

Our ref: AS 2
Your ref: TR010025

Mr Richard Price
National Infrastructure Case Manager
Major Applications and Plans
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Derek Parody
A303 Stonehenge Project Director
Highways England
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6HA

Tel: 0300 123 5000
Email: derek.parody@highwaysengland.co.uk

29 March 2019

Dear Mr Price,

A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down Application for Development Consent – Response to Rule 6 Examination programme

Further to our discussion, in advance of the Preliminary Meeting next week I am writing to confirm our comments and requests on the draft timetable and update the Examining Authority on the preparation of the Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (the “DAMS”).

Draft timetable

I understand it is challenging to find dates that will fit in with all parties but could the Examining Authority please consider the following requests to adjust the dates in Annex C of the Rule 6 letter:

1. Row 13 of the timetable: CA ISH 8th -12th July: Our Barrister Reuben Taylor QC is unavailable all that week so we would appreciate if this could be moved. Would it be possible to move these hearings to the following week please, commencing 15th July?
2. Row 18 of the timetable: dates reserved for additional ISHs 27th – 30th August: Mr Taylor is unavailable on the 29th and 30th August. As an alternative, we would propose either moving the hearings to w/c 19th August or holding hearings on 22nd and 23rd or 21st and 22nd August in the week before.
3. Row 10 of the timetable: Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) scheduled for 4th-7th June. One of our senior legal team is unable to attend on 4th and 5th June and if possible, we'd be grateful if the ExA was able to schedule ISHs to allow that team member to attend the hearings on topics for which they have responsibility. One solution would be if the ExA chose to hold the DCO ISH on the 4th and Heritage on the 5th June.
4. Row 4 of the timetable: Notification of Site Inspection and Hearings 25th April: In order to allow publication of the notices a minimum of 21 days in advance of the site inspection and hearings we would request the issue of the notification by Thursday 11th April.
5. Row 6 of the timetable: Notification of Hearings 7th May: In order to allow publication of the notices a minimum of 21 days in advance of the hearings we would request the issue of the notification by Monday 29th April.
6. Row 16 of the timetable: Notification of Further Hearings 29th July: In order to allow publication of the notices a minimum of 21 days in advance of the hearings we would request the issue of the notification by Monday 22nd July.

Obviously if this proves challenging for the Examining Authority we will find alternative legal representatives but we would appreciate it if the Examining Authority would consider these requests.

We also have the following comments on the draft timetable:

1. We assume that the deadline on the dates specified will be 11:59pm. This would be our preference; please confirm.
2. Between Row 12 and Row 13 there is an omission: the hearing notification date for 8th to 12th July ISHs is not included. We would request that this notification is provided by Monday 3rd June.
3. Row 20 Deadline 8 Written Summaries of oral hearings dates do not match Row 18 dates.
4. In row 21 the dates for issue of the RIES and ExA's dDCO do not match those in row 19.

Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy

Highways England intends to submit the DAMS at Deadline 2, in order that the comments of the Scientific Committee can be incorporated in the document before it is considered by the Examining Authority and Interested Parties.

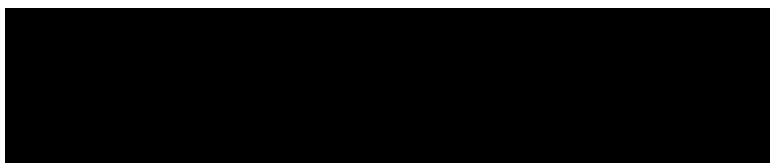
Comments on the draft DAMS have already been received from the Heritage Monitoring Advisory Group (which consists of Historic England, English Heritage Trust, the National Trust and Wiltshire Council Archaeological Service) ("HMAG"). By the beginning of examination it had been intended to incorporate these and the comments of the Scientific Committee (consisting of independent experts set up to advise the Scheme through HMAG) and then submit the DAMS to the examination.

Unfortunately, however, a Scientific Committee meeting arranged for 4th March for this purpose fell short of the quorum required under the Committee's Terms of Reference. The Chair therefore opted to postpone the meeting and reconvene on 17th April when a quorate meeting can be achieved. Submitting the DAMS at Deadline 2 on 3 May will allow time for any amendments required to the DAMS pursuant to that meeting to be made before submission. It will also allow consideration by HMAG of the amendments made to the DAMS pursuant to their comments.

In submitting a DAMS incorporating both HMAG and Scientific Committee comments at Deadline 2, Highways England's intention is to produce a document that will be of greater assistance to both the Examining Authority and Interested Parties, and which could be commented on by Interested Parties at Deadline 3, ahead of the two weeks of hearings commencing on 4 June.

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge safe receipt.

Yours sincerely



Derek Parody
A303 Stonehenge Project Director
Email: @highwaysengland.co.uk