

PINS ref: TR010054

Eleanor Church
The Planning Inspectorate
Major Applications and Plans
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
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BS16PN

Andrew Kelly
Project Manager
M54M6 Project Team
Highways England
2 Colmore Square
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B4 6BN

29 May 2020

Dear Eleanor,

M54 to M6 Link Road Scheme – Response to Section 51 Advice Letter Dated 28th February 2020 and Application Errata

On 28 February 2020 the Secretary of State decided that the application for the above project satisfied the acceptance tests under section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) and accepted the application for examination. In undertaking checks of the application, the Inspectorate made some initial observations and these were set out in its section 51 advice letter of the same date. For ease of reference the section 51 advice letter is provided in Appendix A.

Highways England (the Applicant) has duly considered that advice and sets out within this letter its response to the points raised. For ease of understanding I have used the same headings as per your letter of the 28 February 2020.

This letter also requests a change to the application to remove a small area of the Order limits along the existing M54, formerly included to replace an existing road sign. This change is proposed because it is no longer necessary to make changes to the sign. We would appreciate it if the Inspectorate would consent to this change being made.

Finally, this letter also describes errata that the Applicant has noted since submission and describes corrections made to avoid confusion at examination.

Appendix B provides a table of all documents submitted with this letter and the changes made as a result of the three separate, but interrelated processes. These changes are also recorded in the revised Guide to Documents to be Certified, which has been re-submitted with this letter.

We have wrapped up all document amendments detailed in this letter in one submission to reduce potential confusion for interested parties arising from the submission of more than one version of the same document at the same time.

Given that the change outlined above has not been accepted by the Examining Authority, a version of the Book of Reference without the omission of the plot for the road sign will be issued with the certificates of compliance next week. The version issued next week will be version P03, with the version issued with this letter being P04. The rationale behind this ordering is that P04 has all the amendments in P03 plus additional amendments for removal of the sign, and would be published later given that the Examining Authority would need to take a procedural decision on accepting the change before publishing. The versions and issue dates are described in the Guide to Documents to be Certified (Doc 1.5).

Response to Issues Raised in the Section 51 Advice Letter from the Inspectorate dated 28th February 2020

Additional Local Authorities identified

The Inspectorate identified six local authorities that would be considered an authority under section 43 of the PA2008, but were not consulted on the application before submission. These six local authorities are authorities under section 43 because their areas share a boundary with Shropshire Council and Shropshire Council is a host authority. Appendix C to this letter provides a plan showing the Order limits as presented in the application submitted on 30 January alongside the local authority boundaries.

I can confirm that in line with the advice from the Planning Inspectorate, the six local authorities identified within the letter of the 28 February have been duly served notice of the accepted application under section 56(2)(a) of the PA2008. I enclose a copy of the consultation letter sent to those local authorities in Appendix D.

Shropshire Council is a host authority because there is a road sign along the M54 that was originally considered for replacement as part of the Scheme within the Order limits. It is shown as the outlying red dot in the Shropshire Council area in Appendix C. The sign is a long way from the rest of the Order limits and consequently missed in error when plans were truncated, resulting in Shropshire Council not being identified as a host authority (or its adjacent authorities as adjoining authorities). However, Shropshire Council was consulted on the Scheme as a section 43 authority due to sharing a boundary with South Staffordshire Council. There are no other works within Shropshire Council area apart from the replacement road sign along the M54.

The plan in Appendix C shows the authorities that were not consulted with the (N) notation, namely Wrexham County Borough Council, Powys County Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Herefordshire Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council. These Local Authorities are all located a long way from the Scheme, with the nearest local authority boundaries being Newcastle-under-Lyme, located 35 km to the north west of M6 Junction 11, and Malvern Hills, located 36 km to the south west of the M54 Junction 1.

Given the extremely minor, low impact nature of the works within the Shropshire Council area, the fact that the missed authorities are those bordering Shropshire and the long distance between the local authorities and the Scheme as a whole, we do not believe their omission prejudiced their involvement. A full review of all prescribed consultees and local authorities has been carried out for Section 56 notifications and all bodies have been issued with Section 56 notices. This includes the six local authorities not previously consulted.

