

Our ref: 23822937  
Your ref: Litter Collection on Major 'A' Roads

Councillor Robert Clegg  
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Dear Robert Clegg

### **Litter on A34**

Thank you for your email dated 9 June to Nick Joyce, concerning litter clearance on A34. I am replying to you as this issue falls within my area of responsibility.

I recognise the challenges associated with litter on sections of the strategic road network (SRN) such as the A34, where access for litter picking crews can be limited. I would also like to acknowledge the positive contribution made by White Horse District Council in maintaining the cleanliness of our network and the surrounding environment.

As you will be aware, district councils have responsibilities under Section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to keep land within their areas, including public spaces and local highways, clear of litter and refuse so far as is reasonably practicable. We always seek to accommodate litter picking requests wherever feasible, and we remain supportive of opportunities to collaborate within our planned closures where it is safe and practicable to do so. To assist, we publish our planned full closure information regarding the SRN on our website. This can be viewed [here](#).

Unfortunately, collaboration is not always possible where complex schemes are underway, and site access must be tightly controlled. Safety remains our priority, and risks must be carefully managed where operatives are working on foot alongside heavy machinery. In such circumstances, local authorities can arrange independent traffic management where required, including where councils wish to undertake their own daytime closures to reflect their own operational requirements.

I appreciate that you have raised this matter with the Secretary of State for Transport. At present, our arrangements do not include routine litter clearance beyond our existing responsibilities. Any change would need to be considered at a national level, alongside an appropriate delivery framework and funding from the Department for Transport.

Tackling litter requires both operational action and a shift in public behaviour. In support of this, colleagues across National Highways took part in this year's the Great British Spring

Clean (13–29 March 2026), led by Keep Britain Tidy in the eleventh year of this national initiative. Within the South East region alone, we proactively carried out litter picking during night-time road closures, covering over 100km, collecting 1,195 bags of litter and removing 1,282 larger items of debris.

Alongside these efforts, we continue to support initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of littering. Campaigns such as '[Lend a Paw](#)', together with the installation of anti-littering signage on slip roads nationwide aimed to encourage drivers and passengers to take responsibility for their actions. We welcome opportunities to work with partners, including local authorities and Keep Britain Tidy, to amplify consistent national messaging and help challenge the cultural acceptance of littering on the network.

If you would like any further information, please contact our Service Delivery Manager, Scott Donnelly, who will be pleased to respond. Scott can be contacted by email at [scott.donnelly@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:scott.donnelly@nationalhighways.co.uk) or by telephone on 0300 470 2726. Our Customer Contact Centre can be contacted by email at [info@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:info@nationalhighways.co.uk) or by telephone on 0300 123 5000, or contact me directly.

Yours sincerely



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