermine the value of the habitat for qualifying species.</p> <p>The requirement for an Evidence Plan with regards to the HRA process was discussed, and it was agreed by all attendees that this would be advantageous.</p>
12 December 2017 Email	Natural England ██████████	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence Plans. 	<p>██████████ confirmed that DEFRA MIEU had been disbanded and therefore would no longer produce Evidence Plans.</p>
18 December 2017 Meeting (office based)	Natural England ██████████	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence Plans; HRA Screening; 	<p>An introduction to the Scheme and confirmation that consultation would be based on Design Fix 2 and would inform Design Fix 3.</p> <p>With regards to an Evidence Plan, ██████████ advised that with DEFRA no longer being involved that the key organisation to talk to about the Evidence Plan is the PINS who will have a clear understanding about which evidence is required (reference made to</p>

Date and consultation type	Stakeholder(s)	Key HRA topics covered	Summary of outcomes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package. 	<p>PINS Advice Note 10). It was agreed that in the absence of guidance from DEFRA we could do our own version. [REDACTED] noted that this would feed into the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) and would need to involve others apart from Natural England.</p> <p>HRA Screening – Atkins advised that the HRA Screening document is ready, it has been submitted to Highways England and once it has been approved it can be shared with stakeholders. The red line boundary was discussed and the fact that it encompasses all replacement land. [REDACTED] stated his view that all replacement land should ideally be in one location and not fragmented. [REDACTED] was supportive of Pond Farm being provided as compensation land for the SPA land take, as it is directly connected to other SPA areas and could provide supporting environment for the qualifying breeding bird species.</p> <p>In addition, the possibility of removing conifers and creating more heathland within the Surrey Wildlife Trust land was discussed. [REDACTED] relayed some evidence gathered by Natural England that indicates that tall, dense ‘screens’ of trees alongside major roads can be effective in dispersing traffic emissions, and that whilst heathland creation or restoration may be considered as part of the overall mitigation package, there may be a need to consider whether there are potential benefits in retaining trees in some locations.</p>
<p>20 December 2017 Meeting (office based)</p>	<p>SWT [REDACTED] SCC [REDACTED]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational disturbance. 	<p>An introduction to the Scheme and confirmation that the public consultations would start in February 2018.</p> <p>No specific discussions were held about the HRA process. However, SWT did raise preferences for a green bridge at Cockcrow and concerns about increasing public access within the SPA potentially leading to negative impacts on ground nesting birds.</p>
<p>12 January 2018 Email</p>	<p>Highways England (forwarding information from DEFRA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence Plan. 	<p>Highways England passed on information from DEFRA, confirming that the DEFRA MIEU had been disbanded.</p> <p>DEFRA had advised Highways England that Natural England should lead on producing an Evidence Plan for the HRA.</p>
<p>26 January 2018 Email</p>	<p>Natural England [REDACTED]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence Plan. 	<p>This email from [REDACTED] confirmed that Natural England did not have the resources to lead on producing an Evidence Plan for the HRA.</p>

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7 February 2018 Meeting (office based)	Forestry Commission [Redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package. 	<p>An update on the Scheme was given and an explanation for the consultation process. Matthew Woodcock explained that the Forestry Commission had some reservations on the provision of a green bridge, as the description suggests a heathland connection. He explained that heathland helps form the mosaic of ecology but that he has reservations about the removal of all the trees in this area. Furthermore, Matthew Woodcock stated that the Forestry Commission would not support the total clearance of all the conifers within the Common.</p> <p>[Redacted] suggested the principle of retaining a screening woodland edge as a noise and visual buffer from the road. He explained that 'continuous cover' is needed within the management plan and that this could be achieved through multiple age trees to create the mosaic effect. This approach is also more resilient to high winds/ storms.</p> <p>[Redacted] enquired to the level of involvement Forestry Commission required in terms of the HRA process. [Redacted] explained that the HRA will focus on impacts on the SPA, but will include the compensation package. [Redacted] confirmed that they would like to be involved in the compensation package discussions, but do not need to be involved in the HRA.</p>
26 February 2018 Email	SWT [Redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA compensation land. 	<p>[Redacted] reiterated that during the meeting on the 20 December, SWT had stated that they do not accept Pond Farm being included in the red line boundary as SPA compensation land. This is because these fields are vital to a larger conservation grazing operation across the Surrey section of the SPA.</p>
13 March 2018 Email	RSPB [Redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRA Screening. 	<p>[Redacted] provided comments in response to a review of the draft HRA screening document.</p>
16 March 2018 Meeting (site visit)	Natural England [Redacted] Forestry Commission [Redacted] RSPB [Redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome of HRA Screening – LSE on SPA; • Appropriate Assessment; • Compensation package; 	<p>It was confirmed that the HRA Screening document identified a likely significant effect with regards to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. The draft had been circulated for comment to Natural England, RSPB and SWT. Natural England and SWT confirmed that they had no comments. RSPB confirmed that they had already provided their comments. These have been incorporated into the HRA Screening.</p> <p>It was agreed by all parties that the likely significant effects taken forward to the Appropriate Assessment would be limited to: peripheral habitat loss in areas that are not currently heathland, habitat degradation (by changes in air quality and/or hydrology), and disturbance (visual, light, noise and changes in recreational usage patterns).</p> <p>The compensation package was discussed. It was noted that enhancement within the SPA may be appropriate compensation for the impacts of the Scheme. However, it was</p>

Date and consultation type	Stakeholder(s)	Key HRA topics covered	Summary of outcomes
	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>SWT [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>SCC (Lisa Creaye-Griffin)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design mitigation measures. 	<p>noted that there would be an expectation to avoid physical reduction of SPA total land area.</p> <p>To be acceptable under EC guidance (Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC 2012) the SPA enhancement must not be something that would have been done as 'normal practice' under the Habitats and Birds Directives or obligations laid down in EC law. SWT confirmed that their obligations were to 'maintain' the SPA and SSSI and hence additional enhancement did not form part of 'normal practice'.</p> <p>Compensation area locations were discussed. Pond Farm was rejected as an option by SWT and RSPB due to its unsuitability for SPA habitat and its key role in supporting the cattle that are used to maintain this SSSI and other SSSI components of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.</p> <p>It was noted that enhancement of the SPA could include NMU provisions that would encourage public use of the replacement land areas outside the SPA, thus reducing pressure on the main heathland areas of the SPA which were most used by the qualifying species.</p> <p>It was agreed that the temporary land take within the red line boundary but outside the permanent highway boundary will be returned to the landowner (mainly SCC) in a condition where it can provide environmental benefit. There was agreement that this should have a varied vegetation profile with scrub (excluding gorse) and some larger trees to benefit the SPA and should have a scalloped edge to create diverse edge habitat.</p> <p>Proposals to provide environmental barriers to mitigate noise effects, which could potentially reduce noise levels within the SPA were welcomed.</p> <p>SWT also favoured lighting proposals that reduced the light spill from the M25/A3 where possible.</p>
<p>16 March 2018 Email</p>	<p>Natural England</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In combination assessment. 	<p>[REDACTED] confirmed that Natural England had no comments on the HRA Screening.</p> <p>Rebecca Ingram also confirmed that if we have identified an air quality effect alone, then an in-combination assessment would not be necessary (as an in-combination effect is already implied from establishing one in isolation).</p>
<p>27 March 2018 Meeting (office based)</p>	<p>Natural England</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensation package; Air quality assessment. 	<p>There was a discussion about the need for compensation for any loss of land. [REDACTED] spoke about clearing some areas of woodland to create heathland. Natural England stated that they were in agreement with this approach in principle if it supported habitat creation. [REDACTED] stated that with six hectares of the SPA being lost Natural England</p>

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	[Redacted]		<p>would expect six hectares to be re-provided, and that Natural England saw this as part of a package with enhancement works within the SPA boundary. [Redacted] emphasised that meeting the requirements of the legislation was key. While it was agreed that the scheme is not anticipated to result in a reduction in numbers of birds of SPA species, there will be a loss of habitat that contributes to the site fabric (e.g. by providing a woodland edge to the heathland and contributing to the invertebrate resource for the SPA qualifying bird species).</p> <p>[Redacted] explained that our modelling indicates a minor increase in emissions but that the 200m zone is woodland. It was noted that the woodland that currently lines the A3/M25 within the SPA is fairly robust to nitrogen and that any heathland creation will be exposed to higher levels of nitrogen, potentially leading to increased dominance of competitive plant species. It was agreed that the management strategy for the compensation package should include measures to tackle the increased dominance of competitive plant species within any heathland restoration areas.</p> <p>[Redacted] stated that the baseline data needed by Natural England was the distance within the 200m zone where levels increased by 1% and exceeded the critical load, identifying the increases against critical loads, so that they can identify the risks and advise on the appropriate avoidance and/or mitigation measures to put into place. This would inform the management strategy for the compensation package.</p>
28 June 2018 Meeting (office based)	SWT [Redacted] [Redacted] SCC [Redacted] RSPB [Redacted] [Redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package (compensation land, enhancement areas and appropriate ratios); • Appropriate Assessment outcomes; • Recreational disturbance; 	<p>[Redacted] noted that the SPA compensation land would not now include the previously proposed replacement land at Pond Farm due to objections from SWT and others. [Redacted] tabled a mark-up drawing showing possible alternative SPA compensation land parcels on Old Lane, Elm Lane and near Buxton Wood bridge based on DF2 land take calculations.</p> <p>[Redacted] explained the rationale for choosing these parcels – providing suitable food sources for the SPA qualifying species (particularly nightjar, which are known to regularly use grazed fields as foraging habitat) whilst not being within the 400m buffer zone of the Wisley Airfield development or affecting the Elmbridge buffer zone north of the M25. It was noted that the compensation parcels would provide habitat of similar, or possibly greater SPA value, than those to be permanently lost to the Scheme.</p> <p>It was agreed by all present that these parcels were suitable as SPA compensation land. These parcels already have public access. However, this is acceptable in this case as the best parts of the SPA are not being lost.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design mitigation measures. 	<p>The broad principle Highways England are pursuing for compensation land for the SPA is a 1:1 ratio for the areas of permanent loss, supplemented by enhancement of land within the SPA. No objections were raised to this approach.</p> <p>With regards to the enhancement ratio, based on the present nature of the habitat being lost within the SPA (i.e. woodland habitat that does not directly support any qualifying species, but may contribute to the invertebrate food resource within the SPA). It has been proposed that a 3:1 enhancement ratio would be appropriate. ██████████ explained that this ratio was envisaged in relation to the areas of permanent loss, with a lower ratio for areas of temporary loss. ██████████ recommended that this ratio is applied to enhancement for both permanent and temporary loss. All parties were in agreement that a 3:1 ratio for both permanent and temporary land take is appropriate for the Scheme.</p> <p>██████████ noted that the compensatory measures under the Habitats Regulations will need to be clearly identified and secured separately to any additional enhancement measures delivered for other reasons (e.g. dealing with legacy impacts from road etc). Enhancement works undertaken as a compensatory measure under the Habitats Regulations must be delivered within the SPA boundary (any enhancement on land beyond the SPA boundary which is perceived to form part of a compensatory measures package under regulation 68 would trigger calls for such land to be added to the network and be classified as SPA).</p> <p>██████████ gave a brief overview on progress in preparing the HRA, referring to recent case law (People Over Wind) indicating that mitigation should not be included in the screening stage and noting that the J10 HRA screening would be updated to comply with the recent case.</p> <p>██████████ explained that the current findings of the Appropriate Assessment indicate that the sole adverse effect on the conservation objectives of the SPA and the overall integrity of the SPA would arise from loss of habitat within the SPA. Other potential effect mechanisms on the SPA identified at screening have been ascertained to not have adverse effects on site integrity. Air quality, noise, ground/surface water and recreational disturbance will not have an adverse effect on the conservation objectives of the SPA, nor the overall integrity of the SPA, based on current findings.</p> <p>██████████ explained that the scheme is unlikely to lead to an increase in visitor numbers, but would change how visitors use and move around the SPA. However, the new NMU routes, Public Rights of Way (PRoW) links open areas and bridges, will draw users away from the SPA and thus reduce disturbance. ██████████ requested this is set out in the HRA and emphasised the need for clear justifications in the Appropriate Assessment, as</p>

Date and consultation type	Stakeholder(s)	Key HRA topics covered	Summary of outcomes
			<p>to why potential impacts, such as recreational disturbance, will not have an adverse effect on the conservation objectives of the SPA.</p> <p>██████████ requested that the scheme reduce light spill where possible. ██████████ noted that, subject to approval by Highways England, lighting may be removed from parts of the A3. It was noted that there would be no lighting on the NMU route – all agreed this was appropriate given the ecological value of the area.</p> <p>██████████ also requested that some signage would be provided as part of the Scheme, to ensure users had the appropriate information to encourage their use of preferred routes through the SPA, and utilisation of additional provision areas outside the SPA.</p>
26 July 2018	Forestry Commission ██████████ SWT ██████████	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package. 	<p>██████████ confirmed that a separate Forestry Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the woodland clearance and thinning incorporated within or associated with the DCO scheme (as part of the SPA compensation package) is not required and that the effects of these operations can be reported in the ES for the scheme as a whole.</p> <p>With regards to the enhancement areas, discussions were had on the amount of thinning that could be carried out but could still retain woodland status. 20% canopy of existing trees is the lowest that can still be considered woodland and this should be evenly spread.</p>
9 October 2018 Meeting (office based)	Natural England ██████████	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate Assessment – outcomes; • In combination assessment; • Compensation package. 	<p>An update on the Appropriate Assessment was provided. It was confirmed that, in its current form, the Appropriate Assessment rules out all adverse effects of the Scheme on the SPA, with the exception of the loss of SPA land. This loss of SPA land will reduce the amount of habitat contributing to the fabric of the SPA, and potentially reduce the invertebrate resource for SPA qualifying species. However, it was acknowledged by Natural England that the amount of available heathland habitat is likely to be the limiting factor for the number of SPA qualifying species breeding territories within the site, rather than the invertebrate food resource.</p> <p>Natural England agreed that due to the access and parking availability not changing for the SPA as a result of the Scheme, the Scheme will not lead to increased visitors, and indeed the provision of new compensation areas, a new bridge across the M25 and improved NMU routes may increase the options for users and draw users away from the SPA.</p>

Date and consultation type	Stakeholder(s)	Key HRA topics covered	Summary of outcomes
			<p>Atkins requested advice on the 'In Combination assessment' section of the Appropriate Assessment. This is because there are several SSSI components of the SPA. Natural England advised that as the predicted adverse effects are confined to the Ockham and Wisley Commons SSSI, and that the scheme will not have any significant air quality impacts on the SPA (all increases over 1% of critical load are within 10 m of the road or less), will not increase user pressure, nor affect the hydrology of other component SSSIs, then Atkins should focus the In Combination assessment on Local Plans for boroughs within 10 km of the Scheme.</p> <p>The SPA compensation package was discussed. The proposed compensation land parcels (Elm Corner, Old Lane and Wisley) were described. The Natural England team agreed that these compensation areas are appropriate, and they are satisfied with the proposals.</p> <p>The SPA enhancement areas were also described, including habitat enhancement proposals. A 3:1 ratio for temporary and permanent land take was confirmed.</p> <p>The timing of compensation package works were discussed. Natural England confirmed that physical compensation areas outside the SPA should be set up prior to construction of the highways works, but enhancement works within the SPA could be staged and could take place after construction if required (for example, it may not be appropriate to undertake clearance adjacent to a construction area during construction, as it could potentially encourage woodlarks to use habitat that will be disturbed by construction works).</p>
<p>16 October 2018 Meeting (office based)</p>	<p>SWT [REDACTED]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance; Compensation package. 	<p>The potential for a reduction in visitor pressure as a result of an additional bridge over the M25 leading to replacement land outside the SPA was discussed.</p> <p>The SPA compensation package was discussed. The proposed compensation land parcels (Elm Corner, Old Lane and Wisley) were described. [REDACTED] agreed that these compensation areas are appropriate. However, [REDACTED] suggested a modification in the proposed habitat creation at Old Lane. The enhancement areas were discussed, including the proposed management (i.e. a mixture of clear fell and thinning).</p>
<p>29 October 2018 Meeting (office based)</p>	<p>Forestry Commission [REDACTED]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensation package. 	<p>The proposed compensation package was shown and explained to the Forestry Commission. This covered the SPA compensation areas and SPA enhancement areas.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission representative explained that the proposed thinning works within the enhancement areas (to allow a more diverse woodland to establish, including the provision of open glades, rides, etc), would fall under normal woodland management and would not count as woodland loss.</p>

Date and consultation type	Stakeholder(s)	Key HRA topics covered	Summary of outcomes
			<p>The Forestry Commission representative also explained that it is a little unclear whether the proposed clearance of the woodland within the SPA to enable heathland regeneration would be covered under the Forestry Commission's Open Habitats policy, as there is a clear benefit to the heathland for which the SPA/ SSSI is designated, or whether it would count as net woodland loss as part of a development. There was an action for the Forestry Commission representative to enquire within the Forestry Commission whether this proposed enhancement works will fall under the Open Habitats policy, and not count as woodland loss.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission representative confirmed that as the enhancement works would fall under the DCO, then a felling licence for any woodland clearance would not be necessary.</p>
<p>5 December 2018 Meeting (office based)</p>	<p>RSPB [redacted]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRA Screening update; • Appropriate Assessment update; • Compensation package. 	<p>Confirmation that the HRA screening has been updated with regards to the People Over Wind ruling.</p> <p>An overview of the findings of the Appropriate Assessment was given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was confirmed that the only adverse effect that will not be ruled out will be the loss of SPA land reducing the amount of habitat contributing to the fabric of the SPA, and potentially contributing to the invertebrate resource for SPA qualifying species (however, it was acknowledged that the number of qualifying features is unlikely to reduce as a result of this land take as all heathland areas are being avoided). • It was also explained that due to the access and parking availability not changing for the SPA as a result of the Scheme, the Scheme will not lead to increased visitors, and indeed the provision of new compensation, a new bridge across the M25 and improved NMU routes will increase the options for users and may actually reduce recreational pressure on the SPA by drawing users away. <p>The proposed compensation package was explained to the RSPB representatives. The RSPB representatives confirmed that the proposed compensation package sounds acceptable, but that they will require a visual representation and discussion with their wider team before providing final comment.</p>
<p>10 December 2018 Email</p>	<p>Forestry Commission [redacted]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package. 	<p>[redacted] raised concerns that the information provided as part of the stakeholder engagement process suggested a significantly larger area of woodland clearance than was discussed and agreed during the meeting on the 29 October 2018.</p>

Date and consultation type	Stakeholder(s)	Key HRA topics covered	Summary of outcomes
13 December 2018 Phone call	Forestry [redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package. 	<p>A phone call meeting was held in response to the email sent by the Forestry Commission on the 10th December 2018. [redacted] explained the proposed SPA enhancement areas and their associated habitat management (i.e. the areas to be clear felled and the areas to be thinned) and showed these on a plan. [redacted] from the Forestry Commission confirmed that these were in line with those explained during the meeting on the 29 October 2018, and that they accepted the proposals.</p> <p>It was also explained by the Forestry Commission that it is still not clear whether the loss of woodland to allow heathland restoration would count as net loss of woodland. It was recommended that woodland planting is undertaken to compensate for this loss.</p>
30 January 2019 Meeting (site based)	Natural England [redacted] Forestry Commission [redacted] SWT RSPB [redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package. 	<p>A site meeting was held where all stakeholders agreed on the appropriate management of each SPA compensation land parcel and each SPA enhancement area. The approach to replanting the temporary land take areas was also agreed.</p>
1 February 2019 Meeting (office based)	Surrey County Council [redacted] [redacted] Guildford Borough Council [redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package. 	<p>The ratios for the compensation package and the proposed land parcels for the compensation package. For each SPA compensation land parcel and each SPA enhancement area, the proposed management was explained and agreed, including the intention of providing wood pasture SPA compensation land that will provide an increased invertebrate resource, and enhanced foraging habitat for nightjars and woodlarks.</p>

Date and consultation type	Stakeholder(s)	Key HRA topics covered	Summary of outcomes
	SWT [redacted]		
7 February 2019 Meeting (office based)	Guildford Borough Council [redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package. 	<p>Guildford Borough Council explained that the SPA compensation land affected the 400 m buffer for their proposed housing development at Wisley Airfield. It was agreed to reduce the amount of SPA compensation land in this location, and increase the amount of SPA compensation land within the Wisley SPA compensation land parcel to include the whole field. This change is advantageous to the SPA compensation package as it provides a large wood pasture field immediately adjacent to open areas of heathland, thus providing an increased invertebrate resource, and enhanced foraging habitat for nightjars and woodlarks that is directly linked to the open heathland habitat.</p>
8 February 2019 Email	Natural England [redacted] Forestry Commission [redacted] SWT [redacted] RSPB [redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package. 	<p>An updated version of the meeting minutes for the site visit on the 30 January 2019 was issued. This included the proposed changes to the SPA compensation land resulting from the meeting with Guildford Borough Council.</p>
12 February 2019 Email	Natural England [redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package. 	<p>Natural England emailed to confirm that they were happy with the proposed changes to the SPA compensation package</p>
12 February 2019 Email	SWT [redacted] [redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package. 	<p>SWT emailed to confirm that they were happy with the proposed changes to the SPA compensation package</p>
27 February 2019	FC [redacted] [redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package 	<p>FC emailed with some comments on the meeting minutes which have been addressed, and no comments on the proposed changes to the SPA compensation package</p>

Date and consultation type	Stakeholder(s)	Key HRA topics covered	Summary of outcomes
27 February 2019	RSPB [REDACTED] Dawkins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation package 	RSPB emailed to confirm that they were happy with the proposed changes to the SPA compensation package
12 April 2019	Natural England [REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRA 	Natural England provided comments after a review of the Habitats Regulations Assessment
16 May 2019	Natural England [REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRA 	Natural England confirmed that they are satisfied with Highways England's responses to the comments Natural England provided on the 12 April 2019.