Cheshire West and Chester Council confirmed in their Adequacy of Consultation response (dated 25 February 2020) that 'the consultation is considered adequate' and Herefordshire Council confirmed in their response (dated 27 February 2020) that the Council had no comments to make.

Tong Parish Council was identified as additional prescribed consultee on a precautionary basis and responded directly to Highways England (e-mail dated 29 April 2020) stating that: *'Tong Parish Council are pleased to support the proposals as being of benefit to the area and easing congestion on the surrounding roads.'* At the time of writing no other responses from additional consultees had been received.

Consultees identified on a precautionary basis

As per the advice provided by the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant has taken a precautionary approach to consultation under section 56 in order to ensure all persons potentially affected by, or potentially likely to have an interest in the application are given the opportunity to participate in the Examination.

Within the section 55 Acceptance of Applications Checklist the Planning Inspectorate identified two parties that were not consulted by the Applicant under section 42, namely:

- ESP Pipelines Ltd; and
- Energy Assets Networks Limited.

ESP Pipelines and ES Pipelines were both on the Regulation 11 list, but with the same postal address. On further investigation, the team concluded that this was one organisation and the correct company name should be ES Pipelines. Therefore, only ES Pipelines were consulted under section 42.

Similarly, Energy Asset Networks Limited, Energy Asset Pipeline Networks Limited and Energy Asset Power Networks are all listed on the Regulation 11 list with the same postal address. The latter two were identified as separate entities as the second company name is a gas transporter and the third an electricity distributor. However, 'Energy Asset Networks Limited' was not identified as a separate entity to the other two so was rejected as a duplicate. As per row 44 (page 25) of the Consultation Report Annex G (Doc 5.2), the Applicant consulted both ES Pipelines Ltd and Energy Assets Pipelines Limited.

However, to ensure there was no doubt on this issue, separate letters and notices were sent to all five organisation names under section 56 of the PA2008.

In addition, and as a result of land being included within the Shropshire Council area the Applicant has taken a precautionary approach to the wider notification under section 56 and has duly notified the following additional prescribed consultees:

- NHS Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group;
- Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust;
- West Mercia Local Resilience Forum;
- West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service;
- Rea Internal Drainage Board;

- Tong Parish Council; and
- Shropshire Council (Highways Authority).

The Applicant has also undertaken an exercise in updating relevant contact names, e-mail addresses and contact details for prescribed consultees to account for notified changes since the statutory consultation period in May 2019.

Habitats Regulations Assessment No Significant Effects Report (Doc 6.9)

The Inspectorate noted that Annex E: Natural England Screening Consultation Response was omitted from the version of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) submitted on the 30 January 2020. Annex E containing an e-mail from Ms Gillian Driver (Scheme Case Officer for Natural England) has been added to an updated version of the HRA which is enclosed with this letter.

Environmental Statement Figure 13.1 (Doc 6.2)

In respect of Figure 13.1 'water bodies and their attributes', the figure has been split into three separate figures for clarity. Given that there are reasons consultees may want to be able to look at all attributes on one plan, the original combined plan has also been retained so that the figures in 13.1 now comprise:

- Figure 13.1 – 'Water bodies and their attributes'
- Figure 13.1A – 'Water bodies and their attributes groundwater resources'
- Figure 13.1B – 'Water bodies and their attributes surface water resources'
- Figure 13.1C – 'Water bodies and their attributes flood risk'

Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)

The section 51 advice notes that the Book of Reference (BoR) shows plot 6/22a as 'All interests in the land...', however the draft DCO and Land Plans have this plot listed as land for temporary possession. This land is required for temporary possession, so the Book of Reference was incorrect. This has been corrected in line with the Land Plans and draft DCO. Consultation on the land acquisition carried out in November 2019 included distribution of Land Plans that depicted this area correctly.

Change to the Application Order Limits

Highways England requests that the Examining Authority allow the Applicant to change the Order limits to remove the area around the road sign along the M54 in the Shropshire Council area. This is further to the development of a more detailed signage strategy, which has clarified that it is highly unlikely that any changes would be required to the sign because it states distances to destinations that are unlikely to change. In the unlikely event that changes were required, works would be limited to the replacement of an existing sign face. This replacement would not need planning permission or any new land rights (as Highways England already own the M54 corridor). Therefore, should a new sign face be required, no consents would be required for the works.

