

Gibbons, Frances

From: Trethowan, Jessica
Sent: 06 December 2018 11:43
To: Logan, Kate; Sebire, Heather; Murray-Fennell, Michael
Subject: FW: Blick Mead damage story

Hi all, for info

From: Smith, Neville
Sent: 06 December 2018 11:40
To: Trethowan, Jessica
Subject: RE: Blick Mead damage story

The background is:

We contacted Professor Jacques to let him know what locations we would be installing the water table measuring equipment, stumbled across the work apparently, contacted Prof Jacques, and he has issued the claims without seeing the site himself.

We are meeting him on site today and planning to issue an updated statement release later today.

Happy for you to use HE handle in social media, and for info only, here's our holding statement:

A Highways England spokesperson said: "No damage has been caused to archaeological layers. We notified Professor David Jacques of the locations of our water table monitoring, and have adhered to guidelines in carrying out the work. We have also kept Prof Jacques informed and we will be meeting him today.
"Our assessments so far indicate that construction of the scheme will have no significant effects on the Blick Mead area, and we are undertaking this further hydrogeological investigation at Prof Jacques' request in order to ensure the scheme continues to have no significant effect on the Blick Mead area.
"The works have been undertaken in a highly professional manner, with an archaeologist on site and with due care being exercised at all times."

Background information

The water measuring equipment is a piezometer. The installation is a tube, 5cm in diameter. To protect this at surface, it is placed within 15cm casing, 60cm in depth, with approximately 20cm penetrating the ground. As standard practice, these are sealed at the surface with cement to prevent surface water finding its way into the piezometer.

Spoil from the water monitoring excavation was inspected by an archaeologist and did not contain any archaeological material. Excess material was placed back into the borehole around the piezometer tube, and the remainder retained as a record for hydrogeological purposes.

Regards

Nev

Neville Smith – Media Relations Manager, South West and Midlands
Highways England