From: Bush, Mark
To: A303 Stonehenge

Cc: David Cornelius-Reid

Subject: Site Visit proposal

Date: 18 April 2019 17:29:33

Importance: High

Dear Sirs,

Further to the revised timetable, I wish to propose that the panel should arrange to conduct an Accompanied Site Inspection at Blick Mead, when at the same time they will be able to inspect Amesbury Abbey care Home, its listed Park and Gardens, and the site of Vespasian's Camp, all of which are privately owned and not generally accessible to the public.

I am making this proposal with the full knowledge and consent of the owner of Amesbury Abbey, David Cornelius-Reid, who is copied into this email. His own solicitor is, I understand, making a complementary proposal. (David, I have spoken to Tracey Merritt but I find I do not have her email address, so please do forward this to her if you wish).

If Amesbury Abbey, Vespasian's Camp and Blick Mead are not already included in the itinerary for the Accompanied Site Visit being proposed by Highways England on 21.5.19, we propose that it would be beneficial for the panel to make arrangements for a separate site visit. There is not very much to see at Blick Mead itself out of season, save for its proximity to the A303, so one option the Panel may wish to consider is the opportunity to visit this site in early June, when there will be excavation trenches open (barring any last minute changes to the current plans). I note the panel has arranged dates for Open Floor Hearings in early June in two slots; would it be convenient in that event to visit Blick Mead and Amesbury Abbey on 8, 9 or 10 June, between the hearing slots, when the excavation should be underway?

In any event we do feel that a site visit to Blick Mead (and Amesbury Abbey) will be important for the Panel to fully understand some of the issues that have been and will be raised on both sides of the debate about this site. It is a site that has provoked much controversy since the tunnel scheme proposal was announced, as you will be aware. There does not even appear to be common ground between the Project Team and Highways England about its precise location relative to the proposed new infrastructure, and a site visit will hopefully at least resolve that issue.

If the panel wish to adopt this suggestion, please liaise with me over visitors/numbers so I can in turn clear this with the landowners and Project Team. The site is a care Home for the elderly, so there does need to be some sensitivity to that. Depending whether the Panel wish to walk up to Vespasian's Camp or not, I would estimate a site visit could accomplish its goals within 1.5 to 3 hours.

I await hearing from you further on this issue.

On another matter, I wish to seek some guidance about the format for written submissions due by 2 May. Am I permitted to call someone on the PINS project team, or can I send general enquiries to this address?

Mark Bush

On behalf of the Consortium of Archaeologists and The Blick Mead Project



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