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31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

**Reference: The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (WQ1)**

Dear Menaka Sahai,

The Woodland Trust would like to take the opportunity to respond to the questions posed by the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road Improvement scheme Development Consent Order application. The Trust's responses are as follows:

**Q1.3.7.1 a): With reference to the application documents, identify all veteran trees and groups, ancient woodland and protected trees that you are concerned about relative to the Proposed Development [APP-183]–[APP-187]**

Our main concern relates to **G61**, a group of cherry plum trees regarded as veteran specimens in the Arboricultural Report [APP-183] that are scheduled for removal to facilitate this proposal.

We also seek clarification on the Root Protection Area (RPA) afforded to **T311**, a veteran elm tree also referenced within the Arboricultural Report [APP-183]. Further details are outlined in our Relevant Representation [RR-111] and our accompanying Written Representation.

**Q1.3.7.1 b): In your RR [RR-111], why has specific reference been made to trees at Reference G61, instead of to others of seemingly, at least comparable value [APP-183]–[APP-187]**

Whilst the Woodland Trust would like to see the retention of all healthy, mature trees where possible, our campaigning remit focuses solely on the protection of ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees. On this basis, we have assessed the potential impact of this scheme on all ancient woods and ancient/veteran trees referenced within the Arboricultural Report, Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory and the Trust's own Ancient Tree Inventory<sup>1</sup>.

If any trees not currently recognised as ancient/veteran trees are subsequently recorded on the Ancient Tree Inventory or are later considered to be ancient/veteran by the applicant, we will in turn, re-assess the potential impacts posed.

<sup>1</sup> <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

If you have any questions regarding the Woodland Trust's answers to the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Nicole Hillier  
Campaigner – Woods under Threat