

Date: 12 February 2021
Our ref: 14042/ 341688
Your ref: M54 to M5 Link Road Project – TR010054



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Planning Inspectorate Reference: TR010054
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Dear Sir/Madam

NSIP: M54 to M6 Link Road - TR010054- Further written Questions and requests for information (ExQ3)

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England has considered the further written questions issued on the 29 January 2021 and finds a series of questions either directly requiring a response from ourselves or requiring a response as an interested party. Our responses are provided in the table overleaf.

We understand that the deadline for responses is 12 February 2021.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me at the details below.

Yours sincerely



Ms Gillian Driver
Lead Adviser
Land use planning – West Midlands Area Team

Table of NE Responses to Further Written Questions

Question reference	Question	Natural England's Response
ExQ 3.3	Biodiversity, Ecology and Natural Environment (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA))	
	Habitats Regulations Assessment	
Q 3.3.5.	<p>The D4 draft SoCG with NE [REP4-031] records that NE's concern about air quality impacts on the Cannock Chase Canal SAC are still outstanding but highly likely to be agreed. NE have submitted a letter at D4 to confirm that they agree with the conclusions of the HRA No Significant Effects Report (NSER) [APP-216] so the next version of the SoCG should presumably reflect that all HRA matters have been agreed. The Applicant considers on the basis of the information provided at D2 [REP2-009] that conclusions of the NSER [APP-216] are correct. Both parties consider the likelihood of agreement on this remaining issue is high (as indicated in Table 3.2).</p> <p>Could the Applicant and Natural England please provide an update on the outstanding matters in this SOCG?</p>	<p>This has now been resolved with the Applicant and it is our understanding that the Applicant will be submitting the latest SoCG at deadline 6 which will reflect this.</p>