Appendices

Appendix A. Meeting minutes

Project:	Highways England – Road Investment Strategy (PCF Stage 1)		
Subject:	M25 J10/A3 Wisley Interchange Options Meeting with Surrey Wildlife Trust and Natural England		
Date and time:	26 Apr 2016 – 09:00	Meeting no:	1
Meeting place:	Atkins, Epsom Gateway	Minutes by:	[REDACTED]
Present:	[REDACTED]	Representing:	Highways England (PM) Highways England (Project Support) Surrey Wildlife Trust Natural England Atkins (Engineering) Atkins (Engineering) Atkins (Environment) Atkins (Environment) Atkins (Environment) Atkins (Environment)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1	Scheme currently at Options Identification stage. Aiming for Option Selection in November. Three options were discussed – Option 16, 9 & 14. Not all options meet aim of free-flowing traffic. Some options may involve additional temporary land-take for roads during construction.	n/a	n/a
2	SWT to be involved in value management stage. Henry Penner had indicated he would also like to be involved. NE sees its' role as providing feedback on the environmental work.	Mid-June	Atkins to arrange
3	South of the M25 is internationally designated SPA and therefore most important. IROPI likely to be required to take forward any option which involves significant loss of SPA. More flexibility with land-take to the north of the M25. Public access very high on the common. Common Land must be compensated for by contiguous compensation land which could be complicated (particularly as a result of development at Wisley Airfield). NE requested a tunnel option to minimise loss of internationally designed site be added to the options being considered.	Consider throughout Options Identification and Selection Stages	Atkins design
4	SWT to provide any existing information on Biodiversity Opportunity Areas which could help identify areas for ecological compensation. Will also identify any other SWT nature reserves that could provide opportunities for compensation. Lots of ecological data available across the site – survey reports to be provided and meeting between [REDACTED] and SWT [REDACTED]. SWT to provide data on visitor numbers from main car park counter.	May 16	SWT/ Atkins ecologists

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
5	Thames Basin Heaths SPA visitor surveys have been carried out. NE to forward information		NE
6	Requirement to engage with Surrey CC (the landowner – [REDACTED] – invite to site meeting	ASAP	Atkins/SCC
7	Site visit required with SWT (and NE) to identify constraints and opportunities (both engineering and environmental aspects of the project).	ASAP	Atkins, SWT, NE & SCC
8	Limited data available on water. Water level data available for Bolder Mere as classified as a reservoir. Drainage issues on the slip roads have been identified by SWT [REDACTED] and fed back to Connect Plus. Atkins to obtain information from Connect Plus. Arrange meeting with EA.		Atkins [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Project:	M25 J10/A3 Interchange		
Subject:	Natural England		
Date and time:	28 February 2017 – 14:30	Meeting no:	2
Meeting place:	NE Offices Winchester	Minutes by:	[REDACTED]
Present:	[REDACTED]	Representing:	Natural England Natural England Highways England Atkins Atkins Atkins Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1.0	Health & safety – safety moment was discussed	N/A	All
2.0	<p>Background and Initial Views</p> <p>HC briefly set out the background to the Road Investment Strategy and the history of the J10 project to date. GB then explained the current options (9 and 14) and proposals for side roads/accesses. Option 16 was noted as having been rejected for environmental and other reasons.</p> <p>GS noted that NE had examined the proposals presented at the consultation exercise and whilst noting that Option 14 had a smaller land take from designated land, Option 9 may be preferable if it provides a longer-term solution and avoids the need for further works in this area in the short-medium term that might otherwise have a greater overall impact.</p> <p>JW noted that the land take figures presented currently exclude land for temporary works and construction compounds so that Option 14 may affect more land than currently indicated in the ESR report for the scheme.</p>	N/A	HC/ GB/ GS/ JW
3.0	<p>Ecological Assessment Work and NE feedback</p> <p>MG described the ecological assessment work undertaken to date, and the surveys completed or planned. He noted that the PCF 1 AIES covered all three options considered at that time (9, 14 and 16) and thus presented an overall worst-case scenario. At least one of the options was considered likely to affect the integrity of the SPA. It was agreed that MG would forward a copy of the AIES to Natural England for comment.</p> <p>GS suggested that reference be made to bird data reported by volunteers and local groups, but cautioned that this data may under-record the presence of birds close to the roads, if watchers and observers tended to visit the quieter parts of the common. It was agreed that some areas of the area are better for birds than others. GS noted that the NW quadrant was being actively managed/improved by SWT and becoming suitable for Nightjar.</p> <p>GS enquired about the extent to which account had been taken of the Wisley Airfield proposed development. HC explained that HE's design takes account of growth generally but not necessarily to facilitate the Wisley development specifically, given that it does not have planning permission. From an assessment perspective, JW acknowledged that the cumulative assessment would need to take this into account.</p> <p>Further ecological work would take place during PCF 2 to gauge the effect on the integrity of the SPA.</p>		MG

<p>4.0</p>	<p>Key Issues for Natural England</p> <p>GS commented that he thought compensatory habitat would be an inevitable requirement for both options (9 and 14) on the basis that they would be likely to affect the integrity of the SPA. This means that both options would be subject to IROPI tests. JW explained that further on-going assessment of Option 14 may ultimately rule that out as a feasible alternative as it currently stands. GB also indicated that further work is being undertaken to see if Option 9 can be modified in any way to reduce impacts and whether Option 14 needs to be modified to deliver longer term benefits and/or improved operational performance to meet the overall objectives of the scheme. It was agreed that if IROPI is a requirement for both options, then it will be important to ensure that the options deliver the right level of operational performance bearing in mind the scheme requirements in the RIS.</p> <p>GS noted that nitrogen deposition from air pollution will be a further key consideration. GB indicated that the design speed of the schemes is being considered further as part of on-going scheme development, which could potentially offer some environmental benefits.</p> <p>Other issues and concerns for NE included: noise, lighting, extent of parking and associated disturbance to the birds, water quality and pollution risks at Bolder Mere. GB noted that the scheme would provide a low noise surface on new/resurfaced sections of road and lighting would be minimised and designed to reduce light spill. GB also noted that the scheme would include pollution control to current standards that would improve pollution control. GB noted that laybys would be closed as part of the scheme. GS considered that this would be of benefit to the designated sites by reducing disturbance and litter.</p> <p>GS noted that veteran trees were an important aspect of and contributed to the SSSI designation. GS noted that areas of recent plantation on ancient woodland sites were still valuable as ancient woodland and Habitats of Principal Importance included veteran trees and ancient woodland.</p>		
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Compensation and Mitigation</p> <p>The approach to identifying compensation habitat was discussed. GS confirmed that there is no statutory requirement for compensation for the loss of SSSI, although clearly much of the SSSI area was also SPA, where there would be a statutory requirement for compensatory habitat.</p> <p>It was agreed that geology/ soil types would be important in determining if these areas could be made suitable as SPA compensation land. GS offered to share a suitable methodology for the appraisal of alternative compensation sites (based on the SANGS approach). Mitigation areas have not yet been included in the overall land take calculations.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the amount of land likely to be required, which may need to be greater than that lost, to additionally compensate for any time lag in achieving its fully functioning ecological status. GS advised that the approach is normally to require delivery of the mitigation in advance of completion of the development. JW queried whether the approach for SANGS is likely to directly comparable as in this case we are seeking to replicate the habitat lost and not simply to provide a suitable alternative recreational open space. It was agreed that NE would provide a short note setting out their preferred approach to the provision of mitigation and compensation land.</p>		<p>GS</p>

	<p>NW confirmed that Atkins was also looking at compensation for loss of common land and raised the possibility of this land also being used as compensation for loss of ecologically designated land.</p> <p>GS noted NE had a public recreation remit as well as the ecological responsibilities, but that SPA land was not necessarily compatible with land used for public access. GS indicated that alternative land may be required or that access would need to be managed, but the potential for combined mitigation areas was not ruled out.</p> <p>Various land parcels identified as common land compensation were discussed. The area surrounding the SWT farm was identified by NE as being suitable for heathland creation and would link up surrounding designated land. The RHS Wisley land by the M25 would also be suitable for heathland creation. .</p>		
5.0	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>AS welcomed the opportunity to continue close involvement with the project. She outlined two possibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using NE’s chargeable Pre-Submission Screening Service (PSS) for informal engagement on licences. JW emphasised that a draft licence application generally needs to be submitted and considered in advance of submitting the DCO application, so that a Letter of No Impediment can be issued to the Planning Inspectorate by the examination; and • Using NE’s chargeable Discretionary Advice Service, for engagement on the HRA etc. <p>In the meantime, GS agreed that NE would provide its comments to HE’s option consultation exercise in writing, noting that it is not normal policy to express a preference at this stage. JW enquired about the merits of agreeing an Evidence Plan. GS thought this is something that would need to be addressed through the DAS process, which would be HE/Atkins responsibility to initiate.</p> <p>A Statement of Common Ground would be required for the DCO and NE undertook to work with Atkins to develop this for their area of interest.</p> <p>GB summarised what the next steps in the development of the scheme would be including a Value Management Workshop to help choose a Preferred Route later in PCF 2 and statutory consultation in PCF Stage 3.</p> <p>AS noted that Forestry Commission hadn’t received an invitation to the consultation but would send a response to it. RSPB were also concerned about the scheme and would like a meeting to discuss the proposals. NE would like to be consulted further during PCF 2. Atkins undertook to send a copy of the PCF 2 Scoping Report and the AIES when ready.</p>		<p>GS</p> <p>Atkins</p>

Project:	M25 J10/A3 WISLEY INTERCHANGE		
Subject:	ENVIRONMENT		
Date and time:	29 July 2017 – 10:00	Meeting no:	
Meeting place:	NE Office - Winchester	Minutes by:	
Present:		Representing:	Highways England Natural England RSPB RSPB Forest Enterprise Atkins Atkins Atkins Atkins Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1.0	Health & safety – GB started meeting with safety moment	N/A	N/A
2.0	GB outlined the reasons for undertaking the scheme and the revised scheme objectives which came out of the VM workshop. There was general consensus that the revised objectives were much better than the original ones and would result in a better scheme. GB then went over the current scheme proposals and the side road options that had been included in the assessment to date.	N/A	N/A
3.0	GB then presented alternative options for the side roads at Wisley Lane (WIS 1A and WIS 11), the Scout Camp/Pond Farm (CAMP 03) and Painshill properties (PAIN 4C and PAIN 10). There was a general discussion on the merits of each option. GS queried Historic England's views on WIS 1A and it was confirmed that they preferred an alternative that minimised or did not affect RHS Wisley grounds. JD questioned what traffic assumptions had been made regarding WIS 11. CP highlighted concern over loss of woodland and ancient woodland with WIS 11 and noted that all types of ancient woodland were considered of equal value in policy terms. Any losses of ancient woodland that cannot be avoided would need to be compensated for using a bespoke approach to be identified during the next stages of design. CP queried whether alignments were fixed or could be amended to reduce effects, NW confirmed that these were initial layouts that were subject to change and improvement.	N/A	N/A
4.0	The Painshill options were then discussed and Painshill Trust/Historic England's preference for options that avoided or minimised impacts on the Gothic Tower which had led to them. CP noted concerns over the loss of ancient woodland with PAIN 10. It was noted that PAIN 4C was closer to the SSSI than 4A but did not directly affect it.	N/A	N/A
5.0	CAMP 03 was also discussed and whilst the 'green bridge' concept was welcomed in theory, concern was raised that its location could make public access to the west of the A3 too attractive/easy being close to the Ockham Bites car park. It was noted that the bridge would need to accommodate forestry lorries and farm vehicles but the access for vehicles would be gated as with the existing Cockcrow bridge.	N/A	N/A

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
6.0	It was noted that SWT had various proposals for thinning the wooded areas around the junction and any similar proposals as part of the scheme could not be considered as mitigation. The scheme proposals would need to tie into SWT's programme of works	N/A	N/A
7.0	HP explained the consenting route and the likely timetable for this. MW went over the future stakeholder engagement arrangements and the Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) processes and procedures. The Letter of No Impediment in relation to protected species licences (if licences are required) in the DCO was also discussed.	N/A	N/A
8.0	NW then showed the draft red line drawing in confidence to indicate potential areas of compensation land for SPA/SSSI and common/access land at the ratios from the original M25 works of 3:1 (replacement: taken). The information needed to justify the choice of land parcels was discussed and NW requested that NE/RSPB provide a list of information that they would like to see to inform/justify the replacement land.	GS/JD	30 th August
9.0	AOB – there was discussion about the HE Designated Funds that were available, but applications were required urgently as this fund was being closed soon. MW undertook to provide copies of the side road options drawings noting that these would have a draft stamp and were to be treated in confidence.	MW	11 th August

Project:	M25 j10 / A3 Wisley Interchange Improvement Scheme		
Subject:	Environmental stakeholders		
Date and time:	Friday 27 October 2017		
Meeting place:	Bridge House, Guildford	Minutes by:	██████████
Present:	██████████	Representing:	Atkins, Environment Lead Natural England Natural England Atkins, Associate Director, Ecology Highways England Atkins, Atkins, Senior Ecologist (Ornithology) RSPB Forestry Commission Forestry Commission RSPB Atkins, Stakeholder lead

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	ACTION /DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
01	Health & safety NW – brief reminder on the importance of managing information and confidentiality. This meeting will share drawings and data which are not yet in the public domain.	n/a	n/a
02	Introductions	n/a	n/a
03	Scheme update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation focused on Option 9 and 14, and Preferred Route Announcement (PRA) expected shortly and will include side road options. Subject to approval, Option 14 will go forward to Statutory Consultation. An “end of day” debate was held in the House of Commons last Thursday with regards to Wisley Lane / RHS Wisley access– link here https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-10-26/debates/17102648000002/RHSWisleyA3 At present there is no change to the programme as a result of the RIS Optimisation announcement - https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15billion-road-upgrade-plan-updated-to-minimise-congestion NW advised that the Red Line Boundary has now been agreed with Highways England and it will include replacement and compensation land. 	Atkins to contact stakeholders on morning of PRA (date TBC)	LP
04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASh talked through the hand annotated map explaining the impacts of the junction upgrade, A3 widening and side road options including overbridges, compounds and drainage AS advised that the lifespan of the scheme is modelled to 15 years post opening, so 2037 and the modelling accommodates the growth outlined in the Local Plans Query on ancient woodland identification – Atkins clarified that we are using EA Geostore data sets and the habitat surveys have not yet picked up 	Atkins to review ancient woodland	NW

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	ACTION /DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>any extra parcels. Veteran tree surveys not yet undertaken (just desk study of veteran trees from Woodland Trust website). Atkins to review SCC ancient woodland inventory and survey on site to identify veteran trees or potential ancient woodland not currently identified. A slight discrepancy between EA Geostore and MAGIC was noted and is being investigated (note after meeting – review indicates that the MAGIC map reflects the correct boundary based on 2011 Surrey update).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Query on opportunity to enhance rights of way – ASH clarified this is very much part of our consideration, in particular the Painshill quadrant (north east) where the ability to cross at j10 will be removed due to free flow design • Bridges will need to be replaced and some will be vehicular and NMU accessible • ASH outlined the habitat creation opportunities in the replacement land areas in the four quadrants. MW queried why Deers Farm was not considered and ASH explained that it already had recreational use or was not suitable. • NW outlined the assumption of a 3:1 replacement common/access land ratio based on precedent set when the M25 was built 	<p>inventory, by mid-December</p>	
05	<p>HRA discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW outlined the view from the project team that we want to ensure that all parties can work together to be sure we are in agreement on the impacts of the Scheme and the mitigation and compensation proposals. • PW outlined the bat survey work undertaken to date and that Atkins feels that likely significant effects on SACs designated for bats can be ruled out based on our current findings. • PW outlined 2017 breeding bird survey results for the qualifying features of the SPA. These have been discussed with Surrey Wildlife Trust, and appear to be in keeping with their findings. Due to the qualifying bird species being confined to existing areas outside the footprint of the Scheme, initial findings suggest that no displacement is anticipated as a result of the Scheme. • HR queried if Atkins have obtained 2Js Ecology bird survey data for the SPA. PW confirmed that it had not been possible to make contact. BI agreed to provide contact details of the relevant persons(s) to speak to. NOTE: this data has since been obtained for 2013-2017. • Atkins clarified that due to the land take we will be saying there is “likely significant effect” on the SPA within the HRA Screening report and as such we will be going to a full appropriate assessment with regards to the SPA (SACs have been ruled out) There were discussions on whether this would affect the integrity of the SPA. 	<p>Now complete</p>	

