

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
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London  
SW1P 4DR

CC Hugh Coakley, Highways England  
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Dear Secretary of State,

As someone passionate about horticulture who understands the positive difference gardens and gardening can make to lives, I am writing to let you know that I am deeply concerned that RHS Garden Wisley is under threat from one of Highways England's plans to widen the A3 for M25 junction 10 improvements.

We were extremely disappointed to learn that this important Garden could have over 10,000 sq. metres of woodland grabbed and more than 500 important trees destroyed if one of Highways England's plans is developed.

Five trees that would be lost are identified as threatened and endangered in cultivation by Plant Heritage's Threatened Plants Project. Excellent specimens of giant redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) would also be at risk. Their loss would compromise the designed landscape of Wisley, as well as altering the skyline of the Surrey landscape.

Losing the natural barrier of trees on Wisley's boundary would also potentially increase noise pollution, which would impact negatively on the enjoyment of the garden.

We're also concerned that some proposals for the A3 would involve additional travel for our members to get to Wisley, some adding over 6 kilometres to the journey, which is unacceptable. We need our garden to be as accessible as possible for everyone, especially with our major investment plans to make the garden better than ever before and to welcome more visitors. Therefore more direct access to and from the A3 to Wisley is vital and must also be a key consideration for Highways England as they consider their preferred option in order to safeguard the future of this very special place, which millions of people should continue to enjoy over the years.

Some of the plans currently being considered by Highways England to upgrade the A3/J10 Wisley Interchange could harm this garden of national importance.

This damage would be wholly unnecessary. The RHS has been in touch with Highways England to suggest viable solutions, which protect the garden and would not involve felling any trees, and I very much hope these will be fully considered.

We hope that we can count on your support to protect the garden from any unnecessary damage that would scar the historic garden forever.

Yours sincerely,