

## M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange improvements

### Tree and vegetation removal

### Your questions answered

To help us deliver our improvements at the M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange, we need to remove trees and vegetation. We know you might have questions about this work, so we've answered some of these below.

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#### Why do we need to remove trees?

We need to use some land around the M25 and A3 to improve the junction. We'll be replacing this land on a like for like basis so there will be no overall loss of common land or Special Protection Areas (SPA) because of the scheme.

The majority of the trees we're felling were planted on the original woodland and on what used to be heathland. We're removing them to bring back the original woodland and restore ancient and rare heathland.

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#### When do we start?

The work will start in September 2022 and continue into early 2023. We're removing trees before the bird nesting season.

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#### What is the impact on the RHS Wisley trees?

We need to remove trees at the current A3 / Wisley Lane junction so we can build a new bridge. The A3 will then be widened into the central reservation as it passes the RHS Garden. This not only

protects other important tree specimens along the A3 boundary but also the extensive and vital root structure under them.

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#### How are we restoring the heathland?

We'll be clearing areas of pine dominated woodland. This will allow plants and heather to grow again. Which in turn, will support the wildlife that need lowland heathland to survive.

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#### Why is heathland so important?

Heathland is one of the UK's most threatened habitats and is vital for a wide range of invertebrates, reptiles, and bird species. Historically many local heathland areas were lost when conifer trees were planted for timber production.

To restore and bring it back to life, we'll have to clear areas of plantation woodland, which will allow the heathland to regenerate.

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### **What will happen to the timber?**

Where possible the trees will be reused. Some for habitat creation on site, others will be removed from site to be converted into a wide range of products, such as fencing and animal bedding.

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### **What about the wildlife that live in the woodland area?**

In areas where thinning of woodland is being carried out, we'll be taking steps to ensure we protect the local wildlife like bat roosts and badger setts. Where habitats are cleared temporarily for construction, these will be reinstated, or new habitats will be established.

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### **We understand that this work might be concerning, but it has been carefully planned with key stakeholders.**

The whole process, including the reasons for our work, our explanation for the areas chosen and a description of the enhancements is covered in our [Habitat Regulation Assessment Report](#), which formed part of our overall Development Consent Order.

You can also find more information about our scheme on our website: [nationalhighways.co.uk/m25j10](https://nationalhighways.co.uk/m25j10) and if you have any questions, you can email us on [M25j10@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:M25j10@nationalhighways.co.uk) or call our contact centre: 0300 123 5000, who will pass your details to the team.