

# **A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)**

## **Scheme number: TR010066**

### **6.1 Environmental Statement**

#### **Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual Effects**

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Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and  
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**A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)**  
Development Consent Order 202[x]

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**  
**Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual Effects**

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## 7. Landscape and visual effects

### 7.1. Introduction

- 7.1.1. This Chapter presents the information required by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended) to be provided in the Environmental Statement (ES) to enable the identification and assessment of likely significant effects on landscape character and visual receptors.
- 7.1.2. As part of the EIA process, this ES Chapter presents the findings of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The LVIA comprises a description of the existing landscape and visual baseline conditions; consideration of the potential effects of the Scheme upon surrounding landscape and visual receptors; and the identification of appropriate mitigation.
- 7.1.3. Landscape and visual effects are interrelated but distinct. Landscape effects relate to changes in the physical components or character of the area irrespective of their visibility (i.e. effects on the landscape or townscape resource); while visual effects refer to the change in view experienced by people in specific locations (referred to as visual receptors). The term 'landscape' is used throughout the assessment to refer to both 'landscape' and 'townscape' effects.
- 7.1.4. The assessment adheres to the requirements set out in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), LA 107 Landscape and visual effects Revision 2 (DRMB LA 107). The approach to the assessment is consistent with the Environmental Scoping Report (**TR010066/APP/6.8**) taking into consideration the Scoping Opinion (**TR010066/APP/6.9**), produced by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- 7.1.5. ES Chapter 2 (The Scheme) contains a detailed description of the Scheme. The drawings referenced in this Chapter can be found in the ES Figures (**TR010066/APP/6.2**), and the technical appendices referred to in this Chapter are presented in the ES Appendices (**TR010066/APP/6.3**).
- 7.1.6. The following ES Figures (**TR010066/APP/6.2**) provide illustrative information which relate to this Chapter:
- ES Figure 2.4 Environmental Masterplan and the Schedule of Planting Mixes
  - ES Figure 7.1 Landscape Policy Context
  - ES Figure 7.2 Landscape Character Context
  - ES Figure 7.3 Visual Context

- ES Figures 7.4.1 to 7.4.13 Representative Viewpoint Photography & Photomontages/ Visualisations

7.1.7. This Chapter is supported by ES Appendices 7.1 to 7.5 (**TR010066/APP/6.3**):

- ES Appendix 7.1 ZTV and Verified Photomontage Methodology - a detailed explanation of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) methodology and photomontage methodology.
- ES Appendix 7.2 Landscape Character - a detailed assessment of the effects of the Scheme on landscape character.
- ES Appendix 7.3 Representative Viewpoints - a detailed assessment of the effects of the Scheme upon representative viewpoints.
- ES Appendix 7.4 Arboricultural Impact Assessment - an arboricultural survey and impact assessment.
- ES Appendix 7.5 Lighting Assessment – an analysis and assessment of the potential lighting effects on sensitive receptors.

7.1.8. The cultural heritage assessment is presented in ES Chapter 6 (Cultural Heritage) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**). The biodiversity assessment is presented in ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**). The assessment relating to legislation relevant to Population and human health which includes public rights of way is presented in ES Chapter 12 (Population and Human Health) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**).

7.1.9. Matters relating to heritage assets, including Coombe Abbey Conservation Area, important hedgerows and Listed Buildings including those at Hungerley Hall Farm and associated structures are assessed in ES Chapter 6 (Cultural Heritage) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**).

## 7.2. Competent expert evidence

7.2.1. Drawing on published standards and guidance, landscape and visual assessment relies on reasoned professional judgement. This assessment has been undertaken by Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) with experience of assessing the landscape and visual effects of large-scale infrastructure developments, including highway schemes.

7.2.2. The landscape competent expert holds a BA (Hons) and master's degree in landscape architecture and CMLI status. The competent expert has 12 years' experience working in the field of landscape assessment and design and has worked on large-scale infrastructure projects across the UK.

## 7.3. Legislative and policy framework

### Legislation

7.3.1. The following legislation, presented in Table 7.1, are relevant to the landscape and visual aspects assessment for the Scheme.

Table 7.1 Summary of legislation relevant to the landscape and visual assessment

Legislation	Summary	How this is addressed in the assessment
European Landscape Convention (ELC), 2000	The ELC promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. The UK Government became a signatory to the ELC in 2006, introducing it in March 2007. The ELC is a convention of the Council of Europe and is therefore not affected by Brexit. The ELC contains 18 articles which collectively promote landscape protection, management, and planning. Articles 5 and 6 commit signatory states to a number of actions which are designed to help compliance with the overarching aims of the ELC. These include the need to recognise landscapes in law, to establish policies aimed at landscape planning, protection and management, and the integration of landscape into other policy areas. The ELC does not advocate the same measures and policies for all landscapes. Instead, it encourages approaches that are adaptable to particular landscape types, and which respond to their unique characteristics.	The assessment has considered the ELC requirements relating to changes to local landscape character and people's visual amenity (views) resulting from the Scheme. The environmental design includes mitigation measures for the Scheme presented in section 7.10 and within the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (TR010066/APP/6.5).
Environment Act 2021	This Act sets out measures to protect and improve the UK's environments, including biodiversity, water, and habitats. The Act introduces a requirement for developments to deliver a 10% increase in biodiversity, although this requirement is not yet mandatory for NSIPs. The Act also introduces local nature recovery strategies (LNRS), a system of spatial strategies in England. Local authorities will be tasked with creating opportunities to improve local habitats and aid their recovery.	The approach and design of the Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (TR010066/APP/6.2)) has been informed by the Environment Act, and in collaboration with project ecologists and Scheme specific landscape and visual mitigation measures. Assessment of impacts and effects on biodiversity, water and habitats are reported in ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) (TR010066/APP/6.1).
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) (as	The Act makes new provision for public access to the countryside; the 'right to roam' and amends the law relating to Public Rights of Way (PRoW).	The assessment has taken account of the relevant PRoW within the study area

Legislation	Summary	How this is addressed in the assessment
amended)		in assessing the significance of visual effects of the Scheme on walkers and other footpath users.
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) makes provision for bodies concerned with the natural environment and rural communities, including wildlife, Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSI), National Parks and inland waterways.	The assessment has taken the requirements of the NERC Act into account during the assessment and production of ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) (TR010066/APP/6.2).
The Hedgerow Regulations 1997	The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 makes provision for the protection of hedgerows within the countryside that meet certain criteria either due to length, location or importance.	Requirements of the Hedgerow Regulations have been considered during the LVIA and production of ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) (TR010066/APP/6.2).  Further information in relation to hedgerows can be found in ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) (TR010066/APP/6.1) and ES Appendix 7.4 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment) (TR010066/APP/6.3).
Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) England Regulations 2012	Trees protected by either a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or those situated within a local conservation area are afforded legal protection under the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) as amended, and subsequently, the Town and County Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012.	The presence of TPOs has been considered within the LVIA and production of ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) (TR010066/APP/6.2).  Further information in relation to TPOs within the Order Limits is provided in ES Appendix 7.4 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment) (TR010066/APP/6.3).

## National policy

### *National Networks National Policy Statement 2024*

- 7.3.2. The National Networks National Policy Statement (NPS NN) (Department for Transport (DfT), 2024) sets out the policy the Scheme should comply with. The Secretary of State uses the NPS NN as the primary basis for making decisions on Development Consent Order (DCO) applications for highway schemes. It is also the basis for informing a judgement on the impacts of a Scheme, for example whether the Scheme is consistent with the requirements of the NPS NN. Compliance of the Scheme with the NPS NN is detailed within the NPS NN Accordance Tables (**TR010066/APP/7.2**).
- 7.3.3. Key policy from the NPS NN relevant to the landscape and visual aspect of the Scheme is set out below in Table 7.2.



Table 7.2 NPS NN policy of relevance to landscape and visual aspects

Paragraph	Applicant's assessment / mitigation requirement	How this policy is addressed in the assessment
5.161	<i>"[...] The landscape and visual assessment for the proposed project should include the impacts during construction and operation, and reference to any operational landscape character assessment and associated studies. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England. [...]."</i>	<p>The LVIA considers likely significant landscape and visual effects within Section 7.11 of this Chapter.</p> <p>Coventry City Council have no published landscape character assessments relating to the study area.</p> <p>The following report was produced in conjunction of Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council: Landscape Assessment of the Borough of Rugby Sensitivity and Condition Study (Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council, 2006). The aim of the study was to examine the landscape around Rugby in terms of sensitivity, and condition undertaking a broad-based landscape character assessment of Rugby.</p> <p>Following a site visit and a review of published landscape character information, both national and local, it has been determined that the study area consists of four distinctive local landscape character areas. For the purposes of this assessment these four areas have been defined as Project Landscape Character Areas (PLCA) (paragraphs 7.8.6 to 7.8.16 of this assessment).</p>
5.162	<i>"The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project, potential impacts on views (including protected views) and visual amenity. This should include any noise and light pollution effects, including on local amenity, tranquillity, and nature conservation. The assessment should also demonstrate how noise and light pollution from construction and operational activities on residential amenity and on sensitive locations, receptors, and views will be minimised. [...]."</i>	<p>Section 7.11 of this Chapter considers likely significant visual effects during both construction and operation, as required in DMRB LA 107.</p> <p>The assessment of landscape and visual effects includes consideration of both day and night-time conditions. However, as agreed in the Scoping Opinion (<b>TR010066/APP/6.9</b>) given the urban-edge location of the Scheme; the limited number of sensitive visual receptor locations with open views and the presence of existing night-time traffic movements on the existing A46, significant visual change is unlikely to occur due to night-time visibility and a night-time site visit and viewpoint assessment is not considered necessary as part of the LVIA for this Scheme. Therefore, the</p>

Paragraph	Applicant's assessment / mitigation requirement	How this policy is addressed in the assessment
		<p>assessment of night-time viewpoints has been scoped out of further assessment (ID 3.3.2 in Appendix 4.1 Scoping Opinion Response <b>(TR010066/APP/6.3)</b>).</p> <p>Effects relating to noise are included within ES Chapter 11 (Noise and Vibration) <b>(TR010066/APP/6.1)</b>. Effects relating to nature conservation are included within ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) <b>(TR010066/APP/6.1)</b>. Effects on human health is included within ES Chapter 12 (Population and Human Health) <b>(TR010066/APP/6.1)</b></p> <p>Mitigation is described in Section 7.10 of this Chapter and included in the First Iteration EMP <b>(TR010066/APP/6.5)</b>.</p>
5.164	<i>"The project should be designed, and the scale minimised, to avoid or where unavoidable, mitigate the visual and landscape effects, during construction and operation, so far as is possible while maintaining the operational requirements of the scheme. In exceptional circumstances a reduction in operational requirements might be warranted, and the Secretary of State may decide that the benefits to reduce the landscape effects outweigh the marginal loss of scale or function."</i>	<p>To avoid, reduce or remediate (offset) potential effects on the landscape, embedded mitigation measures and essential mitigation measures for this aspect have been developed as presented within Section 7.10 of this Chapter. These are shown on ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) <b>(TR010066/APP/6.2)</b>.</p> <p>Related design considerations are also presented in ES Chapter 2 (The Scheme) <b>(TR010066/APP/6.1)</b> and the Scheme Design Report <b>(TR010066/APP/7.4)</b>.</p>
5.165	<i>"Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. [...]"</i>	
5.166	<i>"Adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure, design (including choice of materials), and topographical interventions (for example, creation of bunds or lowering of ground level). Also, landscaping schemes (including screening options and design elements that soften the built form such as green bridges), depending on the size and type of the proposed project. Materials and designs for infrastructure should always be given careful consideration in terms of environmental standards."</i>	
5.168	<i>"Applicants should consider how landscapes can be enhanced using</i>	An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP)

Paragraph	Applicant's assessment / mitigation requirement	How this policy is addressed in the assessment
	<i>landscape management plans, as this will help to enhance environmental assets where they contribute to landscape and townscape quality and can reinforce or enhance landscape features and character."</i>	is included in the First Iteration EMP (TR010066/APP/6.5). The OLEMP has been prepared to help ensure the protection and management of landscape and ecological features, such as vegetation and habitats, during construction of the Scheme and the successful establishment of landscape and ecological mitigation including planting and seeding associated with the Scheme. The OLEMP would be updated to a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) by the Principal Contractor and included within the Second Iteration EMP, as appropriate and necessary, prior to commencement of works in accordance with Requirement 4 of the draft DCO (TR010066/APP/3.1).
5.169	<i>"Landscape effects of the project depend on the existing character of the local landscape, its capacity to accommodate change and nature of the effect likely to occur. All of these factors need to be considered in judging the impact of a project on landscape. Projects need to have regard to siting, orientation, height operational and other relevant constraints. The aim should be to avoid or minimise harm to the landscape, where adverse impacts are unavoidable providing reasonable mitigation and opportunities for enhancement where possible and appropriate."</i>	The Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (TR010066/APP/6.2)) has been designed with due regard to the siting, orientation, height, operational and other constraints. Embedded mitigation and essential mitigation measures for this aspect have been developed as presented within Section 7.10 of this Chapter and are shown on ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) (TR010066/APP/6.2).
5.181	<i>"The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence."</i>	Part of the Scheme and wider study area within Rugby Borough Council is located within the Green Belt as shown on ES Figure 7.1 (Landscape Policy Context) (TR010066/APP/6.2). This Chapter includes consideration of effects on visual amenity and openness within the Green Belt both for the immediate effect at Year 1 and Year 15, allowing for planting to mature.
5.188	<i>"Linear infrastructure linking an area near a Green Belt with other locations will often have to pass through Green Belt land. The identification of a policy need for linear infrastructure will take account of the fact that there will be an impact on the Green Belt and, as far as possible, of the need to contribute to the achievement of the objectives for the land use in Green Belts."</i>	
5.195	<i>"Existing trees and woodlands should be retained where possible. The</i>	Embedded mitigation and essential mitigation measures for this

Paragraph	Applicant's assessment / mitigation requirement	How this policy is addressed in the assessment
	<i>applicant should assess the impacts on, and loss of, all trees and woodlands within the project boundary and avoid and mitigate for any direct and indirect effects [...]. Mitigation may include the use of buffers to enhance resilience, improvements to connectivity, and improved woodland management. Where woodland loss is unavoidable, compensation <b>schemes</b> will be required, and the long-term management and maintenance of newly planted trees should be secured. Opportunities for tree planting and woodland creation should be maximised."</i>	<p>aspect have been developed as presented within Section 7.10 of this Chapter and are shown on ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) (<b>TR010066/APP/6.2</b>).</p> <p>Further details of impacts on trees and woodlands are presented in the ES Appendix 7.4 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment) (<b>TR010066/APP/6.3</b>).</p>

### *National Planning Policy Framework*

- 7.3.4. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, December 2023) sets out the Government's planning policy framework for the whole of England, including the Government's expectation for content and quality of planning applications and local plan policy. The overall strategic aims of the NPS NN and NPPF are consistent. The NPPF may be an important and relevant matter but does not form the basis for a decision on an NSIP.
- 7.3.5. Section 15, paragraphs 180 to 184 set out the framework with respect to conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Paragraph 180, subparagraphs a and b, discuss the need for protection and enhancement of valued landscape as well as *"recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside"*.
- 7.3.6. Section 13, paragraphs 142-151 of the NPPF relate to protecting Green Belt land, with paragraph 143 outlining the five purposes of Green Belt. Paragraphs 152 to 156 address proposals affecting the Green Belt and set out the parameters for appropriate and inappropriate development. Paragraph 155 states that *"Certain other forms of development are also not inappropriate in the Green Belt provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it."* The list of these developments include: *"local transport infrastructure which can demonstrate a requirement for a Green Belt location."*
- 7.3.7. To avoid, reduce or remediate (offset) potential effects on the landscape, embedded mitigation measures and essential mitigation measures for this aspect have been developed as presented within Section 7.10 of this Chapter. These are shown on ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) **(TR010066/APP/6.2)**.
- 7.3.8. Part of the Scheme and wider study area within Rugby Borough Council is located within the Green Belt as shown on ES Figure 7.1 (Landscape Policy Context) **(TR010066/APP/6.2)**. This Chapter includes consideration of effects on visual amenity and openness within the Green Belt both for the immediate effect at Year 1 and Year 15, allowing for planting to mature.

### *25 Year Environment Plan*

- 7.3.9. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) is a policy paper setting out what Government will do to improve the environment, including restoring and safeguarding wildlife habitats. This plan is being treated as the first Environmental Improvement Plan

required under the Environment Act 2021. Chapter 2: Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes, relates to the development of a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife, as well as a review of nationally designated landscape areas. The plan also introduces a new environmental land management system (ELMS) to incentivise land managers to restore and improve natural capital and rural heritage.

