

**From:** Driver, Gillian [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 25 February 2021 20:58  
**To:** M54 to M6 Link Road <[M54toM6linkroad@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:M54toM6linkroad@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** M54 to M6 Link Road ExQ3 TR010054

Dear Sir/Madam

Further to my email of the 12 February 2021 regarding the Examining Authority's further written questions and requests for information (ExQ3), I have realised while reading the responses to these questions on the Examining Authority's website, that we unfortunately missed a question. Apologies for this. Please find attached our response for the question we missed.

Kind regards

Ms Gillian Driver  
Lead Adviser  
Planning for a Better Environment – West Midlands Team  
Natural England, Worcester County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED] / [REDACTED]

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**These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, reduce the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.**

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Date: 25 February 2021  
Our ref: 14042/ 341688  
Your ref: M54 to M5 Link Road Project – TR010054



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**Planning Inspectorate Reference:** TR010054  
**User Code:** 20025388

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Further to our response on the 12 February 2021 to the further written questions issued on the 29 January 2021, we submit a further response for the question we unfortunately omitted from our original response.

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

Yours sincerely

*Gillian Driver*

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	<b>Biodiversity, Ecology and Natural Environment (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA))</b>	
	<b>Veteran Trees</b>	
Q 3.3.7.	<p>Allow Limited proposal is that mitigation planting should be located to the east of the proposal.</p> <p>Could the parties set out their positions as to the effects of this planting, were it to occur, on the special interest of the two veteran trees in this field (trees T-178 and T-182) as shown on Environmental Statement Figure 2.5 (Ver P15) [AS-090]?</p>	<p>Veteran trees are important in their own right, and therefore are mentioned in the NPPF. Planting around veteran trees is not advisable as the veteran trees will quickly become shaded out. It is often also detrimental to interests that grow on them, especially lichens. We are not aware of what if any interests that grow on these two veteran trees.</p> <p>Veteran trees also support species of interest especially bats, nesting birds, and saproxylic species and this should be taken into account when considering planting.</p> <p>If planting is going ahead in this area, there should be a halo of at least 25m around the veteran trees that is not planted.</p>