Therefore, the Applicant proposes, with the Examining Authority's agreement, to make a formal amendment to the Order limits (plot 1/1a) to remove land identified within the Shropshire

Council area for the replacement of the sign. This change has been discussed with Shropshire Council, who have raised no issues with the change.

Removing this parcel necessitates minor amendments to several application documents. These amendments are predominantly amendments to figures to remove the sign/land parcel, with some minor textual changes to remove references to the land parcel in the BoR and the Statement of Reasons. The changes do not change the conclusions of any assessments given the extremely minor works formerly proposed on this plot. All plans and documents have been updated to remove the area of land affected by the sign, with these changes all detailed in Appendix B.

Highways England consider that this change is non-material because it would not materially affect:

- the overall Scheme for which consent is sought;
- the Environmental Statement or its conclusions;
- any landowners, stakeholders, businesses or local residents; or
- the consents or powers sought in the DCO.

The area affected is along the existing M54, which is owned and controlled by Highways England.

We would invite the Examining Authority, when appointed, to consider this change and make a procedural decision in the Rule 6 letter so that all parties can be notified of the change at the earliest opportunity.

Errata and Updates to Address Consultee Comments

Since the submission on 30 January 2020 we have become aware of a small number of additional errata that we would like to address now for clarity and before the Examination starts formally. This also includes a small number of updates that have arisen from comments received from prescribed consultees and the Land Registry refresh. The following section details changes that have been made to documents sent with this letter.

Guide to Documents to be Certified (Doc 1.5)

This document has been updated to include all documents submitted with the application and retain a record of all documents submitted to the Inspectorate. This indicates documents that will be superseded with the documents in this submission if the Inspectorate is comfortable to accept the change to the Order limits detailed above.

Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)

We noted that plot 5/11h was described as being required temporarily in Part 4 of the BoR, but for permanent acquisition in parts 1 and 3. This parcel of land is required permanently as was described correctly in parts 1 and 3, and as shown on the submitted Land Plans (Doc 2.2). Affected landowners were sent draft Land Plans in November 2019 showing the land as permanent acquisition, so were consulted on the acquisition correctly.

The BoR has been updated with part 4 being amended in respect of this plot to match that of 1 and 3 confirming a permanent possession.

During the Land Registry refresh carried out in February 2020, we also identified that a new unilateral notice relating to a contract to purchase had been registered dated 16 October 2019. This identified two new category two parties for plot 1/3, who have been added to the BoR and were consulted under section 56.

These changes are in addition to the correction noted by the Planning Inspectorate in the section 51 advice.

Consultation Report Annex P (Doc 5.2)

We noted that there were a number of references to plot 5/4a in Annex P. These references have been corrected to Plot 5/4 (there is no plot 5/4a).

Environmental Statement, Chapter 8: Biodiversity (Doc 6.1)

We noted that there was a paragraph numbering error, with paragraph numbers after paragraph 8.9.40 reverting back to 8.9.1. This error has been corrected.

Appendix 8.2: Biodiversity Metric Calculation (Doc 6.3)

In respect of Appendix 8.2 we noted an error within Table 3.9 regarding Phase 1 habitat areas. The figures referenced within the table did not include the area of broadleaved plantation, the figure stated 2.53 ha of land rather than 3.09. The calculation and assessment reported in the Environmental Statement were correct, with the error only present in Table 3.9.

Appendix 9.2: Agricultural Land Classification and Soil Resources (Doc 6.3)

We have updated this Appendix in line with comments received from Natural England on 24 January 2020. This update has resulted in minor textural changes and provision of an additional graph illustrating climatic limitations at Paragraph 2.2.2.

Additional information on soil associations has also been mapped within the Scheme boundary and the national soil map has also now been included. Finally, in respect of Paragraph 2.3.4 two observation pits have been added to Figure RAC8421-1, referred to as ADAS pit and RAC pit with the associated information being provided within Annex A of Appendix 9.2.

Outline Environmental Management Plan (Doc 6.11)

Following on from the changes made to Appendix 8.2 (as discussed above), the text associated with Table 3.4 has been updated to account for the correct figure of ancient woodland loss of 3.09 hectares.

The requirement numbering in Table 3.2: Scheme preliminary works (PW) REAC table in the Outline Environmental Management Plan has been updated to reflect that presented in the draft DCO submitted with the application.

Transport Assessment Report (Doc 7.4)

The contents page within the Transport Assessment Report has been corrected to reflect the page numbering in the document. A small number of minor textual corrections and clarifications have also been made that have been noted since submission.

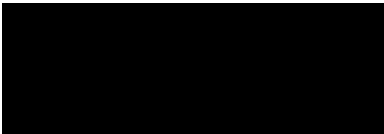
Figure 4.3 of the report has also been updated to reflect the status of the ROF Featherstone site in the traffic model.

Conclusion

We thank you for the advice provided to date. Updated copies of the amended documents set out within Appendix B are enclosed with this letter. If the proposed changes are acceptable then I should be grateful if you would upload the amended documents to the Inspectorate website.

I trust that the above is clear and should you require any further clarification please do not hesitate to get in contact with me.

Yours Sincerely



Andrew Kelly

Project Manager for M54 to M6 Link Road Scheme

Email : M54toM6linkroad@highwaysengland.co.uk

Tel : 0300 123 5000

Appendix A : Section 51 Letter



National Infrastructure
Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer 0303 444 5000
Services:
e-mail: M54toM6linkroad@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Andrew Kelly
By email only

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010054

Date: 28 February 2020

Dear Mr Kelly

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 51

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the M54 to M6 Link Road

Advice following issue of decision to accept the application for examination

On 28 February 2020 the Secretary of State decided that the application for the above project satisfied the acceptance tests under section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). The Planning Inspectorate's acceptance checklist and the application documents have been published and made available on the project page of our website.

In undertaking checks at the acceptance stage, the Inspectorate has made some initial observations in relation to the application. This letter comprises advice to the Applicant provided under section 51 of the PA2008 in respect of these initial observations. The Applicant should pay attention to its content and consider how appropriate action might be taken in response.

Additional Local Authorities identified

The red line boundary has been amended since the statutory consultation was undertaken. The Planning Inspectorate has identified the following authorities based on the submitted application that would be considered an authority under s43.

- Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Wrexham County Borough Council
- Powys County Council
- Herefordshire Council
- Malvern Hills District Council

The Applicant's Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) does not explain why the six Local Authorities identified above were not consulted. The amendment to the red line boundary that has triggered the above six authorities to become authorities under s43 looks to be extremely minor in nature; being to incorporate signage on an existing highway. The Book of Reference (Doc 4.3) indicates that Highways England are the owner of this land. The six local authorities were invited to submit Adequacy of Consultation Representations; two authorities have done so and raised no concerns. Based on this information, the Planning Inspectorate considers that the likelihood of any prejudice to the authorities or others is minimal and would not constitute a sound reason for deciding not to accept the application. However, the applicant should serve notice on these authorities (as required by s56A) when it serves notice of the accepted application under s56(2)(a) of the PA2008.

Consultees identified on a precautionary basis

Given the individual circumstances of this case, the Planning Inspectorate advises taking a precautionary approach to consultation under s42(1)(a) of PA2008 to ensure that all persons potentially affected by, or potentially likely to have an interest in the application are given the opportunity to participate fully in the Examination of the application. On this basis, the Applicant may wish to serve notice on the bodies listed in Box 6 of the section 55 checklist when it serves notice of the accepted application under s56(2)(a) of the PA2008; unless there is a specific justification why this is not necessary.

Habitats Regulations Assessment No Significant Effects Report (Doc 6.9)

The report refers to a 'Natural England Screening Consultation Response' (in the form of an email dated 22/11/2019) and states that this is provided in Annex E. We note that Annex E has not been included within the report. The Applicant is asked to provide this no later than 10 days before the Preliminary Meeting, the date of which shall be advised in due course.

Environmental Statement (Doc 6.2)

Multiple data layers have been presented in Figure 13.1 'water bodies and their attributes'. We would request that the Applicant re-submit Figure 13.1 in a clearer format; preferably with data layers presented across more than one figure no later than 10 days before the Preliminary Meeting.

Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)

The Book of Reference shows plot 6/22a as 'All interests in the land...' however the dDCO and Land Plans have this plot listed as land for temporary possession. The status of this plot should be clarified and the pertinent documents submitted no later than 10 days before the Preliminary Meeting.

Please pay close attention to the advice set out in this letter and act on it accordingly. This will contribute towards a more efficient examination and give any future Examining Authority comfort that the documentation is complete and accurate.

We trust you find this advice helpful, however if you have any queries on these matters please do not hesitate to contact our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Eleanor Church

Eleanor Church
Case Manager

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<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>



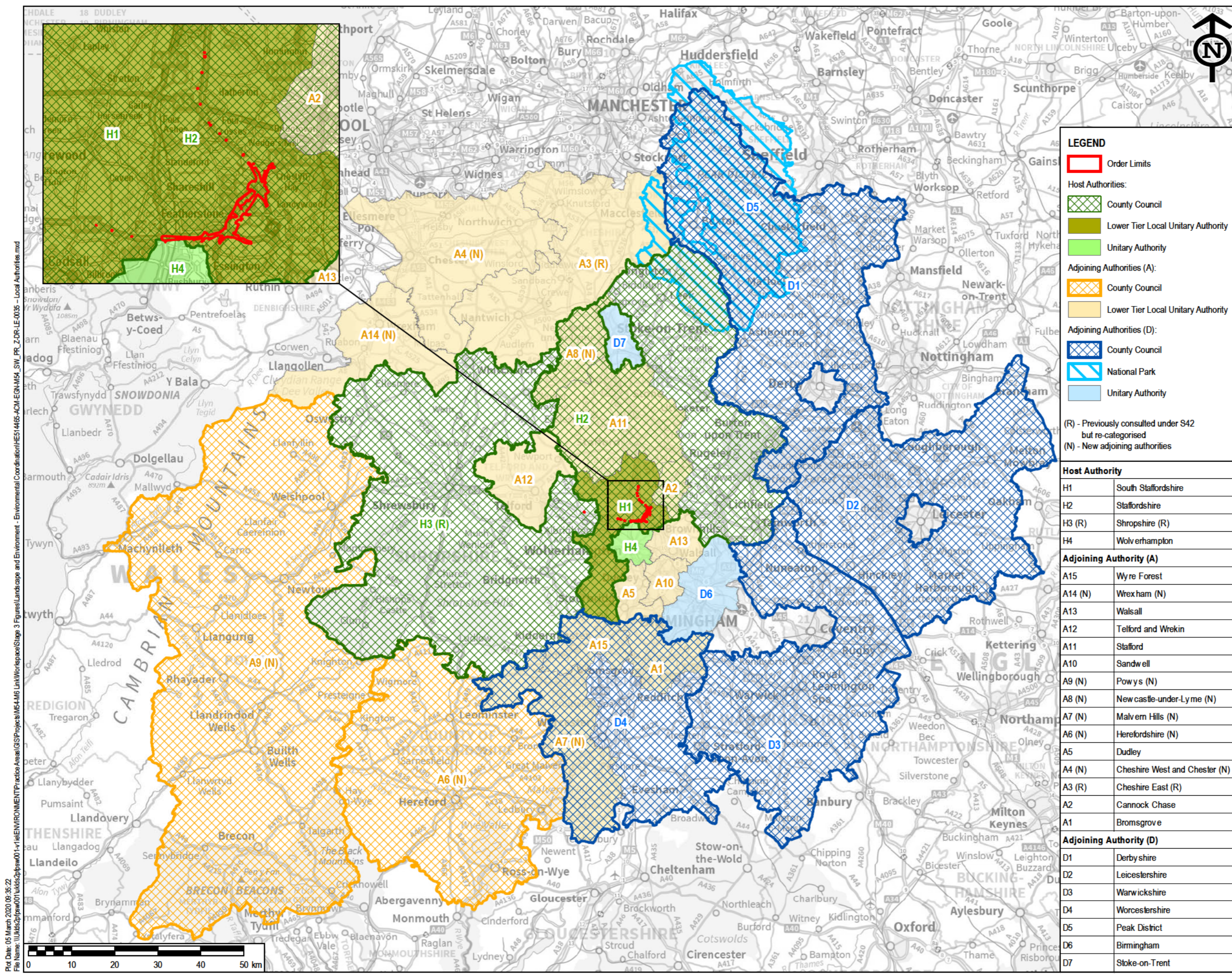
Appendix B: Table of changes to documents