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	ACTION /DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>GS and JD advised that the combined temporary/permanent land take of c 12ha would suggest it would and hence trigger the IROPI test. It is a complex decision because area of land take does not directly support breeding territories of the qualifying SPA species in its current state, it may provide other benefits, such as supporting invertebrate food sources. Atkins explained that specialist advice on the Habitats Regulations is to be obtained to ensure the final decision is robust. CW advised that Atkins has secured the services of Dr Caroline Chapman (DTA Ecology) to provide independent review, which was welcomed by all attendees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic modelling for the Scheme has not yet been finalised. Should the traffic modelling data identify any additional European sites that could be impacted by the Scheme, the HRA screening will be revisited to include these in the assessment. • MW queried the condition of the SPA - GS advised that there are a number of parcels so it is difficult to give a single answer, but this years' record bird numbers suggest it is in favourable condition. HR proposed that condition assessment should be based on the recent 5-year mean, due to annual fluctuations. MW queried if there is an opportunity to increase bird habitat – GS advised that it would be via ongoing heathland management rather than further opening woodland • GS advised he has also raised concern with the land managers (Surrey Wildlife Trust) regarding the impact of screening woodland as he is keen to see retention of deep screening • MW raised concerns over effect of windthrow on retained vegetation when clearance had taken place and highlighted the need for sensitive felling and management. • It was considered that cleared areas should not necessarily be replanted in the same way as before. There is potential to incorporate open areas of heathland features, such as sandy mounds/banks (suitable for invertebrates, a qualifying feature of the SSSI) and heather, with some scrub planting along the road edge for visual screening purposes. • JD advised that he would recommend bringing specific experts out on site to advise on air quality effects once the RLB is published • NMU access/route discussion - ASh advised large parts of the land are registered common, plus access land with designated bridleways and dead-end paths. Question raised as whether there is an opportunity to better show NMU routes or if designated routes have potential negative impact? JD advised that we may be able to better manage access but it needs expert review, in particular understanding the access 		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	ACTION /DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>patterns now and impact of local by-laws. SWT wardens could have useful information on current access/use. HR raised the issue that access and habitat mitigation / compensation need to be considered holistically to ensure that the access arrangements do not undermine the value of the habitat. If granted, the implications of the Wisley development will need to be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW advised that the project team will be seeking Statements of Common Ground from all the groups present to ensure all concerns are logged. GS advised that he sees that it would be a short document with no major concerns raised as the project team is being thorough and addressing issues in the right way. GS advised he did not envisage giving evidence to the planning hearing as a result. • The requirement for an Evidence Plan with regards to the HRA process was discussed, and it was agreed by all attendees that this would be advantageous. JD advised that this would need to be arranged very quickly. 		
06	<p>Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GS confirmed that he assessed the condition of the SSSI units in 2011. • PW questioned if the habitat type ascribed to some SSSI units may not accurately represent the actual habitat types present (for example the woodland around Bolder Mere is described as dwarf shrub heath). GS confirmed that the latest Phase 1 data can be used to determine the most suitable habitat types within the SPA/SSSI with regards to AQ assessments. • GS outlined general concerns with regard to air quality such as nutrient deposition and impact on scrub/bramble growth levels within a zone from 30-40m from the source at roadside, and that any habitat proposals for replanting the temporary land take areas within the SPA and/or SSSI will need to consider a management plan that could cope with this accelerated regrowth. • All agreed that we need to be confident that any changes to the road are attenuated and that vegetation has an important role in this. 		
07	<p>Mitigation and Compensation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CW clarified that terminology will need to be as consistent as possible to satisfy legal requirements but points out that different documents have different definitions, and this is a risk Atkins are very aware of. In relation to the SPA compensation means compensation in the terminology of the Habitats Regulations. There will be a statement in the ecology chapter to clarify terminology. • CW advised that the project team's current focus is on making any loss of habitat/ancient woodland as small as possible, or avoiding all together but will report residual loss. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MW advised that the Forestry Commission would be looking for multiple benefits of new woodland planting (such as helping to filter run off) and stressed the importance of edge habitats. PL advised caution given the nature of pollutants that can come from the road with pollution incidents etc. MW advised that they can help look at hazard areas. Atkins queried how Natural England and Forestry Commission work together as Statutory Consultees on Ancient Woodland? GS/MW advised that it is largely on a case by case basis, but they are committed to working together on this scheme. PW made a quick summary of the sketch proposals plan – and to note that these are still options being investigated, there may well be change as not all parcels of land may be required.: <p><u>NW quadrant</u> Woodland to increase connectivity, with patches of open heathland which could in future support more bird species</p> <p><u>SW quadrant</u> Similar opportunities as NW quadrant, creation of woodland with open glades. GS was concerned that provision of easier access to this quadrant via a 'green' multi-function Cockcrow Bridge would threaten its value, so access would need to be managed to reduce the impact. All agreed to contribute to development of proposals for this bridge.</p> <p><u>NE quadrant</u> Dense Scots Pine at present and direct connection to SSSI. Selective clearance and ongoing management would be undertaken to enhance its biodiversity value would be undertaken but MW noted this would require a felling licence and replanting.</p> <p><u>SE quadrant</u> Opportunity to extend the common, but relatively low usage at present GS advised that Natural England wouldn't want to see this massively increased in any case. Major land opportunity/risk lies in the airfield site which is being considered for housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW advised that most landowners have been contacted and some plots we have identified are already up for sale. GS queried who would be responsible for taking on the management of any replacement land and restored land required temporarily for construction in the long term? PW raised the issue that the habitat within the SPA/SSSI to be lost to the Scheme does not currently support breeding territories of the qualifying SPA bird species, although it may provide food resources by supporting invertebrates. It would take a similar timescale to 	<p>To be clarified by project team</p>	<p>NW to seek answer</p>

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	<p>convert to functional habitat (i.e. heathland) once cleared as any new areas of habitat creation. Therefore, it is proposed that any new areas of heathland creation do not need to be established prior to the clearance of the SSSI/SPA woodland habitat within the Scheme footprint. This was acknowledged by all attendees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed soil sampling will be required to understand the conditions at the replacement land sites and inform mitigation proposals. 		
08	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PW requested Natural England to provide a list plans or project with HRAs for the Thames Basin Heaths SPA they would like Atkins to consider in the HRA screening. JD requested that this be shared with RSPB once list is compiled. PW requested Natural England to review valuations of different features. GS advised he will check if this is chargeable activity before Atkins issues anything. RI noted that if replacement SPA land was provided north of the M25 i.e. at Park Barn Farm this would extend the influence of the SPA on local planning policies and could generate objection from Elmbridge BC. This made Pond Farm more favourable as replacement SPA if conditions there were/could be made suitable. It was noted that Natural England anticipate that SPA replacement would be designated as SSSI/SPA as soon as it was acquired and would not be dependent on establishment of suitable habitats or species. Discussions were held on integrity effects leading to IROPI and suggestions that if the replacement land was technically reducing a risk of harm to the SPA, rather than compensating for harm, then integrity might not be affected, and the replacement land could be noted as mitigation rather than compensation. 	<p>GS to HRA information by end November</p> <p>GS to confirm charging requirements</p>	<p>GS</p> <p>GS</p>
09 -Summary discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MW stated he is pleased to hear the ambition of very minimal or no ancient woodland land take. He would like clarity on compensation ratios being considered. He encouraged any compensatory woodland to be multi-functional and productive. He wants to see no net loss of woodland. He would like Forestry Commission to be involved in discussion on woodland habitat enhancement. Point of query from our notes: MW accepted that woodland loss within the SPA could be replaced with heathland, as that is the key habitat for the site RSPB view is that habitats assessments need to be done quickly and that Atkins share early drafts of the HRA Screening report with JD to ensure any concerns can be addressed quickly. CW raised a question for Natural England on the licences and method statements required for the 	<p>To be clarified as notes are unclear.</p>	<p>MW</p>

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	ACTION /DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>DCO process. To be followed up separately as GS will advise on what will be counted as a “paid for” service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LP advised that the PRA is the next activity in the programme and the Statement of Common Ground work would begin after that. Statutory consultation is expected in early 2018. • PL advised that the ongoing maintenance and monitoring regime is not yet defined but would be required, HE keen to minimise impacts first wherever possible. • ASh advised an NMU workshop is being held 31 October and the views from this meeting will be taken forward to inform discussions • PW advised that he will continue to focus on the HRA and there will be ongoing conversations. • LP noted there would be further meetings and stakeholder telecons to discuss the issues. NW noted that there would be an environmental design workshop on site before Christmas. 	<p>Atkins to advise on meeting dates</p>	<p>LP</p>

Meeting notes

Project:	M25 J10/A3 Wisley Interchange Improvement		
Subject:	Natural England		
Date and time:	18 December 2017	Meeting no:	Stage 3 - 001
Meeting place:	NE offices, Winchester	Minutes by:	[REDACTED]
Present:	[REDACTED]	Representing:	Natural England Atkins Atkins Atkins Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1.0	Health & safety – NW started the meeting with a safety moment concerning recent cold weather affecting visibility whilst driving		
2.0	<p>Introductions – Graham Steven explained that none of his technical specialists from the relevant fields could attend but that he would be liaising with them after the meeting. Darielle Proctor introduced herself as the Atkins stakeholder lead and explained that all strategic engagement should go through her. Technical correspondence/discussions would be via the relevant team. Other attendees explained their roles and responsibilities on the project</p> <p>DP made an update on the PRA that was announced in November 2017. She explained that the option is preferable from an environmental point of view and design work since the consultation closed at the beginning of 2017 has allowed the performance and safety of this option to be improved. She further spoke about the side road options being taken forward. DP then spoke about the DCO process and the upcoming statutory consultation, that the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) is under consultation and that a consultation report will be published once consultation has closed. GS requested to see the SOCG template.</p> <p>NW commented that the work is ongoing on the PEIR which will be available ready for the statutory consultation and he stated that Design Fix 2 has been reached and that this is the design that is being taken forward to consultation. After the consultation has closed, the design team will amend the scheme in light of any valid feedback. This will result in Design Fix 3 which is taken forward.</p>	TBC	DP to check with Highways England that the template has been approved and can be shared
3.0	<p>Licenses and consents – NW explained that work on the HRA and protected species licenses runs parallel to the consultation preparation. The DCO process allows for the protected species licenses to be wrapped up by PINS but they could be drafted it in collaboration with Natural England, alongside the Letter of No Impediment, prior to making an application for consent. GS stated that either process is fine so long as there is an agreed process up front that we all agree to work to.</p> <p>PW stated that there is still a lot of information to gather – surveys are starting again in January 2018 and will continue into the spring. This will include bat roost assessments of</p>		

	<p>trees, and he believes that it is likely we will encounter one or more bat roosts. There will be both permanent and temporary land take – it may be possible to avoid a bat roost if a tree is in the temporary land take but not if it falls within the permanent land take boundary. We will explore all options but may require a mitigation licence for the loss of bat roosts. PW explained that a walkover is due to take place in January that will identify any badger setts within the Scheme footprint – again, it is likely that some badger setts will be identified. If active setts fall within the temporary land take, then we will investigate whether we can avoid disturbing them. Any sett closures would be likely to require a licence and mitigation. He believes that these are the key licences to consider and explained that a timeline is being produced and Atkins will keep Natural England informed of progress.</p> <p>PW stated that low numbers of great crested newts have been recorded around the Scheme and may occur within the footprint in very low numbers. In addition, only a single sand lizard has been recorded during surveys to date. Therefore, PW does not anticipate a licence being required for these species, but rather a Precautionary Method of Working, or Method Statement.</p> <p>GS agreed that a Method Statement may be appropriate for great crested newts and reptiles (including sand lizard which may occur in very low numbers). In discussing the DAS process and the timelines involved GS believes that it could potentially lead to weeks of work. It was agreed to keep communication open so that everyone was in the loop.</p>	Ongoing	PW
4.0	<p>Evidence Plan – GS advised that with DEFRA no longer being involved that the key organisation to talk to about the evidence plan is PINS who will have a clear understanding about which evidence is required (see Advice Note 11). In the absence of guidance from DEFRA we could do our own version. GS noted that this would feed into the SOCG and would need to involve others apart from NE.</p>		
5.0	<p>HRA Screening – PW advised that the HRA screening is ready, it has been submitted to Highways England and once it has been approved it can be shared with stakeholders. The red line boundary was discussed and that it encompasses all replacement land. GS stated his view that all replacement land should be in one location and not fragmented. GS was supportive of Pond Farm as compensation for lost SPA as it is directly connected to other SPA areas and could provide supporting environment for the qualifying breeding bird species. Heathland was discussed – and the possibility of removing conifers and opening up Surrey Wildlife Trust land. GS related some evidence gathered by Natural England that indicates that tall, dense ‘screens’ of trees alongside major roads can be effective in dispersing traffic emissions and that whilst heathland creation or restoration may be considered as part of the overall mitigation package, there may be a need to consider whether there are potential benefits in retaining trees in some locations.</p> <p>NW advised that there could be more extensive barriers put into place than the number in place at the current time. This is primarily for noise impact but could also have air quality benefits.</p> <p>NW advised that all environmental mitigation proposals will be ready for consultation in 2018.</p>		

<p>6.0</p>	<p>Bolder Mere</p> <p>MH explained that the proposed scheme widens the A3 immediately adjacent to the (artificial) NW edge of Bolder Mere. The proposed scheme would encroach into Bolder Mere, taking some wet woodland and reedbed habitat. The extent of this encroachment needs to be confirmed by topographic survey.</p> <p>Current designations of Bolder Mere were discussed. The lake is designated as part of the (Thames Basin Heaths) SPA, and as part of the (Ockham and Wisely Common) SSSI. It is also identified as a heavily modified lake water body in its own right under the EU Water Framework Directive. The lake is a habitat of particular value under the SSSI designation, less so to the species designated under the SPA. Further information is needed to properly understand the effect of works on WFD status.</p> <p>GS feels that any impact will need to be mitigated, he explained how and why Bolder Mere is a good quality water body (for instance the value of the lake and its margins to dragon and damsel fly). Discussion around how to mitigate the effects of the scheme took place – in particular around whether, from the perspective of the area as a whole, there would be more value in investigating opportunities to improve habitats along the margins of Bolder Mere, or, instead to focus mitigation effort on improvements to smaller ponds and mires in the same catchment to the north of the A3.</p> <p>Implications of implementing mitigations outside of the current red line boundary were discussed. MH explained that the next steps would be a walk over in January to better understand the lake habitats and potential for mitigation. It was agreed to bring the Environment Agency into the discussion about this topic due to its unusual circumstances, but in particular to understand better how the requirements of the WFD would influence mitigation works. It was felt that there could be a number of creative possibilities to improve what is currently there.</p>	<p>9 Jan</p>	<p>MH</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>AOB – PW clarified that a clear method statement would be produced for the GI works.</p>		

3:1 ratio and that it would be adjacent to existing land, but not necessarily like for like.

JA explained that SWT recognised that the junction needed improvement. He believes that the SPA should never have been fragmented but that this scheme provided an opportunity to obtain as much environmental gain as possible and that SWT are keen to work with Highways England to achieve the best result for the wildlife.

He stated:

- The green bridge must be a proper green bridge – a genuine ecological link. GB explained the financial pressures versus funding opportunities but was clear in order to manage expectations
- The value in connecting the heathland
- There are land purchase challenges: SCC as landlord and SWT as tenant
- SWT's desire to see appropriate links throughout the woodland and heathland
- Bolder Mere's value for hosting rare species
- SWT's concerns about opening-up public access and public rights of way and its effect on the ground nesting birds

SWT's desire to reconsider their parking facilities in light of the proposed scheme

- SWT's long term concern about the Wisley Airfield proposals and how visitors may use the heathland.
- The road surface materials are currently very noisy. GB explained Highways England's 'gate-to-gate' policy. But that given the widening of the A3 there was a possibility of addressing noise there, but this will not do much for M25 noise which is in part due to the concrete surface. Higher and better acoustic fencing was discussed.
- SWT's desire for minimal light into the reserve and for this to be considered when lighting is decided upon. GB explained that the junction must be safe but that the project doesn't want to put lighting where it is not needed.
- SWT's concerns about the BOAT at Elm Lane – mainly hydrology concerns, vehicle pressure and the draw of criminal activity to the area. SCC/SWT will be speaking with these residents about their concerns. ASAP DP
- Terence Higgins Trust must be a consultee as they represent the communities who use the car parks at night and who face displacement. ASAP JW
- The exchange land issue must be resolved. JW agreed to discuss this offline
- SWT would like to see the plans for the pieces of land Highways England purchases
- SWT's desire to collaborate with Highways England, Surrey County Council, Natural England and RSPB.

4.0

Survey access – FS explained that a survey to investigate the ground conditions needed to take place. She provided a plan of the borehole locations, an explanation of the process and how the works would be undertaken.

JA explained that from 1 March onwards no works would be possible due to ground nesting birds. PW confirmed these timings and stated that ideally the vegetation would be cleared before that date. He added that an ecologist will be provided to check vegetation clearance and/or watching brief during GI works where appropriate – typically for locations that could support nesting birds, great crested newts and/or reptiles. This

will be covered in the Precautionary Method of Working (PMW) that is being produced.

PW advised that all the survey works would be taking place in the woods and not on the heathland. He relayed advice from Natural England on the production of a method statement.

FS explained that the data collected from the surveys would be published on the British Geological Survey website, but it was agreed to protect all schedule 1 species (hobby, Dartford warbler, woodlark) plus nightjar, by not showing specific territory locations on the maps for public consumption. Same for badger setts.

CW highlighted the need for signage and warning notices about the survey works.

JA advised on the security of equipment and that in his opinion the safety of equipment left in car parks overnight was questionable.

SL and PW advised on the tree climbing surveys and possible need for surveys for badgers, great crested newts, reptiles in 2018.

JA agreed with PW that there was no dormouse activity in the area.

TBA

FS

FS offered further discussion in the New Year to go over the locations in person.

JA advised that permission may be required from PINS to put up temporary fencing within common land. FS to investigate.

TBA

FS

POST-MEETING NOTE

On 31 January 2018 Surrey Wildlife Trust put forward their position on the red line boundary and the fields at Pond Farm. They have stated that they do not accept them being included in the red line boundary as the fields are vital to a larger conservation grazing operation across the Surrey section of the SPA.

