



Historic England

NORTH EAST OFFICE

A19/A184 Testos Junction Improvement Team  
National Infrastructure Planning  
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Our Ref: PL00062602

14 December 2017

Dear Sirs

### **A19 A184 Testos Junction Improvement (TR010020)**

#### **The Examination Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ1)**

We write with reference to the above matter, and the two areas where questions have been addressed specifically to Historic England.

#### **Question 1.6A.1**

This question relates to our degree of concern about Historic Environment section of the ES.

At several earlier stages we corresponded with Highways England about this scheme and offered detailed advice about best-practice in how historic environment impact should be dealt with as part of an ES. Despite this advice, not all of our recommendations were followed, and our degree of concern was with reference to this failure.

However, following the detailed plans presented, we were able to come to a judgement that the development would not harm those aspects of the historic environment within our statutory remit.

In light of this, we believed that our role in this process must be to advise that we had reached this conclusion, rather than dwell on those concerns we had about the ES. Our advice is limited to this, and we do not seek to comment further on issues relating to the EIA process itself.

#### **Question 1.6A.2**



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This question relates to the absence of any information in the ES considering the potential for enhancing heritage assets.

As with the question above, on several occasions earlier in the process we flagged up the desirability (in line with the general thrust of paragraph 137 of the NPPF) of considering ways that this development could enhance heritage assets, as this is best practice in relation to an ES. This did not seem to have been done as part of the ES.

However, we also appreciate that with reference to this road junction improvement scheme the opportunities to provide positive enhancement of the historic environment are probably going to be limited, and that therefore the absence of specific enhancement measures was not in our view a reason for the scheme to be denied permission. Our advice is limited to this, and we do not seek to comment further on issues relating to the EIA process itself.

We hope that this advice is useful to you.

Yours Sincerely



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