



Planning Inspectorate case team

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Dear Planning Inspectorate case team

RE: M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange improvement

Planning Inspectorate Reference: TR010030

Registration of Interest by Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England)

Introduction

Historic England is the government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment. It is our duty under the National Heritage Act 1983 (as amended) to secure the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment. Our objective therefore is to ensure that the historic environment generally and, in particular designated heritage assets, is fully taken into account in the determination of this DCO.

The proposal is to improve junction 10 (M25) and widen the A3 which affects a range of designated heritage assets, including listed buildings, scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens. This is chiefly through change within the settings of these heritage assets, but includes some land take in the parks and gardens. There is also potential harm to non-designated archaeological remains.

We have engaged with Highways England to encourage a scheme which avoids or minimises harm to the historic environment whilst also delivering benefits. These discussions are on-going and are referred to in a SOCG. This will need to be amended and updated as the examination proceeds.

Current Position

Painshill Park

This grade I registered park and garden (containing multiple individually listed buildings) is an outstanding example of an 18th century English landscaped pleasure grounds. The Gothic Tower (II* listed) is a round turret-like tower intended as a viewing platform and eye-catcher.





On the northern boundary of the Park some land take is required for new construction. A proposed pedestrian bridge would lie within the setting of the Gothic Tower. Additionally, within the registered Park boundary, a new balancing pond is proposed.

The proposal will impact directly on the Park through the provision of the balancing pond and the removal of some of the land at its northern boundary. There will also be an impact on the contribution that setting makes to the significance of the Park and Tower. Whilst noting that there is already some adverse impact caused to the significance of the Park by the existing A3, there will need to be consideration of how this proposal has a further impact on that significance.

Due to the impacts on the grade I registered park, details of the following will need to be provided: full design of the pedestrian bridge and its associated landscaping, acoustic barriers (including new planting), design and location of lighting columns and signal gantries, design and construction of a new balancing pond within the registered landscape, and restoration of land used as a construction compound. We would wish to see those details and be consulted in their preparation and approval.

Royal Horticultural Society Wisley

This grade II* registered park and garden passed to the Society in 1904 and is a large and diverse site used to show visitors what they might achieve in their own gardens, and as a highly significant research facility.

There is some limited land take within the NE corner of the heritage asset required as part of the proposal, and a new vehicular bridge will be visible from within the Garden. The proposal will therefore impact directly on the designated asset through the removal of some of land to facilitate the works, and will also have an impact on the contribution that setting makes to the significance of this asset. Whilst noting that there is already some adverse impact on the significance of the Park from the existing A3, the further impacts of this proposal will need to be considered.

We would wish to see the details of noise reduction proposals (including new planting) and the design and location of lighting and signal gantries, and be consulted in their preparation and approval.

Prehistoric barrow on Cockcrow Hill

This scheduled monument is a visually impressive earthwork mound, a Bronze Age burial site. We understand that the scheduled area will not be directly affected by proposed works but due to the location of the proposal, there will be an impact through changes to setting of this asset and also possibly through harm to any non-designated archaeological remains associated with the barrow. We would wish to see the details of noise reduction measures (including any new planting or fencing), the design and location of lighting and how other visual impacts will be dealt with, together with proposals for enhanced public access to and interpretation and management of this monument, and be consulted in their preparation and approval.





Other scheduled monuments

The scheduled Roman bathhouse at Chatley Farm and a prehistoric hengiform monument at Red Hill are not directly affected by the proposal, although clarity is required as to the impact that the habitat enhancement works might have. There is some possibility that other non-designated archaeological remains, perhaps associated with the designated assets and hence potentially of equal significance to them, could be harmed by the proposed works, including replacement habitat creation. A programme of archaeological works will need to be included in the proposal as described in a written scheme of investigation, as a proportionate response to the potential harm to non-designated archaeological assets, as described below.

Non-designated archaeological remains

There is potential for as yet undiscovered archaeological remains to be harmed by the proposals. It will be important to ensure that appropriate provisions are secured so that there can be evaluation for all such remains. We are content that Surrey CC archaeologist, as advisers to the local authorities, should lead for the agreement and implementation of archaeological works in relation to non-designated archaeological remains. However, should any remains of national importance be identified we would need to be consulted and provide our advice.

Miscellaneous

There are various points of detail within the documents (such as the outline CEMP and the draft DCO) which raise issues that will need to be addressed to ensure that the historic environment is safeguarded, and these should be resolved through discussions and submissions of further details during the examination.

Conclusion

In view of the above comments Historic England want to ensure that the Examining Authority are aware of our position and have the necessary information in order to inform its decision on this application.

For these reasons, Historic England wishes to register as an interested party for the DCO examination.

Yours sincerely



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