Project:	M25 J10/A3 Wisley Interchange Improvement scheme		
Subject:	Forestry Commission – stakeholder update		
Date and time:	07 February 2018	Meeting no:	Stage 3 - 001
Meeting place:	Forestry Commission, Farnham	Minutes by:	
Present:		Representing:	Forestry Commission Forestry Commission Atkins Atkins Atkins Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1.0	Introductions and health & safety – CP alerted the group to the fire alarm test happening that morning.		
2.0	Scheme update and PRA – DP explained the scheme as announced at PRA – option 14 and widening of the A3. AS highlighted the benefits of the scheme including: extra capacity, improved traffic flow and dedicated free-flow left turns. AS outlined the impacts including: environmental issues, NMU crossing points and access arrangements. AS outlined the constraints of the scheme in terms of the location and the need to be compact within the area.		
3.0	DCO process and consultation – DP advised that the project was a classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and that as such the consents process is via the Development Consent Order (DCO). It covers a range of approvals to implement a scheme. It is a front-loaded system with specific requirements around consultation and statutory consultees. As such we would engage regularly at prescribed times to keep the Forestry Commission up to date. DP explained that the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) would be the next step after the consultation had concluded. DP explained that the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been published. Statutory consultation with the public is planned to start on 12 February and to run for six weeks. There will be public information events being held in the community and information will be available in convenient locations. DP advised that due to the statutory process and needing to ensure parity of information, that during the consultation is the best time to have meaningful discussions about the project but that technical engagement is ongoing. She invited Forestry Commission to attend an event if possible. She advised that since PRA the route has been refined and was now fixed for the consultation.		
4.0	Ancient woodland/ veteran trees – MW stated that the loss of ancient woodland was a top concern for Forestry Commission. AS outlined the three areas where small parcels of ancient woodland could be affected at the edges. PW explained that the area affected has been halved since the last meeting in 2017 and that we will investigate the possibility of further reducing this at detailed design stage. It was agreed to remain engaged on this issue to keep everyone up to date with new designs and impacts.	Summer 2018	PW
5.0	Environmental proposal / replacement land MW listed four key areas of concern:		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1.	<p>Ancient woodland – MW explained that compensation was an area of interest to the Forestry Commission (you cannot mitigate for the loss of ancient woodland). He explained that compensation needs to be significant and that it is not just the size that is of importance but also the quality of the overall environmental gain. He explained that he wanted to achieve the greatest environmental gain i.e. strategic connections. FC will continue to advise on opportunities to minimise the impact on and loss of ancient woodland and if loss is unavoidable then significant compensation will be sought. There is no set proportion and each case will be considered on the opportunities and constraints to deliver ecologically significant compensation.</p>		
2.	<p>MW explained that FC wholeheartedly supports the principle of the green bridge. However, initial descriptions from Highways England suggested that this would include clearing areas of woodland on each side to create a heathland connection. The loss of all the trees in the manner described would be detrimental to the local landscape and potentially destabilising to the retained woodland on each side. Better to thin the woodland on each side to encourage a heathy understorey while retaining the ‘tree’d’ canopy. This would deliver the heathland ecological connection while avoiding the negative impacts. FC is happy to advise on site how this would work. MW explained that heathland helps form the mosaic of ecology but that he has reservations about the removal of all the trees in this area. CP has outlined these views in the PINS consultation response letter. There was discussion on the potential felling of conifers in the south east quadrant. MW explained that if there are proposals to deforest (i.e. convert areas which are currently woodland to open habitats’) any areas then they fall under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations. As such, as the ‘competent authority’ under those regulations we would have to decide whether the proposals constitute a relevant project (i.e. would they have a significant impact on the environment) (see: https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AMDDDB3). If the proposals were deemed ‘relevant’ then the proposals would need to be run through the EIA process including the production of an Environmental Statement by Highways England. He explained that whilst we cannot predict the outcome of any assessment, he has seen this process help establish plans which take into account all the factors impacting a site in a constructive way. There was some discussion on land ownership in the area and how replacement land should benefit from an increase in diversity and the mosaic effect would help open these areas up to the public. CP raised a concern about private owners and tree felling and/or development. AS explained that the PRA has safe-guarded the land. MW referenced the meeting that was held in 2017 where he specifically asked Natural England colleagues if they were pursuing further conversion of woodland areas to open habitats – because if they were then the EIA Regulations would need to be considered. MW stated that Natural England advised that they were not as they</p>		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
3.	<p>suggested that good integrated management of the woodland and heathland would benefit the site. MW advised that good woodland management includes a good network of ‘woodland rides’ with graded shrubby (or coppice) edges and rotation open space created by felling and restocking.</p> <p>AS explained that there are ongoing discussions with Surrey Wildlife Trust and their stakeholders to capture their views. MW requested that we arrange an on site meeting with FC, NE and SWT to discuss and agree acceptable proposals for any woodland /opening up as part of the compensation for the Scheme.</p> <p>MW explained that he is keen to know more about the edge of the road and how that is managed – he would like to see a more modern approach to forestry management i.e. creating connections, enhancing the overall biodiversity and creating a mosaic effect. MW pushed for minimal land take to leave the soil undisturbed. AS explained how the red line boundary currently accommodated a 10m width of land that would be returned to Surrey County Council after construction. He explained the 10m was nominal at this stage of the project and could shrink back at the detailed design phase.</p> <p>MW outlined the key principle both within the temporary land take and in the woodland immediately adjacent to the road – if the overall plan is to use the woodland to ‘screen’ the road from the wider site (where we’re all encouraging ecological enhancement and public access) then the long-term management of this woodland is crucial to deliver the function. As such managing the woodland under a ‘continuous cover’ regime would seem most appropriate. This approach would aim to encourage a diverse range of tree ages which retain the impact of a woodland edge in perpetuity. He advised that it was probably easiest to demonstrate how this could be achieved on site.</p> <p>MW asked about how trees were being assessed – he explained about ‘granny’ or iconic trees and the need for them to be untouched. PW stated that tree surveys are being undertaken, both by an aboricultural specialist, and a bat specialist. These surveys should identify mature specimens with features of interest.</p> <p>MW spoke about the principle of the long term aim with regards to which trees remain as screening woodland as a noise and visual buffer the road. He explained that ‘continuous cover’ is needed within the management plan and that this could be achieved through multiple age trees to create the mosaic effect. This approach is also more resilient to high winds/ storms.</p> <p>AS explained that we propose a scrub habitat with some open areas, but that we can consider including some tree planting in our proposals. MW suggested that this was looked at on site to ensure that all parties were interpreting the meaning of the word ‘scrub’ and other areas in the same way.</p>		
4.	<p>MW encouraged us to consider wider mitigation beyond the boundary for the scheme, linking habitats and creating heathland rides. AS and PW explained that our compensation proposals do incorporate this bigger</p>		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>picture, creating links between ancient and established woodlands, and improving existing Scots pine plantations. MW reiterated the need for a woodland management plan and asked to be involved in the process.</p> <p>There was agreement on the need for a woodland management plan. There was discussion around the possibility of joint meetings in the future between the relevant interested stakeholders to avoid misrepresentation.</p> <p>MW explained that further conversion of woodland to open habitat equalled deforestation and that this work is covered by the Open Habitats Policy. He stressed that the Forestry Commission would need to be involved in any deforestation.</p> <p>AS pointed out areas of replacement land where enhancements could be made, including areas of ancient woodland. MW indicated that this would be well received. AS further explained how new and replacement bridges would open access to all four quadrants for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. MW explained how this would help with efforts to provide open access to 'average' users of the Surrey countryside – i.e. those without a particular reason to access these areas. AS provided an overview of the NMU (non-motorised user) routes.</p> <p>MW expressed concern at the proposals to include heathland on the Green Bridge.</p>		
6.0	<p>AOB and date of next meeting –</p> <p>MW encouraged any opportunity for the use of local wood. He explained that hardwood is naturally durable and can be sourced in the South East. He is able to suggest suppliers who are part of the 'Grown in Britain' initiative (https://www.growninbritain.org/.)</p> <p>CP explained the Government has a target to increase UK woodland cover and as such there is a desire to avoid an overall loss of percentage of tree cover as a result of this scheme. CP also outlined the forestry carbon cycle highlighting the importance of sustainable woodland management in securing woodland biodiversity and mitigating climate change in line with the new 2017 EIA Regulations. CP also reiterated the opportunities of using locally source timber for construction.</p> <p>PW enquired to the level of involvement Forestry Commission required in terms of the HRA process. PW explained that the HRA will focus on impacts on the SPA, but will include the compensation package. CP confirmed that they would like to be involved in the compensation package discussions, but do not need to be involved in the HRA.</p> <p>AS explained that a 'losses versus planting' ratio would be provided in the detailed design phase.</p> <p>CP enquired into whether the quality of soils was being taken into account when carrying out tree assessments within ancient woodlands (i.e. the woodland may contain relatively young trees, but is still of importance as it contains ancient soils). PW confirmed that all ancient woodlands are being treated as such, including the assumed presence of ancient soils.</p> <p>CP explained that translocation of Ancient woodland soils is not a suitable consideration for compensating for the loss of ancient woodlands. Ancient woodland soils will only achieve an increased possibility of a successful new woodland creation</p>	March 18	CP

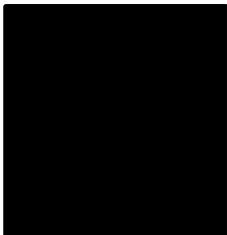
ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	scheme and that this needs to be taken in account when planning the compensation.		
	Date of Next Meeting – Forestry Commission are encouraged to attend a public consultation event where a meeting with the technical team can be facilitated. Next strategic meeting to take place after consultation.	TBC	DP

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>██████████ noted that, with management, it could be suitable for certain aspects of the SPA, providing habitat that would contribute to supporting the qualifying species. He noted that the SPA land to be lost was of low value being closest to the M25 and A3. ██████████ noted that specific areas identified as compensation for lost SPA would by preference be south of the M25 to avoid extending the planning restrictions arising from the SPA in local authority areas. It was noted that the Pond Farm area was ideally placed as replacement SPA and common land as it sat within areas covered by both designations. This led onto discussions about alternative means of compensating for lost SPA land.</p>		
4.0	<p>SPA compensation</p> <p>██████████ noted that it might be possible to provide compensation for the impacts resulting from the loss of SPA land by enhancing the habitat value of land within the currently designated boundary (i.e. by clearing woodland to allow areas of heathland to regenerate). However, it was noted that there would be an expectation to avoid physical loss of SPA total land area, thus requiring Pond Farm (or additional land associated with the wider Thames Basin Heaths SPA) to form part of the compensation package.</p> <p>It was noted that clearance of woodland/tree cover to achieve this would require agreement from Forestry Commission. Patrick Stephens noted that Forestry Commission could support this approach subject to agreed areas/proportions of canopy cover being maintained and new areas of planting within the replacement land being provided. ██████████</p> <p>██████████ referring to the EC guidance (<i>Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC 2012</i>) on this noted at 1.4.1 that to be allowable the SPA enhancement must not be something that would have been done as 'normal practice' under the Habitats and Birds Directives or obligations laid down in EC law. SWT confirmed that their obligations were to 'maintain' the SPA and SSSI and hence additional enhancement did not form part of 'normal practice'. ██████████</p> <p>██████████ confirmed that enhancement must not be what was going to happen anyway and understood that restoration of further areas of heathland was an aspiration. It was noted that enhancement of the SPA could include NMU provision and dog control orders that would encourage public use of the replacement land areas and reduce pressure on the main heathland areas of the SPA which were most used by the qualifying species. The effectiveness of dog control orders was questioned by the RSPB, these require significant resource to enforce and the TBH strategy has opted for responsible behaviour through positive messaging to date rather than enforcement so far. ██████████ noted that any enhancement that formed part of a compensation package would need to be identified with and funded by the project and ██████████ agreed to investigate the mechanism for doing this with HE legal team.</p>	N/A	All
5.0	<p>Park Barn Farm</p> <p>All agreed that Park Barn Farm appeared to provide excellent opportunities as replacement common land/public open space and has scope for habitat creation to support heathland species. New planting and some tree clearance/diversification of single species plantations would be proposed along with heathland/dry acid grassland habitat creation which ██████████</p>	N/A	All

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>██████████ was supportive of. ██████████ noted that identification as common land rather than public open space imposed more difficulties on the use of grazing as a management tool, as specific consent is needed for any fencing, which is a legally complex process. This may have an influence on the arrangement of the two types of replacement land relative to the types of habitats intended. RSPB thought there was some potential but required more information on the current state and the proposals to enable proper evaluation of the merits of these areas.</p>		
6.0	<p>Chatley Wood It was noted that this area could provide good opportunities for public recreation, helping to take the pressure off the SPA. This would need encouragement through provision of signposting, appropriate path surfacing and tree clearance to open up routes to it from NMU routes and the Ockham Bites car park. The proposed NMU bridge would be of benefit for this, creating a new direct access between the north-east and south-east quadrants, which currently does not exist. In addition, the possibility of providing a new car park off Pointers Road was raised. The existing grass areas could be managed to provide a mixture of open and scrub habitats mixed with native wood pasture and/or orchard habitats, both of which were noted as being in decline nationally. The current SWT work to manage the SSSI woodland at Redhill Bottom and Chatley Wood was observed.</p>	N/A	All
7.0	<p>Hatchford End There was concern that this parcel would provide little ecological value for the SPA and SSSI due to its size and location, separated from the heathland. ██████████ pointed out the benefits in providing rights of way linkages enabling better access to the other areas of public access, particularly bearing the Wisley Airfield draft housing allocation in mind. It also has benefits in linking areas of woodland and providing safer NMU access than along Old Lane.</p>	N/A	All
8.0	<p>Land adjacent to M25/A3 ██████████ explained that the land within the red line boundary but outside the permanent highway boundary would be used to construct the scheme and is likely to be cleared of vegetation during the works. The intention is to return this land to the landowner (mainly SCC) in a condition where it can provide environmental benefit. There was agreement that this should have a varied vegetation profile with scrub (excluding gorse) and some larger trees to benefit the SPA and should have a scalloped edge to create diverse edge habitat. The available land within the highway boundary (such as embankment slopes) would be treated similarly but also provide screening for views of the M25/A3 where appropriate. Environmental barriers would be provided to mitigate noise effects, and which could serve to enhance the SPA by reducing noise levels for the qualifying species and encourage their spread. SWT also favoured lighting proposals that reduced the light spill from the M25/A3 where possible. The potential provision of one or more green bridges (as enhanced provision at bridges that would be replaced anyway, particularly Cockcrow and Clearmount bridges) was discussed and all agreed that this would be of significant benefit to the scheme and should be explored through the Highways England designated funds. SWT confirmed willingness to</p>	N/A	All

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>input advice to the design process for such features and to look at ideas for work they might potentially undertake to add value to such bridges. ██████████ noted that careful consideration would be needed to ensure such bridges did not encourage recreational pressure in sensitive areas. RSPB agreed with the need to consider the potential for change in recreational pressure as a result of these bridges and also this is something that the wider scheme needs to consider holistically as the improvement of NMU provisions through the junction has the potential to change access to the SPA and therefore recreational disturbance.</p>		
9.0	<p>HRA Discussion</p> <p>██████████ set out the current situation regarding the HRA work noting that the Screening document confirmed that a likely significant effect had been identified with regard to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. The draft had been circulated for comment to NE, RSPB and SWT. NE and SWT confirmed that they had no comments (apart from an email comment from Natural England ahead of a meeting booked for 27 March regarding specifically to consideration of air quality). Heather Richards confirmed that the RSPB have already provided their comments. Some aspects were discussed in the meeting and it was agreed that a response to all comments would be provided with an updated version of the screening report.</p> <p>██████████ noted that the Screening should clearly set out which aspects of the scheme could have likely significant effects as only these should be addressed in the Appropriate Assessment. It was agreed that these would be limited to peripheral habitat loss in areas that are not currently heathland, habitat degradation (by changes in air quality and/or hydrology), and disturbance (visual, light, noise and changes in recreational usage patterns). RSPB highlighted the need for clarity regarding what is being proposed as avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures.</p> <p>Atkins stated that it is anticipated that the Appropriate Assessment will record that it is not possible to ascertain no adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA. In this situation, it will be necessary to demonstrate an absence of alternative solutions and imperative Reason of Overriding Public Interest why the project should, nevertheless, proceed. Compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected will then need to be secured. It was noted that an 'in combination' assessment would not be needed as the project will be having an adverse impact on the integrity of the SPA 'alone'. Should the project go ahead under the derogation provisions, sufficient compensatory measures would be secured to address all associated adverse impacts so there would be no <i>residual</i> effects to act in combination with other plans or projects.</p> <p>Note: RSPB commented in these minutes stating that <i>'The RSPB consider it essential that an in-combination assessment is undertaken. Its key role is to identify and assess interactions with other proposals (particularly applicable to issues arising from recreational disturbance and housing development in the vicinity). This is important as it is difficult to be sure that mitigation measures will not leave even the smallest residual effects – on their own they do not amount to an adverse effect, but have the potential when combined to cause an adverse</i></p>	N/A	All

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>effect. This “sense check” provides confidence that no effects have been overlooked by the assessment process.’</i></p> <p>Noise impacts on the SPA were noted as likely to be significant during construction but not in operation.</p>		
10	<p>Other matters</p> <p>NE/SWT/RSPB/FC would like to be involved in the programming of clearance works, with woodland areas left till last if possible.</p> <p>Visitor numbers were expected to drop during construction. It was noted that the Wisley Airfield ES may have included a visitor survey that could contain useful baseline data. It was suggested that employing access consultants/behavioural psychologists might provide benefits in planning NMU provision.</p>	N/A	All

Project:	M25 J10/A3 Wisley interchange improvement scheme		
Subject:	HRA Assessment and Air Quality		
Date and time:	27 March 2018 – 10am	Meeting no:	Error! No document variable supplied.002
Meeting place:	Cromwell House, Winchester	Minutes by:	
Present:		Representing:	Natural England (NE) Natural England (NE) Natural England (NE) Atkins Atkins Atkins Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1.0	<p>HRA Assessment</p> <p>There was a discussion about the need for compensation for any loss of land. PW spoke about clearing some areas of woodland to create heathland. Natural England stated that they were in agreement with this approach in principle if it supported habitat creation. MT stated that with six hectares of the SPA being lost Natural England would expect six hectares to be re-provided, and that Natural England saw this as part of a package with enhancement works within the SPA boundary. GS emphasised that meeting the requirements of the legislation was key. While it was agreed that the scheme is not anticipated to result in a reduction in numbers of birds of SPA species, there will be a loss of habitat that contributes to the site fabric (e.g. by providing a woodland edge to the heathland and contributing to the invertebrate resource for the SPA qualifying bird species).</p> <p>MT advised that in terms of discretionary advice the protected species advice team were the most stretched in terms of resources and timings. It was agreed that Atkins would put together a draft of the proposed vegetation clearance methodologies (a method statement), for Natural England to review under DAS and provide comment. This would allow Natural England to confirm if they agreed on Atkins' proposal that the Scheme does not require licences with regards to great crested newts and sand lizards.</p>	End April 2018	PW
2.0	<p>Method of assessment</p> <p>PW and VS both shared comments made by PINS on the Scoping Opinion that advised speaking to Natural England about the assessment of air quality. PINS had advised that the project should also be looking at assessment across other non-designated sites, including ancient woodland, and not just the statutory designated sites, which differs from the Highways England's DMRB guidance. Natural England confirmed that they do not require an assessment of non-designated sites. VS noted that none of the local authorities who have responded to consultation have asked for any further sites to be looked at. GS advised that in their experience, post Wealden judgement, local authorities are only tending to look at sites designated under European Union Directive (e.g. SPA) and not even SSSI. In this case, Atkins would follow DMRB and include SSSIs as well as sites covered by international designations.</p>		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>It was discussed that reduced idling as a result of the scheme would lead to a decrease in emissions. However, volumes of traffic are predicted to increase due to the improved junction potentially drawing more traffic to the area through more efficient and improved journey time. Overall, this would result in predicted increased emissions around the junction, but reductions on the wider road network. MT said that this should be made clear in the ES.</p> <p>Natural England advised that PINS are looking very closely at air quality on other schemes – this was likely due to the Wealden judgement. GS advised that we should respond to the PINS comment and offered to share their advice notes to assist with this. MT advised that we should look at the Windsor & Maidenhead local plan where the air pollution assessment has been agreed since the Wealden judgement.</p> <p>There was discussion about the assessment being looked at in isolation as an ‘in combination’ assessment would not be needed as the project will be having an adverse impact on the integrity of the SPA ‘alone’. MT explained the 1,000 extra vehicles or 1% increase threshold and the 200m buffer zone.</p> <p>PW explained that our modelling indicates an increase in emissions but that the 200m zone is woodland. It was noted that the woodland that currently lines the A3/M25 within the SPA is fairly robust to nitrogen and that any heathland creation will be exposed to higher levels of nitrogen, potentially leading to increased dominance of competitive plant species. It was agreed that this should be acknowledged in the ES, and the management strategy for the compensation package should include measures to tackle the increased dominance of competitive plant species within any heathland restoration areas. MT stated that the baseline data needed by Natural England was the distance within the 200m zone where levels increased by 1% and exceeded the critical load, identifying the increases against critical loads, so that they can identify the risks and advise on the appropriate avoidance and/or mitigation measures to put into place. This would inform the management strategy for the compensation package.</p>		
3.0	<p>Designated site boundary – MAGIC GIS</p> <p>GS advised that the paper map issued at the time of SSSI designation contains the definitive boundary and provided copies to Atkins. GS advised that the SPA and SSSI boundaries were now mirrored.</p> <p>VS confirmed that there would be no monitoring using NOx diffusion tubes as the diffusion tubes are no longer being supplied. All work would be done via modelling.</p>	N/A	All
4.0	<p>AOB</p> <p>Engagement contract – the contract has been sent to Atkins for signing. RL to follow up with an email to DP.</p> <p>It was agreed that keeping in regular touch was worthwhile and meetings were productive.</p>	29 March 2018	RL and DP

