

### Report 3

Compliance with EPA S89(1) *Duty to keep land and highways clear of litter*

Report prepared by Peter Silverman of Clean Highways

For the Chief Executive Officer of the Highways Agency, Graham Dalton

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015

#### Introduction

Please refer to my previous reports dated [11<sup>th</sup> February](#) and [20<sup>th</sup> February](#) 2015.

#### Feedback from road users 20<sup>th</sup> Feb to March 1<sup>st</sup>

Below are further extract from the Clean Highways [Feedback & Support](#) page. I received these 37 comments in just 9 days. In almost every case they concern highways on your network.

No action has been taken in **Area 10**. I can only describe 'the trench' between **J12 and J11 of the M62** as **driving through a landfill**.

**Ford Desmoineaux**

Dear Peter, The length of the **A40 & A449** between the end of the **M50 at Ross-on-Wye** and the Herefordshire/Monmouthshire boundary a mile north of Monmouth) is **heavily & disgustingly littered** throughout its length on both verges and the central reservation. It is a national disgrace.

**Nick Kingsford**

Dear Peter, I live near **Junction 11 of the M20** which is significantly affected litter during Operation Stack. All the roundabouts and roadsides of the M20 are **significantly affected by litter**. These are often the first areas that visitors see – looks depressing and can't encourage tourism.

**Tim Odell**

**M4 from start in London to Heathrow** is **filthy** all over the verges. I complained about this a few weeks ago and it has worsened. Major road welcoming visitors & investors to London – absolute disgrace. Huge build up of rubbish down the side of bridges that cross the motorway.

**Louise Rothschild**

Hello, I've noticed a **ton of litter** on the verges of the **A14, especially near Bury St Edmunds** and also going into the town, it is atrocious. Now that I have noticed it, I see it everywhere!

**Luke Fowler**

**M50 and A40 in Herefordshire.** I took a trip yesterday from Birmingham to Ross on Wye and then on to Monmouth, through some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK. The litter along the M50 and then the A40 was **appalling**, ruining the tourist experience. Much worse than the M5. Why would this be?

*Will Finn*

The stretch of the **A10 between Buntingford and Hertford** and the **A414 between Hertford and Hatfield** is **absolutely littered with rubbish and debris**, including the laybies. Particularly bad are the areas near the Ware Refuse Dump and the Hatfield Refuse Dump, which is due to the refuse vehicles not being covered by dense enough netting. **The gullies on the A10 between Puckeridge and Hertford** never get cleared. The **A10 along the viaduct over the River Lea** is also in a **disgusting state**. It would be time to take Ringway to task as all these problems have accumulated since they have been made main Council contractors.

*John Farnham*

The Stretch of the **A299 from the Minster roundabout towards Ramsgate** is a **disaster area**. Both sides of the road **heavily littered**.

*Richard Davis*

**A303 between Basingstoke and Andover.** Twice a week I travel down the A303 from Basingstoke to Andover. It appals me as to the **extreme amount of litter** all the way down on both sides of the dual carriageway. I guess it's due to waste lorries with uncovered tops! It is a bad reflection on our country, let's get it sorted!

*Helen Mercer*

Roads throughout **Kent**. I have tried in vain to contact both local authority/highways agency regarding the **appalling state of litter/signage**, only to receive the usual 'buck-passing'.

*Derek Gilman*

**A47 at Acle, Norfolk.** Is it possible to undertake a litter pick/collection along the A47 verges at Acle in Norfolk.? The amount of **litter is excessive**.

*Richard Starling*

Litter on **M/A27 and A3M**. Good on you. Peter keep up the good work. Is there anything I can do to force/encourage the litter to be collected from the verges of the **A/M27 and A3M** particularly around **Havant** in Hampshire? They have just cut back the verges and exposed the **horrible litter** along the roadside. Especially bad at and around the A3M/A27 junction slip roads. The non motorway/side roads which are the responsibility of the Local/County councils are in general quite clean and free from litter.

*Anthony Penfold*

UK is becoming the **filthiest country** in Western Europe. Peter, after a depressing few days of driving around the road network of Wiltshire after a holiday in France. Your website has given me some hope. The comparison with the relative cleanliness of the highway verges in France with ours is a national disgrace. However it is not just France but also includes Belgium and Holland from my visits there of late. Of particular concern to me are the areas of **motorway junctions**, as these seem never to be maintained at all. What impression this gives to visitors to the UK can only be negative to tourism and in the long term to the economy. All power to you and keep up the good work.

*Andy Slade*

Been around this junction and lived in the area for the past 72 years. Can you please advise why **no agency is cleaning up** and around the **Bredbury turn off J25**, the whole area is a disgrace, just wonder why the likes of you and me pay our taxes and have done for years?