- 7.3.10. There are three ELMS schemes, of which two, Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery, are relevant for this Chapter, which have been piloted in 2022 are due to be launched in 2024 and not available at the time of writing.
- 7.3.11. The 25 Year Environment Plan has been considered in preparation of the Environmental Masterplan shown in ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**) and the consideration of long-term effects on the landscape character.

### Local policy

- 7.3.12. Local policy of relevance to the landscape and visual affects assessment is presented in Table 7.3.



Table 7.3 Local planning policy related to the assessment of landscape and visual aspects

Policy document	Summary	How this is addressed in the assessment
<p>Coventry City Council Local Development Plan (adopted December 2017)</p> <p>Coventry City Council's Local Plan includes environmental policies relating to the 'Green Belt and Green Environment' elements and policies relevant to the Scheme are listed here.</p>	<p>Policy GE3: Coventry City Council Local Development Plan (adopted December 2017) Biodiversity, Geological, Landscape and Archaeological Conservation. SSSIs, Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), Ancient Woodlands, Local Wildlife and Geological Sites will be protected and enhanced. <i>"Proposals for development on other sites, having biodiversity or geological conservation value, will be permitted provided that they protect enhance and/or restore habitat biodiversity. Development proposals will be expected to ensure that they:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• lead to a net gain of biodiversity, where appropriate, by means of an approved ecological assessment of existing site features and development impacts.</i></li> <li><i>• protect or enhance biodiversity assets and secure their long-term management and maintenance.</i></li> <li><i>• avoid negative impacts on existing biodiversity.</i></li> <li><i>• preserve species which are legally protected, in decline, are rare within Coventry or which are covered by national, regional or local Biodiversity Action Plans."</i></li> </ul>	<p>To avoid, reduce or remediate (offset) potential effects on the landscape and ecological receptors, embedded mitigation measures and essential mitigation measures for this aspect have been developed as presented within Section 7.10 of this Chapter. These are shown on ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) <b>(TR010066/APP/6.2)</b>.</p> <p>Further mitigation measures in relation to ecological features are provided in ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) <b>(TR010066/APP/6.1)</b>.</p> <p>Mitigation measures of relevance are included within the First Iteration EMP <b>(TR010066/APP/6.5)</b> which is secured through the DCO.</p>
	<p>Policy GE4: Tree Protection – Part 1 and 2:</p> <p><i>"1. Development proposals will be positively considered provided:</i></p> <p><i>a. there is no unacceptable loss of, or damage to, existing trees or woodlands during or as result of development, any loss should be supported by a tree survey</i></p> <p><i>b. trees not to be retained as a result of the development are replaced with new trees as part of a well-designed landscape scheme; and</i></p>	<p>Details of the Scheme's impact on trees and hedgerows is presented in ES Appendix 7.4 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment) <b>(TR010066/APP/6.3)</b>. ES Appendix 7.4 also includes the works and protection afforded to a veteran tree, and a TPO at Coombe Country Park.</p> <p>To avoid, reduce or remediate (offset) potential effects on the landscape, embedded mitigation measures and essential mitigation measures for this aspect have been developed as presented within Section 7.10 of this</p>

Policy document	Summary	How this is addressed in the assessment
	<p><i>c. existing trees worthy of retention are sympathetically incorporated into the overall design of the scheme including all necessary measures taken to ensure their continued protection and survival during construction.</i></p> <p><i>2. Development proposals that seek to remove trees that are subject to 'Protection', without justification, will not be permitted."</i></p>	<p>Chapter. These are shown on ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) (<b>TR010066/APP/6.2</b>).</p> <p>Mitigation measures of relevance are included within the First Iteration EMP (<b>TR010066/APP/6.5</b>) which is secured through the DCO.</p>
	<p>Policy DE1: Ensuring High Quality Design relates to Councils requirements to "raise the standard of design in the built and green environments"; and should be considered within the development of design proposals for the Scheme.</p>	<p>Embedded mitigation measures and essential mitigation measures for this aspect have been developed as presented within Section 7.10 of this Chapter. These are shown on ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) (<b>TR010066/APP/6.2</b>). The environmental design has been developed to integrate the Scheme into the existing landscape setting with the use of hedgerows, woodland (roadside belts), individual trees and grassland areas.</p> <p>Mitigation measures of relevance are included within the First Iteration EMP (<b>TR010066/APP/6.5</b>) which is secured through the DCO.</p>
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Trees & Development Guidelines for Coventry (Coventry City Council, October 2020)	Builds upon Coventry Local Plan (2011-2031) policies in relation to trees within Coventry and their preservation and protection in relation to developments.	Details of the Scheme's impact on trees and hedgerows is presented in ES Appendix 7.4 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment) ( <b>TR010066/APP/6.3</b> ). Appendix 7.4 also includes the works and protection afforded to a veteran tree, and a TPO at Coombe Country Park.
Rugby Borough Council Local Plan 2011-2031 (adopted June 2019)	Policy NE2: Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure, discusses how new developments "must provide suitable Green and Blue Infrastructure corridors throughout the development and link into adjacent strategic and local Green and Blue Infrastructure	The landscape design has been developed to integrate the Scheme into the existing landscape setting including the use of hedgerows, woodland (roadside belts), individual trees and grassland areas. It also links in with existing landscape assets such as Coombe Country



Policy document	Summary	How this is addressed in the assessment
	<p><i>networks or assets where present.”</i></p> <p>Green and Blue Infrastructure refer to a strategic network of green and blue spaces, such as woodlands, parks, amenity landscaping, ponds, canals and rivers, and the links between them.</p>	<p>Park. The creation of drainage features that are permanently wet, would be planted with native aquatic vegetation would provide additional habitat for common amphibians, aquatic invertebrates and fish.</p>
	<p>Policy NE3: Landscape Protection and Enhancement, discusses how all new developments must “<i>positively contributes to landscape character</i>” and “<i>demonstrate that they:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Integrate landscape planning into the design of development at an early stage;</i></li> <li>• <i>Consider its landscape context, including the local distinctiveness of the different natural and historic landscapes and character, including tranquillity;</i></li> <li>• <i>Relate well to local topography and built form and enhance key landscape features, ensuring their long-term management and maintenance;</i></li> <li>• <i>Identify likely visual impacts on the local landscape and townscape and its immediate setting and undertakes appropriate landscaping to reduce these impacts;</i></li> <li>• <i>Aim to either conserve, enhance or restore important landscape features in accordance with the latest local and national guidance;</i></li> <li>• <i>Address the importance of habitat biodiversity features, including aged and veteran trees, woodland and hedges and their contribution to landscape character, where possible enhancing and expanding these features through means such as buffering and reconnecting fragmented areas; and</i></li> </ul>	<p>The landscape design has been developed with the engineering and ecology design teams from the outset, to ensure its integration into the overall design.</p> <p>The landscape design has been developed to integrate the Scheme into the existing landscape setting and minimise visual intrusion.</p> <p>The environmental mitigation strategy also reinstates landscape features lost due to the Scheme such as replanting of hedgerows within the Scheme, new plantation woodland, as well as general enhancement of the landscape context wherever possible. It also links in with existing landscape and heritage assets, for example by providing isolated trees or small groups, along the road verge to tie into the wider former parkland estate character near to Coombe Country Park.</p> <p>The Scheme planting design uses native planting species which are potentially suited to our changing climate (wetter winters and dry summers) i.e. more wet and dry tolerant species for long term climate change</p>

Policy document	Summary	How this is addressed in the assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are sensitive to an area's capacity to change, acknowledge cumulative effects and guard against the potential for coalescence between existing settlements."</li> </ul>	<p>resistance.</p> <p>It has been determined that the study area consists of four distinct local landscape character areas. For the purposes of this assessment these areas are defined as Project Landscape Character Areas (paragraphs 7.8.6 to 7.8.16 of this Chapter).</p> <p>The LVIA considers likely significant landscape and visual effects within Section 7.11 of this Chapter. Viewpoints have been agreed in discussion with Coventry City Council and Rugby Borough Council.</p> <p>Related design considerations are also presented in ES Chapter 2 (The Scheme) (TR010066/APP/6.1) and the Scheme Design Report (TR010066/APP/7.4).</p> <p>The Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (TR010066/APP/6.2)) has been in conjunction with ecologists to enhance and improve local habitats. Refer to ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) (TR010066/APP/6.1) for further details of habitat improvements.</p> <p>Mitigation measures of relevance are included within the First Iteration EMP (TR010066/APP/6.5) which is secured through Schedule 2 Requirement 1 to the draft DCO (TR010066/APP/3.1).</p>
	<p>Policy SDC1: Sustainable Design discusses how developments must "demonstrate high quality, inclusive and sustainable design and new development will only be supported where the proposals are of a scale, density and design that responds to the character of the areas in which they are situated. All developments should aim to add to the overall quality of the areas in which they are situated."</p>	
	<p>Policy SDC2: Landscaping determines that all "proposals should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Important site features have been identified for retention through a detailed site survey;</li> </ul>	<p>An Arboricultural survey has been undertaken and the retention of veteran and TPO trees within the Scheme is reported in ES Appendix 7.4 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment) (TR010066/APP/6.3).</p> <p>Sustainable drainage features are created within the</p>

Policy document	Summary	How this is addressed in the assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Features of ecological, geological and archaeological significance are retained and protected and opportunities for enhancing these features are utilised (consideration will also be given to the requirements of policies NE1 and SDC3 where relevant);</i></li> <li>• <i>Opportunities for utilising sustainable drainage methods are incorporated;</i></li> <li>• <i>New planting comprises native species which are of ecological value appropriate to the area;</i></li> <li>• <i>In appropriate cases, there is sufficient provision for planting within and around the perimeter of the site to minimise visual intrusion on neighbouring uses or the countryside; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Detailed arrangements are incorporated for the long-term management and maintenance of landscape features.”</i></li> </ul>	<p>Scheme and allow the provision of wetland planting to create new habitats in the area.</p> <p>The Scheme planting design uses native planting species which are potentially suited to our changing climate (wetter winters and dry summers) i.e. more wet and dry tolerant species for long term climate change resistance.</p> <p>Visual barriers will be provided to minimise the visual impact on the surrounding area through woodland planting, individual/ groups of scattered trees or hedgerows, whilst enhancing the visual appeal and blend of the Scheme into the existing environment.</p> <p>An OLEMP is included in the First Iteration EMP (<b>TR010066/APP/6.5</b>). The OLEMP has been prepared to help ensure the protection and management of landscape and ecological features, such as vegetation and habitats, during construction of the Scheme and the successful establishment of landscape and ecological mitigation including planting and seeding associated with the Scheme. The OLEMP would be updated to a LEMP and included within the Second Iteration EMP prior to commencement of works in accordance with Requirement 4 of the draft DCO (<b>TR010066/APP/3.1</b>)</p>

## National Highways' policy

- 7.3.13. National Highways' Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) identifies nine priority areas, to deliver the most benefit for carbon, communities and nature. Landscape is covered within:
- Good road and environmental design
  - Managing our land for its environmental value
  - Nature based solutions
  - Integrating our land into the wider landscape
- 7.3.14. National Highways' 'People, places and processes: A guide to good design at National Highways' (2022) sets out a vision, which aims to put people at the heart of National Highways' work, by designing an inclusive, resilient and sustainable road network. This road network should be appreciated for its usefulness but also its elegance, reflecting in its design the beauty of the natural, built, and historic environment through which it passes, and enhancing it where possible. The accompanying set of principles for good road design follow the themes of people, places, and processes. The focus on good design seeks to make a difference to both road users and the communities through which the roads pass, while being sensitive to the context of a road's surroundings. The road should contribute to higher quality of life, greater economic vitality, and a more efficient use of resources.
- 7.3.15. National Highway's policy and guidance has been considered in the development of ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**), which was developed in collaboration with environmental disciplines to achieve a cohesive design that respects, and where possible enhances, the landscape setting. Related design considerations are also presented in ES Chapter 2 (The Scheme) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**) and the Scheme Design Report (**TR010066/APP/7.4**).

## 7.4. Consultation Scoping Report

- 7.4.1. An Environmental Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in June 2023 (**TR010066/APP/6.8**). A Scoping Opinion (**TR010066/APP/6.9**) was received in response to the Scoping Report, which was produced by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State. The Applicant's responses to the Scoping Opinion are contained in the Scoping Opinion Response, ES Appendix 4.1 (**TR010066/APP/6.3**).
- 7.4.2. Responses in relation to the statutory consultation undertaken are presented in the Consultation Report (**TR010066/APP/5.1**). Details of how the Applicant has

undertaken further engagement with statutory consultees is set out in the Consultation Report (**TR010066/APP/5.1**).

7.4.3. Ongoing engagement relating to landscape and visual matters that has been undertaken is outlined below.

7.4.4. Coventry City Council were contacted to inform them of selected viewpoints for the landscape and visual assessment. A letter was received dated 2 October 2023 from Coventry City Council:

*"In reference to Figure 8.2 Visual Context [of the scoping report] (HE604820-OIL-ELS-00-DR-LX-30002), a suggestion is made to include a further viewpoint between [proposed] viewpoints 6 & 7 to be taken from the Clifford bridge road on the bridge that crosses the River Sowe as this forms a nodal point in which the rivers path, the road and the pedestrian route from the north-west intersect at an elevated position and offer views over the proposed junction. Whilst it is not largely appreciable currently it should be taken into consideration that the existing landscaping is not evergreen and will offer vistas seasonally, moreover the suggested works would impact upon the current mature landscaped buffer currently present to the north of the junction and thus consideration of this viewpoint would be encouraged going forward to assess impact and ensure quality of response."*

7.4.5. Viewpoints are presented in ES Figure 7.3 (Visual Context) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**) and explained in Table 7.13. Representative viewpoint No 11 is taken at the roundabout junction between Clifford Bridge Road and B4082 for full representative viewpoint assessment).

7.4.6. A meeting was held with Coventry City Council on 28 February 2024 to discuss the landscape design. The following points were noted during the meeting:

- Coventry City Council requested to be mindful that Coventry City Council pushing for Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20 walking, cycling and horse-riding (WCH) route along B4082 and this may affect design.
- Coventry City Council expect the housing development to the west to come forward quickly upon construction of the Walsgrave Scheme.
- Coventry City Council requested that a safeguarded corridor (i.e., a gap) is incorporated within the landscape design to avoid removal of newly planted trees (should future developments occur). Tree removal can lead to criticism of Coventry City Council which is preferable to avoid.
- Coventry City Council suggested screening alternatives such as a living wall could be provided.

7.4.7. As part of the design of the Scheme the section of the new B4082 link road has a widened verge to accommodate a future LTN 1/20 walking and cycling route to

Hungerley Hall Farm to be provided by others. Further details about the Scheme design are presented in ES Chapter 2 (The Scheme) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**).

- 7.4.8. The project team are aware that the adjacent housing development may progress shortly after the DCO submission for the Scheme, however a corridor cannot be provided within the design as the adjacent housing development is not committed development and their design requirements are unknown. The Scheme also needs to provide visual screening in order to provide the mitigation required for the Scheme.
- 7.4.9. The design of the landscape planting for mitigation has been an iterative process in conjunction with the design team and other environmental disciplines. Green walls have not been possible to include due to their maintenance requirements and the requirement to provide Biodiversity Net Gain on the Scheme which would not be possible with green walls.

## 7.5. Assessment methodology

### Reference sources

- 7.5.1. The Applicant requires that highway projects are assessed and reported in accordance with the standards set out within DMRB. This assessment complies with the relevant parts of DMRB as well as drawing on other relevant guidance as follows:
- DMRB LA 104 Revision 1 Environmental Assessment and Monitoring (Highways England, August 2020)
  - DMRB LA 107 Revision 2 Landscape and Visual Effects (Highways England, February 2020)
  - An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2014)
  - Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 06/19 - Visual Representation of Development Proposals (September 2019).

### Assessment approach

- 7.5.2. This LVIA is undertaken in accordance with DMRB LA 107 and comprises:
- Identification of landscape and visual **receptors** and a description of existing **baseline conditions**.
  - An assessment of the **sensitivity** of the receptors to change (taking account of both receptor susceptibility and receptor value).
  - An assessment of the **potential impacts** associated with the Scheme, i.e. the ways that the Scheme would alter the baseline landscape and visual conditions.



- An assessment of the **magnitude** of change to the receptor (considering the scale, extent, duration, and potential reversibility of the change).
- Identification of measures to **mitigate** adverse landscape and visual effects.
- Report on the residual landscape and visual effects once mitigation has been considered including an assessment of the level and **significance** of the effect on the receptor.

7.5.3. The assessment approach comprises a desktop study and site survey. Its purpose is to establish the nature and extent of potential receptors, to identify the likely sensitivity of receptors, and to record the potential landscape and visual effects of the Scheme on the receptors.

7.5.4. The landscape receptors are the distinctive character areas with the potential to experience change resulting from the Scheme.

