

M3

junction 9 improvement scheme Public consultation brochure

27 May 2021 – 8 July 2021



Investing in your roads

At Highways England, we believe in a connected country and our network makes these connections happen. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways – engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and most importantly, safe. That's why we're delivering £27.4 billion of investment in our network. We're committed to delivering this scheme, with the support of central government, who confirmed funding in their second Road Investment Strategy (RIS2), published in March 2020.

We're improving junction 9 of the M3, a key motorway junction which connects south Hampshire and the wider region, with London via the M3 and the midlands and the north via the A34. The Proposed Scheme is intended to reduce congestion and improve journeys between the M3 to and from Southampton and the A34 to and from Newbury.

We've been reviewing the feedback received during our consultation in summer 2019 and have amended our proposals. You may wish to read the *M3 junction 9 Improvements Public Consultation Summary Report* which summarises the feedback we received in summer 2019. This can be found under the documents tab at: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9

As part of the planning process, we're consulting on all aspects of our Proposed Scheme design before submitting our Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate. In this brochure, you'll find information about the changes we've made and why we've made them. We'd like your comments on the Proposed Scheme and how we're proposing to reduce its impact. We think our new layout strikes the right balance between the comments we have received and the safety standards. We also explain where you can find more information, how you can have your say, and what will happen next.

The consultation is taking place between **Thursday 27 May 2021** and **Thursday 8 July 2021**.

Responses must be received by **11.59pm on Thursday 8 July 2021**.

When we come to submit our planning application we have to be clear about how we have considered and, where appropriate, responded to all comments we receive in this consultation. More information about the planning application process can be found under section 'The application process and next steps' in this brochure.

3D model of the scheme



New junction 9 roundabout



New A34 (left) and A33 (right) underpasses - M3 southbound

Get involved

Since our consultation in 2019, we've made some changes to the Proposed Scheme and would like to hear your thoughts. Your feedback will help shape our proposals before we submit our DCO.

Due to COVID-19 we're not holding the face-to-face events we normally would. Instead, we're providing a range of alternative ways for you to understand our proposals, speak to us, ask questions and make an informed response to this consultation.

Virtual exhibition

One of the best ways to find out about our proposals and have your say is to visit our virtual exhibition. You can access it via:

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9

Here, you can learn more about the changes, study plans and drawings, watch a video of our proposals and submit your comments to us via our questionnaire.

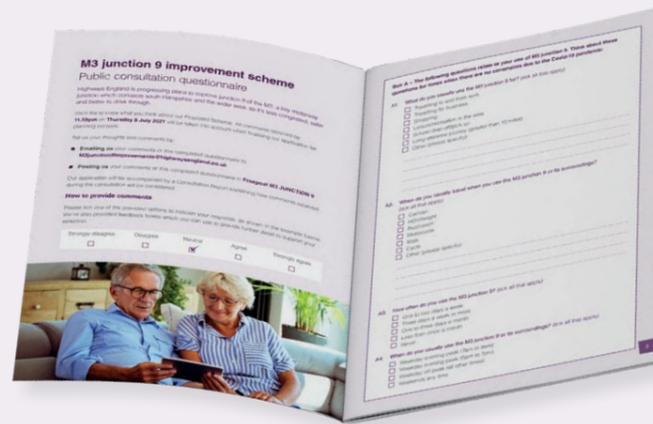
Online webinars

We're hosting seven online webinars, covering different topics and specialist areas*.

At the online webinars, we'll give a presentation and then take questions from attendees.

To register for one of these events, and to submit your questions beforehand, email:

M3Junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk or call **0300 123 5000**



Theme	Date	Time
Introduction to the M3 junction 9 improvement scheme and next steps	Wednesday 2 June 2021	7.00pm – 8.00pm
	Saturday 5 June 2021	3.30pm – 4.30pm
Our proposals: what we are planning to do	Tuesday 8 June 2021	9.30am – 10.30am
	Thursday 17 June 2021	7.00pm – 8.00pm
Our effect on the environment: overview	Thursday 10 June 2021	7.00pm – 8.00pm
Our effect on the environment: landscape, visual impacts, wildlife and habitats	Monday 14 June 2021	7.00pm – 8.00pm
Our effect on the environment: air quality and noise	Tuesday 15 June 2021	7.00pm – 8.00pm

*All online webinars will be recorded and published online after each event at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9

Telephone surgery

We're offering a telephone surgery service with members of the project team who'll be happy to discuss our proposals and answer your questions. If you can give us an idea of what your questions are in advance of your appointment, we can try to make our most relevant team member available to talk to you.

Appointments will be available **Monday to Friday between midday and 7pm**, and **Saturday between 10am and 4pm** throughout the consultation period.