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>confirmed – it should be accessible for ongoing management.</p> <p>It was noted that the NMU route would be largely retained and maintained by HE as much of it will also be used for maintenance access with JE noting that SCC were precluded from taking on maintenance responsibilities for assets that would involve any new costs.</p>	N/A	N/A
2.0	<p>Replacement/Compensation Land</p> <p>AS explained the situation regarding land parcels proposed as replacement land for the common land and public open space taken by the scheme. The general areas were largely as previously presented at consultation, but subject to some amendments after feedback from most of the landowners and SWT: principally the omission of the 5ha parcel at Pond Farm; some localised changes at Park Barn Farm and possible omission of the open field parcel at Chatley Farm but inclusion of two wooded parcels alongside Pointers Road.</p> <p>NW noted that the SPA compensation land would not now include the previously proposed replacement land at Pond Farm due to objections from SWT and others. NW tabled a mark-up drawing showing possible alternative SPA compensation land parcels on Old Lane, Elm Lane and near Buxton Wood bridge based on DF2 land take calculations – see appended map extract</p> <p>PW explained the rationale for choosing these parcels – providing suitable food sources for the SPA qualifying species (particularly nightjar, which are known to regularly use grazed fields as foraging habitat) whilst not being within the 400m buffer zone of the Wisley Airfield development or affecting the Elmbridge buffer zone north of the M25. It was noted that the compensation parcels would provide habitat of similar, or possibly greater SPA value, than those to be permanently lost to the Scheme.</p> <p>It was agreed by all present that these parcels were suitable as SPA compensation land. These parcels already have public access. Acceptable in this case as the best parts of the SPA are not being lost.</p> <p>The broad principle Highways England are pursuing for compensation land for the SPA is a 1:1 ratio for the areas of permanent loss, supplemented by enhancement of land within the SPA (see below). No objections were raised to this broad approach, recognising that this would not be taken to set a precedent for a similar ratio on any other project as individual site and scheme details must be taken into account on a case by case basis. However, the final package would need to be carefully scrutinised by all parties for its acceptability in avoiding setting a precedent.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>All</p>

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>It was noted that Park Barn Farm would be managed to provide areas of heathland or acid grassland habitat which may in due course support SPA qualifying species, but is not part of the SPA compensation package and will not be designated as SPA as part of this Scheme.</p>	N/A	N/A
3.0	<p>SPA enhancement</p> <p>PW explained that as well as replacement land for loss of SPA the compensatory measures package would also include areas where the existing SPA would be enhanced. Research undertaken by Atkins and the stakeholders has identified that the appropriate enhancement ratio can vary greatly between schemes. Based on the present nature of the habitat being lost within the SPA (i.e. woodland habitat that does not directly support any qualifying species, but may contribute to the invertebrate food resource within the SPA). It has been proposed that a 3:1 enhancement ratio would be appropriate.</p> <p>PW explained that this ratio was envisaged in relation to the areas of permanent loss, with a lower ratio for areas of temporary loss. JA recommended that this ratio is applied to enhancement for both permanent and temporary loss. All parties were in agreement that this ratio is appropriate for the Scheme. On the M25 scheme this would give an area of c18ha of enhancement land for c 6ha of temporary loss and c18ha for 6ha of permanent loss in the calculation which would mean c36ha of enhancement</p> <p>As an ideal compensation package scheme overall SWT would like to see 60 ha of which 20ha would be outside the SPA. (N.B. the 20ha outside the SPA would not be included within the formal SPA compensatory measures required under regulation 68 but would be delivered as part of a wider package). JA has had discussions with Forestry Commission who would be comfortable with this amount of loss of trees although they hoped to see the scheme including woodland tree planting (potentially including conifers with broadleaved edge) elsewhere in the scheme. However, there is uncertainty whether a 1:1 ratio would be expected, as such requirements have not been made in other areas where conifers on heathland have been cleared. and this is not in FC's open habitat policy</p> <p>It was noted that ancient woodland loss has been reduced with the revised scheme, but compensation planting would still be included in the replacement land parcels.</p> <p>CC noted that the compensatory measures under the Habitats Regulations will need to be clearly identified and secured separately to any additional enhancement measures delivered for other reasons (e.g. dealing with legacy impacts from road etc). Enhancement as a compensatory measure under the Habitats Regulations must be</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>delivered within the SPA boundary (any enhancement on land beyond the SPA boundary which is <i>perceived</i> to form part of a compensatory measures package under regulation 68 would trigger calls for such land to be added to the network and be classified as SPA). JD noted the cost of the enhancement (felling and removal of brush and scraping of material) was relatively) was quite modest but that there would need to be an ongoing maintenance regime to keep these areas in a suitable condition. The works and costs for them would need to be included in a legal agreement to ensure that they would be delivered. JE suggested that thinning around the margins of Bolder Mere would be beneficial by increasing foraging habitat and could be included as part of the SPA enhancements</p> <p>JD suggested that the areas of SPA lost temporarily and permanently and the compensation and enhancement areas are set out clearly, so it is easy for stakeholders to confirm their agreement to them and avoid the need for appearance at DCO examination. This should include description of the condition of the land lost and that provided as compensation and enhancement.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Atkins</p> <p>Atkins</p>
4.0	<p>HRA update</p> <p>PW gave a brief overview on progress in preparing the HRA referring to recent case law (People Over Wind) indicating that mitigation should not be included in the screening stage and noting that the J10 HRA screening would be updated to comply with the recent case.</p> <p>PW explained that the current findings of the Appropriate Assessment indicate that the sole adverse effect on the conservation objectives of the SPA and the overall integrity of the SPA would arise from loss of habitat within the SPA rather than other effect mechanisms on the SPA identified at screening which have been ascertained to not have adverse effects on site integrity. Air quality, noise, ground/surface water and recreational disturbance will not have an adverse effect on the conservation objectives of the SPA, nor the overall integrity of the SPA, based on current findings.</p> <p>PW explained that the scheme is unlikely to lead to an increase in visitor numbers, but would change how visitors use and move around the SPA. However, the new NMU routes, PRoW links open areas and bridges, this will draw users away from the SPA and thus reduce disturbance. JD requested this is set out in the HRA and emphasised the need for clear justifications in the Appropriate Assessment, as to why potential impacts, such as recreational disturbance, will not have an adverse effect on the conservation objectives of the SPA.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PW</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Atkins</p>

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>JD suggested that if Atkins are able to share the Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and alternatives text in the HRA with him he would comment before it is submitted formally thus reducing risks of concerns being raised at a later stage</p> <p>JA requested that the scheme reduce light spill where possible. NW noted that, subject to approval by HE, lighting may be removed from parts of the A3. It was noted that there would be no lighting on the NMU route – all agreed this was appropriate given the ecological value of the area.</p> <p>JA also requested that some signage would be provided as part of the Scheme, to ensure users had the appropriate information to encourage their use of preferred routes through the SPA, and utilisation of additional provision areas outside the SPA. AS confirmed that this should be possible.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Atkins/JD</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Atkins</p>
5.0	<p>Bolder Mere</p> <p>NW explained that recent surveys have indicated that the A3 widening would require works within the margins of Bolder Mere. This would be discussed further and proposals for compensation/mitigation would be developed.</p> <p>It was agreed that, if any Water Framework Directive compensation works were needed to provide open water habitat, these could be seen as part of and complementary to the habitat enhancement works around the margins of the Mere raised in Item 3 above.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Atkins</p> <p>N/A</p>
6.0	<p>GI</p> <p>PW explained that GI sites outside the highway boundary would be in woodland rather than heathland. The GI team will agree exact locations with SWT and SCC. A method statement will then be issued to Natural England (along with a plan of the GI locations) to secure permission for the GI works to proceed within the SPA/SSSI. JE highlighted the need for fencing of GI working areas to avoid accidents.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Atkins</p>
7.0	<p>DCO programme</p> <p>NW set out the likely programme to DCO submission in outline with targeted consultation in September, PINS review in November and DCO submission in early 2019. JD explained the likely programme for the DCO following submission/acceptance.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Project:	A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme M25 J10/A3 Wisley Interchange Improvement		
Subject:	Forestry Commission		
Date and time:	26 th July 2018 3pm	Meeting no:	
Meeting place:	Forestry Commission office Alice Holt	Minutes by:	██████████
Present:	██████████	Representing:	Forestry Commission Forestry Commission Forestry Commission Surrey Wildlife Trust Surrey Wildlife Trust Surrey Wildlife Trust Atkins Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1	MW confirmed that a separate Forestry EIA for the woodland clearance and thinning incorporated within or associated with the DCO scheme (as part of the SPA compensation package) is not required and that the effects of these operations can be reported in the ES for the scheme as a whole. The scheme ES should include all the issues that would be covered in a forestry ES.	N/A	NW
2	However, any woodland clearance works promoted separately by SWT in response to the opportunity presented by the HE scheme would require its own EIA, which would potentially cause difficulties if the public were influenced by the works on the J10 scheme. Such a concurrent proposal by SWT may also undermine the HE case that their woodland management works within the SPA compensation package were not likely to have been undertaken by others means, which could cause problems with the HRA. Cumulative effects would also need to be considered by either EIA, depending on timing. JA to consider the timing of this additional woodland clearance and the separate EIA further and MW to discuss with National Office/Policy Advice Team. A meeting of the FC National Policy Advice Team is scheduled for September.	N/A	JA/ MW
3	MW queried the need for 60ha of 'enhancement' that was the aspiration of SWT and JA confirmed that this had come from Natural England's Biodiversity Opportunity Areas programme for the entire Thames Basin Heaths SPA.	N/A	N/A
4	All agreed that community engagement was key to avoiding negative reaction and objections from the public to large scale woodland management.	N/A	All
5	The recent wild fires in several parts of the world were raised and the need for measures to prevent these was discussed. MW noted that 40m fire breaks around new developments had been required in recent planning applications. JA noted that the fire brigade had not required fire hydrants to be installed at J10 and there were no plans to introduce these into the scheme but liaison with the fire brigade would be advisable. Post meeting note – the NMU route/gas main corridor offers the opportunity to include a water main in the scheme. JA noted that the greatest potential danger could come from conifer canopy fires and trees falling onto the carriageway or smoke closing the A3/M25. Conifers within a tree's length of the carriageways are to be avoided in any proposed reinstatement planting and	N/A	Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	broadleaved species to be preferred, as these have much reduced fire risk.		
6	Discussions were had on the amount of thinning that could be carried out but could still retain woodland status. 20% canopy of existing trees is the lowest that can still be considered woodland and this should be evenly spread. To maximise the viability of the proposed green bridge JA wanted full clearance at either end to encourage use by SSSI species. Between Elm Lane and Bolder Mere there would be a graduation of clearance. All recognised the need to maintain screening vegetation along the A3 and M25. JA noted that under their Countryside Stewardship programme heathland was defined as having a maximum cover of 10% trees, 10% scrub and 10% gorse. Potential conflict (or overlap?) with the FC definition of woodland; but it is clear that the detail of the SPA compensation/enhancement works will determine their acceptability.	N/A	N/A
7	FC national policy is to ensure no net loss of woodland. MW concerned that the 'enhancement' could constitute deforestation, but queried whether the deforestation/afforestation could be considered at a national/regional level where HE is clearing some areas, e.g. Arundel, but also planting large areas on other schemes. It was noted that there was a conflict between the No Net Loss Policy and the Open Habitats Policy which promotes the opening up of glades etc in dense, particularly conifer, plantations. CP suggested that the J10 scheme could include areas of replacement land specifically acquired for planting/forestry to ensure no net loss. It was noted that HS2 had achieved this target by making payments to FC to carry out planting elsewhere.	N/A	N/A
8	AS noted that the replacement land areas would have areas of planting for public benefit and biodiversity. FC noted that they support planting in floodplains with appropriate species so as to reduce the likelihood of flooding downstream. AS noted that some floodplain planting could be carried out at the Chatley Farm replacement land area (depending on the final choice of land parcels at this location).	N/A	AS
9	MW noted that, unlike the SPA and common land/Public Open Space compensation/replacement areas, FC did not advocate a specific ratio for loss of woodland but required a 'significant environmental benefit' for replacement of lost woodland areas.	N/A	N/A
10	NW queried whether the HE Designated Funds scheme could be used to promote forestry in the scheme at J10. This would need to be seen as additional work and not essential to the mitigation of the scheme, as its funding could not be guaranteed.	N/A	N/A
11	NW queried the granting of the necessary felling licence for the tree clearance and thinning and MW confirmed that FC would be content to issue a Letter of No Impediment (LONI), similar to Natural England, if the licence could not be included as part of the DCO submission.	N/A	MW

Project:	M25 J10/A3 Wisley Interchange Improvement		
Subject:	Catch up meeting with Natural England		
Date and time:	09 October 2018	Meeting no:	
Meeting place:	Natural England office, Reading	Minutes by:	██████████
Present:	██████████	Representing:	Natural England (NE) Natural England (NE) Natural England (NE) Atkins Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1.0	<p>Overview of final Scheme</p> <p>NW gave a recap on the previous design fix (DF2), and how the cost of the Scheme and the consultation feedback has led to the final design fix (DF3).</p> <p>NW ran through the DF3 Scheme, explaining the key changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reroute of the gas main and NMU route to the western most side of the A3, avoiding Bolder Mere. • The amendment of the residential access route at Painshill to reduce the impact on Painshill Park and also the ancient woodland at Heyswood. • The removal of bridges at the northern most and southern most extent of the M25 from the Scheme (these were included in DF2) <p>It was agreed by all that the changes in DF3 would reduce the land take and thus help reduce impacts of the Scheme.</p>		
2.0	<p>Compensation package</p> <p>NW showed the common land replacement areas at Park Barn Farm, Chatley Wood, and along Old Lane, with a description of the proposed habitat enhancement proposals for these locations. The proposals were met favourably.</p> <p>However, GS commented that the change at Chatley Wood (avoidance of taking ██████████ best field and instead including some new areas of woodland) reduces some of the connectivity of this compensation area for recreational users. This was discussed further, and it was agreed that with the additional of a new bridge across the M25, it may encourage recreational users to the new compensation areas, plus there are opportunities for a circular route the incorporates the existing bridge at Hatchford Wood.</p> <p>NW discussed potential improvements for these areas, including planting wooded areas, and managing existing woodland areas for improvement (such as felling Scots pine plantations and planting diverse deciduous woodland, and tackling dense rhododendron understoreys within existing woodland to allow a more diverse understory to develop).</p> <p>The SPA compensation package contains two elements: physically extending the SPA by adding land currently outside the SPA, and additional compensation by enhancement works to improve the biological value of the land within the SPA, so that the carrying capacity is increased.</p> <p>The SPA physical compensation areas were discussed. The total area of these compensation areas will equal the permanent land take within the SPA. The proposed habitat creation at these compensation areas was described by PW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elm Corner SPA compensation land– an additional area of woodland will be added to the SPA. This will undergo some 		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>thinning, in combination with the adjacent enhancement area, to allow a more diverse and open woodland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Lane SPA compensation land – two open grass fields will be designated as compensation areas. These currently undergo occasion grazing but are heavily dominated by ruderal vegetation, suggesting low usage. It is proposed that these areas would be planted with a mixture of scrub and woodland to increase their diversity, and contribute invertebrate resource to the SPA. This needs to be agreed with Surrey Wildlife Trust. • Wisley SPA compensation land – an area of grazed grassland to the south of the M25, near Buxton Wood is proposed for a compensation area. The size of this area will be determined by the final permanent and take figure. The usage of this compensation area is not proposed to change as woodlark and nightjar are both known to forage within short grass areas. However, the adjacent enhancement works will open up the woodland, providing increased connectivity between existing open heathland habitat and the compensation area. NE agreed that these compensation areas are appropriate, and they are satisfied with the proposals. <p>The SPA enhancement areas were discussed, and MT stated that it was essential (under the Briels ruling) that the HRA document needs to be clear that the enhancement areas (improving the biological value of land beyond what normal planned management would achieve on land areas within the SPA) will contribute to the compensation package and these works are not for 'mitigation' (as any mitigation will have already been taken into account in the Appropriate Assessment). PW explained the proposals for the different SPA enhancement areas, the total area of which adds up to 3:1 of the combined permanent and temporary land take.</p> <p>The enhancement areas will consist of a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas of total clearance (where only mature trees and/or trees with potential bat features will be retained) to encourage heathland regeneration and provide open habitats for SPA qualifying species, and; • areas of thinning, where the woodlands will be thinned by up to 80% (focusing on young silver birch trees and Scots pines), to encourage increased woodland diversity and provide more open habitats. This thinning will include widening existing rides and increasing the size of existing open patches within woodlands. <p>These enhancement works will increase the diversity of the retained woodland within the SPA, increasing the invertebrate resource that it supports, as well as increasing the areas of open heathland habitat, enabling the populations of SPA qualifying species within the SPA to increase.</p> <p>MT confirmed that physical compensation areas outside the SPA should be set up prior to construction of the highways works, but enhancement works within the SPA could be staged and could take place after construction if required – improvements to biological value can be delivered once the Scheme is live if appropriate (PW pointed out that clearance adjacent to a construction area could potential encourage woodlarks to use habitat that will be disturbed by construction works).</p>		
	<p>Bolder Mere</p> <p>The mitigation measures at Bolder Mere were discussed. These measures focus on marginal habitat improvement rather than replacing the lost volume of water as a result of the Scheme.</p>		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>GS questioned if the loss of volume water within a WFD waterbody was acceptable. PW agreed to discuss with the water team.</p> <p>Post Meeting Update: A response has now been received by [REDACTED] 'We have talked through lake volume with various people in the EA. Volume is not a criterion used to measure water body health by the WFD. Rather, we need to demonstrate whether loss of volume will cause failure against any of the biological, ecological or chemical criteria. The EA have asked us to do this for Phosphorous; we have done so and demonstrated no deterioration. In summary, we have agreed with the competent authority that loss of volume should not be an issue to WFD compliance.'</p>		
	<p>Green bridge NW confirmed that a green element to the Cockcrow Bridge is included in the Scheme design, and that a feasibility study is underway to determine the potential design and cost implications of incorporating a green bridge here and at potentially at Clearmount bridge.</p>		
	<p>HRA update PW provided an update on the Appropriate Assessment, confirming that it is currently considered that the only adverse effect that will not be ruled out will be the loss of SPA land reducing the amount of habitat contributing to the fabric of the SPA, and potentially contributing to the invertebrate resource for SPA qualifying species (however, it was acknowledged that the amount of available heathland habitat is likely to be the limiting factor for the number of SPA qualifying species breeding territories within the site, rather than the invertebrate food resource).</p> <p>MT advised that the title of update on the Appropriate Assessment, confirming that it is currently considered that the only adverse effect that will not be ruled out will be the loss of SPA land reducing the amount of habitat contributing to the fabric of the SPA, and potentially contributing to the invertebrate resource for SPA qualifying species (however, it was acknowledged that the amount of available heathland habitat is likely to be the limiting factor for the number of SPA qualifying species breeding territories within the site, rather than the invertebrate food resource).</p> <p>MT and GS agreed that due to the access and parking availability not changing for the SPA as a result of the Scheme, the Scheme will not lead to increased visitors, and indeed the provision of new compensation, a new bridge across the M25 and improved NMU routes may increase the options for users and draw users away from the SPA.</p> <p>GS queried if a green bridge may attract more users to Wisley Common, but it was agreed that the provision of a new bridge across the M25 leading to new compensation areas, plus improved paths, may take the pressure off the SPA, and any users that choose to use the green bridge from Ockham Common car park to visit Wisley Common will have chosen this area instead of Ockham Common, reducing visitor pressure in Ockham Common, where the majority of the SPA qualifying species occur.</p> <p>PW explained that air quality models are depicting increases of greater than 1% of the critical load for heathland being confined to the first 10 m of the road within the SPA, and even reducing in some locations. Therefore, adverse effects on the SPA as a</p>		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>result of emissions increases has been ruled out. This was agreed by all.</p> <p>The HRA clearly states that it incorporates an Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>PW requested advice on the 'In Combination assessment' section of the Appropriate Assessment. This is because there are several SSSI components of the SPA.</p> <p>MT advised that as the predicted adverse effects are confined to the Ockham and Wisley Commons SSSI, and that the scheme will not have any significant air quality impacts on the SPA (all increases over 1% of critical load are within 10 m of the road or less), will not increase user pressure, nor affect the hydrology of other component SSSIs, then Atkins should focus the In Combination assessment on Local Plans for boroughs within 10 km of the Scheme.</p>		
	<p>Species licences</p> <p>PW discussed protected species licences with RG. PW explained that the licences will be restricted to bat licences for loss of bat roosts in trees, and San Domenico compound, and badger licence for a sett closure.</p> <p>The San Domenico site was discussed as the building is known to support maternity roost of brown long eared bats and common pipistrelles. This building will need to be demolished or significantly renovated in order for the site to be used as a compound. Access has not yet been achieved and the most recent data available is from 2017. RG confirmed that as the data proves a roost is present, then as long as the conditions on site haven't significantly changed, then the licence application would take into account the loss of maternity roosts and the data should be fine. RG confirmed that more recent data would be necessary if Highways England were aiming to demonstrate a building did not support roosting bats. The proposed mitigation tower was discussed, and it was agreed that any mitigation tower would need to be protected from disturbance (e.g. by a buffer between the compound and the mitigation tower, screening such as hedge and tree planting, and directional lighting).</p> <p>RG confirmed that Atkins should keep NE informed on how the licences are progressing. With enough notice, they should be able to turn around a review of Highways England's draft licences within a couple of days of receipt (under the DAS). This would be followed up by a Letter of No Impediment (LONI) once any substantive comments have been resolved.</p> <p>GS has since confirmed that in order for NE to produce a LONI, the draft licences will need to provide a clear description of the location of protected species, the condition/suitability of the supporting habitat and the proposed basic safeguards and precautionary procedures in order to minimise the risk of disturbance or habitat loss/degradation.</p>		

