



NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

SECTION 56 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

REGULATION 8 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009

REGULATION 16 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

M3 JUNCTION 9 IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State has accepted an application by **National Highways Company Limited** of Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ ("the Applicant") for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") under the Planning Act 2008 ("the Application"). The Application was submitted by National Highways to the Secretary of State c/o the Planning Inspectorate on **21 November 2022** and was accepted for examination on **15 December 2022**. The reference number applied to the Application by the Planning Inspectorate is TR010055.

Summary of the Application

The DCO would authorise a nationally significant infrastructure project ("NSIP") for the alteration of junction 9 of the M3 ("the Scheme") which connects south Hampshire and the wider sub-region with London via the M3 and the midlands and the north via the A34.

The improvements proposed as part of the Scheme both maintain existing connectivity on the road network, whilst providing enhanced capacity, simplified routing, improved facilities for walking, cycling and horse-riding routes and landscaping enhancements. The Scheme would provide new free flow links between the M3 and A34 as well as a dedicated new A33 alignment.

In summary the Scheme consists of:

- Widening of the M3 from a dual two-lane motorway (two-lane motorway with hard shoulders) to a four-lane motorway (with hard shoulders) between the proposed M3 Junction 9 gyratory north and south slip roads.
- A new smaller grade separated gyratory roundabout arrangement within the footprint of the existing roundabout, incorporating new connections over the M3 with improved walking, cycling and horse-riding routes.
- Connector roads to/from the new gyratory roundabout.

- Improved slip roads to/from the M3.
- New structures (in the form of gyratory bridges, underpasses, retaining walls, subway and a new cycle and footbridge over the River Itchen).
- A new surface water runoff system with associated drainage and infiltration features.
- New signage and gantries.
- Utility diversions.
- New lighting (subways, underpasses and gantries).
- Modifications to topography through cuttings and false cuttings as well as re-profiling of existing landform.
- New walking, cycling and horse-riding provision.
- Creation of new areas of chalk grassland, woodland, scrub planting and species rich grassland.

The DCO would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Scheme.

The DCO would make provision for several associated and ancillary matters. It seeks to apply and modify statutory provisions relating to compulsory acquisition of land. Other ancillary matters include the temporary and permanent stopping up of lengths of existing highway and private means of access in the vicinity of the Scheme, the classification of highways, the imposition of traffic regulation measures (including the application of speed limits), the creation of new private means of access, and the application and disapplication of legislation.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Scheme is Environmental Impact Assessment development (“EIA development”) as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The Application is therefore accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

Copies of Application Documents

The application form and accompanying application documents including plans, maps and the Environmental Statement can be viewed electronically and downloaded, free of charge, on the project webpage of the Planning Inspectorate’s National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/m3-junction-9-improvement/> under the documents tab. The application documents will remain on the website for the duration of the relevant representation period, until at least 13 March 2023, and will be available during the Examination of the Scheme.

An electronic copy of the application documents can be supplied free of charge on a USB memory stick. A paper copy of the application documents can also be supplied, but there will be a reasonable charge for paper copies to cover the cost of printing, packaging and postage up to a charge of £500 for a complete set of application documents.

Please contact National Highways via the following contact details if you have any enquiries about any of the application documents or to request a copy of the application documents:

- **Post:** Freepost M3 JUNCTION 9
- **Email:** M3Junction9Improvements@nationalhighways.co.uk
- **Telephone:** 0300 123 5000

Making a relevant representation on the Application

Any person may make a relevant representation on the Application to the Secretary of State (i.e. giving notice of any interest in or objection to the Application). Any representation relating to the Application must be submitted on a registration form and give the grounds on which it is made. The Planning Inspectorate has issued detailed advice on registering as an interested party and making a relevant representation, to which you are advised to have regard. Advice Note (8.2 – How to Register to Participate in an Examination) is published on the National Infrastructure Planning website under ‘Legislation and Advice’ and can be found at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

The period for making representations starts on **1 February 2023** and will end at **11.59pm on 13 March 2023**. Please note that any representations submitted to the Planning Inspectorate will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website for the Application.

The Registration and Relevant Representation form will be made available by the Planning Inspectorate once the registration / relevant representation period has opened on the project webpage of the Planning Inspectorate’s National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/m3-junction-9-improvement/>.

Alternatively, you can request a hard copy of the registration / relevant representation form by telephoning **0303 444 5000** quoting the name of the Application and the Planning Inspectorate’s reference number **TR010055**.

The completed form must be received by the deadline for relevant representations. A completed hard copy form to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate should be sent to:

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN