

Our ref: FOI 744,644

Your ref:

Operations Directorate Services Team
Manager
9th Floor
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham B1 1RN

2 December 2016

Dear

Thank you for your freedom of information request of 03 November 2016 asking for information on underpasses for bats. I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information.

In your email of 03 November you asked the following questions:

Please can you send me a list and details of any underpasses installed beneath highways agency roads to facilitate movement of bats (including any proposed underpasses granted planning permission or under construction but not yet completed), along with details of the specifications of those underpasses and the bats for which they were designed.

Please also send through any monitoring data or research reports demonstrating the effectiveness / use of these features.

Highways England is responsible for the strategic road network (SRN) in England, which includes motorways and trunk roads. The company and its predecessor organisation, Highways Agency, have and continue to undertake works to mitigate the impact of its operational, maintenance and improvement works, including provisions for wildlife crossing the network, and those intended to reduce the risk of animals being killed or injured on the network.

Mitigation measures include tunnels, culverts, underpasses, adapted farm crossings and species specific structures. Appropriate fencing and planting may be included to encourage use of the crossings and/or to integrate them within the surrounding environment.

The details of wildlife crossings are recorded on our environmental information system (EnvIS) in accordance with advice in the following Interim Advice Notes (IAN) :

- IAN 84/10 Part 1 Part 1 Environmental Information System (EnvIS). Part 1. Introduction DMRB 10.
- IAN 84/10 Part 2 Environmental Information System (EnvIS). Part 2. Environmental Inventory DMRB 10.

- IAN 84/10 Part 3 Environmental Information System (EnvIS). Part 3. Environmental Management Information DMRB 10.
- IAN 84/10 Part 4 Environmental Information System (EnvIS). Part 4. Data Management - Amendment.

The above documents can be found at the following location:

<http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/ians/>

Such crossings are recorded as “Wildlife Structures”, reflecting the objectives of these structures, and then “Combined Tunnel” which means the structures are designed to allow the movement of a range of species. Where structures are specifically designed for single species use this is recorded and this includes the following categories:

- Amphibian Tunnel;
- Badger Tunnel;
- Otter Ledge.

In addition, other forms of structure may be recorded with other primary purposes, where they additionally provide for other usage such as recreational or agricultural access.

While we do specifically identify overpass structures for bats, our records do not specifically identify underpasses for bats. We have, however, attached a full list of our records of combined tunnels. While these structure records do not directly relate to your original question, we can provide further information on them if you consider this would be useful.

As we do not have specific bat underpasses, there is no associated monitoring data. However, further to your discussion with Stuart Wilson on 17 November 2016, we will write separately to provide you with additional information on a range of relevant published and unpublished information that you may find of relevance.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. 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 FOI 744,644 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Email: Ops_dst@highwaysengland.co.uk