

Dear Gary Inglis

Thank you for your email dated 2 August 2026 regarding the M3 Junction Improvements Scheme.

We apologise for the disturbance and inconvenience caused by vehicles driving through Sutton Scotney between Friday night and Monday morning and acknowledge the comments made by residents.

We appreciate that you may not agree with our signage and diversion routes. However, these are carefully planned and agreed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the local highway authority and the emergency services. During closure periods, our traffic management team monitors and drives the signed diversion routes to ensure they are operating as intended. In this instance, southbound A34 traffic was diverted via the A303, where drivers could rejoin the M3 southbound towards Winchester.

Attached and below are drawings showing the location of the diversion signs around Bullington Cross.

As this was a summer weekend, traffic volumes in the area were particularly high, and the closure of M3 Junction 9 further reduced the available road capacity. In addition, some drivers chose to follow satellite navigation systems or use their local knowledge, resulting in increased traffic through Sutton Scotney and along other roads that were not part of the signed diversion route. Unfortunately, we are unable to enforce the routes that drivers choose to take or prevent them from using alternative roads that remain open.

We will share your comments with our traffic management team, who will be reviewing the signage and diversion arrangements ahead of the remaining full weekend closures, taking place on 21–24 August 2026 and 11–14 September 2026.