Email **M3junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk** or call **0300 123 5000** to book a telephone surgery appointment with us.

Have your say

You can share your views on our proposals using the following methods:

- **Online questionnaire** – complete the questionnaire online at: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9 or by clicking on the link within the virtual exhibition which is also available via our website
- **Email** – email your comments or completed questionnaire to: **M3Junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk**
- **Post** – use a paper copy of the questionnaire or send any other comments you want to make to: **Freepost M3 JUNCTION 9**

You can request a paper copy of the questionnaire via the phone number or email address above.

All responses received will form the basis of our Consultation Report that we'll submit as part of our Development Consent Order application.

The Consultation Report will be publicly available. When providing your comments, please bear in mind that they may be communicated to others as part of our Consultation Report.

If you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, please let us know in your response.

If you have any other questions, please contact us by:

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

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Construction work

We're thinking carefully about how we build the Proposed Scheme and how we manage issues such as noise, dust and congestion on local roads whilst we do our works.

Our site activities include:

- Demolishing existing structures
- Digging and moving earth
- Laying cables and drains
- Building and marking the motorway
- Putting up fencing, safety barriers and signs
- Building or altering structures such as bridges, culverts, watercourses and walls
- Building or altering routes for walkers and cyclists

There'll be temporary access tracks and roads into and out of our work and our compound.

We know we will dig out more material than we will use to create the new embankments and roads. We're looking to put this material near the junction to reduce lorry movements.

We'll be preparing a draft Environmental Management Plan (draft EMP) as part of our DCO application which will explain how we'll manage the impact of construction on local communities and the environment. Our draft EMP will be discussed with Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council and South Downs National Park Authority and other relevant bodies.

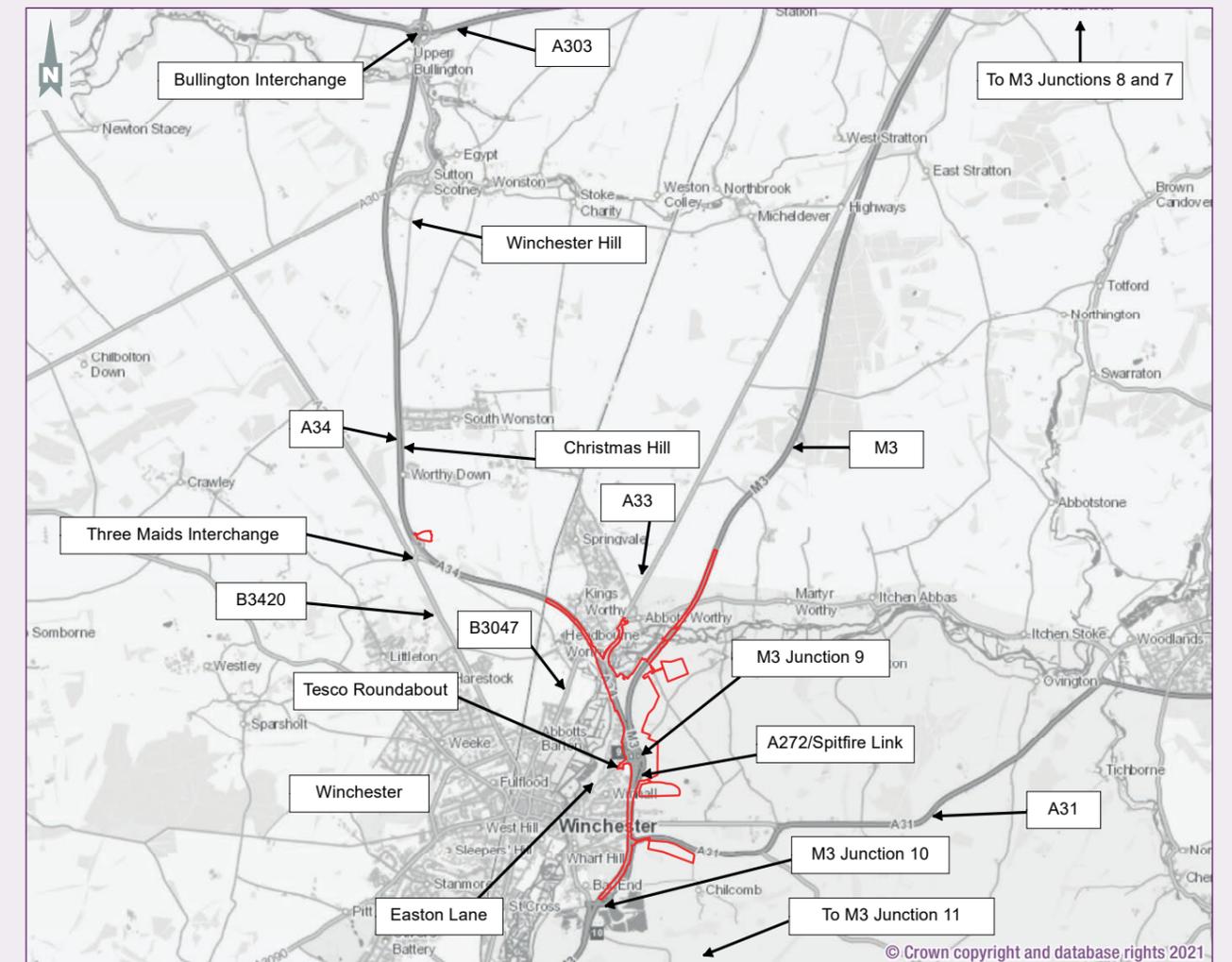
We would like to know what you think about the type of construction work we're proposing.



