

Our ref: SA Response Deadline 1  
 Your ref: TR010025

Mr Richard Price  
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18 April 2019

Dear Mr Price,

**A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down  
 Application for Development Consent – Response to Stonehenge Alliance letter to  
 Examining Authority**

At the Preliminary Meeting, the Stonehenge Alliance and the Amesbury Trust queried the whereabouts of a number of documents, and referred to a letter submitted to the Examining Authority prior to the Preliminary Meeting where a list of these queries was set out.

Highways England have now had sight of that letter. As promised at the Preliminary Meeting, this letter sets out Highways England's response to those queries – specifically the documentation referred to as 'Missing' on page 2 and the Appendix to the Stonehenge Alliance's letter.

Documentation	Highways England Response
Readable versions of: a. APP-157 Environmental Statement Fig.8.11 – Schedule I and Annex I Bird Species b. APP-2 55 Environmental Statement Appendix 8.15 – Breeding Bird and Quail survey report	<p>The information contained within APP-157 contains confidential information relating to Schedule 1 species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and great bustard (<i>Otis tarda</i>) an Annex 1 bird species of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC. As such, this information is environmentally sensitive, and to disclose the information could adversely affect the protected species that are the subject of the information. As a result, APP-157 cannot be disclosed to the Stonehenge Alliance or the National Farmers Union.</p> <p>In terms of APP-255, the breeding bird survey report, it is possible for a redacted version of APP-255 to be disclosed. In order to protect the environmentally sensitive information, Highways England has redacted all references to Schedule 1 species and great bustard (Annex 1 bird species).</p>
“English Heritage Phase I Visitor-	Although Highways England previously requested this from English Heritage and National Trist, unfortunately Highways England do not hold the raw data

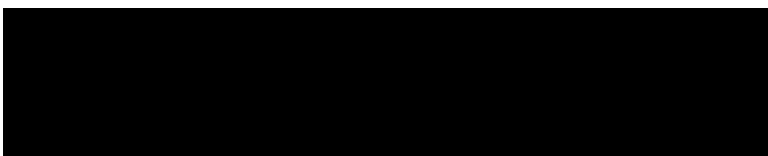
survey”: referred to in APP-195 Environmental Statement Appendix 6.1, Heritage Impact Assessment, pp.496–500.	or the factual report of the English Heritage / National Trust Phase 1 Visitor Survey and the English Heritage/National Trust Phase 1 Partnership Plan. A summary presentation on this was provided to the UNESCO ICOMOS Mission in 2018 by English Heritage and the National Trust. In order to address a need within the HIA (looking at Visitor Experience of the WHS) Highways England reproduced two of the slides from this presentation (Charts 2 and 3) in the HIA under section 6.12.43 – 45 Visitor Experience. We suggest that the Interested Parties who would like to see the document contact English Heritage and National Trust direct.
Archaeological evaluation reports	<p>Reports of the archaeological evaluation and survey works were submitted to the Examination on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019.</p> <p>Three further reports were requested by the Heritage Monitoring Advisory Group (HMAG) separately from the evaluation reports: two short technical reports relating to the Western Portal Approaches on charcoal and snails respectively, and an assessment of flint and tree throw distributions. HMAG has requested that it reviews these reports prior to publication. To allow this, they will be submitted to Examination at Deadline 3.</p>
Location and construction of haul routes	A note on the consideration of haul routes in the EIA has been submitted to the Examination for Deadline 1 (18 <sup>th</sup> April 2019).
Site investigation data, borehole logs and drilling records, from April 2018 to date.	Pre-April 2018 investigation data, borehole logs and drilling records were used to inform the EIA and are available in the Preliminary GI Report submitted with the application [APP-273]. The purpose of the post-April 2018 GI data, borehole logs, and records is to inform the development of the detailed design.
Post 2006 groundwater testing, groundwater level data, pump test reports and records.	<p>Within the DCO submission, the following information is available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline description of post 2006 data in Section 11.6 (page 11-12 and onwards) of Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Road Drainage and the Water Environment [APP-049];</li> <li>• Further detail of post 2006 groundwater quality testing in Section 3.10 and Annex 4 of Environmental Statement Appendix 11.4 - Groundwater Risk Assessment [APP-282];</li> <li>• Further detail of post 2006 groundwater level data in Section 3.6.5 (page 15) and onwards of Environmental Statement Appendix 11.4 - Groundwater Risk Assessment [APP-282]; and</li> <li>• Further detail of post 2006 pumping test results in Section 11.6.49 of Environmental Statement Appendix 11.4 - Groundwater Risk Assessment [APP-282].</li> </ul> <p>Since submission of the DCO, Highways England has undertaken additional modelling following engagement with Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency, and these reports were submitted to the Examination in draft on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (document references AS-16, AS-17 and AS-19). Final reports following comment from the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council are proposed to be submitted at Deadline 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019).</p>
Confirmation of	The choice of tunnel boring system will be made at the detailed design stage.