Project:	M25 J10/A3 Wisley Interchange Improvement		
Subject:	Catch up meeting with Surrey Wildlife Trust		
Date and time:	16 October 2018	Meeting no:	
Meeting place:	SWT Office, Wisley	Minutes by:	██████████
Present:	██████████	Representing:	Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) Atkins Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1.0	<p>Overview of final Scheme</p> <p>NW gave a recap on the previous design fix (DF2), and how the cost of the Scheme and the consultation feedback has led to the final design fix (DF3).</p> <p>NW ran through the DF3 Scheme, explaining the key changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reroute of the gas main and NMU route to the western most side of the A3, avoiding Bolder Mere. The amendment of the residential access route at Painshill to reduce the impact on Painshill Park and also the ancient woodland at Heyswood. The removal of bridges at the northern most and southern most extent of the M25 from the Scheme (these were included in DF2) 		
2.0	<p>Compensation package</p> <p>NW showed the common land replacement areas at Park Barn Farm, Chatley Wood, and along Old Lane, with a description of the proposed habitat enhancement proposals for these locations. The proposals were generally met favourably. However, JA commented that the change at Chatley Wood (i.e. the inclusion of new areas of woodland instead of taking all of Mr Rangers' best field) may not lend itself to being used by the public in its current state.</p> <p>It was discussed that the addition of a new bridge across the M25, it may encourage recreational users to the new replacement areas, plus there are opportunities for a circular route that incorporates the existing bridge at Hatchford Wood.</p> <p>Also discussed was a potential option for increasing the attractiveness of the compensation woodland for walkers with the provision of a signed trail leading to a view point over the valley. NW discussed potential improvements for these areas, including planting wooded areas, and managing existing woodland areas for improvement (such as felling Scots pine plantations and planting diverse deciduous woodland, and tackling dense rhododendron understoreys within existing woodland to allow a more diverse understory to develop.</p> <p>The SPA compensation areas were discussed. The total area of these compensation areas will</p>		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>equal the permanent land take within the SPA. The proposed habitat creation at these compensation areas was described by PW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elm corner – an additional area of woodland will be added to the SPA. This will undergo some thinning, in combination with the adjacent enhancement area, to allow a more diverse and open woodland. • Old Lane – two open grass fields will be designated as compensation areas. These currently appear to undergo occasional grazing and are heavily dominated by ruderal vegetation. It is proposed that these areas would be planted with a mixture of scrub and woodland to increase their diversity, and contribute invertebrate resource to the SPA. (see JA response below) • Wisley – an area of grazed grassland to the south of the M25, near Buxton Wood is proposed for a compensation area. The size of this area will be determined by the final permanent and take figure. The usage of this compensation area is not proposed to change as woodlark and nightjar are both known to forage within short grass areas. However, the adjacent enhancement works will open up the woodland, providing increased connectivity between existing open heathland habitat and the compensation area. <p>JA explained that the fields at Old Lane are currently under Countryside Stewardship, and have diversified florally over the last 10 years, providing a nectar source for invertebrates at times of the year when the heathland is devoid of flowering plants. A possible option of planting up the smaller field with scrub and trees, whilst planting the larger field with a low density of trees to create wood pasture and continuing to graze the grass understory was discussed. This needs to be considered further.</p> <p>For the Wisley compensation area, JA explained that the boundary between the compensation land and the RHS Wisley land will need to be clearly marked out (even though it will effectively still be a single field). The option of planting a fenced hedge (with an open gap to allow free movement of cattle) was discussed and agreed as an appropriate option that would benefit the invertebrate resource of the wider site.</p> <p>PW explained the proposals for the different SPA enhancement areas, the total area of which adds up to 3:1 of the combined permanent and temporary land take.</p> <p>The enhancement areas will consist of a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas of total clearance (where only mature trees and/or trees with potential bat features will be retained) to encourage heathland 		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>regeneration and provide open habitats for SPA qualifying species, and;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas of thinning, where the woodlands will be thinned by up to 80% (focusing on young silver birch trees and Scots pines), to encourage increased woodland diversity and provide more open habitats. This thinning will include widening existing rides and increasing the size of existing open patches within woodlands. <p>These enhancement works will increase the diversity of the retained woodland within the SPA, increasing the invertebrate resource that it supports, as well as increasing the areas of open heathland habitat, enabling the populations of SPA qualifying species within the SPA to increase.</p> <p>JA emphasised that the enhancement area in Ockham Common should preferably consist of a large proportion of clear fell, in order to provide a large heathland area connected to the existing open heathland, and leading to the green bridge. JA also commented that the presence of churring male nightjars was not necessarily a sign of breeding success (for example, human disturbance could lead to failure). Therefore, the enhancement areas should focus on creating a significant area of heath and prioritising the areas away from immediately adjacent to the car parks. It was agreed that these proposals will be discussed with the Forestry Commission to determine if they are acceptable.</p> <p>JA asked if the DCO process will require a felling licence for the areas of woodland clearance. This will be discussed with the Forestry Commission on the 29th October.</p> <p>JA also explained that when clearing areas for heathland restoration, it will be necessary to scrape off the layer of needle mulch in order to allow the heather seed to regrow. This needle mulch would need to be removed from site, or banded.</p>		

Project:	M25 J10/A3 Wisley Interchange Improvements		
Subject:	Catch up meeting with Forestry Commission		
Date and time:	29 October 2018	Meeting no:	
Meeting place:	Forestry Commission office, Alice Holt Forest	Minutes by:	██████████
Present:	████████████████████	Representing:	Forestry Commission (FC) Atkins Atkins Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1.0	<p>Overview of final Scheme</p> <p>NW and AS gave a recap on the previous design fix (DF2 – used at the public consultation), and how the cost of the Scheme and the consultation feedback has led to the final design fix (DF3).</p> <p>NW ran through the DF3 Scheme, explaining the key changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reroute of the gas main and NMU route to the western most side of the A3, avoiding Bolder Mere. • The amendment of the residential access route at Painshill to reduce the impact on Painshill Park and also the ancient woodland at Heyswood. • The removal of bridges at the northern most and southern most extent of the M25 from the Scheme (these were included in DF2). This has removed the ancient woodland at Hatchford Wood from the Scheme footprint. 		
2.0	<p>Compensation package</p> <p>NW showed the common land replacement areas at Park Barn Farm, Chatley Wood, and along Old Lane, with a description of the habitat enhancement that will also be provided at these locations.</p> <p>MW asked about ratios for replacement of lost woodland. PW explained that rather than focus on areas of woodland, we are aiming for a bespoke package that includes factors such as improving existing areas of woodland and creating new wooded links between existing areas of woodland at Park Barn Farm. However, the latest estimates predict approximately 34 ha of woodland loss to the engineering works (i.e. excluding the SPA enhancement described below) and 45 ha of woodland replanting (i.e. replanting woodland in the temporary land take areas) and new planting.</p> <p>NW discussed potential improvements for these areas, including planting wooded areas, and managing existing woodland areas for improvement (such as felling Scots pine plantations and planting diverse deciduous woodland, and tackling dense rhododendron understoreys within existing woodland to allow a more diverse understory to develop.</p> <p>The SPA compensation land was discussed. The total area of compensation land will equal the permanent land take within the SPA. The proposed habitat creation in the compensation land was described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elm corner – an additional area of woodland will be added to the SPA. This will undergo some thinning, in combination with the similar woodland in the adjacent enhancement area, to allow a more diverse and open woodland. • Old Lane – two open grass fields will be added to the SPA. These currently appear to undergo occasional grazing and are heavily dominated by ruderal vegetation. It is proposed 		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>that these areas would be planted with some trees and scrub to form wood pasture and increase their diversity and contribute invertebrate resource to the SPA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisley – an area of grazed grassland to the south of the M25, including a small remnant of Buxton Wood, will be added to the SPA. The grazing of this compensation area is not proposed to change greatly, as woodlark and nightjar are both known to forage within short grass areas. However, the adjacent enhancement works will open up the woodland, providing increased connectivity between existing open heathland habitat and the compensation land. The boundary will also be marked with a new hedge, increasing the invertebrate resource at this location and providing increased habitat connectivity between the remaining woodlands. <p>NW explained that in addition to the woodland loss as part of the Scheme, we are proposing approximately 45 ha of enhancement works within the SPA, of which, approximately 25 ha will be clearance for heathland restoration and approximately 20 ha will be thinning to allow a more diverse woodland to establish.</p> <p>PW explained the proposals for the different SPA enhancement areas, the total area of which provides the 3:1 ratio to the combined permanent and temporary land take from the SPA.</p> <p>The enhancement areas will be a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas of total clearance (where only mature trees and/or trees with potential bat features will be retained) to encourage heathland regeneration and provide open habitats for SPA qualifying species, and; • areas of thinning, where the woodlands will be thinned by up to 80% (focusing on young silver birch trees and Scots pines), to encourage increased woodland diversity and provide more open habitats. <p>This thinning will include widening existing rides and increasing the size of existing open patches within woodlands. These enhancement works will increase the diversity of the retained woodland within the SPA, increasing the invertebrate resource that it supports, as well as increasing the areas of open heathland habitat, enabling the populations of SPA qualifying species within the SPA to increase.</p> <p>MW explained that the thinning works to allow a more diverse woodland to establish, including the provision of open glades, rides, etc, would fall under normal woodland management and would not count as woodland loss.</p> <p>MW reiterated that we should highlight and emphasise the intention for the proposed thinning works at Elm Corner to allow understory growth, so that the local residents are not concerned that it will increase their visual exposure to the A3.</p> <p>MW explained that it is a little unclear whether the proposed clearance of the woodland within the SPA to enable heathland regeneration would be covered under the FC's Open Habitats policy, as there is a clear benefit to the heathland for which the SPA/SSSI is designated, or whether it would count as net woodland loss as part of a development. Action: MW to enquire within FC whether this proposed enhancement works will fall under the Open Habitats policy, and not count as woodland loss.</p> <p>MW explained that, because this proposed woodland clearance is within the DCO boundary, it should be covered in</p>	<p>Not confirmed – ASAP if possible.</p>	<p>MW</p>

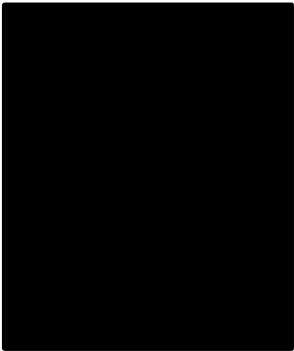
ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>the main Environmental Statement (ES) and will not require its own standalone ES. MW also explained that the ES needs to lay out the story clearly, explaining how the woodland clearance will benefit the site: i.e. how a diverse heathland will be more beneficial to the invertebrate resource and the qualifying SPA species than the existing Scots pine dominated mixed woodland.</p> <p>MW also explained that a long-term management plan should be produced and that this should highlight how the management retained woodland will complement the open areas of habitat. MW also explained that a rotational management of some of the cleared areas, allowing some woodland regrowth in certain sections, should still count as woodland rather than woodland loss. PW explained that this rotational management is essential to enable all 3 qualifying species to thrive (for example, woodlark require very short, recently cleared areas, whereas nightjars prefer forest areas with some regrowth up to 10 years in age).</p> <p>NW asked about whether we would require a felling licence for the enhancement works. MW confirmed that as the enhancement works would fall under the DCO, then a felling licence would not be necessary.</p>		
	<p>Outline CEMP</p> <p>It was agreed that the management plan will need to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rotational management of the cleared enhancement areas, to allow some regrowth • a notional programme for the enhancement works i.e. make it clear when each area will be cleared or thinned. The spreading out of these works may help with public perception. • Thinning – explain how this will allow an understory to develop in some areas, as well as providing some open areas, such as heathland rides. <p>MW proposed that we may wish to review the enhancement areas and include some roadside sections, as this could enhance their stability and visual screening properties.</p>		

Project:	M25 J10/A3 Wisley Interchange Improvement		
Subject:	Catch up meeting with RSPB		
Date and time:	05 December 2018	Meeting no:	
Meeting place:	RSPB office, London	Minutes by:	██████████
Present:	██████████	Representing:	RSPB RSPB Atkins Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1.0	<p>Overview of the HRA to date</p> <p>PW gave a recap of the HRA Screening report, explaining that it has been updated since the RSPB last commented on it, due to the recent People Over Wind ruling (which requires mitigation to be removed from the screening process). It was agreed that the RSPB would like to review the changes. PW will highlight any relevant sections to enable a review of the changes.</p> <p>PW gave a brief overview of the main HRA document. This included an overview of the Appropriate Assessment and its findings.</p> <p>PW explained that the only adverse effect that will not be ruled out will be the loss of SPA land reducing the amount of habitat contributing to the fabric of the SPA, and potentially contributing to the invertebrate resource for SPA qualifying species (however, it was acknowledged that the number of qualifying features is unlikely to reduce as a result of this land take as all heathland areas are being avoided).</p> <p>PW also explained that due to the access and parking availability not changing for the SPA as a result of the Scheme, the Scheme will not lead to increased visitors, and indeed the provision of new compensation, a new bridge across the M25 and improved NMU routes may increase the options for users and draw users away from the SPA.</p> <p>The consideration of alternative solutions and IROPI were discussed. JD added that the IROPI should include the health and safety aspect (i.e. the high level of accidents associated with J10 in its current state) and NW confirmed that this is included in the IROPI section. It was agreed that the RSPB will review the document and provide comments.</p> <p>PW discussed the in combination assessment within the HRA, and explained that Natural England have advised that the HRA focuses on the local planning HRAs for local authorities within 10 km of the Ockham and Wisley Commons SSSI component of the SPA. PW pointed out that the RSPB had previously requested that the Wisley Airfield development was included in the in combination assessment, but that this project has been refused planning permission and is covered under the Guildford local planning HRA. JD said that the RSPB would like to see reference to the Wisley Airfield development, even if it is just to acknowledge that it is covered within the Guildford local planning HRA.</p>	<p>To be issued after current round of reviews</p> <p>To be issued after current round of reviews</p>	<p>PW</p> <p>PW</p>
2.0	<p>Compensation package</p> <p>PW gave an overview of the compensation package. The SPA compensation package contains two elements: physically extending the SPA by adding land currently outside the SPA (termed SPA compensation land), and additional compensation by enhancement works to improve the biological value of the land within the SPA (termed SPA enhancement</p>		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>areas), so that the carrying capacity for qualifying features is increased.</p> <p>The SPA compensation land parcels were discussed. The total area of these compensation areas will equal the permanent land take within the SPA. The proposed habitat creation at these compensation areas was described by PW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elm Corner SPA compensation land– an additional area of woodland will be added to the SPA. This will undergo some thinning, in combination with the adjacent enhancement area, to allow a more diverse and open woodland. • Old Lane SPA compensation land – two open grass fields will be designated as compensation areas. These currently undergo occasion grazing and are under countryside stewardship to improve their floral diversity. It is proposed that these areas would be planted with a low density of trees to increase their diversity, and contribute invertebrate resource to the SPA, whilst continuing to provide a grazing resource. • Wisley SPA compensation land – an area of grazed grassland to the south of the M25, near Buxton Wood is proposed as compensation land. The size of this area will be determined by the final permanent and take figure. It is proposed that these areas would be planted with a low density of trees to increase their diversity, and contribute invertebrate resource to the SPA, whilst continuing to provide a grazing resource. In addition, the adjacent enhancement works will open up the woodland, providing increased connectivity between existing open heathland habitat and the compensation area. <p>PW explained the proposals for the different SPA enhancement areas, the total area of which will add up to 3:1 of the combined permanent and temporary land take, once numbers have been finalised.</p> <p>The enhancement areas will consist of a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas of total clearance (where only mature trees and/or trees with potential bat features will be retained) to encourage heathland regeneration and provide open habitats for SPA qualifying species, and; • areas of thinning, where the woodlands will be thinned by up to 80% (focusing on young silver birch trees and Scots pines), to encourage increased woodland diversity and provide more open habitats. This thinning will include widening existing rides and increasing the size of existing open patches within woodlands. <p>These enhancement works will increase the diversity of the retained woodland within the SPA, increasing the invertebrate resource that it supports, as well as increasing the areas of open heathland habitat, enabling the populations of SPA qualifying species within the SPA to increase.</p> <p>JD and TL confirmed that the proposed compensation package sounds acceptable, but that they will require a visual representation and discussion with their wider team before providing final comment.</p> <p>PW confirmed that figures will be provided with the HRA documents.</p>	<p>To be issued after current round of reviews</p>	<p>PW</p>

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>The issue of woodland clearance as part of the enhancement works to allow heathland regeneration was discussed, with reference to the requirement for no net loss of woodland and the Forestry Commission's Open Habitats Policy. JD confirmed they had some experience of woodland clearance for heathland restoration and would provide some examples.</p>	ASAP	JD
3.0	<p>Common land replacement areas</p> <p>NW described the common land replacement areas at Park Barn Farm and Chatley Wood, explaining their benefit to the SSSI and wider landscape.</p> <p>The proposals were met favourably, and it was acknowledged that the provision of a surfaced NMU route and new access bridge across the M25 between Ockham Common and the Chatley Wood area may draw some of the recreational walkers away from the SPA.</p> <p>NW and PW discussed potential improvements for these areas, including planting wooded areas, and managing existing woodland areas for improvement (such as felling Scots pine plantations and planting diverse deciduous woodland, and tackling dense rhododendron understoreys within existing woodland to allow a more diverse understory to develop).</p> <p>The mitigation measures at Bolder Mere were also briefly discussed. It was explained that mitigation measures will focus on marginal habitat improvement and should contribute to an improvement in the invertebrate resource within the SPA /SSSI.</p>		

Project:	M25 J10/A3 WISLEY INTERCHANGE		
Subject:	SPA COMPENSATION PACKAGE MEETING		
Date and time:	30 Jan 2019 – 15:30	Meeting no:	x
Meeting place:	PAINSHILL PARK	Minutes by:	
Present:		Representing:	NATURAL ENGLAND NATURAL ENGLAND FORESTRY COMMISSION Error! No document variable supplied. RSPB RSPB RSPB SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST ATKINS ATKINS ATKINS

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
1	The aim of this meeting was to visit all of the SPA compensation package areas and agree on the proposed management measures for each area. The broad principles i.e. complete clearance of some enhancement areas for heathland restoration and thinning of other woodland areas for the enhancement of the biodiversity of woodland (both in terms of structure and species richness) has already been agreed and documented in previous meetings. No concerns over these previously agreed proposals were raised by any attendees during the meeting.	N/A	N/A
2	<p>One of the temporary land take areas (on Wisley Common) was visited by the group. The proposed replanting was discussed, and it was agreed that this should consist of dense shrubs, including some evergreen species, with some larger trees planted next to the retained woodland area to provide a graded edge. The intention will be to provide dense visual cover (year-round) that can be managed and will also provide a woodland edge to protect the retained woodland belt.</p> <p>The following points were raised for the reinstatement of temporary land take areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JA explained that the replanting areas would be best off being managed by contractors with machinery, cutting different sections in rotation. This will have cost implications and these need to be agreed and secured. This will need to be captured in the management plan. Atkins will need to work with SWT and HE to identify costs and agree timescales. • In some locations, the temporary land take area is bound by dense birch (e.g. in the NW quadrant surrounding J10). In these locations, natural regeneration of the 	N/A	JA, Atkins (V. Gilbey) and HE to work together

