

A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)

Scheme Number: TR010066

6.9 Scoping Opinion

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Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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(Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009**

A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)
Development Consent Order 202[x]

SCOPING OPINION

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SCOPING OPINION:

Proposed A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)

Case Reference: TR010066

Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) pursuant to Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

10 August 2023



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 On 30 June 2023, the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) received an application for a Scoping Opinion from National Highways (the Applicant) under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) for the proposed A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) (the Proposed Development). The Applicant notified the Secretary of State (SoS) under Regulation 8(1)(b) of those regulations that they propose to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Proposed Development and by virtue of Regulation 6(2)(a), the Proposed Development is 'EIA development'.
- 1.0.2 The Applicant provided the necessary information to inform a request under EIA Regulation 10(3) in the form of a Scoping Report, available from:
<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/TR010066-000010>
- 1.0.3 This document is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) adopted by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. This Opinion is made on the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, reflecting the Proposed Development as currently described by the Applicant. This Opinion should be read in conjunction with the Applicant's Scoping Report.
- 1.0.4 The Inspectorate has set out in the following sections of this Opinion where it has / has not agreed to scope out certain aspects / matters on the basis of the information provided as part of the Scoping Report. The Inspectorate is content that the receipt of this Scoping Opinion should not prevent the Applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultation bodies to scope such aspects / matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the aspects / matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.
- 1.0.5 Before adopting this Opinion, the Inspectorate has consulted the 'consultation bodies' listed in Appendix 1 in accordance with EIA Regulation 10(6). A list of those consultation bodies who replied within the statutory timeframe (along with copies of their comments) is provided in Appendix 2. These comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion.
- 1.0.6 The Inspectorate has published a series of advice notes on the National Infrastructure Planning website, including [Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping \(AN7\)](#). AN7 and its annexes provide guidance on EIA processes during the pre-application stages and advice to support applicants in the preparation of their ES.
- 1.0.7 Applicants should have particular regard to the standing advice in AN7, alongside other advice notes on the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process, available from:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

- 1.0.8 This Opinion should not be construed as implying that the Inspectorate agrees with the information or comments provided by the Applicant in their request for an opinion from the Inspectorate. In particular, comments from the Inspectorate in this Opinion are without prejudice to any later decisions taken (e.g., on formal submission of the application) that any development identified by the Applicant is necessarily to be treated as part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or Associated Development or development that does not require development consent.

2. OVERARCHING COMMENTS

2.1 Description of the Proposed Development, Alternatives, Consultation

(Scoping Report Sections 2-3)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.1.1	NA	General	<p>The ES should incorporate a level of information to adequately and clearly understand the nature of the project and its associated impacts, ensuring the provision of sufficient technical detail for the reader to understand both the physical and operational characteristics of the development, as well as providing accompanying text and diagrams in plain language in order to enable understanding by those of a non-technical background.</p> <p>For example, the General Arrangements Drawing has multiple overlapping chainage distances, so if the ES project description was to refer to these, it may be confusing to some readers.</p> <p>The Inspectorate also considers that some of the figures are at a scale that is difficult to read, or frequently represent too much data or use similar colour schemes to represent differing features on a single figure. The presentation of the ES should ensure that similar problems do not occur.</p>
2.1.2	Para 2.3.5	Ecological receptors	<p>The Scoping Report is inconsistent in the distances given to sensitive receptors, for example the Ryton and Brandon Gravel Pits and Brandon Marsh Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are listed as 2.3km from the scheme under ecological receptors, and within 2km under Hydrological receptors. The ES should ensure that the distances given to sensitive receptors are consistent throughout all chapters.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.1.3	Para 2.3.11	Preliminary and detailed design	The Scoping Report typically refers to the refinement of the scheme at the preliminary design stage. The ES should detail the progression of the design, in particular where specific details are to be refined at the detailed design stage to be undertaken post consent, should this be granted. Where details of the Proposed Development have not been confirmed at the application stage, the ES must describe the assumptions and parameters used in the assessments and how these represent the worst case scenario that could arise under the works consented under the Development Consent Order (DCO) (the Applicant's attention is drawn to Advice Note 9: Rochdale envelope in this respect).
2.1.4	Paras 2.4.2 and 2.4.4	Works to existing structures	<p>The Scoping Report does not present a consistent description of works to existing structures. Paragraph 2.4.2 of the Scoping Report indicates that works may be needed to be undertaken in relation to the Smite Brook Culvert and Hungerley Hall, including the farm bridge, and as detailed within paragraph 7.6.6, demolition of the garden wall and barn. However, Appendix A (General Arrangement Sheet 2) assumes that the bridge will be demolished, and paragraph 3.2.35 states that it will be an alternative access provided via the new dumbbell junction (the location of which is not yet given).</p> <p>Paragraph 2.4.2 indicates that the scheme may include opportunities for enhancement to infrastructure for walkers, cyclists and horse riders (WCH).</p> <p>As noted above, where there is uncertainty over whether works would be required, the ES should assume a worst-case scenario and include potential works in any relevant assessment. The Inspectorate considers that demolition or alteration works to property which is currently under the ownership of a third party has the potential to result in significant adverse effects.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			The ES should also explain why there is uncertainty over these aspects, given the length of time the preferred route option has been finalised, and provide a description of the alternatives considered.
2.1.5	Paras 2.4.5 and 2.5.3	Works outside of the main carriageway	<p>The Scoping Report does not provide a figure indicating (even on an approximate basis) where the attenuation ponds, compounds, haul roads or any other works outside of the main carriageway construction, would be located.</p> <p>The Scoping Boundary given to the Inspectorate is also noted to extend into the River Sowe (as also acknowledged in paragraph 9.3.15 of the Scoping Report). However, the ES does not refer to any specific works to the river channel or embankment, or why the boundary is required to extend into the river.</p> <p>The ES must fully describe, with reference to appropriate figures, all aspects of the Proposed Development.</p>
2.1.6	Para 2.4.6	Drainage design	Paragraph 2.4.6 indicates that there may be some scenarios where the standard "Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) CG 501: Design of Highway Drainage Systems" cannot be applied. In the event that these standards cannot be applied, the ES should detail why this is the case, and provide the alternatives considered and whether the departure from standards requires any additional mitigation.
2.1.7	Para 2.4.12	Utilities	The Scoping Report indicates that statutory undertaker's apparatus (such as electricity, gas and mains water) will be identified during the design process and any impacts or constraints on design identified. The ES should reassess the chosen list of sensitive receptors currently identified within the Scoping Report when this information is known, as the Inspectorate considers that the requirement for utility diversions has the potential to increase the order limits and therefore result in an increase in the number and geographic extent of sensitive

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			receptors, especially given the sensitive land uses in the surrounding area.
2.1.8	Para 2.4.14	Mitigation measures	Where mitigation measures are noted to be required, the ES should confirm how these are secured within the draft DCO.
2.1.9	Para 2.5.2	Construction timing	The Scoping Report is inconsistent in the description of the anticipated construction duration. Paragraph 2.5.2 states approximately 18 months, whereas paragraph 8.7.18 states up to two years. The ES should use a consistent construction period in each assessment, and detail any uncertainty, in particular in relation to where a specified construction period is used as a basis on which to scope out an assessment eg emissions to air from construction vehicle traffic and construction plant.
2.1.10	Paras 2.5.5 - 2.5.10	Traffic Management Options	The Scoping Report indicates that there are currently two options for traffic management during construction. If, at the time of the ES, these are still both considered to be potential options, or if any further options are considered, the ES should assess the likely significant effects of all options on a precautionary basis. The ES should also assess the potential effects of any diversions in place within relevant ES chapters.
2.1.11	Para 2.5.8	Night closures	The ES should assess the effects of the proposed night works on the identified sensitive receptors in relevant aspect chapters. The ES should explain if the night closures would be consented under the DCO or through another mechanism. The ES should also explain any assumptions and/or the worst-case scenario used as the basis of the assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.1.12	Paras 2.5.11 and 2.5.15	Removal of existing infrastructure / demolition	<p>The Scoping Report does not refer to any specific methods or timescales for the removal or demolition of existing infrastructure such as the existing roundabout.</p> <p>The ES must fully describe, with reference to appropriate figures, all aspects of the Proposed Development.</p>
2.1.13	Para 2.5.19	Carbon management	<p>The Scoping Report refers to the establishment and monitoring of the carbon intensity of the Proposed Development. Whilst it is noted that the applicant proposes to undertake a climate chapter within the ES, there is no specific mention of how the carbon intensity is to be assessed and in particular, monitored. The ES should include the relevant information on this aspect.</p>
2.1.14	Section 3.2	Consideration of alternatives	<p>The Scoping Report does not represent any of the 30 initial (paragraph 3.2.5) or 4 detailed (paragraph 3.2.9) options on an appropriate figure. The Inspectorate considers that the ES should include a figure(s) showing these to assist the reader.</p>
2.1.15	Appendix A	General Arrangements Drawing – Design Extents	<p>General Arrangements Drawing Sheet 1 indicates that the southern extent of the design extents has been shortened to avoid the Brinklow Road bridge. However, the same consideration has not been given to the northern extent which includes the Farber Road bridge despite there not appearing to be any planned works to the carriageway, verge or earthworks, and this bridge containing a Public Right of Way (PRoW).</p> <p>The ES should include, within the project description or assessment of alternatives, why the scheme is required to include the Farber Road Bridge.</p>