Our road layout

The 3D flythrough is also a great way to see our road layout. You can view the 3D flythrough on our Proposed Scheme webpage at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9

Site location plan



Key  Indicative Application Boundary

Our effect on the environment

Our proposals may have some impacts on the surrounding area. We're undertaking a thorough 'Environmental Impact Assessment' of the Proposed Scheme which includes carrying out local surveys. This allows us to understand the potential effects of our proposals and find ways to reduce impacts, where possible.

We're assessing:

Environmental aspect	What we're assessing
Air quality	How we affect the air people breathe
Cultural heritage	The effect on archaeology and historic features
Landscape and visual	Our effect on the landscape and particular views
Biodiversity	How we affect habitats, plants and animal species
Geology and soil	How we will affect the ground and land
Material assets and waste	Our use of materials and how we deal with waste
Noise and vibration	Understanding the effects we might have on the local area
Population and health	What our overall effects might be on the local economy and population generally
Road drainage and the water environment	What our works would mean for rivers, watercourses and the drainage we use
Climate	What effect the Proposed Scheme would have overall in respect of climate change and how it responds to the effects of climate change
Cumulative effects	What the Proposed Scheme might mean when it is considered with other planned development in the area
In-combination effects	Understanding if, when combined, individual effects from the Proposed Scheme could result in a different or greater effect on the people or other things that might be affected

Environmental information in this consultation

Our surveys are ongoing, and as a result we're gaining a better understanding of the environmental conditions in and around the Proposed Scheme. The survey results and our plans to deal with the effects of the Proposed Scheme will be reported in an Environmental Statement. We'll submit the Environmental Statement with our DCO application in early 2022. Our whole application will be made publicly available by the Planning Inspectorate.

While this process is ongoing, for the consultation we're required to prepare and publish an interim report, which is the PEIR we mentioned on page 6. This helps people understand what we currently think the potential effects of the Proposed Scheme will be and what mitigation we're proposing to minimise the impact of the Proposed Scheme.

We've updated the PEIR that we published in 2019, to take account of the potential effects of the new elements of our design.

You can view or download each PEIR chapter and the Non-Technical Summary from the Proposed Scheme webpage www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9. These documents may be requested in paper copy or on USB during the consultation period.

There may be a charge of up to £200 (including postage) for a paper copy of the PEIR. Please contact us if you'd like either of these formats by email M3Junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk or phone **0300 123 5000**. We recommend you read the Non-Technical Summary first.

We'd like to hear your comments and thoughts on any environmental aspect of the Proposed Scheme, including anything you read about in the PEIR. However, on the coming pages you will see information about key aspects of the Proposed Scheme that we think your comments will be able to influence the most.

To comment on our PEIR, go to **Box D** in the questionnaire.