*Peter Milnes*

On Sunday we travelled from **North Wales to Manchester**. The amount of litter that was present on the motorways, particularly around **Chester and the M60** made the journey **incredibly depressing**.

*Paula Plant*

Litter along **A404, A505 and A10**. Keep up the good work! My wife and I were **appalled at the litter** that lines the length of the A404, A505 and A10 on our way from **Berkshire to Cambridge** last Sunday 22nd February 2015. It has always been bad, but now it seems **worse than ever**. It really spoiled what can and should be a beautiful journey.... Many thanks for being there for those who care.

*Mike Buckland*

**M20 Cheriton to Dover**. Absolutely vital work, well done. After the recent monumental delays on the channel tunnel services and the resulting 'operation stack' the M20 has been left with what can only be described as something **resembling a third world rubbish tip** in all laybys and all along the above stretch of the motorway. This has to be the **worst I have ever seen anywhere**

*Yvonne Martin*

Roadside litter and the impact on wildlife... **A14 surrounding Cambridge** – please help clear it! Dear Peter, ....The roadsides are **scattered with litter** and it saddens me greatly when I drive along the A14. What is worse than the damage to the reputation of this area of the UK – which is known the world over! – is the harmful impact it has on wildlife....

*Jody Deacon*

Dear Peter, recently drove the **A14/A1 route from Ipswich to Newark** and was **dismayed by amount of roadside litter** along much of the way. I believe clearing this is the responsibility of councils rather than Highways Agency.

**Brian Stewart**

Thank you for your efforts in this area. I have just travelled on the **A1/M1 from Stamford north towards Newcastle**. There was an almost **continuous trail of litter on the roadside** and in the median. It was **disgusting** and embarrassing to see. I would like to know who I should contact in trying to get this improved.

**Kay Tipsword**

You are a lone voice in a sea of litter. The stretch of dual carriageway between **M62 and A1 called A162** is **litter strewn** all along. **M62 from J31 to Manchester**, litter strewn on both carriageways.

**Christine Ashby**

The amount of litter alongside the **A34 between the M27 and the M40** is **appalling**.

**Ceri Vines**

Dear Peter, thanks for all the effort you are putting in on the scourge of roadside litter. I have made regular journeys up the **A27 from east of Brighton and then north up the A23**. The amount of roadside **litter is staggering** and seems to be getting worse, much of it I believe is from unsecured lorry loads as well as the usual fast food and plastic bottle debris. What an advert for Britain and what do visitors from abroad think of us when they see it.

**Victoria Scott**

Dear Peter, I have just returned from a trip to Yorkshire and am totally dismayed by the **amount of litter throughout the country**. It's not just the roads, it's everywhere. In complete contrast to a holiday in Slovenia last summer where I did not see a spot of litter all week..... Keep up the good work.

**John Montgomery.**

**A3/A325 Chichester** All power to your elbow Peter. The state of the verges on these roads is nothing short of **a national disgrace**. It seems to be far worse now than it has ever been. I am embarrassed about the message it gives out about our country....

**Chris Dring**

Dear Peter, I travel a lot by car around the country and whether I am in the North east on the **A19 or the A27** on the south coast, the litter today on the country's A roads and motorways is **atrocious**. I lived for 14 years in Germany where you would struggle to spot a discarded can or bottle..... (Steve has come up with the idea that

motorway litter picking crews could be sponsored. It would be a good way of projecting a company's as caring for the environment)

***Steve Dennard***

**A38 in Devon.** Keep up the good work.... but the increasing rubbish strewn the length of the A38 is **a disgrace**. It is far too much to be the result of individuals throwing stuff out of car windows, and it is increasing at an alarming rate. I wonder if it is from waste transporters? ... It can't be allowed to deteriorate further ..Your campaigns to clear up other areas are just what we need down here.

***Julie Cooper***

Litter on roadside. Glad to find your website. I live in **Dorchester, Dorset** but regularly use the **A31and A35** eastwards. These roads, and many others in our area are littered so badly that it is **a disgrace**.

***Joe Greenfield***

Litter on **Marlow By-Pass A404**. How we applaud your time and hard in dealing with this awful problem. It's a depressing journey along the A404 to High Wycombe where **the filth and litter is unbelievable**. Over the last few months it has steadily got worse and nothing has been done. We have been in touch with the Highways Agency, how long does it take before they get their act together and make a stand???

