

From: Burt, Katherine <katherine.burt@environment-agency.gov.uk>

Sent: 19 August 2019 17:28

To: Richard Price <RICHARD.PRICE@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Cc: A303 Stonehenge <A303Stonehenge@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>; Holm, Michael <michael.holm@environment-agency.gov.uk>; Hayball, Ben R <Ben.Hayball@environment-agency.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Issue Specific Hearing agendas now available

Dear Richard

Thank you for your email, which provided the agenda for the cultural heritage, landscape and visual effects and design **Issue Specific Hearing 8** being held on Wednesday 21 August. We note that the Environment Agency is in the list of invitees. However, as we do not have anything to raise in addition to our Written Representations relating to these topics provided at each of the Examination Deadlines, we consider that we do not necessarily need to attend.

We presume that groundwater issues more generally would be discussed at Issue Specific Hearing 10 (Flood risk, groundwater protection, geology and land contamination) on Thursday 29 August (PM), which we are proposing to attend. We were therefore not planning to attend the cultural heritage Issue Specific Hearing 8 on Wednesday 21 August, but if the Examining Authority still wishes us to attend, we can be available if required.

Protection of cultural heritage assets such as Blick Mead does not fall within the general remit of the Environment Agency other than when acting as competent authority in the determination of abstraction licences where we have responsibility to consider impacts on such features resulting from the licensed activity. This is dealt with within our licensing process. We therefore have no comment on the proposed agenda item 8 that relates to the need for specific monitoring of groundwater at Blick Mead in relation to impacts from the proposed A303 scheme in general.

We do however wish to re-emphasise in this email one point provided in our response at Deadline 7 in relation to Blick Mead that relates to Highways England response to ExQ2 **Fg.2.42**: HE include in their response that ‘.the Environment Agency would engage with other statutory bodies as necessary to ensure that heritage assets are taken fully into account.’ This is discussed in our response to this question at Deadline 7, which reads: ‘Protection of heritage assets does not fall within the remit or expertise of the Environment Agency and it should therefore not be the responsibility of the Environment Agency to ensure that heritage assets are adequately considered within the risk assessments. Where assessments indicate **any** impact at archaeological sites or other heritage assets, responsibility should lie with the Applicant or their contractor to consult the appropriate bodies.’

We also point out in our response to question Fg.2.46 ‘Whilst the Environment Agency would consult


with external bodies as part of the determination of any application for dewatering or abstraction licence, it is not the Agency's responsibility to consult more generally on the significance of potential impacts of the wider scheme such as would be managed through the Groundwater Management Plan. It is the responsibility of the Applicant or their contractor to ensure that where impacts may occur at heritage sites (except those directly attributed to abstraction/dewatering), the appropriate heritage body is consulted and appropriate mitigation agreed. This responsibility should not be passed to the Environment Agency.'

Kind regards

Kath

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From: Richard Price [<mailto:RICHARD.PRICE@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>]
Sent: 14 August 2019 14:42
To: Burt, Katherine <katherine.burt@environment-agency.gov.uk>; Holm, Michael <michael.holm@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Cc: A303 Stonehenge <A303Stonehenge@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Issue Specific Hearing agendas now available

Dear Sir/ Madam

Please be aware that the agendas for the following hearings have now been published:

1. Issue Specific Hearing 8, 21 August 2019 – Heritage, landscape and visual and design:
https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010025/TR010025-001510-TR010025%20ISH8%20agenda%20-%20heritage%20landscape%20and%20visual%20etc_FINAL%20RP.pdf
2. Issue Specific Hearing 9, 22 August 2019 – Traffic and transportation:
https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010025/TR010025-001511-TR010025%20ISH9%20agenda%20-%20traffic%20and%20transportation_FINAL%20RP.pdf

I write as a courtesy because you or an organisation you represent are invited by the Examining Authority to attend and make representations at one or both of these hearings. **Please check the lists of invitees in the above agendas.**

If you have any questions please provide them by response.

Kind regards

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National Infrastructure Planning | Case Manager



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Twitter: [@PINSgov](https://twitter.com/PINSgov)

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