7.5.5. The individual visual receptors (i.e. people in specific locations such as their homes, public areas, or places of work) with potential to experience change as a result of the Scheme are identified within the baseline. As listed in Table 7.13, representative viewpoints have been selected in consultation with the local planning authorities to cover all potentially affected individual visual receptors. The assessment of effects on individual receptors are illustrated through the assessment of effects on representative viewpoints.

7.5.6. The assessment of landscape and visual effects includes consideration of the following:

- Seasonal differences including summer with foliage and winter without foliage.
- Both day and night-time conditions. However, given the urban-edge location of the Scheme, the limited number of sensitive visual receptor locations with open views and the presence of existing night-time traffic movements on the existing A46, significant visual change is unlikely to occur due to night-time visibility and a night-time site visit and viewpoint assessment is not considered necessary as part of the LVIA for this Scheme.
- The effect of change or loss of existing landscape features (e.g. loss of existing trees, landform or areas of woodland).
- The effect of temporary construction activity (e.g. presence of plant, temporary buildings, materials storage, and construction traffic parking and movements).
- The effect of the introduction of new highway infrastructure (e.g. roads (carriageways), earthworks, bridges, fencing, signage, and lighting).
- The effect of vehicles travelling along the Scheme.

7.5.7. The assessment considers the effects of the Scheme at the following points in time:

- Construction - short term (temporary) effects.
- Year 1 of operation - immediately following construction.
- Year 15 of operation - mitigation planting will have matured and taken effect.

7.5.8. The Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) **(TR010066/APP/6.2)** has been designed to mitigate effects during both summer and winter, albeit it is acknowledged that this tends to be more effective during summer when trees are in leaf.

7.5.9. The potential combined and cumulative landscape and visual effects of the Scheme are considered in ES Chapter 15 (Combined Cumulative Effects) **(TR010066/APP/6.1)**.

## Assessment criteria

### *Sensitivity of Receptor*

#### *Landscape*

7.5.10. The value and susceptibility of landscape receptors presented in this Chapter is based on the descriptions from DMRB LA 107, Table 3.22 (Landscape sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and typical descriptions), presented in Table 7.4. The assessment of value is based on a combination of factors including importance and quality/condition, as well as professional judgement. The assessment of susceptibility takes into account the ability of this area to accommodate change without fundamentally changing key landscape characteristics. It is also recognised that receptors may have a lower or higher sensitivity within a localised area, taking into account local conditions that may influence landscape character.

Table 7.4 Landscape sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and typical descriptions

Landscape sensitivity (susceptibility and value) of receptor/resource	Typical description
Very High	Landscapes of very high international/national importance and rarity or value with no or very limited ability to accommodate change without substantial loss/gain (for example: national parks, internationally acclaimed landscapes – UNESCO World Heritage Sites).
High	Landscapes of high national importance containing distinctive features/elements with limited ability to accommodate change without incurring substantial loss/gain (for example: designated areas, areas of strong sense of place – registered parks and gardens, country parks).
Medium	Landscapes of local or regional recognition of importance, able to accommodate some change (for example features worthy of



Landscape sensitivity (susceptibility and value) of receptor/resource	Typical description
	conservation, some sense of place or value through use/perception).
Low	Local landscape areas or receptors of low to medium importance with ability to accommodate change (for example non-designated or designated areas of local recognition or areas of little sense of place).
Negligible	Landscapes of very low importance and rarity able to accommodate change.

Source: DMRB LA 107, Table 3.22 (Landscape sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and typical descriptions)

## Visual

7.5.11. The value and susceptibility of visual receptors is based on the descriptions in DMRB LA 107, Table 3.41 (Visual sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and typical descriptions), presented in Table 7.5. The assessment of susceptibility is based on a combination of the type of visual receptors experiencing the view, the activity they are engaged in and the degree to which their attention is focused on the view. Value takes into account designations or value attached to a view by visitors, the condition of the elements in the view and presence of detracting/valued features. Value and susceptibility are then considered together to make judgements about visual sensitivity. It is also recognised that receptors may have a lower or higher sensitivity within a localised area, taking into account local conditions that may influence existing views.

Table 7.5 Visual sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and typical descriptions)

Visual sensitivity (susceptibility and value) of receptor/resource	Typical description
Very High	Static views from and of major tourist attractions. Views from and of very important national/international landscapes, cultural/historical sites (for example National Parks, UNESCO World Heritage sites). Receptors engaged in specific activities for enjoyment of dark skies
High	Views by users of nationally important Public Rights of Way (PRoW)/ recreational trails (for example national trails, long distance footpaths). Views by users of public open spaces for enjoyment of the countryside (for example country parks). Static views from dense residential areas, longer transient views from designated public open space, recreational areas. Views from and of rare, designated landscapes of national importance.

Visual sensitivity (susceptibility and value) of receptor/resource	Typical description
Medium	<p>Static views from less populated residential areas, schools and other institutional buildings and their outdoor areas.</p> <p>Views by outdoor workers.</p> <p>Transient views from local/regional areas such as public open space, scenic roads, railways or waterways, users of local/regional designated tourist routes of moderate importance.</p> <p>Views from and of landscapes of regional importance.</p>
Low	<p>Views by indoor workers.</p> <p>Views by users of main roads (for example, trunk roads) or passengers in public transport on main arterial routes.</p> <p>Views by users of recreational facilities where the purpose of that recreation is not related to the view (for example, sports facilities).</p> <p>Views by users of local public open spaces of limited importance with limited variety or distinctiveness.</p>
Negligible	<p>Quick transient views such as from fast moving vehicles.</p> <p>Views from industrial areas, land awaiting re-development.</p> <p>Views from landscapes of no importance with no variety or distinctiveness.</p>

Source: DMRB LA 107, Table 3.41 (Visual sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and typical descriptions)

### *Magnitude of Impact (change)* *Landscape*

7.5.12. In accordance with DMRB LA 107 (paragraph 3.19), assessment of magnitude of effect (change) on the landscape considers a combined judgement of the following:

- Size and scale of effect
- Year 1 (opening year) and Year 15 (design year) including summer and winter
- Geographical extent of the area to be affected
- The duration of the effect and its reversibility

7.5.13. The magnitude of landscape effect (change) is reported in accordance with the typical descriptions in DMRB LA 107, Table 3.24 (Magnitude and nature of the effect (change) on the landscape and typical descriptions), presented in Table 7.6.

Table 7.6 Magnitude and nature of the effect (change) on the landscape and typical descriptions

Magnitude of effect (change)		Typical description
Major	Adverse	Total loss or large-scale damage to existing landscape character or distinctive features or elements; and/or addition of new uncharacteristic, conspicuous features or elements (for example road infrastructure).
	Beneficial	Large scale improvement of landscape character to features and elements; and/or addition of new distinctive features or elements, or removal of conspicuous road infrastructure elements.
Moderate	Adverse	Partial loss or noticeable damage to existing character or distinctive features and elements, and/or the addition of new but uncharacteristic noticeable features and elements (for example road infrastructure).
	Beneficial	Partial or noticeable improvement of landscape character by restoration of existing features or elements; or addition of new characteristic features or elements or removal of noticeable features or elements.
Minor	Adverse	Slight loss or damage to existing character or features and elements, and/or the addition of new but uncharacteristic features and elements.
	Beneficial	Slight improvement of landscape character by the restoration of one (maybe more) key existing features and elements; and/or the addition of new characteristic features.
Negligible	Adverse	Very minor loss, damage or alteration to existing landscape character of one or more features and elements.
	Beneficial	Very minor, but noticeable improvement of character by the restoration of one or more existing features and elements.
No change	-	No noticeable alteration or improvement, temporary or permanent, of landscape character of existing features and elements.

Source: DMRB LA 107, Table 3.24 (Magnitude and nature of the effect (change))

### Visual

7.5.14. The locations of visual receptors were visited during the site survey to identify the nature of the existing view and the likely magnitude of change upon that receptor as result of the Scheme. In accordance with DMRB LA 107 (paragraph 3.42), the establishment of the magnitude of visual impacts is informed by the following criteria:

- Scale, nature and duration of change
- Distance
- Screening
- Direction and focus of the view
- Year 1 (opening year) and Year 15 (design year) including summer and winter
- Removal of past mitigation or existing vegetation
- Whether the receptor is static or moving

- 7.5.15. The magnitude of visual effect (change) is reported in accordance with the criteria in typical descriptions in DMRB LA 107, Table 3.43 Magnitude (change) of visual effect and typical descriptions), presented in Table 7.7.

Table 7.7 Magnitude (change) of visual effect and typical descriptions

Magnitude (change) of visual effect	Typical description
Major	The Scheme, or a part of it, would become the dominant feature or focal point of the view.
Moderate	The Scheme, or a part of it, would form a noticeable feature or element of the view which is readily apparent to the receptor.
Minor	The Scheme, or a part of it, would be perceptible but not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view.
Negligible	Only a very small part of the Scheme would be discernible or being at such a distance that it would form a barely noticeable feature or element of the view.
No Change	No part of the Scheme, or activity would be discernible.

Source: DMRB LA 107, Table 3.43 Magnitude (change)

### *Assessment of significance*

- 7.5.16. The assessment of the significance of effect has been undertaken by combining sensitivity to change of a receptor with an assessment of the magnitude of change put upon it. This allows the prediction of the significance of the effect, as per DMRB LA104, Table 3.8.1 (Significance Matrix), presented in Table 7.8. Where there are two potential outcomes, professional judgement is used to determine which is the more appropriate. These effects can be beneficial or adverse, and temporary or permanent, depending on the nature of the development and the mitigation measures proposed. In accordance with DMRB guidance, moderate, large, or very large effects are considered significant in terms of EIA.

Table 7.8 Significance Matrix

Environmental value (sensitivity)	Magnitude of potential impact (degree of change)					
		No Change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
	Very High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate or Large	Large or Very Large	Very Large
	High	Neutral	Slight	Slight or Moderate	Moderate or Large	Large or Very Large
	Medium	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate or Large
	Low	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Neutral or Slight	Slight	Slight or Moderate
	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Neutral or Slight	Slight

Source: DMRB LA104, Table 3.8.1 (Significance Matrix)

## 7.6. Assessment assumption and limitations

- 7.6.1. The assessment has been based on the Scheme description and construction information presented in ES Chapter 2 (The Scheme) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**) and has taken into account the lateral limits of deviation illustrated on the Works Plans (**TR010066/APP/2.3**) and vertical limits of deviation secured under Article 10 of the draft DCO (**TR010066/APP/3.1**) to establish a realistic worst case assessment scenario. It is assumed that in the instance of any changes to the design within the vertical and horizontal limits of deviation, mitigation measures would still be provided and would function as described in Section 7.10 of this Chapter and as such there would be no change to the assessment of significant effects.
- 7.6.2. Not every residential receptor has been assessed individually; instead, properties are captured as small groups in some instances where one viewpoint would be representative of the most severe impact for the group, as a whole. Although there is not a separate photographic view for each individual receptor, the assessment covers every receptor expected to be impacted by the Scheme. Likewise, where a visual receptor is linear such as a PRow or road, a representative location and description from that location has been provided.
- 7.6.3. Photographs were taken from beyond the curtilage of properties, on the nearest publicly accessible roads and footpaths, and do not represent views from within the top floor of dwellings. The predicted influence of the Scheme on views from inaccessible areas is only reported in this assessment, if the impacts are expected to differ noticeably from the representative view collected on site.

- 7.6.4. This assessment draws on a ZTV (a computer-generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility) as shown on ES Figure 7.3 (Visual Context) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**) and explained in paragraphs 7.8.27 to 7.8.31. Except for Hungerley Hall Farm, site assessment work has been undertaken from publicly accessible areas. Representative viewpoint photography and the detailed assessment of visual effects at each location is generally from public areas (ES Appendix 7.3 (Representative Viewpoints) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**)).
- 7.6.5. Receptors identified within the study area and ZTV (see Section 7.7) have been assessed as part of the Scheme. In accordance with the DMRB LA107, impacts from construction activity are assessed at their peak assuming the maximum perceptible change. However, when considering the construction requirement for the use of a crane during the construction of structures, the potential area of impact would temporarily increase the number of receptors in the ZTV. However, given the narrow forms of cranes and transient appearance within views, resulting in the likelihood of only a minor or negligible change in the view, the visual effects of the crane are not likely to be significant and as such these additional receptors have not all been detailed within this assessment.
- 7.6.6. A baseline description of the relevant National Character Area is provided for context only. The scale and nature of the works is considered diminutive within the broader regional character area and therefore the LVIA has focused upon the assessment of landscape character at a local level, where greater changes may be afforded. As such, the assessment captures likely construction and operation impacts and effects upon local landscape character.
- 7.6.7. For the purposes of this assessment, mitigation planting growth and height assumptions have been defined in Table 7.9 below. These are subject to the variables of ground conditions, general climate influences and individual species growth rates. These assumptions have been used in the production of the photomontages (ES Figure 7.4.1 to 7.4.13 (Representative Viewpoint Photography & Photomontages/ Visualisations) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**)).

Table 7.9 Mitigation planting growth and height assumptions

Planting type	Year 1 (Year of opening)	Year 15 (Year of theoretical maturity)
Individual trees Minimum specification (12-14cm heavy standard)	3.5-4.25m	7.5m
Individual trees Minimum specification (14-16cm standard extra heavy)	4.25-6m	10m

Planting type	Year 1 (Year of opening)	Year 15 (Year of theoretical maturity)
Woodland	0.6-0.8m	8m
Shrub	0.4-0.6m	1-2m
Scrub	0.4-0.6m	3-5m
Hedgerow (maintained)	0.6-0.8m	1-2m
Hedgerow (unmaintained)	0.6-0.8m	3-5m
Groundcover	0.2-0.3m	0.3-0.5m
<i>For further information refer to Schedule of Planting Mixes (ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) (TR010066/APP/6.2))</i>		

## 7.7. Study area

- 7.7.1. In accordance with DMRB LA 107 a study area for the landscape and visual assessment has been established. The extent of the study area has been selected as being appropriate to ensure that all potentially significant landscape and visual effects are identified.
- 7.7.2. In accordance with the DMRB LA 107 (paragraphs 3.11 and 3.31), the study area for the scoping of landscape and visual effects considers the following:
- Areas anticipated to be used for the Scheme and its construction works and their visual footprint.
  - The wider landscape setting and visual envelope which may be influenced by the Scheme.
  - The extent of the area visible by the Scheme and the extent of representative viewpoints visible of the Scheme.
  - Where applicable, the full extent of adjacent or affected landscape receptors of special value where the setting may be influenced by the Scheme.
  - The extent of adjacent or affected visual receptors and the visual amenity of the area that may be influenced by the Scheme.
- 7.7.3. The 1km radius study area was determined following a review of desk-based studies, preliminary ZTV and three site visits.
- 7.7.4. Three site visits were undertaken in 2023; a preliminary visit in March, second in August and third in December. The prevailing site conditions (existing baseline) for this assessment are dated March 2023 and any vegetation cleared prior to this date falls outside of the scope. Summer photography was captured during the second site visit, while the vegetation was still in leaf. Winter photography was captured during the third site visit.



- 7.7.5. Site visits were undertaken to the wider area, but no potential effects or potential representative viewpoints were identified beyond 1km. It is considered unlikely that the Scheme would give rise to any significant effects on landscape and visual receptors due to the distance and presence of intervening topography, vegetation and built form, particularly the context of the existing A46 and Walsgrave Junction. Therefore, it was determined that a 1km radius study area was adequate. Neither the ZTV or site visits indicated the presence of primary sensitive receptor(s) within or beyond 1km study area.
- 7.7.6. The study area is divided between the urban edge of Coventry to the west and rural countryside of Rugby to the east. The north-eastern section of the study area contains arable farmland around Walsgrave Hill, and the south-eastern section is dominated by Coombe Country Park and farmland north of Binley Woods.
- 7.7.7. In contrast, the north-western section of the study area consists of the urban areas of Walsgrave around University Hospital Coventry the south-western section consists of the Binley residential area. Beyond these geographical extents, due to the urban environment, it is not considered there will be any landscape character or visual effects afforded by the Scheme.

## 7.8. Baseline conditions

- 7.8.1. This section describes the landscape and visual baseline for the Scheme within the identified 1km radius study area.