Document	Changes made to docs	Reference
Covering Letter	N/A	HE514465-ACM-DCO-M54_ZZ_ZZ_Z-LT-DC-0032
Guide to Documents to be Certified	Updated to reflect new versions submitted with this package. All application documents added to document so it provides a complete record.	TR010054/APP/1.5
Location Plan	Removal of sign from Order limits.	TR010054/APP/2.1
Land Plans	Removal of sign from Order limits.	TR010054/APP/2.2
Crown Land Plans	Removal of sign from Order limits.	TR010054/APP/2.3
Works Plans	Removal of sign from Order limits.	TR010054/APP/2.4
General Arrangement Plans	Removal of sign from Order limits.	TR010054/APP/2.5
Special Category Land Plans	Removal of sign from Order limits.	TR010054/APP/2.6
Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans	Removal of sign from Order limits.	TR010054/APP/2.7
Traffic Regulation Measures Plan	Removal of sign from Order limits.	TR010054/APP/2.8
Classification of Roads Plans	Removal of sign from Order limits.	TR010054/APP/2.9
Outline Drainage Works	Removal of sign from Order limits.	TR010054/APP/2.11
Statement of Reasons	Text related to the area for the road sign in Shropshire was removed (i.e. removal of all text relating to Plot 1/1a in Annex A).	TR010054/APP/4.1

Book of Reference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text related to the area for the road sign in Shropshire was removed (i.e. removal of all text relating to Plot 1/1a). 2. Two new category 2 land interests added who were identified during the Land Registry refresh. 3. Correction to 5/11h in Part 4 (corrected from temporary to permanent to reflect all other documents); and 4. 6/22a (corrected from permanent to temporary to reflect all other documents). 	TR010054/APP/4.3
Consultation Report	Change to figure 1.1 to omit area for sign in Shropshire.	TR010054/APP/5.1
Consultation Report Annex P	Changes made to plot references (correction in ref to Plot 5/4 [previously referred to Plot 5/4a])	TR010054/APP/5.2
Environmental Statement: Chapter 8 Biodiversity	Corrected paragraph numbering after paragraph 8.9.40.	TR010054/APP/6.1
Environmental Statement Figure 2.8	Removal of sign from Order limits.	TR010054/APP/6.2
Environmental Statement Figure 13.1 – ‘Water bodies and their attributes’	Figure 13.1 split into four separate figures 13.1, 13.1a, 13.1b and 13.1c as requested by Planning Inspectorate in S51 letter.	TR010054/APP/6.2
Environmental Statement Figure 13.1A – ‘Water bodies and their attributes groundwater resources’	As above	TR010054/APP/6.2
Environmental Statement Figure 13.1B – ‘Water bodies and their attributes surface water resources’	As above	TR010054/APP/6.2
Environmental Statement Figure 13.1C – ‘Water bodies and their attributes flood risk’	As above	TR010054/APP/6.2
Appendix 8.2: Biodiversity Metric Calculation	Corrected error within Table 3.9 from 2.53 ha of broadleaved plantation to 3.09 ha to be consistent with the submitted ES.	TR010054/APP/6.3

