



M23 Junction 7

Northbound off-slip road leading to the A23

Statutory Instrument Consultation Document Proposed 50mph permanent speed limit

May 2024

Summary of the consultation

Topic of this consultation	National Highways Limited's proposed statutory instrument which would reduce the speed limit from 70mph to 50mph on the northbound off-slip road of the M23 motorway at junction 7 in Surrey where it joins the A23.
Scope of this consultation	<p>This consultation provides the opportunity for you to share your feedback on National Highways proposal to reduce the speed limit to 50mph on the northbound off-slip road of the M23 at junction 7. The proposed change is explained in this document.</p> <p>We welcome your comments on the proposal. We specifically would like to hear how the proposal could affect you, your organisation or those you represent.</p>
Geographical scope	The M23 Junction 7 northbound off-slip road leading onto the A23 in Surrey.

General Information

To	The consultation is aimed at any affected stakeholder groups or individuals.
Body/Bodies responsible for the consultation	National Highways Limited.
Duration	The consultation will last for a period of six weeks, commencing on Friday 3 rd May 2024. The consultation will close on Friday 14 th June 2024. Please ensure that your response arrives before 23:59 on the 14 th June 2024.
Enquiries	<p>Please post any consultation enquiries to the address below, or email: slr-m23j7-a23@nationalhighways.co.uk</p> <p>Project Manager M23 J7 Speed Limit Review National Highways Limited Bridge House 1 Walnut Tree Close Guildford Surrey GU1 4LZ</p>

<p>How to respond</p>	<p>Please respond to the consultation by completing the online survey on our CitizenSpace consultation website.</p> <p>When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear which organisation you represent and, where applicable, how these views were gathered.</p>
<p>Additional ways to become involved</p>	<p>Alternatively, you can complete the Consultation response form at Appendix B, post it to the address below or email: slr-m23j7-a23@nationalhighways.co.uk</p> <p>Project Manager M23 J7 Speed Limit Review National Highways Limited Bridge House 1 Walnut Tree Close Guildford Surrey GU1 4LZ</p>
<p>After the consultation</p>	<p>All responses received within the consultation period will be considered.</p> <p>Following the consultation, a summary report will be published on the CitizenSpace consultation website. The summary report will provide an analysis of the responses received and National Highways feedback to the responses.</p> <p>Subject to the results of the consultation, we envisage that the proposed changes would be operational by 31st March 2025.</p>
<p>Compliance with the Government's Consultation principles</p>	<p>This consultation complies with the Government's Consultation Principles, which can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance.</p>
<p>Getting to this stage</p>	<p>The M23 motorway is located in West Sussex and Surrey. It runs from Crawley to the M25 near London.</p> <p>The M23 northbound carriageway joins the A23 just south of Hooley village in Surrey. The A23 runs through Hooley village.</p> <p>Over the past five years data shows that the number of collisions occurring in Hooley village, resulting in personal injury, is far higher than the national average for the type of road. Speeding vehicles are a large contributing factor.</p> <p>The local police and the Hooley Residents Association are concerned that the speed limits both on the approach to Hooley and through the village are too high. At present the speed limit on the A23 approach to Hooley is 50mph. The speed limit through Hooley village is 40mph. Similar proposals are in place for the speed limit</p>

	<p>on the A23 approach to be reduced to 40mph and the speed limit through Hooley village to be reduced to 30mph.</p> <p>To implement the lower speed limit through Hooley village safely, a gradual step-down of speed limits on the approach to Hooley village is required. The proposal is to reduce the speed limit on the M23 off-slip road leading onto the A23 from the national motorway speed limit of 70mph to 50mph. There will then be a reduction to 40mph on the A23 approach to the village, with a 30mph speed limit imposed through the village. This gradual reduction in speed limits is considered safer than a sudden drop in speed limits. It is also more likely to result in compliance through the village of Hooley.</p> <p>The speed reductions on the A23 and through Hooley village will be dealt with separately using permanent traffic regulation orders. This consultation solely concerns the implementation of a 50mph speed limit on the M23 northbound off-slip road leading onto the A23.</p>
--	--

Contents

Executive Summary	6
1. How we are conducting the consultation	7
1.1. What is this consultation about?	7
1.2. Why do we need to reduce the speed limit to 50mph?	7
1.3. How to respond to this consultation	7
1.4. What happens next?	7
1.6. Further information	8
1.7. The Government's Consultation Principles	9
2. Legislative changes	10
2.1. Proposed legislative changes	10
3. Proposed changes	11
3.1. Background	11
3.2. Plan of the affected stretch of road	12
3.3. Proposed changes	12
4. Appendices	13
Appendix A: Frequently asked questions	14
Appendix B: Consultation response form	15
Appendix C: List of consultees	18

Executive Summary

This consultation provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on National Highways proposal to reduce the existing speed limit of 70mph to 50mph on the M23 northbound off-slip road at junction 7 leading onto the A23. The 50mph speed limit will, if approved, be a permanent speed limit and will be clearly displayed on signs, which will also indicate where the speed limit starts and where it ends.

The 50mph speed limit will be implemented by National Highways making a new statutory instrument. Once in force, this statutory instrument will prohibit driving at a speed exceeding 50mph within the speed limit extent detailed in the statutory instrument.

The introduction of a permanent 50mph speed limit on the M23 off-slip road means that vehicles exiting the M23 would approach the A23 at a reduced speed. Separate plans are in place for the speed limit on the A23 approach to Hooley village to be reduced to 40mph and the speed limit through Hooley village to be reduced to 30mph. These changes will be made using permanent traffic regulation orders and are outside the scope of this consultation. The anticipated impact of this 'step-down' of speed limits is that there will be a reduction in road traffic accidents in Hooley village.

We welcome comments specifically on how the proposal could affect you, your organisation or those you represent.

1. How we are conducting the consultation

1.1. What is this consultation about?

This consultation solely concerns National Highways proposal to reduce the speed limit on the northbound M23 off-slip road at junction 7 leading to the A23. The current speed limit on this slip road is 70mph (the national motorway speed limit) and we are proposing to reduce this to 50mph.

1.2. Why do we need to reduce the speed limit to 50mph?

This change is required to facilitate a gradual drop down of speed limits starting at the northbound M23 off-slip road (proposed 50mph speed limit) and then along the A23 (proposed 40mph speed limit). The speed limit through Hooley village will be reduced to 30mph.

These speed limit changes are required for safety reasons. At present the number of road collisions occurring in Hooley village is higher than average. To safely manage the speed limit reductions and achieve a higher level of compliance with the proposed 30mph speed limit through Hooley village, a gradual stepping-down of speed limits is necessary. The stepping-down of speed limits will begin on the northbound M23 off-slip road.

1.3. How to respond to this consultation

This consultation will run from Friday 3rd May 2024 to Friday 14th June 2024. Please ensure that your response reaches us by 11:59pm on the closing date.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, it would be helpful if you could make this clear. Please also indicate the nature of the organisation, how many individuals' views are included in the response and ways in which these views were gathered.

You can respond to the consultation by:

- Completing our online survey. A link to the online survey can be found on our [CitizenSpace](#) consultation website.
- Completing the Consultation response form at Appendix B and returning it by email or post to the addresses below.

Email: slr-m23j7-a23@nationalhighways.co.uk

Post: Project Manager
M23 J7 Speed Limit Review
National Highways Limited
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4LZ

1.4. What happens next?

All responses received within the consultation period will be considered. Following the closure of the consultation period, a summary report will be made available on our [CitizenSpace](#) consultation website within 12 weeks of the consultation period ending. The summary report will contain an analysis of responses received and will provide National Highways feedback on these.

1.5. Confidentiality of information

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes. These are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“FOIA”), the Data Protection Act 2018 (“DPA”), the UK General Data Protection Regulation (“UK GDPR”) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (“EIR”).

If you would like the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. Any information not published, including personal information, may still be subject to disclosure in accordance with FOIA. If we receive a request for disclosure of such unpublished information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. We will not take a standard confidentiality statement included in an email message as a specific request for non-disclosure.

National Highways will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and the UK GDPR and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. However, the information you send us may need to be published in a summary of responses to this consultation.

If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact DataProtectionAdvice@nationalhighways.co.uk.

1.6. Further information

To receive further information on the scheme, you can contact the project team in writing at:

Project Manager
M23 J7 Speed Limit Review
National Highways Limited
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4LZ

Or email: slr-m23j7-a23@nationalhighways.co.uk

1.7. The Government's Consultation Principles

We are conducting this consultation in accordance with the Government's Consultation Principles, which are that consultations should:

- Be clear and concise
- Have a purpose
- Be informative
- Be only part of a process of engagement
- Last for a proportionate amount of time
- Be targeted
- Take account of the groups being consulted
- Be agreed before publication
- Facilitate scrutiny
- Have their responses published in a timely fashion
- Not generally be launched during local or national election periods

If you have reason to believe this consultation document does not comply with these Consultation Principles, please write to our consultation co-ordinator at the address below, setting out the areas where you believe this consultation does not meet the principles:

Project Manager
M23 J7 Speed Limit Review
National Highways Limited
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4LZ

Further information about the Consultation Principles can be found on the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

2. Legislative changes

2.1. Proposed legislative changes

Subject to the outcome of this consultation, National Highways proposes to make a statutory instrument under sections 17(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (“RTRA”). Sections 17(2) and (3) of the RTRA permit the making of Regulations (by way of a statutory instrument) that regulate the manner in which, and the conditions subject to which, motorways may be used by traffic authorised to use such motorways.

The proposed statutory instrument would introduce a 50mph speed limit on the northbound off-slip road of the M23 as it joins the A23. The point where the 50mph speed limit begins and ends would be clearly indicated to drivers using appropriate signs. The specific section of road affected would be set out in the Regulations.

