

**From:** [Sariquia Purchase](#)  
**To:** [A303 Sparkford to Ilchester](#)  
**Subject:** RE: TR010036 - A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Project - Examining Authority"s Additional Written Questions. RESPONSE DUE BY 3 MAY 2019  
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[imagef1cfc1.PNG](#)  
[20190430 TR010036 A303 Dualling Q3 Response.pdf](#)

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Dear Sir/Madam

Please find response from the Somerset Internal Drainage Board attached for your records

Regards  
Sariquia

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Our Ref: SB/SMP

Your Ref: TR010036

Date: 30 April 2019

National Infrastructure Planning  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol BS1 6PN

Dear Sir or Madam

**TR010036 - A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Project - Examining Authority's Additional Written Questions**

The Board response to the question asked for ExQ3 is below:

***Question 3.8.1 Maintenance of Ponds***

*In the Final SoCG between the Applicant and the Somerset Drainage Board Consortium [REP5-018] there is a dispute about the necessary width of any maintenance strips to allow for a full de-silt of the pond with the Consortium arguing for a greater than 4m strip.*

a) *What greater width is considered necessary?*

The Board is of the opinion that a minimum of 6m is required.

b) *What are the practical implications of it only being 4 m wide?*

For the full de-silt of the ponds a tracked excavator is required. These are usually of the type shown below (a 14 tonne excavator) due to the reach that is required:



To operate safely the machine needs to be a minimum of 1.5m back from the edge of a pond or watercourse to ensure that there is no impact on the bank and a bank slip could potentially cause the machine to over-turn into the pond.

The machine width is around 2.5m wide and when the cab turns there is an overhang of 1m for the counterweight as can be seen below:



A safe working area of 1m should be left behind the counterweight. This adds up as:

1.5m offset from pond +

2.5m width of machine +

1m counterweight +

1m safety zone at rear +

**This equals 6m**

If the maintenance strip is only 4m wide a standard machine would not be able to safely operate and the task would be more complicated, more expensive and would be less likely to happen. This could mean a reduction in the volume of storage available in the pond which would increase flood risk.

Yours Sincerely



**Simon Bunn**  
**Development Control Officer**