

## HE M25/A3 proposed interchange upgrade works

### Written Representation from Ockham Parish Council in response to Department of Transport letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

17th November 2020

**TO: M25Junction10@planninginspectorate.gov.uk**

Dear Ms Kopala

Further to your letter of 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020, we respond to the numbered points as follows:

#### 3. Reductions to Replacement Land

We do not support any reductions in Replacement Land.

RL sites HF1 and HF2 lie within the parish of Ockham and we believe that all replacement land provided will be of benefit to the community as a whole as we want to preserve and protect the natural environment. We are also mindful that land should be suitable and correctly placed to ensure that it is of benefit for users whilst not disturbing the fragile ecosystem of the TBHSPA and SSSI.

We support the Elm Corner Residents Group request that the part of Elm Lane that will no longer be required for access to Elm Corner (from Orchard Cottage to A3) is returned to the wild. This request has been made repeatedly and whilst we understand that there is a requirement of access to reach the attenuation ponds adjacent to the A3, this access could be facilitated via the proposed Wisley overbridge. Rewilding the disused part of the current Elm Lane will protect the area from antisocial behaviour, increase biodiversity and create an additional buffer around the SPA.

#### 4. Impacts on biodiversity due to reductions in Replacement Land

The preservation of the habitats within the TBHSPA and the SSSI is paramount. There is going to be significant disturbance to the natural environment due to the level of the proposed work and any reduction in the replacement land is likely to prevent or delay the evolution of new habitats. We encourage the SoS to look for opportunities to increase replacement land rather than reduce it. It should be noted that there are bat habitats, breeding bird habitats, sand lizards and reptiles in and around the SPA and badgers' habitats on the Former Wisley Airfield. All these species are protected and so any disturbance to the natural environment will impact on them.

#### 6. Status of Common Land

We have communicated with Surrey County Council and Highways England regarding the land transfer of part of Snakes Field, Ockham from Highways England to SCC which should have happened under the Order relating to the original dualizing of A3 and construction of the M25J10 between 1973 and 1983. We were told by HE on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019 that both parties were actively working to resolve the exchange. We note from point 5. Proposed Resolution of REP11-024 that HE and SCC continue to discuss the proposed transfers and are confident they will be completed. We would

hope that after 30+ years, the transfers can be completed before the DCO decision is made by the Secretary of State.

7. Submissions received at Deadline 11 and 12

REP12-048 We encourage Highways England to consider the request for acoustic fencing along the A3 stretch that abuts Boldermere, the SPA and Elm Corner. We understand that Elm Corner residents have reiterated their concerns about increased noise, light and particles pollution if the proposed works, which include the widening of the carriageways from 6 lanes to 8 lanes and acoustic fencing will go some way to providing some protection from some of these issues.

REP12-050 We support this representation stating that to safeguard the environment, wildlife and biodiversity, the ratios of replacement land should not be reduced.

REP12-044 We support this representation by SWT stating that as much replacement land is retained as possible and we are mindful that land that is suitable and correctly placed will be of benefit for users but will also protect the SPA bird population from increased disturbance.

REP12-065 We support this representation as this is a rural community used by a large number of equestrians and enabling safe provision for horse riders who have enjoyed the use of the open space and common for many years is of significant importance.

Finally, we would like to bring the following to your attention:

We understand that there has been no Work Order specified for the drive realignment at 2012, Elm Corner, Ockham GU23 6PX

We reserve the right to revisit A3 noise, light, pollution effects on our community on completion of the proposed works and if the need arises, during the construction period.

With best wishes

Imogen Jamieson

For Ockham Parish Council