### Data sources

- 7.8.2. The relevant baseline conditions of the Scheme location and study area have been established using the following sources of information:
- ES Figure 2.2 (Environmental Constraints) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**)
  - Green Belt – ES Figure 7.1 (Landscape Policy Context) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**)
  - Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) profiles
  - Natural England's MAGIC (Multi-agency geographic information for the countryside) interactive map
  - Landscape Assessment of the Borough of Rugby Sensitivity and Condition Study (Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council, 2006)
  - Historic England's National Heritage List for England (NHLE)
  - Rugby Borough Council's Coombe Abbey Conservation Area Appraisal (June 2010)
  - Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines (November 1993).
  - Landscape Assessment of the 'Borough of Rugby Sensitivity and Condition Study' (April 2006)



## Designations within the study area

### *Landscape designations*

7.8.3. There are no national or local landscape designations within the study area.

### *Green Belt*

7.8.4. As shown on ES Figure 7.1 (Landscape Policy Context) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**), part of the Scheme and wider study area within Rugby Borough Council is located within the Green Belt. This landscape and visual impact assessment includes consideration of effects on visual amenity and openness within the Green Belt.

7.8.5. In the context of Green Belt policy 'openness' is defined as both the landscape characteristic of visual openness as well as the perceived absence of built-up areas and urban land uses.

### *Registered Parks and Gardens*

7.8.6. Coombe Abbey Grade II \* Registered Park and Garden (RPG) is located within the Coombe Country Park and borders the eastern boundary of the Scheme (refer to ES Figure 7.1 (Landscape Policy Context) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**)). The RPG is also a Conservation Area. There is very limited potential intervisibility, including in views identified by the Conservation Area Appraisal, due to screening by a thick woodland belt along Coombe Country Park boundary (refer to the ZTV, ES Figure 7.3 (Visual Context), (**TR010066/APP/6.2**)). Effects on the setting of heritage assets including Coombe Abbey RPG are discussed within ES Chapter 6 (Cultural Heritage) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**).

### *Ancient Woodland, Tree Preservation Orders and veteran trees*

7.8.7. There are no woodlands within the Order Limits classified as either ancient and semi-natural woodland, or ancient replanted woodland located.

7.8.8. Part of the woodland between the A46 and Coombe Country Park is protected by Rugby Borough Council's TPO No.82 (23 September 1985).

7.8.9. No veteran or ancient trees are listed within the Order Limits however, one tree was recorded of veteran condition during the tree survey ES Appendix 7.4 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment) (**TR010066/APP/6.3**). T12 (pedunculate oak) is categorised as veteran due to its age, size and condition, and is of exceptional value from a landscape and habitat conservation perspective. This tree would fulfil the definition of a veteran tree, as set out in Annex 2 of the NPPF.

- 7.8.10. For further information refer to ES Appendix 7.4 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment) (TR010066/APP/6.3).

## **Landscape character**

### *National landscape character context*

- 7.8.11. Natural England's National Character Areas (NCA) describe the general character of the English countryside. The Scheme is situated on the boundary of two NCAs; NCA 96: Dunsmore and Feldon (Natural England, 2013) and NCA 97: Arden (Natural England, 2012) (ES Figure 7.2 (Landscape Character Context) (TR010066/APP/6.2)).
- 7.8.12. The land to the north comprises a wedge-shaped area of low ridges and valleys lying between Leamington Spa, Coventry, and Rugby, and is known as Dunsmore. Dunsmore and Feldon (NCA 96) covers the north section and southern tip of the site. The character is predominantly a rural, agricultural landscape, crossed by numerous small rivers and tributaries and varying between a more open character in the Feldon area and a wooded character in Dunsmore. This still retains a character of historic heathland and woodlands, which can create a sense of confinement in the generally open landscape. The fringes of the plateaux are all similar in character but have open views framed by low hills and settlements. Coventry, which sits on the border of Dunsmore and Feldon and Arden, exerts a huge influence, especially in the north of the character area.
- 7.8.13. Arden (NCA 97) covers the central section of the site around the current roundabout. Arden character area comprises farmland and former wood-pasture lying to the south and east of Birmingham between the River Tame and the River Avon in Warwickshire, extending into north Worcestershire to the Severn and Avon Vales. The eastern part of the NCA borders and surrounds Coventry. The landscape of the lower-lying central area is gently rolling with small fragmented, semi-natural and ancient woodlands consisting of mature oaks set in hedgerows and distinctive field boundaries. Historic parklands and narrow river corridors are common features in the vicinity of the urbanised areas within the NCA.

### *Local landscape character context*

- 7.8.14. The Scheme also sits on the boundary between two local authorities - Coventry City Council and Rugby Borough Council. No published landscape character assessment relating to the study area has been undertaken by either Coventry City Council or Rugby Borough Council.

- 7.8.15. However, in conjunction with Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council, the Living Landscapes Project, report was published in April 2006: Landscape Assessment of the Borough of Rugby Sensitivity and Condition Study (Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council, 2006). The aim of the study was to examine the landscape around the Borough of Rugby in terms of sensitivity, and condition undertaking a broad-based landscape character assessment of the borough.
- 7.8.16. Warwickshire County Council has produced a suite of landscape character assessment reports for the whole of Warwickshire: Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines (November 1993). The eastern part of the study area is located within Rugby Borough Council's jurisdiction and falls within the identified Dunsmore Parklands Landscape Character Type (LCT). This is described by Warwickshire County Council as *"an enclosed, gently rolling estate landscape with a strongly wooded character defined by woodland edges, parkland and belts of trees."*
- 7.8.17. The character of the Dunsmore Parklands LCT gives a strong sense of scale, enclosure, and the feeling of a linked landscape; through large woodland blocks, wooded streams, mature hedgerows, and hedgerow trees (predominantly oak). This is emphasised by gently rolling landform and large-scale field pattern, poorly defined in some places, allowing for middle distance views to wooded skylines. The landscape around Coombe Country Park fields is open, allowing for wide views northwards, but fragmented by intrusive landscape features like busy roads and industrial built form.
- 7.8.18. Landscape Assessment of the 'Borough of Rugby Sensitivity and Condition Study', April 2006, page 14; defines Dunsmore Parklands LCT of moderate sensitivity, due to fragility, visibility, and condition.
- 7.8.19. The Scheme is further classified as 'Enhancement zone', as part of the Strategies and guidelines, page 30-32, which identifies that landscaping along new roads can greatly improve the highway environment and is to be considered as a whole, in terms of landform, connection to the surrounding landscape pattern and potential use of heathland in diversification of roadside character.

#### *Project Landscape Character Areas (PLCA)*

- 7.8.20. Following the preliminary site visit and a review of published landscape character information, both national and local, it has been determined that the study area consists of four distinctive local landscape character areas. For the purposes of this assessment these four areas have been defined as Project Landscape Character Areas (PLCA) (refer to ES Figure 7.2 (Landscape Character Context), (TR010066/APP/6.2)). The landscape assessment

contained in this ES Chapter identifies these PLCAs as the landscape receptors and assesses the landscape effect of the Scheme on each.

7.8.21. Baseline descriptions of each of the four PLCAs are presented in ES Appendix 7.2 (Landscape Character) (**TR010066/APP/6.3**). Each of the baseline landscape descriptions includes a summary of the key characteristics of the landscape within the extents of the study area that have a bearing on the sensitivity of the PLCA to the Scheme (such as the key characteristics and attributes that are likely to be indicators of the sensitivity of each PLCA to the addition of highway infrastructure). Each description includes the identification of a sensitivity rating of the landscape area relative to the Scheme. Table 7.10 below summarises the key characteristics and sensitivities of each PLCA.

Table 7.10 Project Landscape Character Areas (PLCA) baseline summary

PLCA Reference	PLCA summary description	PLCA sensitivity (to the Scheme)
PLCA 1 - Walsgrave Hill and Valley including Hungerley Hall Farm	This PLCA runs north to south from just off the A46 along Central Boulevard to the northern edge of Coombe Country Park. The character area bisected by the A46, towards the west, following the route of the River Sowe, spreading south across the agricultural fields to B4082. The topography in the character area, east of the A46 rises towards Walsgrave Hill (92m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)) before falling northwards across the valley to Walsgrave Hill Farm and Hill Park Woods or southwards across agricultural fields to the northern edge of Coombe Country Park. The two key characteristics of the area are large irregular agricultural fields bound by gappy hedgerows and linear mature woodland belt and hedgerows along the A46 verges. Overall, the A46 has a strong influence on the area in landscape character terms physically and perceptually by cutting through the agricultural fields on the eastern edge of Coventry near Hungerley Hall Farm.	Medium sensitivity
PLCA 2 - Coombe Country Park and Old Lodge Farm	This PLCA encompasses Coombe Country Park and agricultural fields, south of the B4027 associated with Old Lodge Farm, just north of Binley Woods. These two areas were part of the former wider Coombe Abbey estate. Coombe Country Park has a strong landscape character, consisting of lime tree lined avenue drive, scattered parkland trees, roundels, and vistas; surrounded by a thick woodland belt, consisting of walks and Coombe Pool Fishery (open selected times of the year, June to March). The 'Twelve O'clock Ride' and Coombe Park entrance drive (both outwith the PLCA2 boundary, to the east) are part of the Centenary Way Long Distance Footpath, which link the two areas together. Agricultural fields surrounding Old Lodge Farm are large and irregular, bound by gappy hedgerows and isolated field trees.	High sensitivity
PLCA 3 - Gainford Rise open space (Smite Brook) and Binley	This PLCA runs from the existing Walsgrave Junction at A46 and B4082 southwards to the A428 near Binley. The area is predominantly a mix of residential developments from c.1960s – 1970s spreading north from Clifford Bridge Road, across Brinklow Road (B4027) and latterly 1990s development south along Skipworth Road. The southern edge of the character consists of out-of-town business and retail parks along Kynner Way and Harry Weston Road. The character is very urbanised with little	Low sensitivity

PLCA Reference	PLCA summary description	PLCA sensitivity (to the Scheme)
	green space generally. There is a 'green wedge' running along the character areas eastern boundary parallel with the A46, consisting of Smite Brook, part of the Gainford Rise open space, and public green open spaces, including children's play parks associated with the residential developments along Valencia Road and Hepworth Road.	
PLCA 4 - Sowe Valley/ Dorchester Way	This PLCA is located along the western edge of Coventry, from the intersection of M69 junction 2 and A46, following the River Sowe and its tributaries southwards towards the Walsgrave roundabout and the B4082. The most northern section comprises distribution and retail units just off Parkway. Directly south is the Walsgrave residential area located between Hinckley Road in the west and Brade Drive in the east; predominately a 1970s/1980s development with some late 1990s/early 2000s infill. South of the residential Walsgrave area is the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire which dominates the skyline of the surrounding area. South of University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, the Sowe Valley follows the River Sowe route, in a south-easterly direction before heading due south and returning westwards, south of Tesco, near Dorchester Way. Dorchester Way follows the arched route of the river; the development vernacular consists of predominately 1970s/1980s properties. The area has direct access via a series of public paths off Abbotsbury Close, Bridport Close, Sturminster Close and Fontmell Close to the Sowe Valley/Dorchester Way open space.	Low sensitivity

### Green Belt

- 7.8.22. As stated with NPS NN paragraph 5.181 "*The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.*"
- 7.8.23. PLCA 1 and 2 are located within Rugby Borough Council and form part of the Green Belt. PLCA 3 and 4 are located outside of the Green Belt within Coventry City Council.
- 7.8.24. PLCA 1 and 2 contribute to the visual openness of the Green Belt through their partially open landscape character and through access to a number of footpaths set within open agricultural land. These offer long distance views with limited woodland cover, except for where enclosed by Coombe Country Park and the woodland belt along the edge of A46. Despite potential long-distance views with the wider landscape (Green Belt) localised topography limits the overall openness of the Green Belt within these PLCAs. Perceived openness (in land use terms) is also reduced by the presence of the existing highway.



### *Visual and topographical context*

- 7.8.25. The existing A46 has limited visibility to surrounding areas due to its location in cutting with virtually continuous woodland belt along both sides of the road, with only occasional gaps allowing for glimpsed views. A high voltage overhead power line crosses the study area in a north-south alignment, which is the main detracting visual feature of the study area.
- 7.8.26. Except for Walsgrave Hill, which is slightly elevated at approximately 92 AOD, landform is generally largely flat with views comprising of arable fields with limited boundaries. Views north-west of the Scheme, towards the residential edge of Walsgrave and Hungerley Hall Farm, are blocked or partially screened due to woodland belt along River Sowe. University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire is five storeys tall with views potentially available from the upper storeys of the hospital towards the existing A46 corridor as part of the wider landscape. Due to continuous woodland belt on both sides of the road and topography, views south of A46 Walsgrave Junction are restricted or limited in the direction of surrounding residential area of Binley, south-west of the Scheme or Coombe Country Park south-east.

### *Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)*

- 7.8.27. A preliminary ZTV was prepared to a 3km radius. The preliminary ZTV was used to identify the study area and representative assessment viewpoints, potential individual visual receptors likely to be affected, initial identification of areas of potential visibility afforded by the Scheme and to inform the iterative design process. These initial evaluations were confirmed through site visits to establish the actual extent of visibility from the Scheme and how this may vary in different seasons.
- 7.8.28. ES Figure 7.3 (Visual Context) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**) shows the equivalent ZTV prepared following finalisation of the Scheme; identifying the areas from which the Scheme is likely to be visible.
- 7.8.29. The Scheme ZTV was generated using 1m resolution Digital Surface Model (DSM) data which is made freely available by the Environment Agency (National LIDAR Programme, 2022). Use of this DSM data means that the ZTV reflects the screening effects of vegetation, buildings, and other structures.
- 7.8.30. The ZTV comprises two layers of information:
- High-sided traffic movement (represented in blue): Assuming typical height, is based on points at 4m above the proposed carriageway level at 20m intervals along the carriageway.

- Proposed lighting columns (represented in pink): Based on points positioned 8m and 10m above the proposed carriageway level associated with the grade separated junction proposed roundabouts. This picks up potential areas of additional visibility associated with lighting around the proposed elevated junction.

7.8.31. The viewer height for each ZTV layer has been taken as 1.6m in accordance with GLVIA3 best practice guidance in relation to ZTV generation.

#### *Visually prominent elements within the study area*

7.8.32. The following elements are present within the study area as identified through site visits and desk study:

- A46 road corridor including the A46 and B4082 roundabout and associated infrastructure and moving traffic.
- Mature woodland belts (roadside tree cover) running along the A46/ B4082 corridors.
- Out-town retail/ distribution areas situated along Parkway and Harry Weston Way.
- University Hospital Coventry (five storeys).
- High voltage overhead power line crosses the study area in a north-south alignment.
- Existing Hungerley Hall Farm accommodation overbridge and Farber Road overbridge.

#### *Visual receptors within the study area*

7.8.33. Visual receptors identified associate with the following outlooks:

- Residential receptors - private views from people's homes (either assessed as individual properties, grouped properties or where viewings would be similar, whole settlements in general).
- Recreational receptors – the public views of people walking along PRoW/ promoted footpath routes
- Commercial receptors - views from places of work.
- Community facilities – views from public building and facilities.
- Road receptors - views of people travelling along roads.

7.8.34. The existing A46 location means that many of the visual receptors within the study area already experience existing views of highways infrastructure and/ or traffic movement.

7.8.35. The visual effects of the Scheme upon visual receptors are considered through the assessment of representative viewpoints. The sensitivity of each viewpoint is determined by reference to the highest sensitivity receptors likely to be present. For each category of visual receptor, a standardised judgement on sensitivity to

change is generally applied. For example, residential receptors are typically considered to be of *high* sensitivity to the type of change proposed. However, this is not always the case and where a lower level of sensitivity is attributed the rationale for the reduced assessment is given. A summary of the type and location of the main visual receptor groups is provided below.

### *Residential receptors*

- 7.8.36. As described in Table 3.41 of LA 107 (Revision 2) residential receptors are generally considered to be of **High sensitivity**. The value of views from residential properties associates with people's sense of identity and place. As such, any change in view is likely to affect the viewers perception and experience of the outside world. The susceptibility of such views to change is therefore typically considered to be high but influenced by what is present in the existing view. It therefore follows that the visibility of existing roads or traffic may reduce susceptibility where similar features are proposed.
- 7.8.37. Within the study area, residential receptors tend to be associated with the eastern edge of Coventry (Walsgrave and Binley), west of the A46 corridor. This includes residential areas in close proximity to Dorchester Way, Gainford Rise, Valencia Road and specifically Hungerley Hall Farm. Views out towards the Scheme from these residential urban areas are predominately screened by intervening vegetation (tree/woodland belts) associated with the River Sowe and existing A46 and differences in landform. Residential areas located within the wider study area views are screened due to intervening built form/urban development.
- 7.8.38. Table 7.11 lists the residential receptors identified within the study area and their associated sensitivity to the Scheme. Representative viewpoints are referenced where these are provided in ES Figures 7.4.1 to 7.4.13 (Representative Viewpoint Photography & Photomontages/ Visualisations) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**).

