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3rd April 2020

Dear Sir

RE: M25 Junction 10 / A3 Wisley Interchange Improvement Plan

Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D5

HE's submission for Deadline 5 - 9.64 Update on discussions around the Girlguiding Greater London West Alternative Route and Response to ExA Question 2.12.8

We can confirm that Land interest letters were sent out and responses should now be with HE. We were due to meet with HE early in April but don't know when that will now happen.

We have engaged with Natural England. Following a telephone conversation, we were asked to put our situation in writing and attach a copy of our letter sent to them at the end of February (Appendix 1). The response has been that they will advise accordingly if requested by PINs should the alternative access options be considered further.

Atkins had arranged a visit to the ancient woodland alongside the A3 in Heyswood site for two of their arboriculturalists to look at the effect of the alternative track on trees there for Wednesday 25th March but this was cancelled the day before due to Covid-19 and the change in government advice about non-essential travel.

We are concerned that in the current Covid-19 situation, the alternative solution will not be progressed within the examination of the Scheme.

We note that HE has requested a clear steer from the ExA as to whether the alternative solution be progressed. We hope that despite the challenges of this current time, this will happen.

We await to hear about revised arrangements for taking the process forward.

Yours sincerely

Christine Donovan
County Commissioner Greater London West

APPENDIX 1



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
28 February 2020

FAO Graham Steven
Natural England

Dear Sir

RE: M25 Junction 10 / A3 Wisley Interchange Improvement Plan - Heyswood Campsite

Our Heyswood Girl Guide Camp Site has a section of Ancient Woodland adjacent to the A3 that constitutes approximately 20% of our land. Due to the widening of the A3 it will no longer be possible to have direct access to the highway.

There have been two proposals from Highways England (HE) in their dDCO application in respect of providing our neighbours, the occupants of Court Close Farm, access to the public highway.

A, that our site is split into two along the east boundary of the Ancient Woodland and that their access will be along the track in between these areas. This Private Means of Access (PMA) would be fenced on both sides to ensure that the security of our, now two, areas are maintained.

B, that a new PMA is provided on the west side of the site adjacent to the A3, around the outside of our site, this would be fenced off from the adjacent Ancient Woodland. This is our preferred route and at a recent hearing the Planning Inspectors, despite knowing this affected ancient woodland, instructed HE to produce detailed drawings of this route to be included in the DCO submission.

Proposal A - would mean that the Ancient Woodland will be permanently separated from the main site where all our buildings are located and will, in practical terms, no longer be available for recreational or educational use due to our safeguarding policies. It would also mean that our volunteer warden would be completely separated from our visitors meaning assistance in an emergency would become far more difficult.

More importantly young people would no longer have free access to the woodland area which would severely restrict their opportunities to experience and learn about this habitat and knowledge of different trees.

Proposal B - whilst requiring that a small amount of the Ancient Woodland be sacrificed the whole of our site will remain as one and the Ancient Woodland can continue to be used for many years by our girls for recreational use (one of the four important reasons for the retention of Ancient Woodland). Girl Guiding will continue to actively manage and maintain the Ancient Woodland so that it continues to be a safe facility.

We understand that the true value of the ancient woodland is within the soil which has matured over many years and we would be more than happy for any 'sacrificed' ancient woodland soil to be translocated onto the main section of ancient woodland or, if appropriate, to another area of our campsite.

As part of our ongoing care for our site we have been removing non-native species of plants and trees and were already planning for our volunteers to plant more native trees throughout our site.

Girlguiding is fully committed to encouraging our members to care for our planet by all their actions and our recent campaign to encourage them to become planet protectors is being very enthusiastically pursued.

We are a voluntary organisation and it is a constant struggle to fund all the activities required to safely manage a site such as ours, and should the site be separated into two there will be little incentive to spend money on an area that we can no longer use.

It is very important to Girl Guiding that we can continue to have full access and use of our site. We have owned the site for over 70 years due to the foresight of our predecessors who purchased it to give our young people these opportunities in a safe location and to encourage their appreciation of our environment and special habitats. We feel it is extremely important that these experiences are not denied to our future members for the next 70 years and beyond and would welcome anything that can be done by Natural England to assist us in continuing to encourage young people to appreciate and care for our planet.

Finally, we would welcome a visit by yourselves to inspect our site and the alternative proposals so that you may have a better understanding of the issues that we are concerned about. A small concession would make an enormous difference to us.

Yours faithfully

Christine Donovan
County Commissioner Greater London West

References: this document contains the relevant drawings provided by HE.
[https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/TR010030/TR010030-000641-TR010030_Volume_9.56%20-%20Applicant's%20comments%20on%20Girlguiding%20Greater%20London%20West's%20Deadline%203%20submission%20\(1\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/TR010030/TR010030-000641-TR010030_Volume_9.56%20-%20Applicant's%20comments%20on%20Girlguiding%20Greater%20London%20West's%20Deadline%203%20submission%20(1).pdf)