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>temporary land take area may be appropriate, rather than replanting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was also agreed that there should be some bare scrapes and mounds to provide micro habitats for invertebrates. <p><u>Attenuation ponds</u></p> <p>NW confirmed that designs are being finalised. However, the attenuation ponds shown on the plans are the current proposals at DF3.0.</p> <p>It was agreed that at detailed design it should be investigated whether these can be designed as biodiversity enhancement features (e.g. reed bed planting to benefit dragonflies, a feature of the Ockham and Wisley Commons SSSI). GS confirmed that the Newbury bypass scheme had attenuation ponds designed as biodiversity enhancement features.</p>		<p>Feedback: GS has confirmed that he does not have any detailed information on Newbury. However, there are many online examples of constructed wetlands for road schemes.</p>
3	<p>The following general principles for the enhancement areas were agreed:</p> <p><u>Clearance for heathland restoration</u></p> <p>The process for areas of clearance for heathland restoration, some trees will be retained. These will be a mixture of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veteran trees and trees with veteran features Trees with potential bat roost features 'Granny trees' – these were discussed, and it was agreed there is not an official definition. RP and JA agreed to try and help define what a granny tree is for the management plan. <p>This will be classed as clear felling with the retention of some trees.</p> <p><u>Thinning of woodland areas</u></p> <p>The thinning of woodland areas was discussed, and RP suggested it should be divided into two types of thinning:</p> <p>Regeneration thinning: this is the selective felling of parts of a woodland area (retaining all veteran trees or trees with veteran features, trees with bat roost potential and granny trees). This allows regeneration growth in cleared areas, providing a range of age classes and adding resilience to the woodland. This will include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'punching holes' into the woodland (some of which will be managed to remain open and some will be allowed to regrow with more diverse woodland, both in age and species diversity); increasing the size of existing open areas; 		<p>JA, RP and Atkins (V. Gilbey)</p>

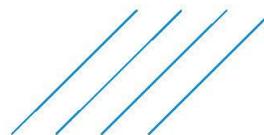
ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> creating and widening existing glades (some of which may be planted at the edges to provide a shrubby woodland edge habitat, some will be managed as heathland habitat); selective fell of some trees and groups of trees, to allow retained trees to flourish, and encourage a more diverse species assemblage to regrow. <p>Standard thinning: This is a more typical selective thinning, where the number of trees within a woodland is reduced, opening the canopy and allowing the remaining trees to fill it (retaining all veteran trees or trees with veteran features, trees with bat roost potential and granny trees), allowing the retained trees to flourish and encouraging a more diverse species assemblage to return. This may include some selective planting, where necessary, to increase the species diversity.</p>		
4	<p>The following section is a description of what was agreed for the SPA compensation land areas:</p> <p><u>C1 - Old Lane SPA compensation land</u></p> <p>This land area consists of two fields:</p> <p>Field 1: This is the larger of the two fields. This field will continue to be grazed, but trees will be planted in order to increase the invertebrate abundance of this field. This conversion to wood pasture will ensure that the florally diverse grass understory will be retained (providing a nectar resource), but will also enhance the invertebrate assemblage that the field supports by providing 20% canopy cover (based on the coverage of the canopy once the trees have reached maturity). Benefits over the existing field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The increase of trees within the field will increase the invertebrate resource that the field contributes to the SPA; The open nature of the wood pasture will ensure that nightjars (and possibly woodlarks) will be able to continue foraging within the field (should they currently do so), but also that the likelihood that they will use the field for foraging may increase as there will be a greater invertebrate resource within the field. <p>Field 2: This field will be planted with a scrub edge, with flower-rich species such as hawthorn and blackthorn. This will provide a woodland edge for the surrounding mature woodland, and will provide an important invertebrate resource for the SPA. This scrub will be managed by SWT. The majority of the field will be retained as grazed grass. The combination of a grazed field with a scrubby woodland edge will enhance the invertebrate resource of the field and therefore its invertebrate resource contribution to the SPA,</p>	N/A	N/A

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>and will also enhance the foraging opportunities for nightjars (known to forage within grazed fields, and also woodland edges) and possibly woodlarks (known to forage in grass areas).</p> <p><u>C2 - Elm Corner SPA compensation land</u> This area of woodland will be managed in a similar way to the adjacent Elm Lane SPA enhancement area. This will be managed with regeneration thinning methods, but may involve additional planting (such as holly), to retain a year-round visual screen from the A3 for the houses along Elm Lane.</p> <p><u>C3 - Wisley SPA compensation land</u> This grass field will continue to be grazed, but additional trees will be planted in order to increase the invertebrate abundance of this field. This conversion to wood pasture will ensure that the grass understory will be retained (providing a nectar resource), but will also enhance the invertebrate assemblage that the field supports by providing 20% canopy cover (based on the coverage of the canopy once the trees have reached maturity). Benefits over the existing field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increase of trees within the field will increase the invertebrate resource that the field contributes to the SPA; • The open nature of the wood pasture will ensure that nightjars (and possibly woodlarks) will be able to continue foraging within the field (should they currently do so), but also that the likelihood that they will use the field for foraging may increase as there will be a greater invertebrate resource within the field and an enhanced linkage to the existing open habitats of the SPA due to the opening up of a glade within the Pond Farm west SPA enhancement area. <p>It was discussed and agreed by all parties that, should the amount of compensation land need to be increased, it would be appropriate to increase the size of the Wisley SPA compensation land to include the whole of this field (see proposed red line on attached drawing).</p> <p>UPDATE 07/02/19 – As discussed at the meeting, we have now confirmed that we will be increasing the size of the Wisley SPA compensation land to include the whole of this field. This will provide approximately 5 ha of additional compensation land.</p> <p>It is proposed to use this whole field and the large field within the Old Lane SPA Compensation Land, but remove the small field within the Old Lane SPA Compensation Land and the Elm Corner SPA Compensation Land from the SPA compensation package.</p>		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>It is considered that the proposed compensation land areas at Wisley SPA compensation land (C3 on the map) and Old Lane SPA compensation land (C1 field 1) will provide greatest value to the SPA as they are immediately adjacent to open heathland areas, and will benefit from wood pasture planting whilst maintaining open grazed grass for foraging nightjars and woodlarks.</p>		
5	<p>The following section is a description of what was agreed for the SPA enhancement areas:</p> <p><u>E1 - Cockcrow Hill SPA enhancement area</u> This area will be cleared to allow heathland regeneration. This will link the existing heathland by Pond Farm with Cockcrow bridge.</p> <p><u>E2 - Ockham Common / Sand Hill SPA enhancement area</u> This consists of an area of clearance for heathland (which will increase the continuous area of heathland on Ockham Common, whilst also providing a link with Cockcrow bridge) and an area of woodland thinning. The following key points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The edge between the cleared area and the thinned woodland should be a 'wavy edge' rather than a 'straight edge'. This was recommended by MC, because nightjars regularly utilise woodland edges for foraging, and the wavy edge would not only increase the length of available foraging habitat, but will also provide sheltered pockets in differing wind directions; • The area for clearance will include Sand Hill. The sides of this mound will be felled for heathland regeneration, but the top of the mound will be selectively thinned to leave a number of Scots pine trees; • The area of woodland thinning will be regeneration thinning, with the widening of rides, opening of areas of the woodland, and selective felling of the outer edge of the woodland to provide a diverse woodland edge effect for foraging nightjars (as mentioned previously, this edge will also be wavy). <p><u>E3 - Ockham Common / Old Lane SPA enhancement area</u> This consists of an area of clearance for heathland, which will increase the continuous area of heathland on Ockham Common and also an area of woodland thinning adjacent to the car park on Old Lane. The following key points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The edge between the cleared area and the thinned woodland should be a 'wavy edge' rather than a 'straight edge'. This was recommended by MO, because nightjars 	N/A	N/A

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>regularly utilise woodland edges for foraging, and the wavy edge would not only increase the length of available foraging habitat, but will also provide sheltered pockets in differing wind directions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area of woodland thinning will be regeneration thinning, with the widening of rides, opening of areas of the woodland, and selective felling of the outer edge of the woodland to provide a diverse woodland edge effect for foraging nightjars (as mentioned previously, this edge will also be wavy). <p><u>E4 - Elm Lane SPA enhancement area</u> This will mainly consist of thinning, with a belt of woodland to be cleared along the southern edge of Bolder Mere.</p> <p>The area of clearance adjacent to Bolder Mere will reduce the shading of the lake edge, and will enhance the invertebrate resource that the lake provides to the wider SPA.</p> <p>The remainder of the woodland will undergo standard thinning with some regeneration thinning to promote a varied age structure. The primary objective of this thinning will be to increase the diversity of the woodland, and therefore its invertebrate abundance. This will also include some planting, potentially with evergreen species such as holly, to provide a visual screen between the A3 and the housing properties along Elm Lane. The management will also include the removal areas of rhododendron.</p> <p><u>E5 - Wisley Common SPA enhancement area</u> A portion of this area has been recently thinned as part of the ongoing management of the woodland. It is proposed that this area will be felled to allow heathland regeneration, to increase the area of continuous heathland habitat on Wisley Common.</p> <p><u>E6 – Hut Hill South SPA enhancement area</u> This area was not included in the site visit. This consists of a small area of birch regrowth that will be clear felled to increase the area of open heathland habitat in this location.</p> <p><u>E7 - Pond Farm south SPA enhancement area</u> This consists of two pockets of woodland either side of a path, that separate two open areas of heathland. One section (to the north) consists of mature trees such as oaks. Selective thinning of some of the younger tree specimens will enhance the diversity of this woodland area. The other section (to the south) contains dense birch growth. This area will be significantly cleared by up to 80%, including widening the existing path to provide an open linkage between the two areas of heathland.</p>		

ITEM	DESCRIPTION & ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p><u>E8 - Pond Farm west SPA enhancement area</u> This will include some selective thinning, with the creation of an open ride linking the existing heathland area to Wisley SPA compensation land.</p> <p><u>E9 – Proposed new area</u> It was also discussed that it may be necessary to provide an additional enhancement area. This is proposed to be the area of birch woodland adjacent to the Pond Farm west SPA enhancement area. This would consist of selective thinning of birches and the creation of an open ride, providing an open linkage between two open areas of heathland.</p> <p>The process of clearing and thinning the enhancement areas was discussed, and it was agreed that this process should be phased over a number of winters, rather than all be undertaken at the same time. However, it was also agreed that each location should be cleared or thinned in one go, as to minimise the period of disturbance in that location.</p>		



Meeting Notes

Project:	M25 Junction 10/A3 Wisley Interchange Improvement Scheme		
Subject:	Habitat Regulations Assessment Meeting		
Meeting place:	Atkins, Woodcote Grove	Meeting no:	1
Date and time:	1st February 2019 10:00 - 12:00	Minutes by:	[REDACTED]
Present:	[REDACTED]	Representing:	Guildford Borough Council Guildford Borough Council Surrey County Council Surrey County Council Surrey Wildlife Trust Atkins Atkins Atkins Atkins Atkins

1. Introductions

NW said this meeting is informative for wider discussions on land issues, with the replacement/enhancement of common/SPA land being the main issue. There will be another meeting to discuss specialist topics in the coming weeks. DS said SCC have seen some land plans, emerging works and confirmed these will be included in the Book of Reference (BoR).

2. Tenancy Arrangements between SCC and SWT

NW confirmed Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) manage land on behalf of Surrey County Council (SCC). JE mentioned the best people to discuss this arrangement are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. ZC stated SWT are the land manager on behalf of SCC and have an agreement for this, though it will be ending shortly. JE asked what detail NW was looking for as the contract between SWT and SCC is very broad and is in place to ensure the countryside estate is not divided by multiple organisations. ZC said each site has its own tailored management plan.

NW gave a scheme description and explained we are taking SPA and common land as part of the scheme and as such we must re-provide and compensate for this. For SPA land being taken we are compensating at a ratio of 1:1, with enhancement for existing SPA land at a ratio of 3:1. NW pointed out the areas of SPA land we are taking on the scheme map and explained

Next meeting:

Distribution:

Date issued: 04 February 2019

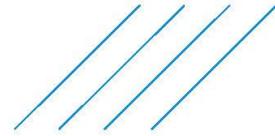
File Ref:

NOTE TO RECIPIENTS:

These meeting notes record SNC-Lavalin understanding of the meeting and intended actions arising therefrom. Your agreement that the notes form a true record of the discussion will be assumed unless adverse comments are received in writing within five days of receipt.



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that enhancement refers to the clearing/thinning of woodland to provide support for SPA land. All these works are part of the scheme, though some will happen over an extended period and thus we need to consider how maintenance will be handled for these long term land changes. Highways England do not want to take on long term maintenance responsibility, so this would be passed to SCC/SWT at some point. DS asked if the environmental management will be a side agreement to the DCO and come with commuted sums. NW said this arrangement will be within the DCO and commuted sums will be paid over an extended period. JE said the operations are fairly straightforward and should be easy to cost as there are standard rates for the desired work.

ACTION – NW to share a proposal with SCC and SWT on this arrangement.

NW said we are likely to ask SWT to manage the thinning works as they have experience. ZC said this sounds reasonable as they want to ensure the works are undertaken appropriately. The works would be phased as some periods of the year are inappropriate for this type of work. JE stated this would be his preferred option.

3. SPA Compensation Land currently in SCC/SWT Ownership

NW stated all SPA acquisition areas are currently in SCC possession. We don't want to take the title for these land parcels just to return them later. AS mentioned the mechanism of permanent acquisition of rights as the works might take longer than the standard construction length.

4. Acquisition and Transfer of SPA compensation/ Third Party

NW said there is one section of SPA compensation land owned by RHS Wisley which is currently shown as temporary possession but may require SWT/SCC management going forward. RHS are relaxed about the ownership of this land and SWT currently graze this area. We may take rights to the land and ask SWT to manage it, or we may acquire the land before handing it over to SCC. This land is not used for overflow parking for RHS Wisley Gardens.

AS explained this land is segregated from RHS' other land holdings due to the development of the M25. If we need to increase the amount of compensation land we provide we will take additional land in this area, which will help with connectivity. JE stated his preferred option is for this to be included in the countryside estate ownership. AS asked if there are any other plots of SCC land, being used for SPA land, that might offer issues from an estate management view? NE said nothing was raised in the meeting on Wednesday.

DK questioned if SPA land next to roads is suitable compensation land. PW explained we are working closely with Natural England, Surrey Wildlife Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds with regards to the HRA assessment. As the land is designated as SPA we must complete a HRA and it was decided the scheme will have an adverse impact on the SPA land. As woodland is decreasing rather than heathland, we do not expect the number of birds to decrease, but the invertebrate resource which the birds rely on may decline. To compensate for this, we are providing a Compensation Package that will consist of SPA compensation land at a ratio of 1:1 for permanent SPA loss, and enhancement areas at a ratio of 3:1 for permanent and temporary SPA loss.

PW described the three compensation land areas. Wisley SPA compensation land is currently grazed by SWT. We are proposing continued grazing with planting (to 20% canopy cover) changing the land to a wooded pasture to improve invertebrate resources, whilst retaining open grazed grassland that may be utilised by foraging nightjars and woodlarks.

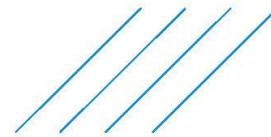
Two fields at Old Lane are proposed for compensation land. The larger field will continue to be grazed, with planting (to 20% canopy cover) changing the land to a wooded pasture. The smaller field will be planted with scrub edges and will continue to be grazed. These measures will increase invertebrate abundance whilst providing foraging opportunities for nightjars and woodlarks.

Elm Lane compensation land is currently wooded, and we propose regeneration thinning to encourage regrowth of a wider variety of species.

PW went on to explain the enhancement areas. The enhancement ratio is 3:1 and equates to ~45ha. The enhancement areas consist of a mixture of complete clearance for heathland regeneration (approximately 25 ha) and woodland thinning (approximately 20 ha).



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The areas of complete clearance (avoiding valuable trees) will lead to the regeneration of approximately 25 ha of heathland and will provide nesting and foraging habitat for all 3 SPA qualifying species. SWT recently performed heathland clearance and saw increased abundance for all 3 species, so we are confident similar works as part of our scheme will have similar impacts.

The other enhancement areas will undergo regeneration/standard thinning, enhancing species diversity to improve invertebrate resources.

Overall, this compensation package will see SPA qualifying species numbers remain constant or increase.

DK mentioned the proposed SPA land impacts onto GBC's strategic site by ~2.5Ha. The plan has not been drawn but hypothetically this could impact 100 homes. There needs to be an awareness that the site is impacted. NW said when we drew the sites we tried to avoid any impacts. We can adjust the sites if necessary, using the Wisley Lane site to retain the 1:1 ratio.

JE spoke about bats and the potential for designated funding around the mausoleum area. NE said we can look at the ice house as potential designated funds and enhancement.

ACTION – JE to put together a proposition for the designated funds around the bats/ice house and send to NW

5. Tree Planting areas in third party ownership

NW said there has been a discussion with the Forestry Commission about woodland thinning and they are content to lose woodland where we have proposed, though there is a no net loss policy for woodland. Part of the scheme includes planting in Highways England's boundary, but calculations show we are short of the no net loss policy. We have spoken to RHS about planting on their land to reach no net loss of woodland, close to the river which is used for grazing. The potential is for 20% cover, which would leave the land available for grazing, however the future maintenance is to be decided upon. ZC questioned who would maintain the land if it is owned by RHS Wisley. AS said this land has fences with gates but it is common land and this planting would have no impact upon the smart motorway project.

ZC spoke about the flood alleviation scheme at Manor Farm, West Byfleet for the River Wey. She said the two schemes should connect to ensure parts of the M25 J10 scheme aren't proposed for the flood alleviation. NE mentioned RHS are also looking at potential wetland areas by the river.

ACTION – ZC to send over a name to contact at the flood alleviation scheme.

6. Acquisition and transfer of replacement/ third party ownership

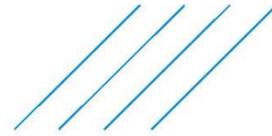
NW said we are taking common land and replacing it at a ratio of ~2.5:1. The replacement land sites identified are equally advantageous: Park Barn Farm, Chatley Farm and land alongside Old Lane. All this land will be acquired from private land owners and vested to SCC. We are trying to make the land contiguous to existing common land, which helps make the land advantageous. JE said each of parcels are large, making them good replacement land. NE said these parcels will also have various footpaths/enhancements through the land to connect them to existing common land. AS said this will greatly improve the current connectivity of the area. DS said a map showing the future proposed status of paths/ bridleways would be helpful. AS produced a map and went through the proposed paths. These maps will appear in the environmental statement.

ACTION – AS to check if we can share this map and then share with meeting attendees.

DS asked about the classification of Elm Lane and the BOAT. AS explained the works are to surface the length of the BOAT, making it suitable for all vehicles. The classification may not need to be upgraded as it may currently be a public road and a BOAT (due to mislabelling on maps). The residents opted for this option, potentially to try and reduce antisocial behaviour. PW said the road will not be widened and thus no land-take is required. AS explained if it is within SPA land and stays as a BOAT then this is fine. PW stated the emissions data shows no change as the road is minor access and the area has no qualifying species. From a HRA perspective this road doesn't cause concern. JE noted this road is close to the proposed enhancement land. PW said this area of enhancement land will remain as woodland but with thinning and it isn't expected to be foraging/supporting habitat.



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DS mentioned the traffic flow increase on Old Lane, which is to be discussed in the next traffic modelling meeting.