Appendix 9.2: Agricultural Land Classification and Soil Resources	Updated in line with Natural England's comments rec'd 24 Jan 20: minor textural changes and associated graph illustrating climatic limitations at Paragraph 2.2.2. Para 2.3.4 additional information on soil associations mapped within the Scheme boundary has also been included. Two observation pits have been added to Figure RAC8421-1, referred to as ADAS pit and RAC pit provided within Annex A of Appendix 9.2.	TR010054/APP/6.3
Habitats Regulations Assessment No Significant Effects Report	Corrected omission of Annex E: Natural England Screening Consultation Response as requested by PINS in S51 letter	TR010054/APP/6.9
Outline Environmental Management Plan	As changes made to Appendix 8.2, text associated with Table 3.4 has been updated to account for the correct figure of ancient woodland loss of 3.09ha. The requirement numbering in Table 3.2: Scheme preliminary works (PW) REAC table in the Outline Environmental Management Plan has also been updated to reflect that presented in the draft DCO submitted with the application	TR010054/APP/6.11
Case for the Scheme	Removed area for sign from Order limits in Figure 2.1	TR010054/APP/7.2
Transport Assessment Report	Update to contents page, minor textual corrections and update to Figure 4.3.	TR010054/APP/7.4

Appendix C : Plan showing Order limits as presented in the application submitted on 30th January 2020 and the Local Authority boundaries



SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION BOX

IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL WORKS ON THIS DRAWING WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY A COMPETENT CONTRACTOR WORKING WHERE APPROPRIATE TO AN APPROPRIATE METHOD STATEMENT.

THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

EXCEPTIONAL RISKS RELATING TO THE WORKS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS DRAWING ARE IDENTIFIED BELOW.

CONSTRUCTION

MAINTENANCE / OPERATION / DECOMMISSIONING / DEMOLITION

NOTES

- THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION.
- DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING, USE ONLY PRINTED DIMENSIONS.
- ALL DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES, ALL CHAINAGES, LEVELS AND COORDINATES ARE IN METRES UNLESS DEFINED OTHERWISE.

LEGEND

Order Limits

Host Authorities:

- County Council
- Lower Tier Local Unitary Authority
- Unitary Authority

Adjoining Authorities (A):

- County Council
- Lower Tier Local Unitary Authority

Adjoining Authorities (D):

- County Council
- National Park
- Unitary Authority

(R) - Previously consulted under S42 but re-categorised
(N) - New adjoining authorities

Host Authority

H1	South Staffordshire
H2	Staffordshire
H3 (R)	Shropshire (R)
H4	Wolverhampton

Adjoining Authority (A)

A15	Wyre Forest
A14 (N)	Wrexham (N)
A13	Walsall
A12	Telford and Wrekin
A11	Stafford
A10	Sandwell
A9 (N)	Powys (N)
A8 (N)	Newcastle-under-Lyme (N)
A7 (N)	Malvern Hills (N)
A6 (N)	Herefordshire (N)
A5	Dudley
A4 (N)	Cheshire West and Chester (N)
A3 (R)	Cheshire East (R)
A2	Cannock Chase
A1	Bromsgrove

Adjoining Authority (D)

D1	Derbyshire
D2	Leicestershire
D3	Warwickshire
D4	Worcestershire
D5	Peak District
D6	Birmingham
D7	Stoke-on-Trent

Issue	EC	AR	04/03/20	P01
Revision Details	By	Check	Date	Suffix

Purpose of issue: **DCO APPLICATION**

Client: Highways England
The Cube
199 Wharfedale Street
Birmingham B1 1RN

Working on behalf of: **highways england**

Development Consent Order Number: **TR010054**

Project Title: **M54 TO M6 LINK ROAD**

Drawing Title: **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

Designed	Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
EC	EC	AR	AL	05/03/2020
Internal Project No.	Subsidiary			
60536736	S2			
Scale @ A3	Zone			
1:800,000	M54 to M6 Link Road			
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO AND SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF AECOM'S APPOINTMENT BY ITS CLIENT. AECOM ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ANY USE OF THIS DOCUMENT OTHER THAN BY ITS ORIGINAL CLIENT OR FOLLOWING AECOM'S EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO SUCH USE AND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS PREPARED AND PROVIDED.				
Drawing Number	Originator	Volume	Rev	
HE514465	-ACM	-EGN	P01	
M54_SW_PR_Z	-DR-LE-	-0035		
Location	Type	Issue	Number	

