

Our ref:CRS-101091
Your ref:

Mike Anderson

Sent via Email

David Parker
Historical Railways Estate
3rd Floor
37 Tanner Row
YORK
YO1 6WP

Direct Line: 0771 443 1547
8th June 2020

Dear Mr Anderson

Freedom of Information Request – Queensbury Tunnel Shaft Infilling

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on 7th May 2020.

I can confirm that the decision to infill shaft number two based upon historic evidence of the deteriorating condition of the refuge area close to the base of shaft 2. Please also be aware that the whole southern section of the tunnel was fully flooded from 2nd October 2019 and remains so.

The relative email correspondence confirming a worsening of the condition of the refuge area and an increased risk of a collapse of shaft 2 is attached below.

I can confirm that the estimated cost of the current works is £585,000.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review within 2 months of the date of this response for Freedom of Information requests and within 40 days for Environmental Information Regulations requests. Our internal review process is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail info@highwaysengland.co.uk. You should contact me if you wish to complain.

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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number 101091 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely



David Parker
Historical Railways Estate
Email: dave.parker@highwaysengland.co.uk

Smith, Fiona

From: Wilson, James - York [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 October 2019 14:15
To: Smith, Fiona
Cc: Dave Thomas
Subject: RE: Queensbury Tunnel

Fiona,

I have checked the description of the defects noted in Dave's email below against the most recent detailed examination report for that part of the tunnel. There appears to have been significant deterioration since February 2017. Please note the description of the defects to the refuge and associated photos from the inspection undertaken at that time.

127+05 Refuge Up	Brickwork, collapsed, Sidewall on the upside bulged, approx. 1ft., area 20m.sq.
------------------	---



Photo No. 20: 127+05 Refuge Up, Brickwork, collapsed, Sidewall on the upside bulged, approx. 1ft., area 20m.sq.



Photo No. 21: 127+05 Refuge Up, Brickwork, collapsed, Sidewall on the upside bulged, approx. 1ft., area 20m.sq.

The February 2017 examination report from which the above is extracted was provided to Amco as part of the Preconstruction Information Pack and will be the 'previous inspections' referred to in the email below.

It is also worth noting that the above was already a significant deterioration since our inspection in July 2012, as shown in the photograph below.



Clearly the flood water is causing a relatively rapid deterioration of the tunnel lining. It is of particular concern at this location however, due to the proximity of the eye of Shaft No. 2.

Regards

James Wilson | Principal Civil Engineer | Jacobs | [REDACTED] www.jacobs.com

🌱 Please consider the Environment before printing this e-mail

From: Dave Thomas [REDACTED] >
Sent: 03 October 2019 13:11
To: Fiona.Smith@highwaysengland.co.uk; Wilson, James - York [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Queensbury Tunnel

Fiona/Jim,

I write to confirm our concerns about the condition of the lining at Shaft 2.

The CAT1 emergency situation granted by the EA allowed us to make a partial inspection of the area late last week, I say partial because the lower 400mm of the tunnel was still submerged in water and couldn't be assessed. In addition to this our inspection had to be cut short because the water started to advance so quickly that there was a real danger to staff in that area. The tower scaffold that facilitated access had to be left behind and is now lost to the water.

In the time we had we were able to witness that the condition of the refuge had deteriorated significantly compared to photographs taken in previous years. The lower half at each side of the refuge has collapsed into the water leaving behind what looks to be natural strata, the cracking that is present has increased in width and in length and the crown of the refuge appears to have sagged further. The bulged areas at each side are now more pronounced and all the mortar has been washed out of the joints due to the drawdown of water from the deliberate flooding.

There is also evidence that the condition of the crown and high haunches between Shaft 2 and Shaft 3 has also suffered, the defects are more pronounced and extensive than observed during previous inspections.

I apologise for the time to confirm but all our efforts have been concentrated on ensuring the safety of our staff and our equipment. I'm pleased to advise that there have been no accidents or injuries and that all the heavy plant has

been taken to safety with no losses.

Due to the deliberate flooding Shaft 2 is again fully submerged, this will weaken the area further and increases the likelihood of further migration of defects into the shaft.

Regards

Dave Thomas
Regional Manager

AMCO GIFFEN

Safety | Professionalism | Innovation | Respect | Integrity | Teamwork



T: 01226 243413



www.amcogiffen.co.uk

Amalgamated Construction Limited (AmcoGiffen) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Renew Holdings plc

Registered Office: Renew Holdings plc, 3175 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds, LS15 8ZB.

Amco registered in England & Wales Number 995892, Giffen registered in England & Wales Number 00252314

Disclaimer - Renew Holdings plc and subsidiary companies

This email and any files transmitted with it are CONFIDENTIAL and may contain legally privileged information intended solely for the use of the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise the sender or system administrator immediately by return email. This email was scanned for viruses prior to transmission. Renew Holdings plc (and its subsidiaries) however accept no responsibility for any viruses not revealed by such check and in accordance with good computing practice recipients should ensure that they are actually virus free.

Renew Holdings plc, registered in England & Wales, company number 650447. The Registered Office for Renew Holdings plc and subsidiary companies is Renew Holdings plc, 3175 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds, LS15 8ZB.

NOTICE - This communication may contain confidential and privileged information that is for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any viewing, copying or distribution of, or reliance on this message by unintended recipients is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the message and deleting it from your computer.

Jacobs U.K. Limited
1180 Eskdale Road, Winnersh, Wokingham RG41 5TU
Registered in England and Wales under number 2594504