

**The Essex County Council (Sheering Lower Road, Sheering)
(Experimental 6'6" width restriction) Order 2025**

Statement of Reasons

Essex County Council (ECC) developed a new junction (Junction 7a) on the M11 with an associated link connecting the M11 to the A1025 (formerly the B183) Gilden Way, north-east of Harlow, Essex, which opened to traffic on the 10th of June 2022.

The primary objectives of the scheme are:

- To improve accessibility to and from Harlow
- To ensure the proposed infrastructure is of the appropriate scale for the future traffic growth
- To facilitate future housing developments around Harlow and employment growth to the east of Harlow; and
- To reduce congestion primarily on the A414 corridor through Harlow.

Following the opening of the scheme reports have been received of increases in inappropriate traffic routeing through Lower Sheering to access the new junction.

The reasons for the application of the Experimental Order are:

- Reduction of the identified 15% Large Goods Vehicles (LGVs) using the route as an alternative to using M11 7a.
- Reduction of the LGVs entering Sheering Lower Road (NB) 799 (15.1%) and LGVs exiting Sheering Lower Road (SB) 795 (15.3%) across a 13-hour period.
- At the request of the Parish Council to address concerns over re-routing traffic from M117a
- To address possible safety concerns from the increased LGV movements.
- Address increased local noise and traffic volumes through Lower Sheering Village.

The success of the experimental order will be driven by conducting new traffic surveys, and vehicle classification counts. These will show the new movement patterns, traffic volume, use by LGV's and HGV's and also by looking at new speed and any potential safety concerns. A full programme of surveys will enable this comparison with previous data and an assessment as to making the scheme permanent.