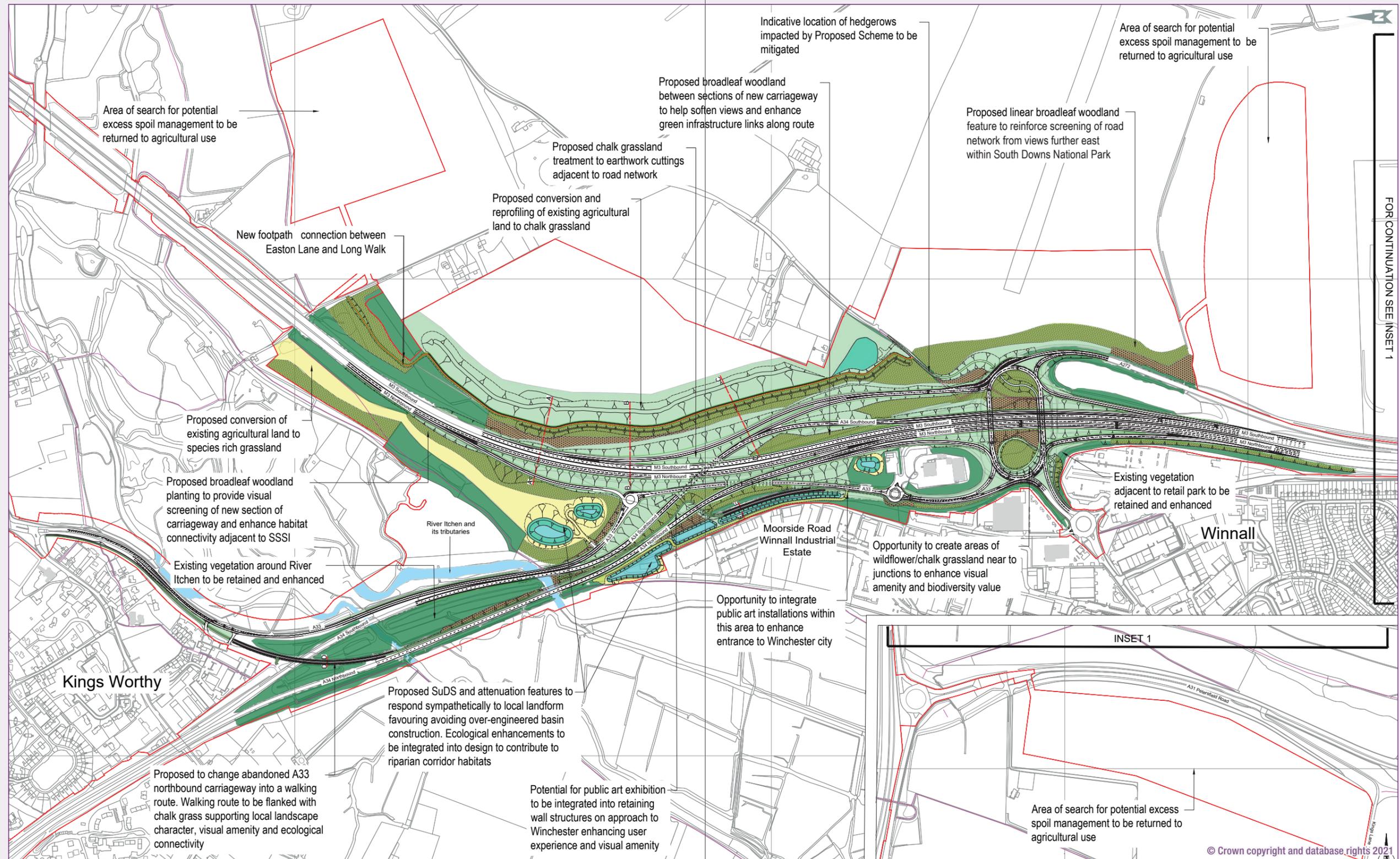
Our proposed mitigation

We will aim to minimise the effect of the Proposed Scheme on all the surrounding areas including the South Downs National Park and on the animal and plant species that live and grow nearby.

Take a look at our designs where we would like to create new areas for plants and animals that might be affected by our Proposed Scheme and leave your comments in **Box D** of our questionnaire.



Environmental mitigation plan



Key		Proposed	
	Indicative Application Boundary		Proposed footpath connection between Easton Lane and Long Walk
	Existing Public Rights of Way		LE1.3 Chalk Grassland
	Vegetation to be retained and enhanced		LE1.3 Species Rich Grassland
	Grassland to be retained and enhanced		LE1.3 Wildflower Grass Mix
	River Itchen and its tributaries		LE6.4 Marginal Aquatic Grass Mix
			LE6.4 Wetland Grass Mix
			LE1.1 Reinforced Grass Mix
			LE2.1 Broadleaf Woodland Planting
			LE2.8 Native Shrub Planting

Respecting the local landscape

We are considering how the Proposed Scheme looks and what effect it might have on the landscape. It is unavoidable that we will have to remove some plants and trees to build the new junction, but we can manage these in a way that suits the surrounding landscape.

On pages 14 and 15 you can see examples of how we might shape the land around the new junction. We would like your comments on these proposals, which we will consider with those from key bodies like Natural England and the South Downs National Park Authority.

Ecology

We know there are several sensitive areas of ecology in the local area, including the River Itchen, St Catherine's Hill, Cheesefoot Head and other local sites.

We've been undertaking ecological surveys since 2016 using our qualified ecologists and some of these surveys are still ongoing. These are important to understand the potential impacts of the Proposed Scheme, meaning we have tried to avoid sensitive habitats and species where possible.