3. Proposed changes

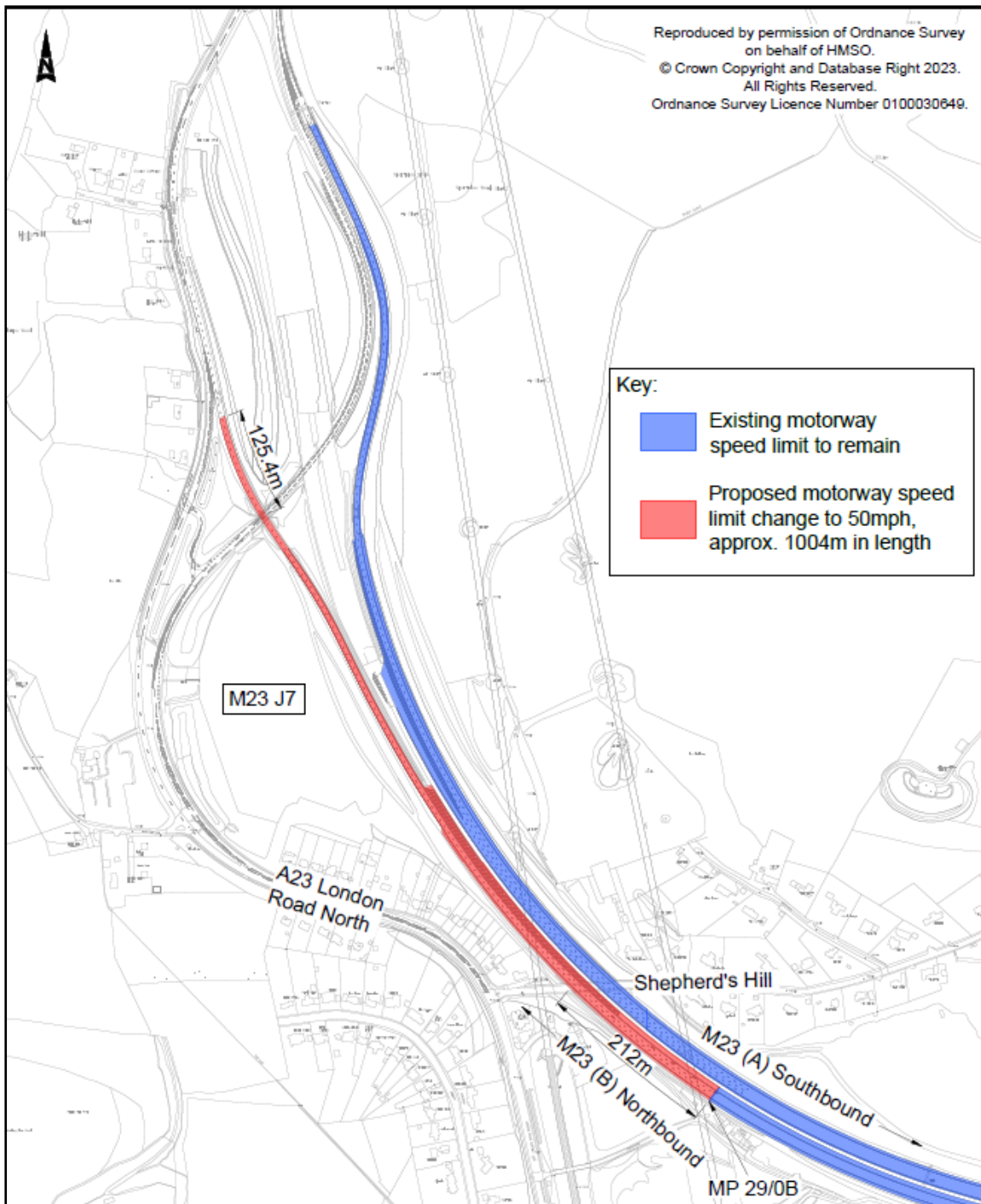
3.1. Background

Hooley village is situated just north of the M23 motorway, along the A23 in Surrey. Over the past five years the number of collisions occurring in Hooley has been far higher than the national average for the type of road. Vehicles travelling above the speed limit are considered to be a significant contributing factor to these collisions.

Both the police and the Hooley Residents Association have concerns that the speed limits affecting Hooley village are too high. At present the speed limit on the A23 approaching the village is 50mph. The speed limit through the village is 40mph. Similar proposals are in place for the speed limit on the A23 approach to Hooley to be reduced to 40mph and for the speed limit through Hooley village to be reduced to 30mph. These changes are outside the scope of this consultation and would be implemented separately using permanent traffic regulation orders.

To safely implement the lower speed limit through Hooley village a gradual drop down of speed limits on the approach to Hooley village is required. This proposal is for the M23 off-slip road leading onto the A23 to be reduced from the national motorway speed limit of 70mph to 50mph. This gradual 'step-down' of speed limits is considered safer than a sudden drop in speed limits. It is also more likely to result in compliance through the village of Hooley.

3.2. Plan of the affected stretch of road



3.3 Proposed changes

The proposed statutory instrument would impose a 50mph speed limit on the M23 northbound off-slip road leading onto the A23. The 50mph speed limit would start from a point approximately 212 metres south of Shepherd's Hill. The 50mph speed limit will end at the point where the M23 becomes the A23. The total length of road which would be affected by the 50mph speed limit is approximately 1004 metres.

4. Appendices

Appendix A – Frequently asked questions

Appendix B – Consultation response form

Appendix C – List of consultees

Appendix A: Frequently asked questions

Q. What are the proposed changes?

A. The proposal is to reduce the speed limit on the northbound off-slip road of the M23 at junction 7 leading onto the A23 from 70mph to 50mph. The reason for this proposed change is to ensure a gradual reduction in speed as vehicles approach the A23 and the village of Hooley.

Q. How are you going to enforce the speed limit?

A. Speed limits are enforced by the police. National Highways is not an enforcement agency and has no powers of enforcement.

Q. Is the introduction of a permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit likely to be effective?

A. The introduction of a lower speed limit on the M23 northbound off-slip road is likely to result in vehicles approaching the A23, and subsequently Hooley village, at a lower speed. A gradual step-down of speed limits is more effective and safer than a sudden drop in the speed limit. The speed limit reduction is likely to result in fewer collisions in and around Hooley village.

Q. Why is National Highways consulting?

A. It is a statutory requirement for National Highways to consult on statutory instruments made under section 17 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

National Highways is committed to providing an effective consultation and complies with the Government's Consultation Principles. This consultation provides an opportunity for interested parties, individuals and stakeholders to comment on the proposed changes.