Plot Date: 05 March 2020 09:35:22
 File Name: \\ukhs01paw001\ukhs01paw001\1\ENVIRONMENT\PracticeArea\GIS\Projects\M54\M6 LinkRoad\Stage 3 Figures\Landscape\Stage 3 Figures\Local Authorities.mxd

Appendix D: Example letter sent to 'new' local authorities



Our ref: TR010054

RECIPIENTS ADDRESS BLOCK

**M54 to M6 Link Road Project Team
Highways England
Floor 5, Two Colmore Square
38 Colmore Circus
Birmingham
B4 6BN**

0300 123 5000

9 March 2020

Dear **NAME**,

**M54 TO M6 LINK ROAD
PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 56: NOTIFYING PERSONS OF ACCEPTED
APPLICATION
THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND
PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009: REGULATION 9
THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
REGULATIONS 2017: REGULATION 16**

I am writing regarding the proposed M54 to M6 Link Road (the 'Scheme'). The Scheme provides a strategic link between the M54 Junction 1 and M6 Junction 11.

Highways England is seeking development consent for the scheme under the Planning Act 2008 (the "2008 Act"). This legislation requires Highways England to make an application to the Planning Inspectorate ('the Inspectorate') for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to get the consent we need to build the scheme.

A DCO application was submitted by Highways England on 30th January 2020 and received by the Inspectorate on 31st January 2020. The application was accepted for examination by the Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on **28th February 2020**. Highways England is writing to you because it is required to notify you of an accepted application.

Your organisation has been identified as a party to be notified relatively recently due to the inclusion within the Order limits of an area in Shropshire along the M54 for a replacement road sign. The sign is within the highway boundary of the M54 between Junction 3 and Shackerley, to the north of Albrighton. The inclusion of an area of the Order limits within Shropshire means that Shropshire County Council is a 'host' authority, which then requires consultation of adjoining local authorities in England and Wales and prescribed consultees associated with the Shropshire area.

The sign in the Shropshire area is within the highway boundary of the M54 and is owned by Highways England so no consents or new land rights are required to deliver any changes

necessary to the sign face. Therefore, Highways England proposes to remove this area from the Order limits before the Examination. However, the decision on whether to accept this change lies with the Planning Inspectorate so we cannot be certain that this will happen and your organisation is therefore being consulted on a precautionary basis.

The team would be very happy to discuss the Scheme with you and anything we can do to help you through the process over the next few months, particularly as we have had limited engagement with your organisation to date. Please feel free to contact me using the contact details below if you would like to discuss.

In accordance with the 2008 Act, please find enclosed with this letter a **USB** with a file containing:

- A copy of a section 56 notice, providing formal notification of acceptance of the application;
- A copy of the accepted application including:
 - Two plans showing where the proposed development is to be sited including the Location Plan and a plan of the Order limits [the Location Plan can also be found in Volume 2, document TR010054_M54_2.1_Site_Location_Plans.pdf]; and
 - A copy of the Environmental Statement [see Volume 6, documents TR010054_M54_6.1; TR010054_M54_6.2; and TR010054_M54_6.3]

Further information regarding the availability of the DCO Application documents and where you can view them is included in the enclosed section 56 notice.

Any person may make representations on the Application to the Secretary of State (that is: giving notice of any interest in or objection to the Application). Details of the way in which representations must be made are included in the enclosed section 56 notice.

Representations must be received by the Inspectorate no later than 20 April 2020.

Please note that any submitted representations to the Inspectorate will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website for the Application.

For further information about the Application, please contact us using the following details:

- **Post:** M54 to M6 Link Road Project Team, Highways England, Floor 5, Two Colmore Square, 38 Colmore Circus, Birmingham, B4 6BN
- **Email:** M54toM6linkroad@highwaysengland.co.uk
- **Telephone:** 0300 123 5000

Yours sincerely,

Project Manager signature

Andrew Kelly
Project Manager – M54 to M6 Link Road

Enclosures:

- Section 56 notice
- Memory stick containing plans showing the location of the Scheme and all documents submitted with the application, including the Environmental Statement