

Our clients, Mr N.J. Wright, Mrs P. Wright, Mr J. Ruggles and Mrs C. Ruggles, have been registered as an Interested Party in this DCO application (Interested Party reference number is 20033100). Our clients own title [REDACTED], the land known as the w [REDACTED] and plans submitted by National Highways as part of their DCO application propose to acquire part of the title permanently. The basis for this acquisition is to lay a drainage pipe underneath the land to a new balancing pond.

Our clients object to this acquisition for a variety of reasons, which have been raised multiple times throughout the consultation process. Principally the requirement for permanent acquisition of the land as opposed to gaining an access right over the land instead with our clients retaining the freehold ownership. If this land must be acquired then it is vital that our clients retain access over the land in order to still be able to access the land on the east side of the plantation. If this is not possible then we would request that National Highways also purchases the land to the east side of [REDACTED]. However, as previously stated, our clients are willing to reach an agreement for National Highways to gain an easement over the proposed purchase area rather than permanent acquisition, and would like confirmation that National Highways are willing to consider this. We have been in discussions with the VOA, instructed to act on the matter on behalf of National Highways, to confirm that an agreement for an easement can be reached with National Highways but we are still waiting on a response from them on this. We request that the VOA make a concerted effort to improve their responses to us in this regard as the matter cannot move forward until it has been confirmed whether or not an easement can be granted instead of the permanent acquisition of the land.

Alternatively, it has been noted that the proposed drainage ditch, highlighted yellow on the attached plan, could be used to divert water into the balancing pond. Please can we ask National Highways to confirm that this ditch has been considered and the relevant surveys have been carried out to ensure that it has been correctly ruled out as an option. If not, then our clients would like confirmation as to why the ditch cannot be used instead of a drainage pipe being installed underneath their land.

Kathryn Roberts and Ed Rout of Strutt & Parker

For and on behalf of Mr N. J. Wright, Mrs P. Wright, Mr J. Ruggles and Mrs C. Ruggles