



## Issue Specific Hearing 1

## Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage

### Examining Authority

M54 to M6 Link Road

### Date

Tuesday 8 December 2020

### Start Time

10:00 am (Arrangements Conference opens at 09.30am)

### Venue

Virtual on Microsoft Teams

## Agenda

<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome, introductions and arrangements for the Hearing</b>
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing (ISH)</b>
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>The effect on Great Crested Newts and associated mitigation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The appropriate distance for surveys, and thus need for mitigation.</li><li>• The proposed location for the mitigation.</li><li>• Whether a formal (revised) Letter of No Impediment is required.</li></ul>
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>The effect on woodland</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whether woodland not on the MAGIC website should properly be considered to be ancient woodland.</li><li>• Are 'buffer' distances appropriate for assessing effects.</li><li>• Is nature and level of mitigation/compensation appropriate for the effects on woodland.</li><li>• How mitigation/compensation is to be secured.</li></ul>
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>The effect on bats and birds and associated mitigation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whether the proposed mitigation would be appropriately located to provide necessary connectivity with existing populations.</li></ul>



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<b>Item 6</b>	<b>The need for Habitats Regulations Assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whether significant effects on the Cannock Extension Canal SAC can be excluded.</li></ul>
<b>Item 7</b>	<b>The need or otherwise for Trial trenching to inform conclusions on the effect on buried remains</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the significance of the known buried remains as identified in the ES accepted.</li><li>• Is there evidence to challenge conclusions and demonstrate need for further pre decision evaluation over and above the desk top study, trial pits, bore holes and geophysical survey evidence presented in the ES.</li><li>• Consequences of the effect of lack of trial trenching at this stage.</li><li>• Potential consequences should remains be discovered in later stages and effect on other mitigation proposals.</li></ul>
<b>Item 8</b>	<b>Has the significance of Hilton Park been correctly identified</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the likely association with Humphrey Repton and whether he influenced the design of the park.</li><li>• What is the likely date for the construction of Lower Pool and associated planting and is there any evidence this could be associated with Repton.</li><li>• How would a change in the view of the significance of Hilton Park affect the overall assessment of the effect of the scheme and the overall conclusion in the ES.</li></ul>
<b>Item 9</b>	<b>Review of issues and actions arising</b>
<b>Item 10</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<b>Item 11</b>	<b>Close</b>

Please Note:

1. Should all of the matters set out above not be concluded on Tuesday 8 December the meeting will be adjourned to Tuesday 15 December 2020 also virtually on Microsoft Teams. Details of timings will be announced at the hearing.
2. The ExA may well refer to the following documents during the Hearing and suggests that parties have copies to hand:
  - (a) Works Plans [AS-066]
  - (b) General Arrangement [AS-067]
  - (c) Environmental Mitigation Approach [REP1-057]



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- (d) Outline Environmental Management Plan [AS-112]
- (e) Engineering Sections [AS-071]
- (f) Environmental Statement Figure 8.1: Locations of European Sites [APP-111]
- (g) Environmental Statement Figure 8.2: Statutory, Non-statutory and Ancient Woodland Sites [APP-112]
- (h) Environmental Statement Figure 8.5: Priority Habitats [APP-115]
- (i) Environmental Statement Figure 8.12: Bat Baseline - Desk Study Results (2018) [APP-116]
- (j) Environmental Statement Figure 8.17: Confirmed Bat Roosts and Ariel Tree Inspection Survey Results (2018 and 2019) [APP-121]
- (k) Environmental Statement Figure 8.18: Bat Baseline - Transect Activity Survey Results (2018 and 2019) [APP-122]
- (l) Environmental Statement Figure 8.19: Breeding Birds Baseline Site Boundary and Study Area [APP-123]
- (m) Environmental Statement Figure 8.20: Breeding Birds Baseline Desk Study Results [APP-124]
- (n) Environmental Statement Figure 8.21: Breeding Birds Baseline Bird Territories [APP-125]
- (o) Environmental Statement Figure 8.23: Wintering Birds Baseline Desk Study Results [APP-127]
- (p) Environmental Statement Figure 8.35: Great Crested Newt Baseline Survey Results 2020 [AS-094]
- (q) Environmental Statement Figure 15.1: Cumulative Zones of Influence and Other Developments [APP-153]
- (r) Figure 6.3 of Environmental Statement Historic Environment Character Zones [APP-074]
- (s) Figure 6.7 of Environmental Statement Hilton Park 1796 [APP-078]
- (t) Figure 6.8 of Environmental statement Hilton Park 1842 [APP-079]
- (u) Figure 1 of RPS Group report M54 to M6 DCO Review of Land Acquisition at Hilton Park Appendix 3 to Allow's D1 submission [REP1-086]

Participants should be aware that the Applicant submitted a number of Low Resolution versions of documents at Deadline 3. These are available via the relevant webpage and may be easier to use during Hearings than the full sized documents.

3. It is generally not appropriate to introduce documents at a Hearing. The ExA has set out a list of existing documents that it is likely to refer to above. Should a party consider that any other documents already submitted may need to be referred to in light of the areas for discussion set out above, they should contact the Case Team at [M54toM6linkroad@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:M54toM6linkroad@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) by 12.00 noon on Friday 4 December 2020.
4. There are matters on this agenda which may also be included in later Issue Specific or Compulsory Acquisition Hearings. Subject to timings, the ExA only



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wishes to discuss matters once, and this will normally take place at the first opportunity.