

Application by National Highways for the M3 Junction 9 improvement scheme

Case Reference: TR01005

Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection 2

The Examining Authority (the ExA) undertook the first unaccompanied site inspection (USI1) on Thursday 9 March 2023. The summary of this can be seen on the scheme webpage using this link [USI1](#).

The second unaccompanied site inspection (USI2) was undertaken on 28 April 2023.

The purpose of USI2 was to further support the Examination of the application for development consent for proposed improvements to the M3 Junction 9 (the application); the application was at the pre-examination period at the time of the inspection.

USI2 was spent viewing the primary walking routes in and around the application boundary which were not seen on USI1. The route taken was solely on publicly accessible land, primarily public rights of way (PROW) and public highway. The inspection was undertaken in order to view the areas of proposed improvement works in relation to the PROW network including surrounding environment and setting; it is anticipated that further USIs will take place during the Examination.

Particulars of the Site Inspection

USI2 was undertaken by Mr Sims of the ExA. There were no other persons in attendance and the inspection was undertaken by foot. Weather conditions were mild and dry. The air temperature was around 13 degrees Celsius. Weather conditions allowed for long distance views and sounds to be heard to allow a general assessment of the general conditions.

The visit started at approximately 10:30 and finished at 13:00.

Summary of USI2

The ExA began USI2 at point A on the plan below and walked in a south-west direction along Easton Lane to join the Itchen Way by turning north onto the track leading to Winnal Lake which is shortly before Nickel Close (B).

From here, the ExA walked the Itchen Way, passing under the A34 (C) and continuing north-easterly to where the Itchen Way passes under the M3 (D).

From here, the ExA returned on the same route to walk the footpath north towards to the bottom of Mill Lane (E-F) and joined the St Swithun's Way. From Mill Lane, the ExA walked the path in a westerly direction towards Kings Worthy and continued on the St Swithun's Way towards Winchester. This section of the USI includes the Nuns Walk and observing the Winnal Moors Nature Reserve and the site of St Gertrude's Chapel.

The ExA turned off the St Swithun's Way at Hillier Way Car Park (G) and traversed the sports fields, passing through the Winnal Moors Wildlife Reserve (H) returning to Easton Lane to complete the inspection.

Whilst on the Itchen Way and St Swithun's Way paths, the ExA passed 1 no. pedestrian.

