

James Conboy

HS2@chilternsociety.org.uk

Dear James Conboy,

FOI-23-5341

Thank you for your information request which was received on 26 November 2023. I have processed your request under the Environmental Information Regulations ('EIR') 2004 ('the Regulations') because the information you have requested concerns work affecting the environment according to the definition in Regulation 2. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act ('FOI') 2000 ('the Act') exempts environmental information from the Act but requires us to consider it under the Regulations.

RESPONSE

Please find our response below.

"We have recently been notified of events connected with construction of the Chiltern Tunnel, with potentially adverse effects on the Chiltern aquifer and waterbodies. These give rise to the following questions, which obviously fall within the scope of the Environmental Information Regulations.

A. Subsidence affecting the River Misbourne, May 2022

"additional concern over a sudden drop in water level within the Misbourne river on the 3rd May, following which a possible subsidence location was identified within the river bed."

(quote from C1 Monthly Water Monitoring Overview, May 2022 1MC05-ALJ-EV-REP-C001-000203)

1. Where did this event occur

An area of possible subsidence was found in the river channel at the bridge over the River Misbourne in Chalfont St Giles (Pheasant Hill).

2. What materials were used to repair the river bed

On 06 May 7 bags of clay pellets and around 0.3m³ of chalk gravel, with further work carried out on 9 May 2022 consisting of an additional 0.1m³ of chalk gravel being added, followed by levelling out of the depression with silt from the riverbed.

3. Please supply any reports relating to this incident

Align prepared a report of the incident which was issued to EA and AfW: Incident Report: Crossing of the River Misbourne by the Chiltern Tunnel. Ref: 1MC05-ALJ-EV-REP-CS02_CL04-000228. Please see **Annex A** attached. Some of the information is being withheld under **Regulation 13 – Personal Information** – of the Regulations under which third party personal data is exempt from disclosure. Further information on Regulation 13 is available via the following link.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/3391/regulation/13>

Regulation 13 provides that information relating to third parties is exempt information, if among other things, the release of the information requested would breach the requirements contained under the first data protection principle. In this case release of the information would not be lawful or fair.

There is a wider legitimate interest for transparency but placing this information in the public domain would lead to an unwarranted level of interference with the person's privacy. It is not needed for us to consider the necessity for disclosure, and in this case, there is no pressing need for us to disclose the information. Therefore, a further balancing test is not required.

Subsidence event, November 2021

“It was noted in November 2021 that a subsidence event revealed an unmapped historical landfill nearby (approx. 100 m away from the tunnel alignment)”

(quote from Borehole ML032-RC009, 1MC05-ALJ-EV-NOT-C001-000006 Conclusions, p11)

1. Where did this event occur

It happened on private land not associated with HS2 Ltd.

2. How was the subsidence detected

It was detected by the landowner.

3. Please supply any reports relating to this incident

This incident isn't related to HS2 activities. It was noted in the report as an indication of potential contaminant sources that we detected in our monitoring boreholes.

B. Unreported ground movements

In relation to the (non)-announcement of the recent Hyde Heath sinkhole, Darielle Proctor replied (for Align) "HS2 and Align do not publicly announce these matters as we do not want to create further safety issues with people trying to access the area."

That being the case, would you please supply a list of all ground movements (or similar occurrences), the date and time of the event being observed, and the location, for all such events in the Misbourne valley (since the TBMs passed beyond the Ch St Giles vent shaft)

Since passing Chalfont St. Giles shaft there have been two ground movement or similar occurrences (to that of "Hyde Heath sinkhole"). The first near Shardeloes lake on 13/05/2023, Easting BNG 494195.080900, Northing BNG 197908.122300. The second, the aforementioned near Hyde Heath on 09/11/2023 Easting BNG 491668.027, Northing BNG 200651.603

C. Known Geological Faults

In a statement regarding the Hyde Heath sinkhole, HS2 stated that there is a known geological fault in the area, which indicated the need for additional monitoring

1. How many such anticipated faults have the TBMs encountered (since the Ch St Peter vent shaft)

Also, "Through ... the live data from the TBM we identified the potential for ground movement"

Since Chalfont St. Peter vent shaft there are 44 anticipated faults identified. The TBM cannot identify all faults from the live data.

2. How many times has the live data indicated such potential ? (again, since Ch St Peter)"

Since Chalfont St Peter live data has identified such potential on 9 occasions, but only 2 have resulted in a ground movement.

Right to Review

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request, you may complain in writing to HS2 Ltd. Please find below details of HS2 Ltd's complaints procedure which includes your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Please remember to quote reference number **FOI-23-5341** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely

J. Palmer

Briefings, Correspondence and Freedom of Information Adviser

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited

Your right to complain to HS2 Ltd and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain to HS2 Ltd within 40 working days of the date of this response about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested.

Your complaint will be acknowledged, and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF