

Copy of email from Marcus Anning, Highways Agency

National Highways response - A30 Ide. Ref: 22131678

Dear Cllr Burton-Perrett

Thank you for taking the time to talk to me today about your concerns and those of your community resulting from our recent tree and vegetation removal works on the A30.

I am sorry that you and your community have been affected by these works as this would never be our intention. As I explained on the telephone, the trees and vegetation were removed to maintain the safety of users of the A30 by ensuring that forward visibility is not obscured. We also need to ensure that the condition of our trees is safe, especially given the problems associated with Ash Dieback. Although we always assess whether this type of work is likely to impact on local residents and communities, as below our approach has been that, if vegetation is less than 20m thick, removal will have a negligible effect. However, I acknowledge concerns that noise and light pollution has increased as a consequence. Also that there is road safety risk from car headlight glare, which can now be seen from either side of the wall.

As part of our assessment, we also check whether trees were originally provided as screening. For Ide, our records did not indicate that this was the case. It is therefore, interesting that you noted that there may be a planning condition in place requiring the hedge to remain in place. We will investigate this further, but if you could provide a copy of this condition, it would be appreciated.

As part of our discussion, I also confirmed that Ide is in a Noise Important Area. Noise Important Areas, or NIAs are designated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Under the requirements of the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006, DEFRA produce strategic noise maps and action plans every five years. The current strategic noise maps and action plans were published in July 2019. The strategic noise maps show the location of NIAs and can be found on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

As Ide is in a NIA and your community have been adversely affected, I confirm that we will provide mitigation measures in accordance with our Noise Policy. We are currently investing what these measures will be, but I acknowledge your request for an aesthetically sympathetic Noise Barrier installed on the A30 side of the wall and reinstatement of the hedgerow on the County road side of the wall. Unfortunately, I cannot confirm a timescale at this stage, but I will aim to ensure that temporary mitigation is provided within six months.

As soon as we have developed our proposals, both for the temporary and permanent mitigation, I will share them with you for comment. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me should you, or your community have any further questions.

Kind regards

Marcus

Marcus Anning Asset Needs Manager (SW)

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