ACTION – What is Old Lane showing in terms of flow changes? To be determined prior to the traffic modelling meeting.

DS asked if the green bridge is still proposed. NW stated this is in the scheme and is currently shown with a 10m wide element. Highways England are considering the width of the green element, but this requires a separate discussion.

JE spoke about compensation land. Do the proposals for replacement/enhancement land add up to give additional land to the council? AS yes SCC will have additional land to manage.

7. AOB

DS asked about acquisition and commuted sums. NW said this will be discussed at a further meeting in 2-3 weeks' time.

AS said due to the new Wisley Lane being raised the embankments are included in the highways land rather than common land. DS said there are issues on what SCC will adopt and commuted funds. AS said SCC may own the surface of the road with HE owning the bridge itself. He also confirmed the common land lost due to this road is included in the compensation land package.

Meeting Notes

Project: M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley Interchange Improvement Scheme

Subject: SPA Boundary and buffer Issues

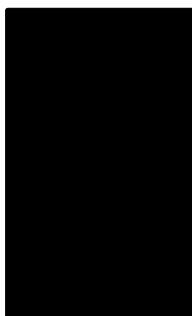
Meeting place: Chinthurst room, Millmead, Guildford

Meeting no: 1

Date and time: 7th February 2019 | 10:00 - 12:00

Minutes by: [REDACTED]

Present:



Representing: Guildford Borough Council
Guildford Borough Council
Guildford Borough Council
Causeway Land Investments
WSP
Savills
Atkins
Atkins
Atkins
Atkins/CJ Associates

1. Safety Moment

This was touched on informally, with a discussion regarding mental health awareness day and its importance in the work environment.

2. Project update and DCO Timescales

MW confirmed to MM that the draft DCO review was submitted in January to PINS, and that comments have been sent back and are being finalised. Once complete the draft will be shared with LAs and MM. MW confirmed new DCO submission date is now April.

3. SPA Boundary change

MM asked about the spreading ground start date being affected and MM said this shouldn't be affected as start date is Sept 2020.

MM asked about the impact on Wisley land diversion works, NW referred to Map and confirmed works will start at the southern bit of A3 first and that the exact land parcels are to be finalised.

MM asked whether works will go through ancient woodland and to clarify if existing gas pipe to be affected.

MW replied that Bridge will be built early in scheme, between gas works and Wisley lane diversion.

CM asked whether residents will have access of Wisley roundabout, NW replied that the residents did not want access

CM asked about limit of land adoption with Surrey County Council

MW replied that a meeting is to be held with SCC regarding adoption sign off. Scheme 5 will be permanently acquired and given to SCC, all of this is detailed in land plans.

NW said there will be an overlap as DCO done over 16-month period

MM stated that WIPL are considering resubmission of their planning docs, so need DCO programme. MM requested key dates for adoption of local plan, subject to PPF, legal rights to build, and that this will happen before DCO.

MW requested MM to provide a timetable of scheme when they have more certainty

MW stated following DCO inspection we will work collaboratively with GBC and WIPL to go through issues, which will feed into two SOCGs (Statement of common ground).

MW said draft SOCGs should be done by April, ready to go out Summer 2019. Due to SCC extensive requirements they will review documents first and then GBC. We are still working on final designs as this causing some delay. A more detailed meeting to be organised regarding design/ land.

MM and RB mentioned wording isn't clear on SPA, NW responded that through discussions with NE (Natural England) and others that compensation SPA replacement will be enhanced as part of package, as 3:1 enhancement, 1:1 for perm land. NW stated that the area of land has been carefully selected and is suitable and 400m buffer zone is not affected. There may be possible overlaps with WIPL's plans and there are 2 options to mitigate this;

- 1) Reduce SPA compensation land
- 2) Consider other area by Buxton Woods (known as Wisley SPA compensation land) and speak with RHS wisely, we can take alternative land if necessary.

4. Guilford Borough local plan

LH stated that their biggest concern is alignment to GBC local plan and quantum of growth

MW commented that we consulted on two design fixes, we are going through comments and will apply to design scheme changes. The next design fix will go into DCO, the next meeting with WIPL we can feedback design changes. No exact date as yet, NW mentioned that HE is going through stage gate sign off on 28th March, so meeting date could be after this.

ACTION: CK to arrange meeting to discuss design changes, modelling, SPA compensation, Bridleway issues, temp/perm land take and Topsoil with WIPL/ GBC tentative date w/c 4th March.

5. Extent of land affected/ buffer issues

PW stated that we have tried to select compensation land parcels that didn't change the 400 buffer impacts to Wisley Airfield, based on the existing shape of the SPA. MM confirmed they wish to have full freedom to put houses anywhere on the Airfield site, so we must not adjust the 400m buffer at all in this location. PW proposed to alter the SPA compensation land by removing Elm Corner, the smaller field of Old Lane and reducing the size of the main field at Old Lane, instead we will expand the area of SPA compensation land at Wisley SPA compensation land. This will provide suitable SPA compensation land, whilst ensuring that we do not affect the 400m buffer at Wisley Airfield.

NW said that land take will be under licence and it will be maintained and put into commitments, it will be required regarding Topsoil.

MM asked about the duration and methodology, adopted SCNI, and that status of SNCI will be needed for DCO. He states that post adoption, the impact will be north of map and need to be hardstanding and allow access. MM confirmed that WIPL have planning consent. NW said that they should put in an enabling works period

There was a discussion on reptiles and how we would store all soil on the open hard standing to avoid affecting the habitat. MM advised Atkins to consider this. It was agreed that we will manage the spoil piles to ensure they do not attract reptiles.

PW asked MM when building starts on site, MM replied timelines are tight, and will be impacted by Suitable alternative natural greenspace (SANG)

PW asked MM if there will be wardens on site and whether they were providing signage, MM confirmed that they were not. However, new NMU routes through the SPA and provision of signage will ensure recreational pressure is dispersed from the most sensitive areas of the SPA. There will be no physical works to SPA and no increasing visitor pressure to the site.

MM stated that the most recent proposal is in the SANG management plan containing all strategies and that the work Atkins are proposing may change visitation behaviours.

PW states that we have discussed with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from Natural England and this is fine.

MM requested draft HRA/NMU Proposals, MW mentioned HE is reluctant to share these currently, but hopefully can be shared in 2 weeks following their review.

MW also stated that modelling presentation slides can be shared following HE sign off, and this can be done hopefully at next meeting in response to MM and EC query.

CM asked about access to WIPL traffic modelling/ SERT, MW will ask HE

MW also commented that HE has now appointed GI contractor which should help with GI data.

ACTION: MW to ask HE if they are happy to share documents and circulate to MM

6. AOB

NW asked GBC to send GI shape file of allocation, MW said that he can forward this to NW.

NW also asked about SANG areas being mounded up, MM mentioned area of SANG is concrete hardstanding but not engineering fill. There is a risk that we can't use all, until we get planning consent on housing development.

ACTION: MW to forward GI shape files to NW

Draft subject to review by Natural England

Meeting Notes

Project:	M25-J10/A3 Wisley Interchange Scheme	
Subject:	Project update (Programme; Draft DCO requirements; Statement of Common Ground)	
Author:	[REDACTED]	
Date:	17/04/2019 2.00-4.00pm	Project No.: <project no>
Attendance	[REDACTED]	Representing: Natural England Highways England Atkins Atkins Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE
1.	<p>Welcome and introductions RH welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were given.</p>	
2.	<p>Project and Programme update JW gave an update on the project, highlighting the statutory consultation which took place February/March 2018 and changes to elements of the scheme that were re-designed during April to August as a result of feedback received. JW added that the changes to the design were moderate and as such a further targeted non-statutory consultation took place in Nov/December 2018. As a result, further revisions to the design were incorporated in March this year and Highways England are currently out for a further round of consultation.</p> <p>JW outlined the DCO programme noting that the target date for DCO submission is 04 June. Following this there will be a 28 day acceptance period followed by a three-month pre-examination period to September which is preparation for the examination itself. The DCO examination will take six months to March 2020 with award expected September 2020.</p> <p>JW referred to Balfour Beatty as being the appointed Regional Delivery Partners for M25 J10 and that work at present is at package as opposed to scheme level (due diligence and cash flow forecast activities). He confirmed that detailed design and planning will take place alongside the DCO process. Balfour Beatty will take over the management of the scheme at some point during Stage 4. JW confirmed that Atkins are the technical consultants that will take forward detailed design.</p> <p>GS asked what input will be needed from Natural England after DCO submission. JW stated that this was unclear at present. PW added that this is referred to in the draft DCO requirements and there will be discussion with NE required. GS stated that as NE have stated they are</p>	

broadly in agreement with everything that Highways England are proposing that therefore there won't be any issues that PINS will need to come to NE for or to resolve.

A discussion was had in relation to the Statements of Common Grounds (SoCGs) that are being put in place with all statutory environmental bodies and the need to record both points of agreement and disagreement/in-discussion. JW agreed that Highways England will need to be clear about what might be expected of stakeholders and when during the DCO process.

Construction preparation will take approximately 4-5 months following DCO. In terms of land to be acquired for the scheme, replacement land acquisition and site compounds will be prioritised. Construction is due to start March 2021 for 2.5 years.

JW referred to Balfour Beatty (appointed Regional Delivery Partner) keen to look at environmental work (tree felling for example outside of bird nesting period) and statutory service diversions (BT e.g.) as part of advanced works (post award of DCO).

JW referred to ground investigation (GI) works which are due to commence this week. Osborne are the appointed contractors. The work includes a drainage and gas survey. Information gathered will feed into the design and planning – some aspects of GI are required during examination, for example in relation to works at Bolder Mere.

JW referred to the Smart Motorway Programme (SMP), another scheme to turn J10 and 16 into a smart motorway. M25 J10 project will be undertaking the works on J10 on behalf of SMP to keep it in one package.

ACTION: RH to send e-copy of programme to NE. PMN: Sent on 31.05.19

3. **Draft DCO Requirements**

GS asked how this fits into the broader DCO document. He confirmed that NE colleagues had some comments. GS confirmed that [REDACTED] was pleased with how the SPA elements had been covered. He added that there will be a need to get started on the compensatory habitat creation before the authorised development starts.

A question was raised in relation to whether there should be a specific reference to net gain for biodiversity. PW commented that ostensibly as a result of the works some of the SPA qualifying species would be improved but that the loss of 02.hectares of ancient woodland and up to 9 veteran trees (minimum 2) and some SPA, meant that the projects position in relation to the definition of 'net gain' could be contentious. When looking at the scheme as a whole due to the irreplaceable habitats, this opens Highways England to challenge. GS advised that he would seek advice from Marc as to how to address the issue. **PMN: NE provided advice and confirmed they are content with the proposed approach to net gain for biodiversity (22.05.19)**

GS referred to point 17 in the draft requirements which states after the completion of the authorised development a scheme of restoration and landscaping will be agreed. GS questioned whether this was how this was normally done in the planning system. PW confirmed that there is a high-level proposal and plan in place and this will be agreed in the detailed design phase. JW referred to a technical note which precedes the management plan of the proposed restoration and landscaping works (planting) and outlines the principles. This is being agreed at present in consultation with Surrey County Council and Surrey Wildlife Trust.

A discussion was had about the land management plan (which will follow on from the technical note). PW confirmed there will be two, one for the SPA and one general plan.

PW referred to the SPA compensation land needing to be in place prior to the start of works and the need to get this on MAGIC. PW to email GS about this to give confidence with regards to the HRA. GS confirmed that there is not the expectation from NE that the habitats will be established, but that the process will be started (i.e. tree planting taking place).

A discussion was had regarding the feasibility of the Cockrow green bridge due to lack of funding. Designated funds have been allocated for the feasibility study and the design and no more funding can be obtained at present. JW referred to the drawings that showed a wide green strip to the east side of the roadway (10 metres) which has been considered inadequate by SWT who are requesting 50 or 25 metres width which would extend into common land and SPA. PINS are aware that proposals are not included in the DCO submission, but Highways England are supportive of a proposal should it be feasible.

ACTION: Natural England [redacted] to advise the project on net biodiversity gain issue. PMN: Completed 22.05.19

ACTION: Highways England to share the land management technical note with Natural England for their review (subject to internal review).

ACTION: PW to email GS regarding SPA compensation land and getting this on MAGIC. PMN: Completed.

4. **Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)**

PW confirmed that comments received from NE and from Highways England do not contradict each other and PW is working to incorporate the comments. PW confirmed that he will send an excel document with the changes incorporated to GS.

ACTION: PW to send summary of response to NE comments on the HRA. PMN: Sent on 10.05.19. NE response received on 16,05.19

PW referred to the point of the Heathrow Expansion. He confirmed that on agreement with the Highways England transport planning group, the Heathrow Expansion has not been included in the forecast model. DfT have not provided any information on what the strategy will be, only that

stating it will not result in any additional traffic demands. GS commented that this is widely seen as an unrealistic expectation.

ACTION: PW to send GS an explanation re the Heathrow Expansion and the rationale for the decision. The response to NE comments on the HRA to include position on Heathrow Expansion.

A discussion was had in relation to IROPI and the unprecedented nature of the project in this respect. GS confirmed that the HRA explains adequately why IROPI has been needed and therefore Highways England should not be concerned. PW confirmed that feedback from Highways England does not change the case for IROPI.

5. **Water Framework Directive Assessment – Bolder Mere mitigation proposals.**

MH outlined what the project is proposing for Bolder Mere in terms of mitigation and what the project is proposing from a water environment perspective for mitigation in the replacement and enhancement areas.

MH stated that he had sent GS an outline of proposed mitigation for Bolder Mere based on the Goldsmith Ecology report re good management practice and confirmed that the preliminary design does include an element to re-direct road runoff that is currently discharging to Bolder Mere via treatment into the ditch downstream. GS confirmed that he was very pleased with this aspect. MH confirmed that the type of treatment couldn't be confirmed at present but would be better understood during detailed design.

MH referred to NE's earlier request to include some rotational management of the Alder, Birch and Willow woodland in the south east shore of Bolder Mere. MH confirmed that this was included in Appendix F of the WFD report as an area marked as 'habitat 10'. MH explained that they had identified the low-lying areas SE of Bolder Mere as areas for rotational management of these species. GS confirmed this was the area he was referring to and reiterated that the management should target reduced shading on the lake shore and encouraging more development of the marsh and mire habitat whilst not destroying another useful habitat (boggy alder woodland). He added that it was about reducing the height of canopy maintaining it on rotation as more of sort of a scrub edge habitat but doing this light touch with a coppicing regime every 10 years or so. MH confirmed that he will check the Management Plan to see if this is included.

MH asked if GS was comfortable with what the project is proposing for Bolder Mere. GS confirmed that yes he agreed the package of mitigation was proportionate to the loss and added that the package will enhance the habitat.

A discussion was had about ephemeral drainage ditches impacted by the scheme (moved or subsumed within the scheme). MH outlined a primary mitigation will be to make the ditches (within the replacement and enhancement areas) as natural as possible when they are relocated dependent on their location. For Chatley Wood Pond the proposals was to excavate the pond so that during wetter periods of the year it will be an open water habitat. GS noted that there seems to be a historical decline in the open water resource on the site of this pond and in the wider area and therefore recreating this wetland interesting and redistributing across the

site is a positive contribution. MH confirmed that this would be looked at in greater detail during detailed design.

ACTION: MH to share text with GS on proposals for drainage ditch mitigation (including sketches).

The item in the SoCG regarding the WFD was discussed (Appendix F outline of proposed mitigation on water environment). GS confirmed that this could be marked as 'agreed'. A discussion was had in relation to the on-going management of land and the need to reduce public access to the lake shore (item on SoCG). It was agreed to add an item on the land management plan technical note to the SoCG for NE to review.

ACTION: Item on SoCG to include reference to technical note for land management. PMN completed.

6. **Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)**

The SoCG was reviewed. Reference was made to historic items in the SoCG that could be deleted now given that NE had given their agreement on the HRA. GS stated that it was a useful way of tracking the discussion and demonstrating how much interaction there had been.

PW referred to the report of consultation that has been produced as evidence of engagement undertaken for PINS.

Points raised: HRA

- Screening (visitor usage patterns). Response agreed. GS referred to RSPB. PW confirmed that this had been discussed with the RSPB and they were satisfied that the project had looked into changes to access and any impacts and that measures taken had reduced the potential for this

The question of a SoCG with the RSPB was discussed and it was thought that this was not required. PW took an action to confirm this with the project. **ACTION: PW to confirm whether a SoCG with RSPB will be required. PMN: A SoCG will be developed with RSPB.**

- Screening (findings) GS suggested more neutral wording. Edit agreed.
- Assessment and Scope (Heathrow Expansion) – to be agreed once PW provides response.

Points raised: Protected Species Licences

Discussion was had regarding Great Crested Newt licences. PW confirmed that this has been ruled out following review. It is considered that this can be done under a Precautionary Method of Working. If something is found, it would be possible to stop works and apply for a licence. GS suggested that some enhancement work could be done around the pond to encourage the newts to stay. PW confirmed that we can do that within the enhancement area but not outside of the RLB.

Points raised: Environmental Statement:

- SSSI and LNR – PW stated that he will send extracts of the ES (evaluation and proposed mitigation and residual impacts) to seek NE agreement on the proposals. These items on the SoCG can then be completed. **ACTION: PW to send extracts of ES**

	<p>chapter re SSSI and LNR. PMN: Completed. Response received on 22.05.19</p> <p>Points raised: Location of construction compounds (additional targeted consultation response): PW stated that the Cockrow compound is for the bridge construction and will be buffered from the heathland to prevent effects on qualifying species. Line items on SoCG to be rationalised into one and to reference general issue raised by NE.</p> <p>Points raised: Ancient woodland loss: Feedback from NE on net gain to inform position on ancient woodland loss. GS stated that this should be referenced and that NE and the project have worked hard to reduce the loss. ACTION: to include reference in the SoCG to efforts to reduce the loss of Ancient Woodland. PMN: Completed.</p>	
7.	<p>Next steps/AOB</p> <p>JW referred to the DCO and uncertainty around whether there will be any additional requirements imposed as a result of the DCO and the need to update the SoCG in light of this.</p> <p>JW referred to land acquisition. JW stated that replacement land and principal site compounds are being prioritised in this respect and discussions have commenced.</p> <p>RH stated that we would be hoping to have a signed copy of the SoCG by 13.05.19.</p> <p>DCO draft requirements. GS confirmed they will respond in writing on their comments.</p>	
8.	<p>Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RH to send e-copy of programme to NE: PMN: Completed. 2. Natural England [REDACTED] to advise the project on net biodiversity gain issue. PMN: Completed. 3. Highways England to share the land management technical note with Natural England for their review (subject to internal review). 4. PW to email GS regarding SPA compensation land and getting this on MAGIC. PMN: Completed. 5. PW to send summary of response to NE comments on the HRA. PMN: Completed. 6. PW to send GS an explanation re the Heathrow Expansion and the rationale for the decision. The response to NE comments on the HRA to include position on Heathrow Expansion. PMN: Completed. 7. MH to share text with GS on proposals for drainage ditch mitigation (including sketches). 8. Atkins to update SoCG and send to NE for review/approval for sign by 13.05.19. PMN: Completed. Sent on 31.05.19 9. PW to confirm whether a SoCG with RSPB will be required. PMN: Completed. 10. PW to send extracts of ES chapter re SSSI and LNR. PMN: Completed. 11. SoCG to include reference in the SoCG to efforts to reduce the loss of Ancient Woodland. PMN: Completed. 12. GS to provide feedback in writing on the draft DCO requirements. PMN: Completed. 	<p>Atkins (RH) NE (MT)</p> <p>Highways England (JW) Atkins (PW) Atkins (PW) Atkins (PW)</p> <p>Atkins (MH)</p> <p>Atkins (RH/PW) Atkins (PW/JW) Atkins (PW) Atkins (PW/RH)</p> <p>NE</p>

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Printed on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources.

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ

Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363