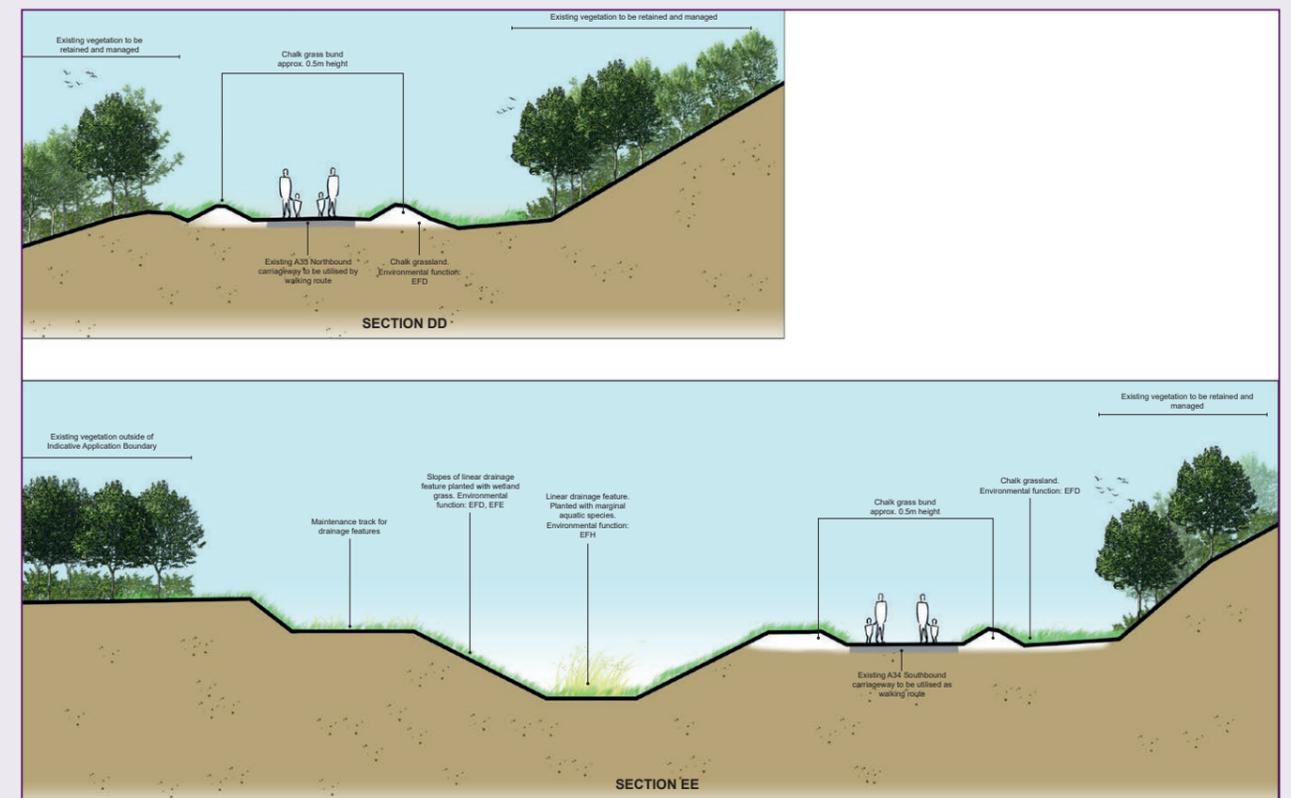
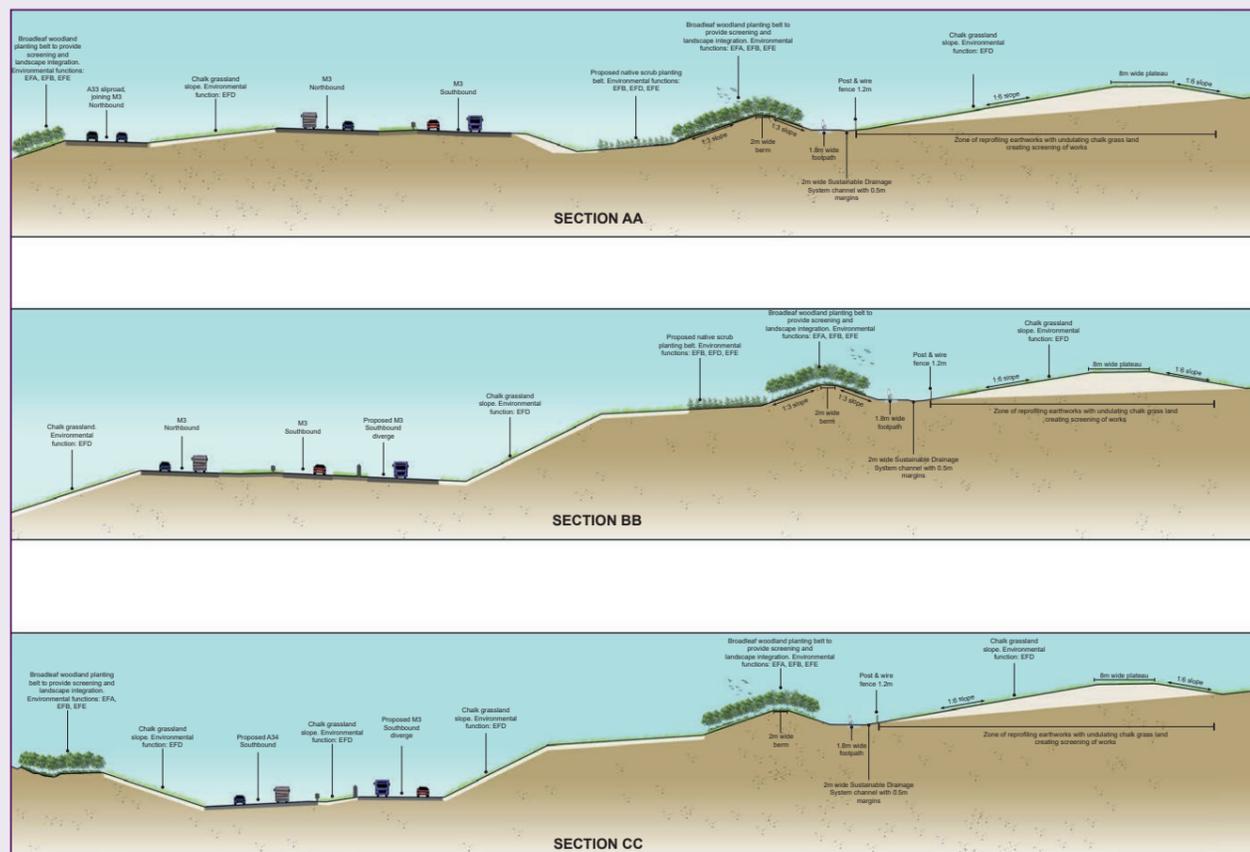
Our application will have to set out our plans to protect habitats and species in detail, however at this stage we'd like to hear of any particular concerns or knowledge you may have about any of the ecology we have mentioned above.



