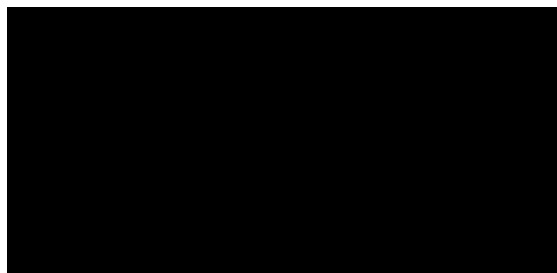


Our ref: 23887025



www.nationalhighways.co.uk

17 August 2026

Dear Annette McDonald

A556 Attenuation Basin

Thank you for your email dated 5 August 2026, about the A556 Attenuation Basin. I appreciate you taking the time to bring the concerns of Tatton Estate, its tenants and farming contractors to our attention. I understand the concerns that have been raised regarding previous flooding incidents and the potential impact on neighbouring properties and farming operations. Our Regional Director for trunk roads and motorways in the North West, 

, I am responding on her behalf.

I acknowledge your comments regarding the correspondence to which you refer and your request for an update on the progress of our investigations following the works undertaken in May. The latest position is set out below.

As part of our ongoing investigations into the attenuation basin, works were undertaken in May to further investigate the drainage arrangements associated with the site. A pump truck was deployed between 15 and 21 May to lower the water level within the basin, following which a dye test was carried out on 21 May.

During the dye test, no dye was observed at the designated outfall shown on the as-built drainage drawings. This suggests that the drainage system may not have been constructed in accordance with the original design. This may explain why water levels within the basin have remained elevated despite the recent periods of dry weather. However, further investigation is required to confirm the configuration and operation of the drainage network.

We have been working to progress this investigation as a priority. While attempts have been made to facilitate a CCTV survey, the elevated water levels within the drainage system have continued to affect access for the equipment required to undertake the work. In addition, the survey requires extensive traffic management arrangements due to the location of the attenuation basin and outfall, including arrangements affecting sections of the A556 and M56, so that the work can be carried out safely.

We are continuing to progress these arrangements and currently expect the CCTV survey to take place between late September and early October 2026. Prior to the survey, we intend to undertake further drawdown works to lower water levels within the basin and facilitate access to the drainage system.

While these investigations are ongoing, we recognise the importance of managing the water levels within the basin. The water level has remained elevated since the drawdown works undertaken in May. Although our inspections to date have not identified evidence of an immediate flood risk, we are continuing to monitor conditions closely. As a precautionary measure, we are therefore making arrangements for periodic drawdown works, where necessary, until the investigation is complete. We are also increasing the frequency of monitoring and inspections to support our ongoing assessment of conditions on site.

In parallel with the CCTV survey, we are progressing a potential longer-term scheme to address the issues with the attenuation basin. The purpose of the initial work is to assess the performance of the attenuation basin and develop potential remedial options where appropriate. The findings of the CCTV survey will provide important information to support the development and assessment of those options.

You asked whether access across Estate land may be required. The CCTV survey that is currently planned is expected to be carried out within the A556 highway boundary and is not anticipated to require access across Estate land. Should further survey work be identified and access over Estate land become necessary, we will contact you in advance so that any appropriate arrangements can be made.

You also requested to be copied into future correspondence regarding this matter. We recognise Tatton Estate's interest in this matter and will keep you informed of significant developments in our investigations where appropriate. However, we are unable to share correspondence relating to third parties without their consent.

Finally, I note that you have notified the Environment Agency and intend to discuss the matter with Esther McVey MP's office. At present, we have not received any correspondence from the Environment Agency regarding the attenuation basin.

I hope you find this response helpful. If you would like any further information, I'd be happy to help. My contact details are below.

Yours sincerely

