



Friday 26th July 2019

Mr Richard Price
Case Officer A303 Stonehenge - Planning Inspectorate
Via email to richard.price@pins.gsi.gov.uk and A303Stonehenge@pins.gsi.gov.uk

My registration number 20020846

Dear Sirs,

Deadline 6 Submission
Objection to the application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down – TR010025 – Inadequate hydrological investigation at Blick Mead and the effects on the overall contract value

I refer to the various valid issues that have been raised during the hearings regarding the above. The lack of adequate ground water investigations into hydrology places on risk organic archaeological destruction, pollution and changes in volume to the water tables at Amesbury and in the Till Valley.

Highways England have stated on numerous occasions that the contract will be delivered for a sum not exceeding £1.7bn and declared that they are “designing out costs”. They have also confirmed that they are now seeking contractors who are prepared to tender for this work.

My questions are:

1. How can a contractor be expected to quote for the A303 tunnel scheme when there are clear unforeseen ground conditions?
2. How can Development Consent be granted without knowing the full extent of the worse case cost scenario should the objections that have been made by professional hydrologists be relevant.

It is wholly inappropriate to even suggest a value of £1.7bn as the limit of costs, simply to ensure the case of value for money is approved and the consent is granted. Realistically history shows that the final costs could be more than double that, when comparing to other similar projects.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rhind-Tutt