Creating a positive environmental legacy

On pages 12 to 15 of this brochure we have shown you what environmental proposals we're planning in the surrounding area. This would be achieved sensitively through measures that would sit comfortably in the existing environment.

Landscape cross sections



Our plans for walkers and cyclists

A network of public rights of way lie within and around the Proposed Scheme. Main routes include the South Downs Way, St Swithun's Way and the Itchen Way. National Cycle Route 23 runs through the existing main junction roundabout, whilst other footpaths are located nearby.

For walkers and cyclists, we're connecting the National Cycle Route 23 east to west across the junction.

A walking route for the western side of the new junction is also being developed to link the A33/B3047 junction to Winnall trading estate on Easton Lane. Along some of its length this route would use

part of the old A33 and its northern bridge over the River Itchen. This would include an entirely new footbridge over the River Itchen. Therefore, your comments on this route could also help us choose the best form for the new bridge.

We'd also build an additional footpath on the eastern side of the new junction to link Easton Lane with Long Walk. This would provide a circular leisure path for those people visiting the South Downs National Park, around Long Walk, with links to local villages.

You can see the various old and new routes we are proposing on this plan.

Overall, we'd like to hear any of your thoughts about the location of our proposed new or altered routes for people who are not travelling through the area by vehicle.

Our plans for how we deal with spare soil from our works

Since our consultation in 2019 we have done a lot of work looking at how we will build the new junction 9. From this work we know that overall, we will dig out more material than we will use to create the new embankments and roads. We therefore need to find somewhere to put this material near to the junction, so that we do not have to use lots of lorry movements to take the material further away.