All responses received within the consultation period will be considered. Following the closure of the consultation period, a consultation summary report will be published on our [CitizenSpace](#) consultation website. The summary report will provide an analysis of the comments received and National Highways response to these.

Q. Who can respond to the consultation?

A. Anyone can respond to the consultation, including individuals, organisations and affected stakeholders.

Appendix B: Consultation response form

You can provide your views by completing the online survey on our [CitizenSpace](#) consultation website.

If you would prefer to submit your response in writing, please complete this Consultation response form and return it by post or email to the addresses below. Please ensure your response reaches us by 23:59 on the 14 June 2024.

By post: Project Manager
 M23 J7 Speed Limit Review
 National Highways Limited
 Bridge House
 1 Walnut Tree Close
 Guildford
 Surrey
 GU1 4LZ

Or email: slr-m23j7-a23@nationalhighways.co.uk

Part 1: Information about you

Completion of this section is optional but helps with our analysis of the results. Section 1.5 of the Consultation Document explains that we may be obliged to release this information if asked to do so.

Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Email	
Company Name or Organisation (if applicable)	

Please tick one box from the list below that best describes you/your company or organisation.	
	Small to Medium Enterprise (up to 50 employees)
	Large Company
	Representative Organisation
	Trade Union

	Interest Group
	Local Government
	Central Government
	Police
	Member of the public
	Other (please describe):
If you are responding on behalf of an organisation or interest group, how many members do you have and how did you obtain the views of your members:	
If you would like your response or personal details to be treated confidentially please explain why:	

Part 2: Your Comments

Q1. Are you in favour of National Highways Limited’s proposal to introduce a 50mph speed limit on the northbound off-slip road of the M23 motorway in Surrey where it joins the A23? (please tick yes or no in the boxes provided).	Yes	
	No	
Please provide any comments below.		

Are there any additional comments you would like to make?	Yes	
	No	

Please provide any comments below.

Appendix C: List of consultees

Government / Local Government bodies	
Claire Coutinho MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA	Henry Smith MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
Mims Davies MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA	Crispin Blunt MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
Sir Paul Beresford MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA	Sir Jeremy Quin MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
The Chief Executive Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Town Hall Castlefield Road Reigate Surrey RH2 0SH	The Chief Executive Surrey County Council Merrow Complex Merrow Lane Merrow Guildford Surrey GU4 7BQ

Emergency services	
Chief Constable Surrey Police Sandy Lane Guildford GU3 1HG	The Chief Executive South East Coast Ambulance Nexus House 4 Gatwick Road Crawley RH10 9BG
Chief Fire Officer Surrey Fire and Rescue Service 60 Wray Park Road Croydon Road Reigate RH2 0EJ	The Chief Executive Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex Rochester City Airport Maidstone Road, Chatham Kent ME5 9SD
National Police Air Services Redhill Aerodrome Kings Mill Lane Redhill RH1 5JY	

Environmental advisory bodies	
Natural England County Hall Spetchley Road Worcester WR5 2NP	Historic England Cannon Bridge House 25 Dowgate Hill London EC4R 2YA

Environment Agency South East Regional Office Kings Meadow House Kings Meadow Road RG1 8DQ	
--	--

Road and transport organisations

Surrey Safer Roads Partnership c/o Surrey County Council Penrhyn Road Kingston-upon-Thames KT1 2DN	DVSA Berkeley House Croydon Street Bristol BS5 0DA
RAC Foundation 89-91 Pall Mall London SW1Y 5HS	The AA Fanum House Basing View Basingstoke Hampshire RG21 4EA
The Institute of Vehicle Recovery Unit 11 Brook Business Centre Cowley Mill Road Uxbridge UB8 2FX	Green Flag The Wharf Neville Street Leeds LS1 4AZ
Road Haulage Association Roadway House Bretton Way Bretton Peterborough PE3 8DD	Freight Transport Association Hermes House St John's Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 9UZ
The Alliance of British Drivers PO Box 1043 Stockton-on-Tees TS19 1XG	British Motorcyclists Federation 3 Oswin Road Brailsford Industrial Estate Braunstone Leicester LE3 1HR

Business organisations

Surrey Chamber of Commerce Unit 14A Monument Way East Woking Surrey GU21 5LY	
---	--