<p>selected tunnel boring system to be adopted, (Ref Doc 6.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 2, The Proposed Scheme, p2-24 para 2.3.32).</p>	<p>The technique will be one of the three closed face tunnelling techniques identified in Paragraphs 2.4.32 and 2.4.33 of the ES, and considered within the EIA.</p>
<p>Geotechnical predictions and any associated modelling, of grout uptake around tunnels.</p>	<p>The details of grouting requirements and uptake (including modelling) will be developed during detailed design, as this is inherently linked to the tunnel boring system. The OEMP [APP-187] (MW-WAT9) requires that materials used for ground treatment, including any grouting associated with the tunnel, will be subject to the approval of the Environment Agency.</p>
<p>Reports and details of any surface geophysical surveys that have been carried out for Highways England.</p>	<p>Surface geophysical survey, as referred to in this request for information, has been undertaken as part of heritage assessment and is reported in Environmental Statement Cultural Heritage chapter [APP-045] and the Archaeology Baseline Report [APP-211]. Further details are provided in the Archaeological Evaluation Reports, which were submitted to the ExA on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019.</p> <p>Sub-surface (downhole) geophysical surveys as part of the Geotechnical investigation are reported in the Preliminary GI Report [APP-273].</p>
<p>Reports, details and outputs of groundwater modelling investigations carried out for Highways England</p>	<p>Within the DCO submission, reports, details and outputs of groundwater modelling are provided in Annex 1 of Environmental Statement Appendix 11.4 - Groundwater Risk Assessment [APP-282] which is referred to in Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Road Drainage and the Water Environment [APP-049].</p> <p>Since submission of the DCO, Highways England has undertaken additional modelling in consultation with Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency. This work was submitted to the Examination on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 under document reference AS-018. Final reports following comment from the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council are proposed to be submitted at Deadline 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019).</p>
<p>Reports, data and analyses of lateral effects (west and east of the tunnel) on groundwater systems, with particular consideration of western portal options (Ref Doc</p>	<p>The effects of the different options were considered as part of the alternatives options analysis described in para 3.3.18 of ES Chapter 3 Assessment of Alternatives [APP-041]. The assessment of portal options on groundwater was qualitative, with deeper cuttings having the potential to intercept groundwater to a greater depth and therefore deeper cuttings being less preferable than the shallower cuttings or at grade option. The full range of expected groundwater levels in the location of the cuttings is considered in the EIA. Table 6.1 [APP-282] presents the elevation of the deepest point of each cutting against the extreme peak groundwater levels and average high groundwater levels predicted by the Wessex Basin model utilised in the</p>

<p>6.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 2, The Proposed Scheme, p3-26-7, Western Portal approach options Table 3.14).</p>	<p>numerical model baseline. The effects of the tunnel on groundwater, including lateral effects, are assessed in Annex 1 of Environmental Statement Appendix 11.4 - Groundwater Risk Assessment (GRA) [APP-282] which is referred to in Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Road Drainage and the Water Environment [APP-049]. Further information of the portal and cuttings assessment is presented in Section 6.2 of [APP-282]. The portal and cuttings assessment is presented in Section 6.2 of the GRA [APP-282].</p>
<p>Reports, details, outputs and presentations of any 3-D ground modelling studies carried out for Highways England.</p>	<p>No 3-D model has been produced, as this is not required or necessary for the purposes of EIA or in order to develop the design for the DCO application. Conceptual 2-D ground modelling has been carried out, as per the Preliminary GI Report [APP-273].</p>
<p>Detailed slope stability analysis and design of support to weak rock in cuttings and at portals.</p>	<p>Slope stability analyses were undertaken to inform the highway design and layout in the design for the DCO application and to inform parts of the Land Instability Report (APP-278). Detailed slope stability analyses will be undertaken at the detailed design stage.</p>
<p>Any plans or assessments made by Highways England for possible emergency surface grouting and drilling programmes.</p>	<p>There are no planned surface interventions. Grouting would be undertaken from within the tunnel.</p>

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge safe receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely



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cc Stonehenge Alliance