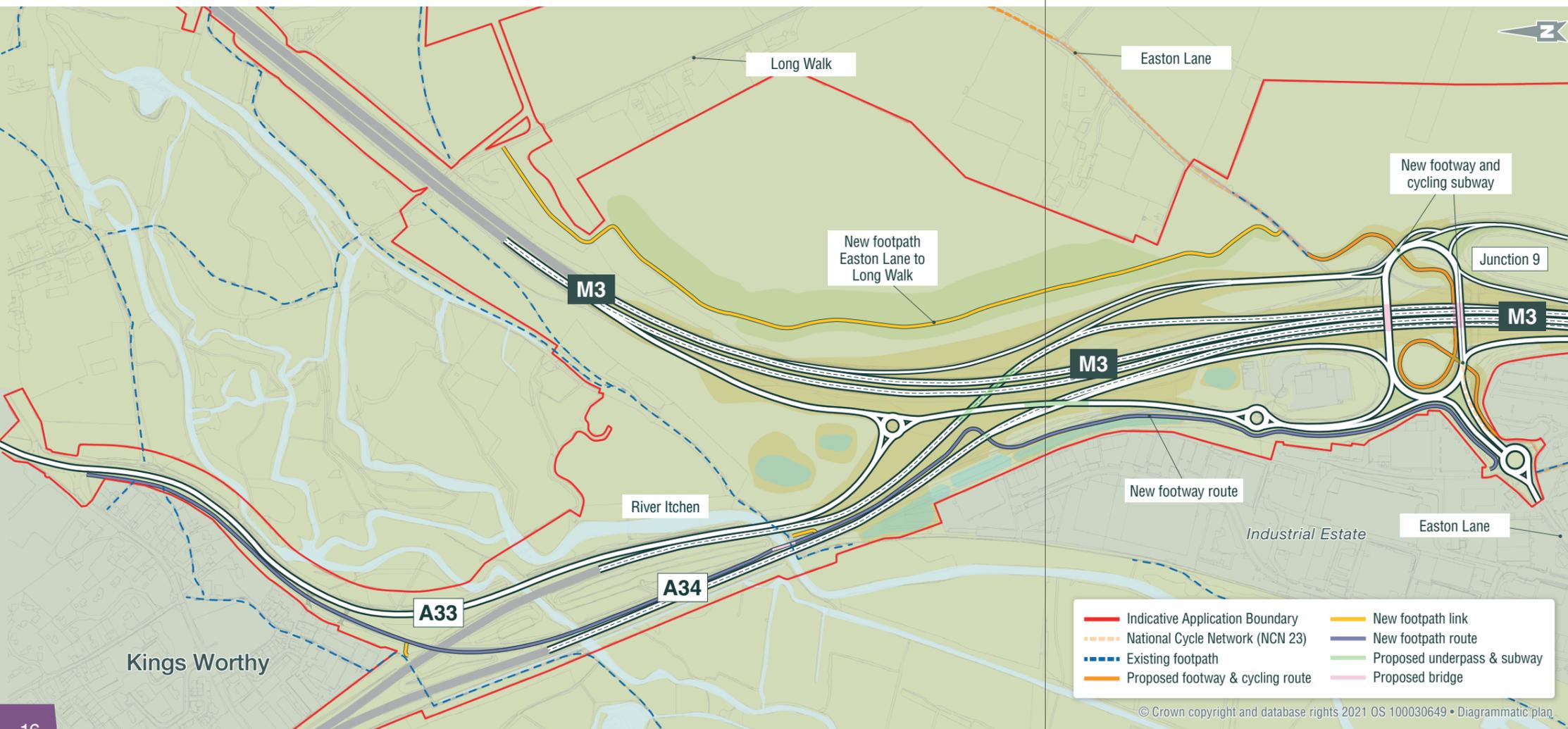
We have been looking at the best locations to place this material and have chosen three possible locations that we are looking at further.

Although all three of these areas are within the South Downs National Park, we think that our landscape design will allow the material to sit sensitively at these locations and help create better surroundings for our junction when it is complete.

We have not yet completed our junction design, so we do not know exactly how much material may need to be placed in these areas, or whether we will need all three areas. We will make a final decision on how many of these areas we need once we have considered comments from this consultation and completed our junction design.

We therefore welcome any comments you may have about these different areas along with any local knowledge you want to offer about their suitability for depositing material, before they are turned back to agriculture after construction.

You can see their location on the next page and an example of how they might look on our 3D flythrough. You can view the 3D flythrough on our Proposed Scheme webpage at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9



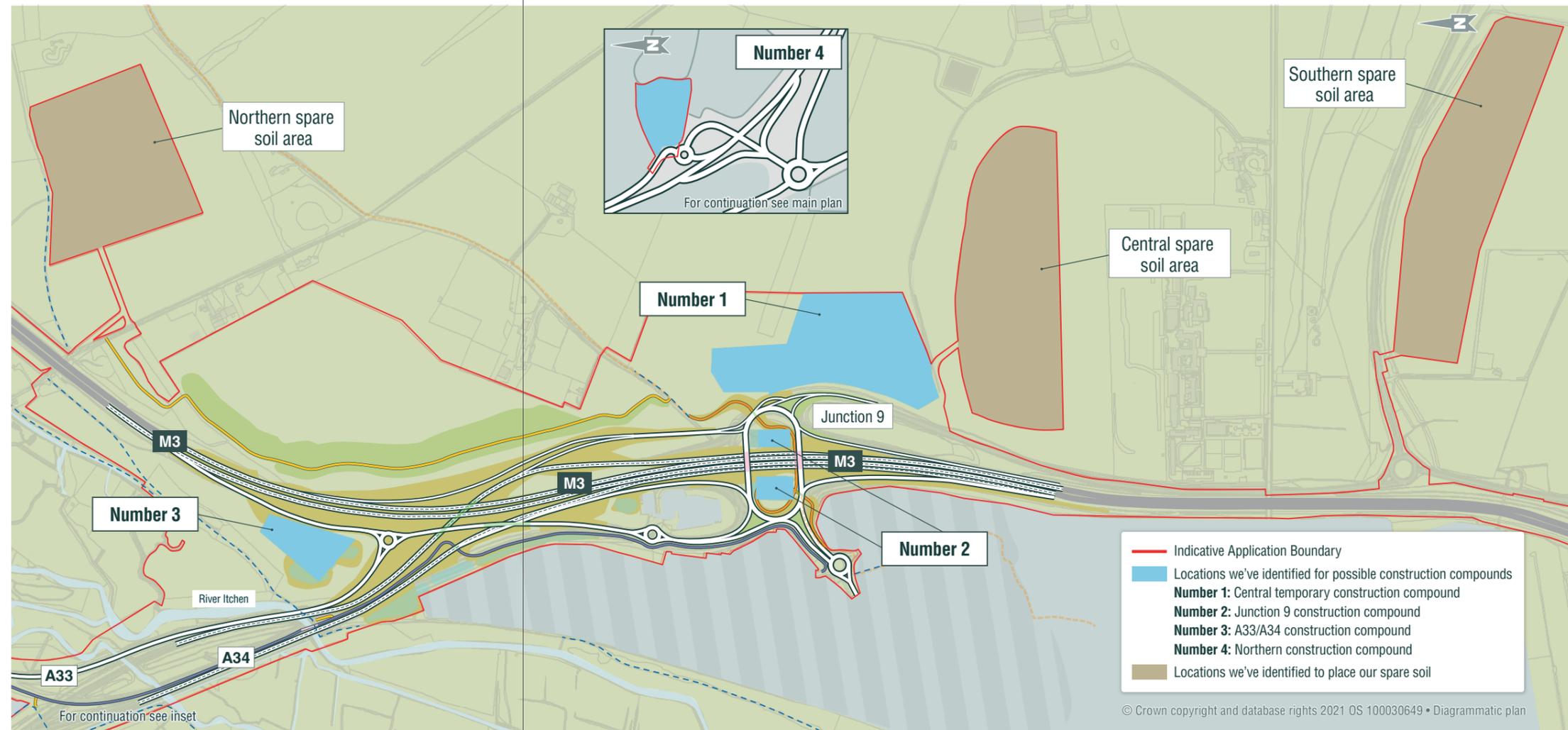
Walkers and cyclists plan

Land use plan to show potential areas for construction compounds and areas of search for potential excess spoil management

Our plans for possible construction compounds

In our 2019 consultation we also asked about our plans for a construction compound to the north of junction 9. This is where we'd keep material and equipment during construction and where our workforce would be based.

Through our work over the last year, we have identified a longer list of possible compound locations:



Possible construction compound locations		Our reasoning
Number 1	A central temporary construction compound, located to the immediate east of the junction	We've chosen this location as there is enough space for our site offices and parking with safe access from existing roads. It is close to where we would be working.
Number 2	Two smaller areas within the footprint of the old junction 9 roundabout	We've chosen these locations as these two areas will be needed to build the new bridges at the junction and they are very convenient.
Number 3	A33/A34 construction compound	We've also chosen this location given how close it is to the area of works.
Number 4	Northern compound located adjacent to the A34/A272 roundabout near Christmas Hill. This is the compound we asked you about the last time we consulted	We've chosen this location as there is enough space for our site offices and parking with safe access from existing roads.

Our decisions on where we put our spare material or locate our construction compounds are affected by a range of factors such as safety, efficiency, environmental sensitivity and practicality. This may mean that in the end we don't have much choice about which one we choose; however, we would like your comments so we can factor that into our choice wherever possible.

It is important that construction compounds are as close to the works as possible. This will reduce the number of vehicle movements and help us work more productively by reducing staff travelling time between sites.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

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For an accessible version of this publication please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

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