**Table 7.11 Residential receptors within study area**

Residential receptor	Sensitivity	Representative viewpoint
Residents of Farber Road/ Barrow Close	<b>High</b>	1
Residents of Dorchester Way (northern end), Walsgrave - Abbotsbury Close/ Bridport Close	<b>High</b>	5
Residents of Dorchester Way (southern end), Walsgrave - Sturminster Close and Fontmell Close	<b>High</b>	6
Residents of northern end of Royston Close, Faygate Close and Gainford Rise	<b>High</b>	8
Residents of near Valencia Road, Binley	<b>High</b>	9



Residential receptor	Sensitivity	Representative viewpoint
Residents of Highfields and Coombe Warren (off Barrow Road)	High	13
Residents of Walsgrave Hill Farm	High	-
Residents of Coombe Pool Cottages (No.1 and 2)	High	-
Residents of Hill Fields Farm	High	-
Residents of Old Lodge Farm	High	-

7.8.39. Residential receptors which have no potential visibility of the Scheme or not publicly accessible have been excluded from any further assessment.

#### *Recreational receptors*

7.8.40. Except for recreational visitors to Coombe Country Park, recreational receptors are limited to a network of public paths within and beyond the 1km study area (ES Figure 7.3 (Visual Context) (TR010066/APP/6.2)).

7.8.41. As described in Table 3.41 of DMRB LA 107 recreational receptors are generally considered to be of **High** sensitivity. However, this may be reduced where there is evidence the footpath is used for functional connection between two places and is not used by people for recreation and/ or enjoyment of the surrounding landscape.

7.8.42. Table 7.12 lists the recreational receptors identified within the study area and their associated sensitivity to the Scheme. Representative viewpoints are referenced where these are provided in ES Figures 7.4.1 to 7.4.13 (Representative Viewpoint Photography & Photomontages/ Visualisations) (TR010066/APP/6.2):

Table 7.12 Recreational receptors within study area

Recreational receptor	Sensitivity	Representative viewpoint
Coombe Country Park Visitors Note: encompasses visitors to individual attractions within the Coombe estate including but not limited to: Go Ape Coventry, Coombe Abbey Hotel, Coombe Country Park Visitors Centre and Hermits Hollow (children's play park). Individual attractions are not assessed separately	High	10
Centenary Way Long Distance Path including Twelve 'O'clock Ride (close to Coombe Abbey Park)	High	3 and 12 Referenced in 1 and 2

Recreational receptor	Sensitivity	Representative viewpoint
PRoW no. R75X at Walsgrave Hill	<b>High</b>	1 and 2
Local footpaths within Gainford Rise open space, near Smite Brook	<b>High</b>	8 and 9
Local footpaths within Sowe Valley	<b>High or Medium</b> (Sensitivity depending on specifics of route)	4, 5, 6 and 7
Local footpaths within Dorchester Way open space	<b>High or Medium</b> (Sensitivity depending on specifics of route)	4, 5, 6 and 7
Coombe Pool Fishery and associated paths	<b>Low</b>	-
Local footpaths near Clifford Bridge Road at the roundabout with the B4082	<b>Low</b>	11

### Commercial receptors

7.8.43. There is a nominal number of commercial receptors (which considers indoor and outdoor workers) within the study area:

- Tesco Superstore (Dorchester Way)
- Retail and restaurant units plus Premier Inn along/ near Kynner Way
- Retail, restaurant, distribution units and hotel accommodation along/ near Parkway, Ashcroft Way and Gielgud Way
- Farms including: Hungerley Hall Farm, Walsgrave Hall Farm, Hill Fields Farm and Old Lodge Farm.
- Beechwood Trees and Landscape Ltd. (Plant nursey).

7.8.44. The value of views from commercial receptors (commercial units) would typically be limited where the focus of the individual would be on the immediate location rather than the wider outlook. As such, susceptibility of change in the view is **Low** but nonetheless influenced by what appears in the existing view. The visibility of existing roads or traffic may therefore reduce susceptibility where similar features are proposed.

7.8.45. Commercial/ business unit users (whether employees or visitors) at these locations are considered of **Low sensitivity** as a place of work and short-time visits. Views are predominantly screened by intervening vegetation and differences in landform. Any changes in baseline views would be seen in the context of the existing A46. As such, significant visual effects are not anticipated due to the nature of and proximity from the Scheme and excluded from any further consideration.

- 7.8.46. In line with Table 3.41 of DMRB LA107, farm operatives including Hungerley Hall Farm, Walsgrave Hill Farm and wider study area are considered to be of **Moderate sensitivity** as focus of the individual would be on the immediate location with wider views in the context of the A46.

#### *Community facilities*

- 7.8.47. As described in Table 3.41 of LA 107 (Revision 2) community receptors are generally considered to be of **Low or Moderate sensitivity**. However, in some cases receptors may be of **High sensitivity**, where the enjoyment of the surrounding landscape is important to the experience, such as at Coombe Country Park (as discussed in 7.8.42).
- 7.8.48. Overall community receptors within the study area are limited to the following:
- Clifford Bridge Academy (primary school): School users (staff and pupils) are considered to be of **Moderate** sensitivity, in line with Table 3.41 of LA 107. Significant visual effects are not anticipated, as indoor place of work and education and visibility of the Scheme is screened by intervening vegetation and differences in landform.
  - University Hospital Coventry: Due to the building height of University Hospital Coventry (five storeys) and its proximity to the Scheme, views are potentially available from the upper storeys of the existing A46 and subsequently the Scheme. Any changes in views would be seen as part of the wider landscape and in the context of the A46 already present. Institutional building users such as hospitals are typically defined as having a Moderate sensitivity in DMRB LA107, however, hospital users are considered of **Low sensitivity** as an indoor place of work and due to the temporary or short-term nature of patient stays. As such, significant visual effects on hospital users (whether employees or patients) are not anticipated.
  - Broadstreet Rugby Football Club: Visibility of the Scheme is screened by intervening vegetation and differences in landform. Club users (staff and players) are considered of **Low sensitivity** as visual focus is upon the sport not the wider landscape, as such significant visual effects are not anticipated.
  - Spring Estate Garden Allotment (allotments off Clifford Bridge Road): Does not share intervisibility with the Scheme due to intervening built form.
- 7.8.49. It was agreed with the Planning Inspectorate within the Scoping Opinion (TR010066/APP/6.9) that visual impacts to receptors at the University Hospital Coventry would be scoped out of further assessment, for the reasons detailed above (ID 3.3.1 in ES Appendix 4.1 (Scoping Opinion Response) (TR010066/APP/6.3)).

- 7.8.50. As no significant visual effects are anticipated for the community receptors listed within the study area, these are excluded from any further assessment.

#### *Road receptors*

- 7.8.51. The value of views from road receptors would typically be limited where the focus of the view would not be fixed on a particular outlook or visual relationship. Views of the Scheme would be experienced by road users of notable routes including: A46, B4082 and Clifford Bridge Road. As the receptor outlook is inherently that of a road, the susceptibility of views to change of a similar type is **Low sensitivity**; the case for road users within the study area as highlighted within representative viewpoint 11: Principally motorist receptors at roundabout junction between Clifford Bridge Road and B4082.

#### *Representative viewpoints*

- 7.8.52. Viewpoints are 'representative' and as such, whilst taken from a fixed point, are intended to reflect the range of visual aspects experienced by the visual receptors they represent. The interpretation of the significance of visual effects on individual representative viewpoints should therefore be recognised as more widely informing the assessment of effects on the visual receptors identified in this assessment.
- 7.8.53. The majority of the views from the representative viewpoints are screened in some way by intervening vegetation and differences in landform. The locations of representative viewpoints are shown on ES Figure 7.3 (Visual Context) (TR010066/APP/6.2).
- 7.8.54. Thirteen representative viewpoint locations have been selected in consultation with the host planning authorities (Coventry City Council and Rugby Borough Council) to assist in understanding the appearance and visual effects of the Scheme. The following Table 7.13 lists the representative viewpoints, identifying the key receptors that each represent and their sensitivity to the Scheme.

Table 7.13 Representative viewpoints baseline summary

Viewpoint reference	Name	Location, distance (m) and direction from the Scheme	Reason for selection	Viewpoint sensitivity (to the Scheme)
1	Recreational users of public path to Coombe Country Park/ PRow R75x and residential receptors at Farber Road/ Barrow Close, Walsgrave	[E438594, N280753] 400m South	Potential visual effects on footpath users on promoted route and residents of Walsgrave ( <i>Residential receptor</i> )	High

Viewpoint reference	Name	Location, distance (m) and direction from the Scheme	Reason for selection	Viewpoint sensitivity (to the Scheme)
2	Recreational receptors along the PRoW R75x at Walsgrave Hill	[E439206, N280687] 450m South-west	Potential visual effects on footpath users on promoted route ( <i>Recreational receptor</i> )	High
3	Recreational receptors along the section of Centenary Way close to Coombe Country Park	[E439762, N280413] 850m West & South-west	Potential visual effects on footpath users on promoted route ( <i>Recreational receptor</i> )	High
4	Recreational users of Sowe Valley and Dorchester Way Open Space	[E438470, N280187] 250m East	Potential visual effects on local footpath users ( <i>Recreational receptor</i> )	Medium
5	Recreational users of Sowe Valley and residential receptors off northern end of Dorchester Way, Walsgrave - Abbotsbury Close/ Bridport Close	[E438396, N280060] 250m East	Potential visual effects on local footpath users and residents of Walsgrave ( <i>Recreational/ Residential receptor</i> )	High
6	Recreational users of Sowe Valley and residential receptors off southern end of Dorchester Way, Walsgrave - Sturminster Close and Fontmell Close	[E438197, N279651] 300m East	Potential visual effects on local footpath users and residents of Walsgrave ( <i>Recreational/ Residential receptor</i> )	High
7	Recreational users of Sowe Valley Path	[E438292, N279619] 220m East	Potential visual effects on local footpath users ( <i>Recreational receptor</i> )	Medium
8	Recreational users of Gainford Rise Open Space by Smite Brook and residential receptors off northern end of Royston Close, Faygate Close and Gainford Rise	[E438031, N279270] 17m North-east	Potential visual effects on local footpath users and residents of Binley ( <i>Recreational/ Residential receptor</i> )	High
9	Recreational users of Gainford Rise Open Space and residential receptors off Valencia Road, Binley	[E438378, N278951] 7m North	Potential visual effects on local open space users and residents of Binley ( <i>Recreational/ Residential receptor</i> )	High
10	Recreational receptors at Coombe Country Park	[E439793, N279384] 1100m	Potential visual effect on recreational visitors of Coombe Country Park	High

Viewpoint reference	Name	Location, distance (m) and direction from the Scheme	Reason for selection	Viewpoint sensitivity (to the Scheme)
		West	<i>(Recreational receptor)</i>	
11	Principally motorist receptors at roundabout junction between Clifford Bridge Road and B4082	[E437923, N279454] 290m East	Potential visual effect on motorists <i>(Road receptor)</i>	Low
12	Twelve 'O'clock Ride part of Centenary Way near Coombe Country Park	[E440409, N278924] 1850m West	Potential visual effects on footpath users on promoted route <i>(Recreational receptor)</i>	High
13	Hungerley Hall Farm	[E438437, N279467] 0m West (180 degrees)	Potential visual effect on residents/ farm operatives <i>(Commercial receptor)</i>	High

7.8.55. The inclusion of the following representative viewpoints is clarified below:

- Viewpoint 12: Twelve 'O'clock Ride part of Centenary Way near Coombe Country Park. Positioned just outside the study area, this is included in regard to the Brinklow Road site compound area located parallel across the agricultural fields to the west of the viewpoint as well as part of Centenary Way Long Distance Path, a popular promoted walking/ bridleway linking to Coombe Country Park.
- Viewpoint 13: Hungerley Hall Farm. Visual assessments from private residences/ land are not normally undertaken in line with best practice guidelines. However, due to the proximity of the Scheme from Hungerley Hall Farm and nature of the works within its vicinity, it will be included to ensure all relevant visual effects are captured.

7.8.56. Baseline photographs of the view (summer and winter) from each representative viewpoint location are presented in ES Figure 7.4.1 to 7.4.13 (Representative Viewpoint Photography & Photomontages/ Visualisations) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**). Representative viewpoints 1, 2, 6 and 13 were selected for visualisation presentation, with viewpoints 7 and 10 as a wireframe; these viewpoints are considered the most appropriate to illustrate the visual effects of the Scheme.

## Future baseline

7.8.57. Proposed developments surrounding the Scheme are considered in ES Chapter 15 (Combined and Cumulative Effects) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**). As indicated by allocations in the Coventry City Council's Local Plan (H2:3 Walsgrave Hill Farm) there is clear intent for housing growth in the area.



- 7.8.58. The existing landscape is dynamic and constantly changing due to natural and human influences such as erosion, agriculture and development. It is not possible to accurately predict how the landscape is likely to change over time, for example, there could be changes in future farming practices, the condition of existing landscape elements could change due to changing management practices and climate change could alter the composition of vegetation as a result of changing weather patterns.
- 7.8.59. Where existing vegetation has the potential to substantially alter the views e.g. a new establishing woodland plantation, this has been considered in the assessment of visual impacts at year 15.
- 7.8.60. Climate change is likely to result in increased extreme weather events within the United Kingdom, including periods of both increased and reduced precipitation. This is likely to place further stress on vegetation within the landscape which forms part of the existing baseline. However, it is not yet known how changing weather would affect vegetation. Climate is considered within ES Chapter 14 (Climate) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**).

## 7.9. Potential impacts

- 7.9.1. Introduction of features associated with the realignment and expansion of the A46 including a new grade separated dumbbell junction, gantries, signage, and lighting. Both construction and operation phases will have general landscape and visual effects.
- 7.9.2. As required by DMRB LA 107, the assessment of operational effects will be undertaken at year one (1) and year fifteen (15). A summary of potential construction and operation impacts of the Scheme, which may result in significant landscape or visual effects, are listed below.

### *Construction Impacts*

- 7.9.3. Key temporary construction stage landscape and visual impacts of the Scheme would include:
- Visibility of construction activities, construction vehicles/machinery, stockpiles of materials and topsoil, heavy plant, and associated traffic management interventions to temporarily diverted traffic movements.
  - General site clearance and visibility of construction activities and associated heavy plant or vehicles.
  - Removal of existing vegetation - woodland, individual trees, hedgerows, and areas of linear highway planting or woodland belt.
  - Changes in landform and formation of new earthworks including but not limited to:



- excavation associated with various extents of cutting the new alignment
- grading of levels for the new grade separated junction, embankments, and realigned carriageways
- bare soil of newly formed earthworks
- Visibility of the construction of the permanent built elements including the new grade separated junction and associated overbridge, carriageway and drainage assets (detention basin, two ponds and a drainage ditch).
- Visibility of the satellite construction compound.
- Introduction of a noise barrier along the realigned A46 parallel to Coombe Pool and alongside Hungerley Hall farm.

### *Operational Impacts*

7.9.4. The following components of the Scheme, would be introduced during the construction phase and lead to operational stage impacts on landscape character and views:

- A new grade separated junction over the A46 mainline, to connect the B4082 link road with the A46, including a road overbridge structure between the dumbbell roundabouts, as well as new merge and diverge slip roads plus associated infrastructure and earthworks.
- Extension of the B4082 link road (~900m) southwards from the grade separated dumbbell junction plus associated infrastructure and earthworks.
- Introduction of three surface drainage features (detention basin and two ponds) and one drainage ditch plus associated infrastructure and earthworks.
- Introduction of moving vehicles (visually) along new highway alignment.
- Introduction of general new road furniture, safety barriers, various fencing types and signage.
- Introduction of engineered roadside embankments where the steep slopes are required to accommodate the Scheme, resulting in constrained opportunities for planting.
- Introduction of new woodland areas, scattered trees, hedgerows, highway verge planting (scrub, shrub, and woodland) as mitigation and reinstatement.
- Introduction of approximately fifty 8m lighting columns (various luminaries) and two 10m high lighting columns specifically associated with the grade separated junction overbridge.
- Provision of a signalised pedestrian crossing on the B4082 link road near Clifford Bridge Road.

7.9.5. In the specific baseline context of the existing Walsgrave Junction, the principal potentially adverse impacts of the Scheme on landscape and visual receptors, which have been the focus of this assessment and have influenced key mitigation strategies during the design development of ES Figure 2.4 (Environmental Masterplan) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**) are:

- Loss of tree cover (including woodland belts) and hedgerows along the A46 verges.

- Potential effect on landscape character in the vicinity of the Scheme along the eastern edge of Coventry and Walsgrave Hill and Valley including the grade separated junction and associated infrastructure and potential changes in the landscape surrounding buildings at Hungerley Hall Farm in close proximity to the B4082 link road.
- Potential effect on residential receptors along the edge of Coventry, Walsgrave near Farber Road/ Barrow Close and Dorchester Way and recreational receptors along the PRoW R75x at Walsgrave Hill (a section of Centenary Way close to Coombe Abbey), Sowe Valley, and Dorchester Way Open Space.

