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Subject: Sparkford DCO - Responses to Examiner's Questions
Date: 05 April 2019 13:24:09
Attachments: [A303 DCO Examiners Questions 220319_HBMCE responses.pdf](#)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling

Reference: SPIL-SP0005 and 2001-4933

Please find attached HBMCE's Responses to the Examiners Questions issued on 22/03/18.

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of our response.

Yours faithfully,

Jo McAllister

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Historic England

**RESPONSES TO EXAMINING AUTHORITY'S
QUESTIONS 22/03/19**

**ON BEHALF OF THE
HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND
(HISTORIC ENGLAND)
("HBMCE")**

**Application by
Highways England for an Order granting Development Consent for the A303
Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling**

PINS Reference No: SPIL-SP0005 & 2001-4933

HBMCE Reference No: PL00285449

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England is generally known as Historic England. However due to the potential for confusion in relation to “HE” (Highways England and Historic England), we have used “HBMCE” in our formal submissions to the examination to avoid confusion.

1.2. HBMCE’s creation and role in relation to the historic environment is detailed in Section 2 of our written representations, dated 23/01/19.

HBMCE’s RESPONSES TO THE EXAMINING AUTHORITY FURTHER WRITTEN QUESTIONS ISSUED ON 22 MARCH 2019

2.1 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

2.1.8 Hazlegrove House & RPG

In light of the photomontages of the proposal provided at Deadline 4 [REP4-018] along with all other information submitted to date would the parties provide their assessment of the proposal on the setting of Hazlegrove House and the RPG as heritage assets in the terms of the NPSNN.

HBMCE response

HBMCE has reviewed the photomontage for the view south from Hazlegrove House, submitted for Deadline 4. As outlined and now agreed in our Statement of Common Ground with HE (latest version to be submitted 5/4/19), we agree that the photomontage demonstrates that the existing Camel Hill Services will be obscured in key views from the front Hazlegrove House and the formal gardens once the proposed landscape planting has matured. However, it is also agreed with HE that through design development the level of harm as defined in the NPPF/NPPG, which is also applicable to the NPSNN, has been reduced from substantial harm to less than substantial harm. However, it is recognised in EIA terms the scheme still has a significant impact and effect on the RPG. Whilst mitigation is proposed, for example, in the form of woodland planting along the bunds, to alleviate the visual impact of the road and traffic from the Park and House once mature, there will still be visual

encroachment and physical impact of the junction on the character and setting of the park.

2.1.9 Heritage Assets (generally)

(a) In light of the information on bunds provided at Deadline 4 (see both the engineering sections [REP4-001] and visual representations (Appendix D to [REP4-018])) could the parties please set out whether they agree with the Applicant's analysis of the effect on heritage assets.

HBMCE response

HMBCE has reviewed the landscape sections through Hazlegrove Junction submitted for Deadline 4. We consider them to be very helpful in illustrating how the bunds and proposed planting aim to screen the road. We would however maintain that, as set out in our Written Representation, para 7.5.3. (e) *'We do not consider that the design of the false cuttings and screen planting would remove all moving traffic from historic views from the park. We agree that in the longer term, when the planting is in leaf and reaching maturity, moving traffic may be removed, but we consider that large vehicles such as coaches and HGVs may be visible during winter months.'*

2.1.12 Camel Hill SAM

In light of the wireframe photograph provided to date [REP4-018] do the parties have any comments to make about the effect of the proposal on the Camel Hill SAM or its setting?

HBMCE response

As noted in the Examining Authority's question 2.1.10, the Applicant's submitted a Wireframe photograph by deadline 4, however this only showed the existing situation. HMBCE has now received a revised photomontage, issued by HE on 3/4/19 and we consider this together with other supporting evidence provided by HE since the submission of our Written Representation will enable us to provide a final assessment of the effects of the impact of the Scheme (re. *section 7.3 HBMCE's Assessment of Impact on Camel Hill Scheduled Monument*). We would expect to include this assessment within the revisions to the Statement of Common Ground. .

2.1.13 Camel Hill SAM

In light of the more detailed drawing provided [REP4-018] showing the extent of the SAM and the limits of deviation, could Historic England please provide its analysis of the effect on the setting of Camel Hill SAM.

HBMCE response

HBMCE has noted the Examining Authority's request in Question 2.1.11 for measurements between the extent of the scheduled monument and limit of deviation to be annotated on this plan. HBMCE has requested the Applicant to indicate what scale the plan has been produced at, and to confirm the source of the scheduled monument boundary plan. A revised plan has now been received from HE (on 2/4/18) HBCME is currently consulting its Listing Advisor and Mapping specialist to confirm that the information provided is sufficient for HBMCE to respond with its analysis. We would expect to respond to this in more detail within revisions to the Statement of Common Ground.