***Howard Baxter***

Hi. Recently had a lovely trip to London but am **horrified about the millions of pieces of litter** along the **A13/M11/M25 from Stansted Airport**. I was shocked to say the least. Although Dublin is by far from the cleanest City in Europe, the well maintained motorway verges were so much cleaner by a huge comparison. Come on London! You've a great city! I had a great time but that picture of litter strewn roadside vegetation is what I'm left with.

***Frank Copeland***

Hi Peter just wanted to say thanks for all of your hard work in raising the profile of this very important problem which seems to be getting worse with each passing year. I didn't realise **how filthy the sides of most of our roads are** until I spent some time living abroad where nothing like the same amount of rubbish is allowed to accumulate. I had such a shock on returning – the first thing I noticed on travelling from the airport was **the huge drifts of litter along the sides of motorways** and trunk roads.

***Tom Parkinson***

**A13 and A12.** I just wanted to say thanks Peter for all you do.... I have taken photos and videos of the A13 and have been emailing my local MP. I am awaiting feedback from him. Many thanks

*Susan Burgess*

Hi Peter, I'm so glad I came across your Website, and thanks for your hard work. It's good to know we're not alone. I've been trying to get **Solihull Council** to address the awful litter situation for 11 years but it has just got worse and they are not remotely interested.

*Paul*

Litter on **A3 and A31**. Please carry on with the hard work that you are doing. You are a great public servant. I have just emailed the Highways Agency about **the A3 between Kingston and Guildford and the A31 between Guildford and Alton**. I have never seen so much litter in my life. It is so ugly, a distraction to road users. Terrible for the environment and nature. **I can't stand it any longer!** Thank you for all your hard work and your very informative website.

*Jo McGrory*

Verge Litter -especially **A64**. Congratulations on a proactive campaign. Quite coincidentally, I contacted North Yorkshire Highways today about the state of the **A64 from the intersection of the A1 to the Malton By Pass**. They informed me it was the responsibility of the Highways Agency. Your information from the City of York council appears to be at variance with this advice. What else can be done to clarify who is responsible and hold them accountable? What sanctions are available for non-compliance? With thanks

*G H Bell*

[Local councils are responsible for cleaning A64. PS]

Totally agree with messages posted. The **A14 from M1/M6 to Cambridge** is in a **terrible state** with regard to litter. The laybys are **quite disgusting** with overflowing bins and resemble rubbish tips. If I travelled on our roads from overseas I not sure what I would make of our behaviour – it is embarrassing.

*Peter Wright*

Roadside litter. The UK road system is rapidly descending into **an utter disgrace**. I hang my head in shame when I drive now. The **A406, A12, A13** plus dozens of others. The situation is beyond disgraceful and very sad indeed. Our government is a joke.

*Robert Pickles*

### **Litter from waste transport vehicles**

Please refer to the sections under this heading in my reports dated [11<sup>th</sup> February](#) and [20<sup>th</sup> February](#).

**Dean Grice** has posted these two videos on You Tube showing litter falling from these vehicles.

<http://youtu.be/NdnZGDT4LVQ>

<http://youtu.be/ZoxyNkDAi8Y>

If you count the number of items that fall out and compare it with the length of the videos it computes to a huge volume of litter per journey.

I have witnessed litter falling from a similar vehicle at a much greater rate and am now convinced this is the main source of litter on our motorway verges. I urge you to take the action I have previously recommended to eradicate this problem.

### **M4 J8**

This forms the junction with the A404 and A308(M). I frequently travel from the A404 onto the M4 via this junction. The central area of the island is invariably badly littered. I took this photograph on 25<sup>th</sup> February.



Is the central area i.e. the land from the kerb down to the carriageway of the M4 one continuous piece of land or is it divided by a fence?

Is part, or all of it, your relevant land for the purposes of EPA Section 89(1) – duty to keep land clear of litter etc?

If not who is responsible for cleaning it?

Assuming it is your responsibility what steps are taken to ensure the safety of the operatives when it is cleaned?

What were the last two occasions when the area shown in the photograph was litter picked? It is on the right as one leaves the A404 and before one gets to the first set of lights.

Please refer to the sections headed “Safe roadside cleaning” and “Designing to avoid traffic management” in [my report of 11<sup>th</sup> February](#). It seems to me that the ideas I espoused could be used to deal with the litter in the photo. The area shown could be safely accessed on foot from the roundabout if the traffic was temporarily held up at the lights, or from a vehicle parked on the hard shoulder of the M4 below. In the latter case the vegetation would have to be managed so that the land behind the barrier could be accessed safely on foot. Are these the techniques that are used? If not what are your thoughts on my suggestions?

Peter Silverman

[www.cleanhighways.co.uk](http://www.cleanhighways.co.uk)

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015