## 7.10. Design, mitigation and enhancement measures

- 7.10.1. The development of the Scheme design has been an iterative process. The environment team has worked in close collaboration with the infrastructure design team to avoid or reduce environmental impacts through the Scheme design. This is referred to as embedded (or design) mitigation. The principles of the design and mitigation hierarchy outlined in DMRB LA 104 Environmental Assessment and Monitoring have been followed. The first principle being to avoid potential adverse effects, if at all feasible, before seeking to minimise or mitigate for any unavoidable impacts. Embedded mitigation for the Scheme are reported in ES Chapter 2 (The Scheme) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**).
- 7.10.2. Scheme design principles adopted to avoid or prevent adverse environmental effects are set out within the Scheme Design Report (**TR010066/APP/7.4**). This includes general principles and specific commitments that will inform the detailed design of the scheme. ES Chapter 3 (Assessment of Alternatives) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**) details the design alternatives that have been considered, including the environmental factors which have influenced the decision-making.
- 7.10.3. Environmental mitigation design measures integrated into the Scheme would mitigate or reduce landscape and visual effects identified within this LVIA. Mitigation design proposals will utilise Highways England (2020) DMRB LD 117 Landscape Design guidance. Mitigation measures will seek to reduce impacts during both construction and operation phases. Any effects which cannot be mitigated or reduced are referred to as residual effects in section 7.11.

### Mitigation

- 7.10.4. Mitigation is included in the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) contained within the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.5**). The First Iteration EMP will be developed into the Second Iteration EMP for implementation during construction which is secured by Requirement 4 of the draft DCO (**TR010066/APP/3.1**) (Commitment G1 of the REAC, Appendix A of

the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.5**). Further information on the First Iteration EMP is provided within Section 4.8 of Chapter 4 (Environmental Assessment Methodology) of this ES (**TR010066/APP/6.1**).

## Construction phase

- 7.10.5. This section summarises the mitigation required during the construction of the Scheme. Unless stated, all mitigation is considered to be embedded as it follows best practice measures and/or is required to achieve compliance with legislation.
- 7.10.6. Construction will be carried out using industry best practice and in accordance with implementation of the requirements identified in the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.4**). Construction information is presented in ES Chapter 2 (The Scheme) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**).
- 7.10.7. General construction phase mitigation measures are:
- Protection of existing retained vegetation during construction (Commitment LV3 of the REAC, Appendix A of the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.5**)).
  - Keeping a well-managed and tidy site, compound, or temporary works area-ensuring materials are delivered on an 'as needed' basis to avoid unnecessary stockpiles (Commitment LV3 of the REAC, Appendix A of the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.5**)).
  - Land used for compounds or temporary work areas will be returned to the former state once the construction has been completed.
  - Minimising night-time working and the use of permanent lighting. Any lighting that is required would be directional and turned off when possible.
  - Making use of the existing Brinklow Road site compound and storage areas, temporary site buildings and welfare facilities used and retained on behalf of the Applicant, deemed of a suitable scale and recessive colour to blend with the local area.
  - Where bunds or earthworks are proposed as part of permanent works, where practicable these would be constructed early in the programme to provide mitigation screening to the construction activities and vegetation establishment (Commitment LV3 of the REAC, Appendix A of the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.5**)).
  - Limiting temporary vertical elements within the landscape.
- 7.10.8. An arboricultural consultant has been engaged to inform the preliminary design and produce ES Appendix 7.4 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment) (**TR010066/APP/6.3**). Within Appendix 7.4 is an initial Arboricultural Method Statement. This will be developed during detailed design and form part of the Second Iteration EMP. It will include the following measures to be undertaken during the construction works (Commitment LV2 of the REAC, Appendix A of the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.5**)):

- Tree protection measures in compliance with BS5837:2012 (Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction – Recommendations) during the construction phase
- Maintenance and monitoring requirements during construction of the tree protection measures
- Schedule of trees to be removed and retained
- Establishment of tree root protection zones
- Contingency plans (chemical spillage, collision, emergency access to the root protection zone)
- Identify the role of the Arboricultural Clerk of Works during construction

## Operation – General mitigation

- 7.10.9. This section provides further details on the mitigation required for landscape and visual amenity for the implementation of the Scheme. Unless stated, all mitigation is considered to be embedded.
- 7.10.10. An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) has been prepared for the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.5**). This will be further developed to form the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) as part of the Second Iteration EMP, prior to construction commencing (Commitment LV1 of the REAC, Appendix A of the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.5**)). The OLEMP details the monitoring and maintenance requirements of the landscape and ecological mitigation that has been incorporated into the design of the Scheme, such as the planting.
- 7.10.11. General operational landscape and visual mitigation measures are:
- Restoration of existing landscape pattern including hedgerows along field boundaries, use of trees and shrub planting to create screening to the Scheme in line with local landscape character.
  - Seeking to integrate the Scheme design within the surrounding context wherever possible, including use of muted colours in the design of structures.
  - Planting proposals have been developed to integrate the proposed development into the existing landscape setting.
  - Reinstatement/ mitigation planting, using local native species to aid landscape integration and provide biodiversity benefits, as well as visual screening where required.
  - Reinstatement/ mitigation planting will feature hedgerows, woodland (roadside belts), individual trees and grassland areas, features present within vicinity to aid integration and screening.
  - Building in resilience for climate change by including diversity within the plant and grass species mixes to ensure that a range of species types suitable for a range of conditions are incorporated. Also taking into consideration the

creation of soil conditions favourable to plant establishment under either dryer or wetter conditions.

- Sourcing plant and grass species of local provenance where possible in the interests of extending local flora and construction sustainability.

## Operation – Scheme specific mitigation

7.10.12. Scheme specific landscape and visual mitigation measures are illustrated on the Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (**TR010066/APP/6.2**)). Unless stated all mitigation is considered to be embedded.

7.10.13. The Scheme specific mitigation measures for effects on PLCAs are provided in Table 7.14.

Table 7.14 Landscape – Scheme specific mitigation measures

PLCA	Name	Mitigation measures
PLCA 1	Walsgrave Hill and Valley including Hungerley Hall Farm	Along the eastern boundary of the Scheme, mitigation proposed includes woodland belts up the roadside embankments near the grade separated dumbbell junction. Along the Scheme Order Limits, hedge planting to reinstate field pattern lost along with isolated trees along the road verge which tie into the wider former parkland estate character near to Coombe Abbey Park. Woodland belts along the slip road along the western boundary of the Scheme near Hungerley Hall Farm will reflect existing baseline landscape character.
PLCA 2	Coombe Abbey Park and Old Lodge Farm	Planting of woodland belts and field hedgerows along the eastern embankments and verges to reinstate the landscape character lost during construction.
PLCA 3	Gainford Rise Open Space (Smite Brook) and Binley (Coventry East)	There are limited interventions in this area afforded by the Scheme, mitigation measures would reinstate landscape character lost along the roadside during construction, predominantly woodland belt planting.
PLCA 4	Sowe Valley/ Dorchester Way (Coventry East)	Along the western boundary of the Scheme, mitigation planting in keeping with the existing baseline landscape character would aid assimilation. This would include woodland belts along the slip road and grade separated dumbbell junction embankments; and hedgerow planting to reinstate the field pattern along the embankments' base.

7.10.14. The Scheme specific mitigation measures for visual effects are provided in Table 7.15.

Table 7.15 Visual – Scheme specific mitigation measures

Receptor	Mitigation measures
Residential receptors and recreational users along the eastern urban edge of Coventry	<p>Mitigation planting would screen the glimpsed views through gaps in the intervening vegetation along the River Sowe and existing woodland belt along the A46.</p> <p>The woodland belt along the slip road up to the grade separated dumbbell junction embankments would reinstate screening lost through the Scheme. This provides mitigation for the following representative viewpoints of these receptors are at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• northern end of Dorchester Way, Walsgrave - Abbotsbury Close/ Bridport Close</li> <li>• southern end of Dorchester Way, Walsgrave - Sturminster Close and Fontmell Close</li> <li>• Sowe Valley and Dorchester Way Open Space</li> </ul>
Hungerley Hall Farm	Views from Hungerley Hall Farm, the closest residential property, would be mitigated by woodland planting along the slip road embankments adjacent and northwards and aid screening of views north towards the grade separated dumbbell junction.
Recreational receptors on the footpath PRoW R75x at Walsgrave Hill and Centenary Way Long Distance Path	Views would be mitigated by woodland belts up the roadside embankments including the grade separated dumbbell junction. Western edge mitigation would include infill woodland planting and groups of trees and isolated trees along the embankments. This will help screen views of the A46.
Recreational visual receptors at Coombe Abbey Park	<p>Reinstatement of infill woodland planting cover lost due to construction in order to maintain a landscape buffer between the Scheme and the parkland.</p> <p>The woodland block north of Coombe Abbey Park, as shown on the Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (TR010066/APP/6.2)) will increase visual screening and landscape integration.</p>

7.10.15. The Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (TR010066/APP/6.2)) sets out the proposed landscape and visual mitigation measures for the Scheme as well as wider environmental mitigation functions specifically in relation to potential ecological and heritage effects. Refer to ES Chapter 6 (Cultural Heritage) and ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) (TR010066/APP/6.1).

7.10.16. Proposed landscape and visual mitigation measures would be implemented by Year 1, which is currently anticipated to be 2028, with a mitigation design year of 2043 (Year 15), which is the date by which proposed planting would have theoretically established to a point of relative maturity in contributing to mitigation objectives.

## Enhancement

7.10.17. Generally, the landscape within the Scheme would be enhanced by:

- increased areas of species rich grassland.



- variety of planting types (woodland and scrub) creating different habitats.
- increased hedgerows.
- sense of arrival and destination thorough landscape design at the grade separated junction roundabouts with trees and ground cover.

## 7.11. Assessment of likely significant effects

- 7.11.1. This section assesses the level and significance of the residual effects of the Scheme on landscape and visual receptors during both construction and operation.
- 7.11.2. Where relevant, the assessments consider seasonal differences between winter and summer; and follow the iterative design development process and incorporation of the mitigation and enhancement measures set out in the Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (**TR010066/APP/6.2**)) and set out in the Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) contained within the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP.6.5**).

### Construction

- 7.11.3. As explained in paragraph 7.9.3, construction activities would result in a variety of visually disruptive activities along the A46 corridor itself and as well as the immediate vicinity of the Scheme. Effects would be caused by construction activities include, but not limited to, general site clearance, excavation of cuttings, formation of new earthworks, construction of the new grade separated junction and associated overbridge, carriageway and drainage assets, realignment of existing carriageway, storage of materials and topsoil, presence of plant equipment, and construction vehicles as well as temporary traffic measures. Construction activity would be visible from within the wider landscape setting of the Scheme.
- 7.11.4. There would be some degree of increase in visibility of construction activities during winter months, especially where screening is provided by woodland belts which would more visually permeable in the winter months or removed due to the Scheme.

### *Effects on landscape character*

- 7.11.5. A detailed assessment of construction stage effects on landscape character is set out in ES Appendix 7.2 (Landscape Character) (**TR010066/APP/6.3**). Table 7.16 summarises the conclusions of the landscape character assessment and is explained further in paragraphs 7.11.6 to 7.11.8.

Table 7.16 Construction effects on landscape character areas (summary)



PLCA reference	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Significance of effect
PLCA 1 - Walsgrave Hill and Valley including Hungerley Hall Farm	Medium	Major adverse	Large adverse (significant)
PLCA 2 - Coombe Abbey Park and Old Lodge Farm	High	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)
PLCA 3 - Gainford Rise Open Space (Smite Brook) and Binley	Low	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)
PLCA 4 - Sowe Valley/ Dorchester Way	Low	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)

- 7.11.6. The majority of the Scheme and its immediate setting is located within PLCA 1 and, as such, would be affected to the greatest degree, resulting in **Large adverse** (significant) effects on landscape character during construction. Construction stage effects of the Scheme primarily result from the removal of existing vegetation, earthworks, and the introduction of new permanent features into the landscape, most notably the new grade separated junction and associated overbridge, carriageways (proposed and realigned) and drainage assets (detention basin, two ponds and a drainage ditch). As well as effects on landscape character due to the temporary presence of construction activities.
- 7.11.7. Aside from the existing A46, this is a relatively calm landscape, and the presence of construction activities and introduction of permanent features into the landscape would adversely affect the peri-urban character of PLCA 1.
- 7.11.8. The introduction of noticeably incongruous features and activity within the wider landscape would result in PLCA 4 having a **Moderate adverse** magnitude of landscape character change. The significance of the effect is however limited by the temporary presence of the construction activities. Overall PLCA 2, PLCA 3, and PLCA 4 would all experience only **Slight adverse** (not significant) effects on landscape character during the construction phase.

#### *Effects on the openness of the Green Belt*

- 7.11.9. During the construction period loss of vegetation (trees and woodland cover) along the A46 verges would alter the visual openness of the Rugby's Green Belt and introduce noticeably incongruous elements and activities. These alter the land use and the perceived rural open character, through the introduction of the new earthworks and related infrastructure associated with the grade separated junction and overbridge.
- 7.11.10. Construction effects upon the Green Belt within the study area, are not considered likely to be significant due to their temporary nature and the footprint of the Scheme being located along the edge and the existing influence exerted

upon its setting by the A46 highway corridor. As such, there would be a **Minor adverse** magnitude of landscape character change and a **Slight adverse** (not significant) effect on the openness of the Green Belt.

### *Effects on representative viewpoints*

7.11.11. A detailed assessment of construction stage effects on representative viewpoints is set out in ES Appendix 7.3 (Representative Viewpoints) (**TR010066/APP/6.3**). Table 7.17 summarises the conclusions of the representative viewpoint assessment and is further explained in paragraphs 7.11.12 and 7.11.13. Refer to ES Figure 7.4.1 to 7.4.13 (Representative Viewpoint Photography & Photomontages/ Visualisations) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**) for baseline photographs of representative viewpoints.

Table 7.17 Construction effects on representative viewpoints (summary)

Viewpoint and Figure	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Significance of effect
Viewpoint 1: Recreational users of public path to Coombe Country Park/ PRow R75x and residential receptors at Farber Road/ Barrow Close, Walsgrave. <i>Figure 7.4.1</i>	High	Major adverse	Large adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 2: Recreational receptors along the PRow R75x at Walsgrave Hill. <i>Figure 7.4.2</i>	High	Minor adverse	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 3: Recreational receptors along the section of Centenary Way close to Coombe Country Park. <i>Figure 7.4.3</i>	High	No change	Neutral (not significant)
Viewpoint 4: Recreational users of Sowe Valley and Dorchester Way Open Space. <i>Figure 7.4.4</i>	Medium	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 5: Recreational users of Sowe Valley and residential receptors off northern end of Dorchester Way, Walsgrave - Abbotsbury Close/ Bridport Close. <i>Figure 7.4.5</i>	High	No change	Neutral (not significant)
Viewpoint 6: Recreational users of Sowe Valley and residential receptors off southern end of Dorchester Way, Walsgrave - Sturminster Close and Fontmell Close. <i>Figure 7.4.6</i>	High	Minor adverse	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 7: Recreational users of Sowe Valley Path. <i>Figure 7.4.7</i>	Medium	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)

Viewpoint and Figure	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Significance of effect
Viewpoint 8: Recreational users of Gainford Rise Open Space by Smite Brook and residential receptors off northern end of Royston Close, Faygate Close and Gainford Rise. <i>Figure 7.4.8</i>	High	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 9: Recreational users of Gainford Rise Open Space and residential receptors off Valencia Road, Binley. <i>Figure 7.4.9</i>	High	No change	Neutral (not significant)
Viewpoint 10: Recreational receptors at Coombe Country Park. <i>Figure 7.4.10</i>	High	No change	Neutral (not significant)
Viewpoint 11: Principally motorist receptors at roundabout junction between Clifford Bridge Road and B4082. <i>Figure 7.4.11</i>	Low	Minor	Slight (not significant)
Viewpoint 12: Twelve 'O'clock Ride part of Centenary Way near Coombe Country Park. <i>Figure 7.4.12</i>	High	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 13: Hungerley Hall Farm. <i>Figure 7.4.13</i>	High	Major adverse	Large adverse (significant)

7.11.12. Majority of the representative viewpoints would experience either a **Slight adverse** (not significant) or **Neutral** (not significant) level of visual effect; despite small or no alternations to the baseline view, owing to the temporary presence of construction activities causing an adverse visual effect.

7.11.13. The most significant construction phase visual effects on representative viewpoints would be associated with locations in closest proximity to the Scheme and construction works, particularly residential receptors and users of local footpaths. **Large adverse** (significant) visual effects would occur at representative viewpoints 1 and 13 and **Moderate adverse** (significant) visual effects at representative viewpoints 2 and 6.

- **Large adverse** (significant) visual effects
  - Viewpoint 1: The view across the fields would be altered by the temporary presence of construction activities having immediate adverse effects, specifically associated with the introduction of permanent features including the new grade separated junction, associated overbridge and earthworks (embankments), drainage assets (detention basin, two ponds and a drainage ditch) and general highway infrastructure elements (lighting, gantries, or signage). Construction stage effects of the Scheme primarily result from loss and changes to key landscape features

- including hedgerows, trees and woodland cover and field pattern on land adjacent to the A46.
- Viewpoint 13: The existing view would be completely altered by the temporary presence of construction activities having adverse effects. Overall, construction stage effects of the Scheme primarily result from removal of existing woodland tree belt and hedgerows along A46 and B4082 link road verge, permanent field loss and the Walsgrave roundabout removal. Construction stage effects also arise from new of highway infrastructure (B4082 carriageway extension) and associated elements (lighting, gantries, or signage), throughout the view. In addition to the installation of drainage assets (detention basin, two ponds and a drainage ditch) and embankments near Hungerley Hall Farm.
- **Moderate adverse** (significant) visual effects
  - Viewpoint 2: Effects would relate to the introduction of permanent features including the new grade separated junction, overbridge, earthworks (embankments) and highway infrastructure elements (lighting, gantries, or signage), in the distant view across the fields. Construction stage effects of the Scheme would primarily result from loss and changes to key landscape features including hedgerows, trees and woodland cover and field pattern on land adjacent to the A46.
  - Viewpoints 6: Construction stage effects primarily result from the temporary presence of construction vehicles and temporary traffic measures associated with the removal of the of the Walsgrave roundabout and loss of fields, woodland belts and hedgerows along A46 and B4082 link road verges. Overall, the majority of the view would not change, due to intervening vegetation and topography. However, there would be an increased extent of highway infrastructure and associated elements (lighting, gantries, or signage) in relation to the B4082 link road in the view, including the installation of drainage assets (detention basin, two ponds and a drainage ditch), embankments near Hungerley Hall Farm.

### *Effects on visual receptors*

7.11.14. The assessment of the construction stage effects upon visual receptors is undertaken through the assessment of representative viewpoints. A general summary of the visual effects upon each category of visual receptor is provided below.

### *Residential receptors*

7.11.15. Significant adverse effects would be experienced by residents in close proximity to the Scheme living along Farber Road, Barrow Close, (**Large adverse**) Dorchester Way (southern end) (**Moderate adverse**) and at Hungerley Hall Farm (**Large adverse**) (ES Appendix 7.3 (Representative Viewpoints) (**TR010066/APP/6.3**) representative viewpoints 1, 6, and 13 on ES Figures 7.4.1, 7.4.6 and 7.4.13 (**TR010066/APP/6.2**). This would be due to the loss of

screening vegetation, opening up of short to medium range views of construction activities and the installation of permanent features including the new grade separated junction and associated overbridge, embankments and drainage assets (detention basin, two ponds and a drainage ditch).

#### *Recreational receptors*

- 7.11.16. Significant adverse effects would be experienced by users of PRowS in close proximity to the Scheme in particular users of the PRow no. R75X at Walsgrave Hill (ES Figure 7.4.1 (Viewpoint 1), and ES Figure 7.4.2 (Viewpoint 2) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**). This would be due to the proximity to the A46, clear views of the Scheme, as such the proximity of construction activity along the road corridor.
- 7.11.17. Local footpaths associated with Sowe Valley and Dorchester Way (ES Figures 7.4.4 (Viewpoint 4), 7.4.6 (Viewpoint 6) or 7.4.7 (Viewpoint 7) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**)). Dependent on aspect, location, and proximity, in relation to the Scheme receptors would experience adverse effects of varying degrees from **Slight adverse** (not significant) to **Moderate adverse** (significant). Refer to ES Appendix 7.3 (Representative Viewpoints) (**TR010066/APP/6.3**) for full assessment details.

#### *Commercial receptors*

- 7.11.18. As explained in paragraph 7.8.45 commercial receptors are excluded from further assessment.

#### *Road receptors*

- 7.11.19. As highlighted within Representative Viewpoint 11 (ES Figure 7.4.11 Representative Viewpoint Photography & Photomontages (**TR010066/APP/6.2**)) and explained in ES Appendix 7.3 (Representative Viewpoints) (**TR010066/APP/6.3**) road users despite experiencing construction activity in close range views road receptors would not experience significant adverse construction phase effects due to their low sensitivity.

### **Operation**

#### *Effects on landscape character*

- 7.11.20. A detailed assessment of operational stage effects on landscape character is set out in ES Appendix 7.2 (Landscape Character) (**TR010066/APP/6.3**). Table 7.18 summarises the conclusions of the landscape character assessment and are further explained in paragraphs 7.11.21 to 7.11.26.

Table 7.18 Operational effects on landscape character areas (summary)

PLCA reference	Sensitivity	Year 1		Year 15	
		Magnitude of change	Significance of effect	Magnitude of change	Significance of effect
PLCA 1 - Walsgrave Hill and Valley including Hungerley Hall Farm	Medium	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse (significant)	Minor adverse	Slight beneficial (not significant)
PLCA 2 - Coombe Abbey Park and Old Lodge Farm	High	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)	Negligible	Slight beneficial (not significant)
PLCA 3 - Gainford Rise Open Space (Smite Brook) and Binley	Low	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)	Negligible	Neutral (not significant)
PLCA 4 - Sowe Valley/ Dorchester Way	Low	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)	Minor adverse	Neutral (not significant)

7.11.21. Changes in landscape character would principally be associated with:

- Increased areas of highway infrastructure through the realignment of the existing A46 dual carriageway and extension to the B4082 and associated infrastructure including but not limited to; new grade separated junction, overbridge, earthworks (embankments), gantries and lighting.
- Loss of tree cover (including woodland belts) and hedgerows along the A46 verges, which screen and soften the appearance of roadside embankments.
- Creation of a detention basin and two ponds and one drainage ditch plus associated infrastructure and earthworks.
- An increase in general new road furniture, safety barriers, various fencing types including noise barriers and signage.

7.11.22. Effects on landscape character in Year 1 of operation of the Scheme and its immediate setting (PLCA 1), would be affected to the greatest degree and this would be **Moderate adverse** (significant). This is largely due to the clearance of hedgerows, trees, and woodland belt cover and in addition to the presence of new earthworks and related infrastructure. Associated with the grade separated junction and overbridge, B4082 link road near Hungerley Hall Farm. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting, these changes and key feature loss would be most evident at Year 1, altering the constitution of the landscape character.

7.11.23. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting, loss of mature woodland belt cover and presence of new earthworks associated with the realignment of A46 and B4082 link road near Hungerley Hall Farm. PLCA 2, PLCA 3 and PLCA 4



would experience **Slight adverse** (not significant) effects at Year 1 of operation; due to indirect, geographically limited, and temporary effects on landscape character afforded by the Scheme.

- 7.11.24. By year 15 of operation, the establishment of the Scheme landscape mitigation would contribute to a reduction in the magnitude of landscape change within all PLCAs, such as PLCA 3 and PLCA 4 would result in **Neutral** (not significant) effects on landscape character.
- 7.11.25. Despite this reduction, due to its receptor sensitivity rating PLCA 2 (**Negligible**) experiences a lesser reduction in significance of effect of **Slight beneficial** (not significant) between year 1 and year 15. Benefit arises from mitigation planting including the realigned A46 verge hedgerows with tree planting, maturing to achieve a level of landscape integration and reinstatement of lost field pattern through the re-enclose the arable fields.
- 7.11.26. As change due to the Scheme would have lessened and there would be a **Minor adverse** magnitude of change and a **Slight beneficial** significance on PLCA 1. A beneficial significance of effect reflects the enhancements associated with mitigation planting restoring key characteristics affected by the Scheme, whilst recognising the residual effects of traffic movements (high-sided vehicles etc.) and related tall infrastructure elements (lighting, signage, or gantries) on the landscape character of PLCA 1, due to the proximity of the A46.

#### *Effects on the openness of the Green Belt*

- 7.11.27. Changes to both the visual and perceived land use openness of the Rugby's Green Belt would be most evident at Year 1. This would be due to the presence of a new more elevated grade separated junction and associated lighting prior to the establishment of mitigation screen planting. However, in terms of land use openness, changes within the Green Belt would be limited due to the localised nature of the Scheme in a location where a major highway already exists. As such, at Year 1 of operation, the Scheme would result in a very limited reduction in the perceived openness of the Green Belt.
- 7.11.28. By Year 15, effects on both the visual and perceived land use openness of the Green Belt would have further reduced to recreate baseline condition as the mitigation planting would replicate the current tree and woodland characteristics of the area. Landform associated with the grade separated junction and associated infrastructure (lighting, gantries, or signage) have the potential to urbanise and reduce the perceived openness of the landscape and Green Belt. However, in the long-term, due to mitigation planting measures (woodland, scrub, scattered trees, hedgerows) any change to the Green Belt, (both visually



and in terms of perceived open land uses), would be reduced. As such, by Year 15 there would be no material change to the openness of the Green Belt which would be preserved and would continue to be perceived as being broadly rural and open to the same extent as is currently the case in the existing baseline.

### Effects on representative viewpoints

7.11.29. A detailed assessment of operational stage effects on representative viewpoints is set out in ES Appendix 7.3 Representative Viewpoints (**TR010066/APP/6.3**) Table 7.19 summarises the conclusions of the representative viewpoint assessment and is explained further in paragraphs 7.11.30 to 7.11.36. Refer to ES Figure 7.4.1 to 7.4.13 (Representative Viewpoint Photography & Photomontages/ Visualisations) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**) for baseline photographs of representative viewpoints.

Table 7.19 Operational effects on representative viewpoints (summary)

Viewpoint and Figure	Sensitivity	Year 1		Year 15	
		Magnitude of change	Significance of effect	Magnitude of change	Significance of effect
Viewpoint 1: Recreational users of public path to Coombe Country Park/ PRoW R75x and residential receptors at Farber Road/ Barrow Close, Walsgrave. <i>ES Figure 7.4.1</i>	High	Moderate adverse	Large adverse (significant)	Minor beneficial	Slight beneficial (not significant)
Viewpoint 2: Recreational receptors along the PRoW R75x at Walsgrave Hill. <i>ES Figure 7.4.2</i>	High	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)	Negligible	Slight beneficial (not significant)
Viewpoint 3: Recreational receptors along the section of Centenary Way close to Coombe Country Park. <i>ES Figure 7.4.3</i>	High	No change	Neutral (not significant)	No change	Neutral (not significant)
Viewpoint 4: Recreational users of Sowe Valley and Dorchester Way Open Space. <i>ES Figure 7.4.4</i>	Medium	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)	Negligible	Neutral (not significant)
Viewpoint 5: Recreational users of	High	No change	Neutral	No change	Neutral

		Year 1		Year 15	
Sowe Valley and residential receptors off northern end of Dorchester Way, Walsgrave - Abbotsbury Close/ Bridport Close. <i>ES Figure 7.4.5</i>			(not significant)		(not significant)
Viewpoint 6: Recreational users of Sowe Valley and residential receptors off southern end of Dorchester Way, Walsgrave - Sturminster Close and Fontmell Close. <i>ES Figure 7.4.6</i>	High	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)	Negligible	Slight beneficial (not significant)
Viewpoint 7: Recreational users of Sowe Valley Path. <i>ES Figure 7.4.7</i>	Medium	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)	No change	Neutral (not significant)
Viewpoint 8: Recreational users of Gainford Rise Open Space by Smite Brook and residential receptors off northern end of Royston Close, Faygate Close and Gainford Rise. <i>ES Figure 7.4.8</i>	High	Minor adverse	Slight adverse (not significant)	No change	Neutral (not significant)
Viewpoint 9: Recreational users of Gainford Rise Open Space and residential receptors off Valencia Road, Binley. <i>ES Figure 7.4.9</i>	High	No change	Neutral (not significant)	No change	Neutral (not significant)
Viewpoint 10: Recreational receptors at Coombe Country Park. <i>ES Figure 7.4.10</i>	High	No change	Neutral (not significant)	No change	Neutral (not significant)
Viewpoint 11: Principally motorist receptors at roundabout junction between Clifford Bridge Road and B4082. <i>ES Figure 7.4.11</i>	Low	Negligible	Neutral (not significant)	No change	Neutral (not significant)

		Year 1		Year 15	
Viewpoint 12: Twelve 'O'clock Ride part of Centenary Way near Coombe Country Park. <i>ES Figure 7.4.12</i>	High	Negligible	Slight adverse (not significant)	No change	Neutral (not significant)
Viewpoint 13: Hungerley Hall Farm. <i>ES Figure 7.4.13</i>	High	Major adverse	Large adverse (significant)	Minor adverse	Moderate adverse (significant)

7.11.30. Changes in visual amenity would principally be associated with:

- Increased areas of highway infrastructure through the realignment of the existing A46 dual carriageway and grade separated junction installation and the extension of the B4082 link road.
- The loss of tree cover (including woodland belts) and hedgerows along the A46 verges, which screen and soften the appearance of roadside embankments.
- Residual visibility of traffic movements, large or high-sided vehicles and/ or associated tall highway infrastructure elements (lighting, gantries, or signage).

7.11.31. Due to proximity to the Scheme, representative viewpoints 1 and 13, during Year 1 of operation would be affected to the greatest degree and would be **Large adverse** (significant). Proposed mitigation planting along the A46 verges, lost during construction would not have matured. As such, new traffic movements would be visible where sections of woodland planting, hedgerows and isolated trees had not yet matured. Despite improvements in the view compared to the baseline; presence of carriageway works (proposed and realigned), highway infrastructure elements (lighting, gantries, or signage) and drainage assets (one detention basin, two ponds and a drainage ditch) associated with the grade separated junction, and B4082 link road extension would be prominent man-made features within the view.

7.11.32. Overall, the majority of views would experience a **Slight adverse** or **Neutral** significance of effect at Year 1 due to a limited visual magnitude of change. This is mainly due to existing topographical differences and screening by intervening vegetation, and as intervisibility of the A46 is limited. Considering this existing screening and the proposed earthwork embankments, overall, there would be limited or no direct views of the realigned A46, grade separated junction and B4082 link road, except for tall highway associated infrastructure elements.

- 7.11.33. As most visual baseline conditions would be unchanged by the Scheme, at Year 15 the majority of the representative viewpoints would experience a **Neutral significance** of visual effect.
- 7.11.34. A reduction in significance of effect after 15 years is demonstrated at representative viewpoints 1, 2, and 6 (**Slight beneficial**) as mitigation planting would be maturing and achieving a level of screening. Reinstated woodland belt, scrub and shrub planting with scattered trees along the embankments would screen the realigned A46 and extended B4082 link road. With residual filtered visibility of associated highway infrastructure elements (lighting, gantries, or signage) some visibility would still be possible due to their height.
- 7.11.35. Benefit arises from the increase woodland blocks and hedgerow with tree planting along the embankment slopes along the A46 and B4082 link road near Hungerley Hall Farm, as well as planting mitigation measures related to the proposed drainage assets (one detention basin, two ponds and a drainage ditch) strengthening and improving the visual character of the view in comparison to the baseline.
- 7.11.36. In comparison, representative viewpoint 13 (Hungerley Hall Farm) at year 15 of operation the Scheme would experience a **Minor adverse** magnitude of change and a **Moderate adverse** (significant) visual effect. After 15 years mitigation planting would be maturing and achieving a level of screening. Reinstated woodland belts along the embankments would substantially screen the B4082 link road and A46 traffic movements at the location of the former Walsgrave roundabout. However, residual filtered visibility associated highway infrastructure elements (lighting, gantries, or signage) will still be possible due to their height. At this stage there would be some degree of seasonal variation between winter and summer views. In winter there would be a greater likelihood of visibility of elements of the Scheme through gaps within the continuity of the woodland belt. Glimpses of large or high-sided vehicle movements may persist during winter months whilst being fully screened in summer.

### *Effects on visual receptors*

- 7.11.37. The assessment of the operational stage effects upon visual receptors is undertaken through the assessment of representative viewpoints. A general summary of the visual effects upon each category of visual receptor is provided below.

### *Residential receptors*

- 7.11.38. At year 1 of operation, significant adverse effects (**Large adverse**) would be experienced most by residents in close proximity to the Scheme living along

Farber Road, Barrow Close, and at Hungerley Hall Farm (representative viewpoints 1 and 13). Mitigation planting would not have matured up the grade separated junction embankments or along the realigned A46 verges. As such new traffic movements and highway infrastructure elements (lighting, gantries, or signage) would be prominent man-made features within the view, where mitigation planting had not yet matured.

- 7.11.39. Effects would have reduced for all residential receptors by Year 15 to **Slight beneficial** (not significant) except for residents at Hungerley Hall Farm. At Hungerley Hall Farm, after 15 years new planting would be maturing and achieving a level of screening. However, residual filtered visibility of large or high-sided vehicles and associated highway infrastructure elements (lighting, gantries, or signage) will still be possible due to their height. In addition to some degree of seasonal variation between winter and summer views at this stage, resulting in a **Moderate adverse** significance of visual effect.

#### *Recreational receptors*

- 7.11.40. Significant adverse effects would be experienced by users of PRowS in close proximity to the Scheme in particular users of the PRow no. R75X at Walsgrave Hill, as demonstrated by representative viewpoint 1 (**Large adverse**). This would be due to the proximity of the PRow to the A46 and clear views of the Scheme as the mitigation planting along the grade separated junction and associated overbridge and B4082 link road would not have matured. The Scheme would be a noticeable man-made feature within the distant view.
- 7.11.41. This level of effect reduces in year 15 to **Slight beneficial** as mitigation planting in relation to the grade separated junction would screen the associated roundabouts and traffic movements; with residual filtered visibility associated with highway infrastructure in this direction.
- 7.11.42. Local footpaths associated with Sowe Valley and Dorchester Way in relation to the Scheme would experience adverse effects of varying degrees from **Slight adverse** to **Neutral** at both Year 1 and Year 15. Refer to ES Appendix 7.3 (Representative Viewpoints) (**TR010066/APP/6.3**) for detailed assessment.

#### *Road receptors*

- 7.11.43. As highlighted within representative viewpoint 11 (ES Figure Representative Viewpoint Photography & Photomontages 7.4.11A and B (**TR010066/APP/6.2**)) and explained in ES Appendix 7.3 (Representative Viewpoints) (**TR010066/APP/6.3**) road users would not experience significant adverse effects during operational phases (Year 1 or Year 15) due to their low sensitivity.

## 7.12. Monitoring

- 7.12.1. The First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.4**) would be developed into the Second Iteration EMP for implementation during construction, which is secured by Requirement 4 of the draft DCO (**TR010066/APP/3.1**) (Commitment G1 of the REAC, Appendix A of the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.5**)). The OLEMP of the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.5**) presents the objectives of landscape and ecological mitigation measures, how they would be implemented, monitored, and maintained, as well as setting out responsible parties.
- 7.12.2. Planting and seeding proposed as mitigation for landscape and visual effects, would be maintained in order to achieve their full establishment throughout construction in accordance with the LEMP of the Second Iteration EMP (Commitment LV1 of the REAC, Appendix A of the First Iteration EMP (**TR010066/APP/6.5**)). The LEMP will be developed into a handover version of the LEMP for inclusion in the Third Iteration EMP for the future maintaining authority for on-going highway maintenance.

## 7.13. Conclusions

- 7.13.1. The LVIA Chapter comprises a description of the existing environment and identification of the potential effects of the Scheme on surrounding landscape and visual receptors. The landscape 'receptors' with potential to experience change as a result of the Scheme comprise landscape character areas. The visual 'receptors' with potential to experience change as a result of the Scheme comprise representative viewpoints.
- 7.13.2. The assessment of landscape and visual effects includes consideration of:
- Effect of change to, or removal of, existing landscape features.
  - Effect of temporary construction works.
  - Effect of the introduction of increased highway infrastructure.
  - Effect of vehicles travelling along the Scheme.
  - Effect of the requirements identified on the Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (**TR010066/APP/6.2**)).

## Construction

- 7.13.3. The majority of the Scheme and its immediate setting is located within PLCA 1 as such affected to the greatest degree, resulting in **Large adverse** (significant effect) at construction. In comparison to wider landscape character areas surrounding the Scheme (PLCA 2, 3 and 4). Overall, as a direct consequence of the construction stage there would be a **Slight adverse** (not significant) effect



on the wider landscape character (PLCAs) surrounding the Scheme. Construction stage effects primarily result from the temporary presence of construction activities which comprise removal of existing vegetation, earthworks, and the introduction of new permanent features into the landscape, most notably the new grade separated junction and associated and overbridge and works relating to the associated B4082 link road extension.

7.13.4. The largest construction phase effects on visual receptors, particularly residential receptors, and users of footpaths (promoted or local) would be associated with those locations in closest proximity to the construction activities with the Scheme. As such some visual receptors would be subject to **Large adverse** to **Moderate adverse** (significant) visual effects, as assessed through the representative viewpoints. Notable areas in which significant visual effects have been identified during construction are:

- Representative viewpoint 1: Recreational users of public path to Coombe Country Park/ PRoW R75x and residential receptors at Farber Road/ Barrow Close, Walsgrave. (**Large adverse**).
- Representative viewpoint 13: Hungerley Hall Farm. (**Large adverse**).

## Operation

### Year 1

7.13.5. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting, these changes and key feature loss would be most evident at Year 1, altering the constitution of the landscape character. **Moderate adverse** (significant) effects on landscape character in Year 1 of operation of the Scheme and its immediate setting would occur in PLCA 1. This is largely due to:

- Clearance of hedgerows, trees, and woodland belt cover.
- Presence of new earthworks and related infrastructure associated with the grade separated junction and associated overbridge and B4082 link road extension works.

7.13.6. At Year 1 there would be **Moderate** to **Large adverse** (significant) effects on some visual receptors. Effects at Year 1 would be associated with the influence of the A46 highway corridor has upon views; due to the noticeable man-made features within the distant view and glimpsed views of large or high-sided vehicles prior to planting establishment. Notable areas in which significant visual effects have been identified at Year 1 are:

- Representative viewpoint 1: Recreational users of public path to Coombe Country Park/ PRoW R75x and residential receptors at Farber Road/ Barrow Close, Walsgrave (**Large adverse**).
- Representative viewpoint 13: Hungerley Hall Farm (**Large adverse**).



### Year 15

- 7.13.7. By Year 15 of operation, as the mitigation planting matures and reinstates key characteristics lost in PLCA 1, landscape changes due to the Scheme would have lessened and there would be an overall **Neutral** significance of effect. This reduction in significance reflects and balances the enhancements associated with new planting whilst also acknowledging some residual adverse effects of visible traffic movements (high-sided vehicles etc.) and related tall infrastructure elements (lighting, signage, or gantries) on the landscape character.
- 7.13.8. A reduction in visual significance of effect after 15 years is demonstrated at representative viewpoints 1, 2 and 6 (**Slight beneficial**) as mitigation planting would be maturing and achieving a level of screening, with residual filtered visibility possible due to the height of associated highway infrastructure elements (lighting, gantries, or signage).
- 7.13.9. Representative viewpoint 13 (Hungerley Hall Farm) at Year 15 of operation the Scheme would experience a **Moderate adverse** (significant) visual effect. Despite reinstated woodland belts along A46 realigned embankments reaching a level maturity; residual filtered visibility associated highway infrastructure elements (lighting, gantries, or signage) will still be possible due to their height.
- 7.13.10. DMRB LA 107 requires that the combined effect of the Scheme on landscape and visual amenity as a whole is to be assessed independently and the outcome combined into a single conclusion on the overall likely significance of effect.
- 7.13.11. Although acknowledging a small number of visual receptors in close proximity to the Scheme would experience a residual **Moderate** adverse (significant) visual effect (VP13), in the context and setting of the overall Scheme this would be relatively limited geographically. Having considered the residual (Year 15) landscape and visual assessments of effect, this assessment concludes that combining both landscape and visual effects, the Scheme would not result in a significant long term adverse residual effect on overall landscape and visual amenity but beneficial (**Slight**).
- 7.13.12. Slight beneficial derives from the increase woodland blocks and hedgerow with tree planting along the embankment slopes along the A46 and B4082 link road, strengthening and improving the landscape character and visual amenity in comparison to the baseline scenario.

## Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AIA	Arboricultural Impact Assessment
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
CMLI	Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute
DCO	Development Consent Order
Defra	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELC	European Landscape Convention
ELMS	Environmental Land Management System
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
ES	Environmental Statement
ESS	Environmental Sustainability Strategy
DfT	Department for Transport
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition)
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LEMP	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
LNR	Local Nature Reserves
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategies
LTN	Local Transport Note
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
NCA	National Character Area
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS NN	National Policy Statement National Networks
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OLEMP	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
PLCA	Project Landscape Character Area
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
REAC	Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments
RPG	Registered Park and Garden
SSSIs	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Acronym	Meaning
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

## Glossary

Glossary term	Definition
Access	The means by which to approach or enter land, property and assets.
Ancient woodland	Any area that's been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD, or a date otherwise specified by the Overseeing Organisation including: 1) ancient semi-natural woodland mainly made up of trees and shrubs native to the site, usually arising from natural regeneration plantations on ancient woodland sites; 2) replanted with conifer or broad-leaved trees that retain ancient woodland features, such as undisturbed soil, ground flora and fungi; 3) wood pastures identified as ancient; 4) historic parkland, which is protected as a heritage asset in the relevant planning policy
Baseline scenario	A description of the current state of the environment without implementation of the project
Biodiversity	The variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems CIEEM (Guidelines) [Ref 11.N]
Characteristics	Elements or combination of elements, which make a particular contribution to distinctive character.
Community	A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
Cultural heritage	Historic monuments, historic groups of buildings and/or historic sites. NOTE 1: Monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features; NOTE 2: Groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings (recognised for their architecture, homogeneity or their place in the landscape); NOTE 3: Sites: material remains resulting from the works of humans or the combined works of nature and humans, and areas including archaeological sites. UNESCO 1972 [Ref 10.I]; NOTE 4: Other cultural matters are dealt with in LA 108 [Ref 1.N], and LA 107 [Ref 12.I] Landscape and visual effects
Cumulative effects	Impacts that result from incremental changes caused by other present or reasonably foreseeable actions together with the project. NOTE: For the purposes of this guidance, a cumulative impact can arise as the result of: a) the combined impact of a number of different environmental factors- specific impacts from a single project on a single receptor/resource; and/or b) the combined impact of a number of different projects within the vicinity (in combination with the environmental impact assessment project) on a single receptor/resource
Detailed assessment	Detailed field surveys and/or quantified modelling techniques to understand complex environmental effects

Glossary term	Definition
Ecological feature	Habitats, species or ecosystems CIEEM (Guidelines) [Ref 11.N] which for the purposes of this document are collectively referred to as biodiversity resources
Effect	Term used to express the consequence of an impact (expressed as the 'significance of effect').
Elements	Parts of factors NOTE: For example, protected species are part of biodiversity
Enhancement	A measure that is over and above what is required to mitigate the adverse effects of a project.
Environmental assessment	A process by which information about environmental effects is collected, assessed and used to inform decision-making. NOTE: This includes Environmental Impact Assessment and non-statutory environmental assessment.
Environmental factors	1) Population and human health; 2) Biodiversity; 3) Land, soil, water, air and climate; 4) Material assets, cultural heritage, and landscape; 5) The interaction between the factors listed above
Environmental Impact Assessment	Statutory process consisting of: 1) preparation of an Environmental Statement; 2) consultation; 3) examination by the competent authority of the information contained within the Environmental Statement; 4) the reasoned (justified or evidenced) conclusion by the competent authority on the significant effects of the project on the environment; and 5) the reasoned (justified or evidenced) decision by the competent authority to grant or refuse development consent.
Environmental management plan	A 'live' document for the purpose of implementing mitigation measures and compliance with legislation during the detailed design, construction and handover phases of a project.
Environmental Statement	A statutory report produced by the developer including: 1) a description of the project; 2) a description of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment; 3) a description of the features of the project and/or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment; 4) a description of the reasonable alternatives; 5) a non-technical summary; and 6) any additional information relevant to the characteristics of a project.
Embedded mitigation	Design measures which are integrated into a project for the purpose of minimising environmental effects.
Essential mitigation	Mitigation critical for the delivery of a project which can be acquired through statutory powers.

Glossary term	Definition
Extreme weather	A weather event which is significantly different from the average or usual weather pattern
Features	Particularly prominent, "eye-catching" elements or characteristic components (i.e. tree clumps, church towers, or wooded skylines).
Geology	The physical structure, substance and history of the earth (rocks and minerals).
Grade separated junction	A grade separated junction has at least two carriageway links at different levels, and usually involves the provision of a structure to accommodate carriageways crossing.
Habitat	The place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs. Often used in the wider sense referring to major assemblages of plants and animals found together CIEEM (Guidelines) [Ref 11.N].
Historic	Associated with past human activity.
Human health	A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
Impact	Action being taken. NOTE 1: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.I]. NOTE 2: For consistency within LVIA "impact" cannot be used interchangeably with "effect" nor to mean a combination of several effects.
Landscape	'An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.' ELC 2000 [Ref 10.N] NOTE 1: About the relationship between people and place. NOTE 2: Inclusive, covering natural, rural, urban, and peri-urban areas and applies not only to special or designated landscapes or countryside but to everyday or degraded landscapes. NOTE 3: A resource that 'results from the way that different components of our environment - natural and cultural - interact together and are perceived'. Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.I].
Landscape character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse. NOTE: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.I]
Landscape character area	Single unique areas "which are the discrete geographical areas of particular landscape type." NOTE: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.I]
Landscape character assessment	Process of identifying and describing variation in character of the landscape - the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive - to assist in managing change in the landscape. NOTE: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.I]
Landscape character type	Distinct types of relatively homogeneous landscape, generic in nature but "...share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern, and perceptual and aesthetics attributes." NOTE: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.I].
Landscape effects	The consequence of an impact (expressed as the 'significance of effect') on the landscape as a resource in its own right.



Glossary term	Definition
	NOTE: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.I]
Landscape receptor	Defined aspect of the landscape resource that potentially could be affected by the project. NOTE: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.I]
Landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA)	A "... tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from..." a project on both the landscape as a resource and on people's views and visual amenity. NOTE: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.I].
Local planning authority area	A local authority's administrative boundary
Long-term	Noise change based on the +15 year assessment (for example Do-minimum opening year scenario (DMOY) against Do-minimum future year scenario (DMFY) and DMOY against Do-something future year scenario (DSFY)).
Mainline	The major route within a junction that typically is a higher road classification and/or carries greater traffic volumes
Noise	Unwanted sound.
Opening year	First year of operation
Population	All individuals located in a particular location (this can be local, regional or at a national scale).
Private property and housing	Land, buildings and infrastructure for the purpose of residential use
Project	Construction works, installations, schemes, or interventions (in the natural surroundings and landscape) including those involving the extraction of mineral resources.
Protected area	Area registered under Article 6 of the 2000/60/EC [Ref 4.N].
Regional	Geographical regions in the United Kingdom Climate Projections as follows: 1) North East England; 2) North West England; 3) Yorkshire and the Humber; 4) East Midlands; 5) West Midlands; 6) East of England; 7) London; 8) South East England; 9) South West England; 10) Wales; 11) Scotland; and 12) Northern Ireland.
Resilience	The capacity of a project (or lack thereof) to withstand the adverse effects of climate change
Scheme	The plan put forward by the Applicant

Glossary term	Definition
Scoping	The process of considering the information required for reaching a (reasoned) conclusion on the likely significant effects of a project on the environment.
Sensitive receptor	Includes residential properties, back gardens, schools, hospitals, care homes, public open spaces, public access
Sensitivity	Term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to specific type of change proposed and the value related to that receptor. NOTE: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.]
Significant effect	An effect categorised as Moderate, Large or Very Large (in accordance with Table 3.7 of DMRB LA 104) can be considered to constitute a Significant effect.  The approach to assigning significance of effect ultimately relies on reasoned argument, the professional judgement of competent experts and using effective consultation to ensure the advice and views of relevant stakeholders are taken into account.
Soil	An assemblage of mineral particles and/or organic matter which includes variable amounts of water and air (and sometimes other gases)
Susceptibility	Ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed change without negative consequences. NOTE: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.].
Topsoil	Natural topsoil or manufactured topsoil, usually covering the top 25cm in which plants can grow healthily.
Value	Relative value or importance of a landscape's quality, special qualities including perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity, or wildness, cultural associations or other conservation issues. NOTE 1: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.].
Veteran trees	A tree that has decay features, such as branch death or hollowing which contribute to its biodiversity, cultural and heritage value. NOTE: All ancient trees are veteran trees, but not all veteran trees are ancient.
Visual amenity	Overall enjoyment of a particular area, surroundings, or views in terms of people's activities - living, recreating, travelling through, visiting, or working. NOTE: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.]
Visual receptor	Individuals and/or defined groups of people who potentially could be affected by a project. NOTE: Source of definition GLVIA 3 GLVIA [Ref 1.].
Zone of theoretical visibility	Map produced (usually digitally) to specific criteria to illustrate the area(s) from which a project can theoretically be visual. NOTE: For cumulative visual effects assessment it is the areas of overlap with the ZTV which can prove significant.

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