

THE STONEHENGE ALLIANCE

Chairman, George McDonic, MBE, BL, DIPLTP, FRTPI, DPA, FFB

From the Hon. Secretary, Dr Kate Fielden

Mr Derek Parody
Project Director
A303 Stonehenge
Major Projects Complex Infrastructure Programme
Temple Quay House
2 The Square, Bristol
BS1 6HA.

22 January 2020

Dear Mr Parody,

I would be grateful if you should, please, provide answers to our four queries below.

A. Environmental Information Regulations request

I thank you for your letter of 17 December following our FoI request for hydrogeological and groundwater data withheld at the Examination into the A303 Stonehenge project. We have received the USB stick with ground investigation reports up to July 2019 which has been forwarded to our specialist Dr Reeves.

Dr Reeves has now had an opportunity to study this material and he has asked me to let you know that, owing to the format and scale in which the material is presented, he is unable to print out and read certain of the documents, especially the borehole position plan of the area South of Stonehenge.

1. Would it be possible, please, for you to re-send the data in a wholly readable form?

You mentioned that certain information that we seek is being withheld until such time as it is released to bidders and that it would be “damaging to the procurement process for this data to be released ahead of this process.”

2. Please would you let me know when this data will be released since we understand from the media that design and build joint venture contractors have now been short-listed and, presumably, have been or will soon be invited to “Participate in Dialogue.”

B. Artesian flow from groundwater observation borehole at Blick Mead

We have seen the video made by Mr Andy Rhind-Tutt of the artesian flow from the Blick Mead groundwater observation borehole WS09 (at [kKCyWXgreME](#)) and we understand that water flow rates are now being monitored by the Environment Agency.

3. In view of the significant level of artesian flow from the borehole at Blick Mead over recent weeks, apparently originating from an easterly direction (and giving an apparent artesian piezometric head of over 70 metres AOD), what hydrogeological feature or process explains this significant discharge of groundwater?
4. If no detailed explanation can be provided by Highways England, it's consultants, or the Environment Agency as to the origin, extent and periodicity of this groundwater phenomenon, why has this area (i.e., of Blick Mead and surrounding areas, especially with respect to groundwater conditions going westwards towards the proposed tunnel eastern portal) not been thoroughly and extensively investigated, instrumented, and monitored for a meaningful series of seasonal periods (i.e., three full years or longer)?

I look forward to receiving your replies shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kate Fielden
Hon Secretary to the Stonehenge Alliance

Attached: link to Andy Rhind-Tutt's video of the groundwater monitoring borehole at Blick Mead

cc. Dr George Reeves
Andy Rhind-Tutt
Mark Sitton-Kent, Director Operations, Environment Agency West and Central
Chris Heaton-Harris, MP, Minister of State for Transport