2.2 EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment

(Scoping Report Sections 4 and 5)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.2.1	Chapter 4	Consultation	<p>Throughout the technical chapters of the Scoping Report, the applicant frequently refers to consultation with one or two of the three host authorities (Coventry City Council, Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council) in each chapter, rather than consultation with all three. Whilst the Inspectorate notes that for some aspects the host authorities will have different duties (in particular as a result of the overlapping boundaries of Rugby Borough and Warwickshire County), the Applicant must ensure adequate consultation is undertaken with all host authorities (and other relevant statutory consultees).</p> <p>In the context of the ES, this is likely to include, but not be limited to, the provision of data held by the local authorities (for example local guidance or assessment documents and planning applications or allocations which may result in cumulative effect with the Proposed Development), and the agreement with the chosen methodologies and identification / monitoring of sensitive receptors.</p>
2.2.2	Chapter 5	General presentation of likely significant effects	<p>The Scoping Report in places presents an outline detail of specific likely significant effects or writes in general terms such as construction or operational effects. The ES should ensure that all likely significant effects are assessed and described in sufficient detail to allow the reader to understand the implications for the environment.</p>
2.2.3	Para 5.2.7 / 5.3.1	Traffic and Transport	<p>The Scoping Report does not make reference to a Traffic and Transport Chapter or other standalone assessment. The ES should signpost where this topic is to be assessed, in particular in relation to</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			chapters within the ES where traffic data is used within the assessment, for example air quality and noise.
2.2.4	Para 5.2.9	Assessment of heat and radiation	Based on the nature of the Proposed Development construction and operation, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of heat and radiation can be scoped out of further assessment.
2.2.5	Para 5.2.11	Major Accidents and Disasters (MAD)	The Inspectorate is in agreement that the assessment of Major Accidents and Disasters can be undertaken in relevant ES chapters, and that a standalone chapter is not required. The ES should however identify how the MAD to be assessed have been decided (such as the presentation of a long or short list), and make clear reference within the ES to where an effect is to be assessed as a potential MAD.
2.2.6	Para 5.4.20	Monitoring of Significant Adverse Effects	The Scoping Report indicates that monitoring of any significant effects will be undertaken. The ES should detail whether this monitoring is considered to be relied upon as mitigation. In the event that monitoring is being relied on as mitigation, the ES should explain how any remedial actions would be identified and how they would be delivered.
2.2.7	NA	Transboundary	<p>The Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS has considered the Proposed Development and concludes that the Proposed Development is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in a European Economic Area State. In reaching this conclusion the Inspectorate has identified and considered the Proposed Development's likely impacts including consideration of potential pathways and the extent, magnitude, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impacts.</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that the likelihood of transboundary effects resulting from the Proposed Development is so low that it does not warrant the issue of a detailed transboundary screening.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>However, this position will remain under review and will have regard to any new or materially different information coming to light which may alter that decision.</p> <p>Note: The SoS' duty under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.</p> <p>The Inspectorate's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in the Annex to its Advice Note Twelve, available on our website at http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/</p>

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS

3.1 Air Quality

(Scoping Report Section 6)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.1	Para 6.2.2 and Table 6-5	Construction activity - Changes in vehicle emissions and local air quality associated with traffic flow impacts and use of construction equipment	The Scoping Report proposes to scope these matters out on the basis that the construction phase is likely to be less than two years which, according to DMRB LA 105, would not constitute any significant effects. On this basis, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out from further assessment. However, should the construction phase be planned to take longer than 2 years, an assessment of construction activities (changes in vehicle emissions and local air quality) should be undertaken within the ES.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.2	Para 6.2.8	Affected Road Network (ARN) and Study Area	<p>The Scoping Report states that detailed traffic data was not available and so the ARN and study area were not determined at this stage. Details on the ARN and study area should be included within the ES chapter.</p> <p>The requirement to identify and represent the ARN is also relevant to Chapter 12 (Noise and Vibration), in particular for the proposed 50m study area from road links for operational noise.</p>
3.1.3	Para 6.8.2	Baseline data	The Scoping Report states that, if necessary, the air quality model will be adjusted to account for systematic bias. The ES should justify any adjustment factors applied.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.4	Para 6.8.4	Scheme specific baseline air quality monitoring	The Scoping Report states that scheme specific baseline air quality monitoring will not be carried out as the existing air quality monitoring sites are adequate to provide a baseline and any further monitoring would need to be processed and backdated to 2018 which would introduce uncertainty due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The ES should provide evidence to support the claim that the existing air quality monitoring sites are adequate to provide a sufficiently robust baseline, with reference to any relevant guidance relied on in reaching this decision.

3.2 Cultural Heritage

(Scoping Report Section 7)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.1	N/A	N/A	No matters are proposed to be scoped out.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.2	Para 7.2.1 / 7.7.3	Study Area	<p>The Scoping Report states that a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) was not available to inform the study area and so scheme proposals and professional judgement were used in lieu. A 1km study area is stated to be appropriate to inform the potential impacts of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>However, the Inspectorate notes that Figure 8.2 of Appendix F presents a ZTV for Landscape and Visual receptors which is noted to be from Project Control Framework (PCF) Stage 2, so it is unclear which of these statements reflect the current position at scoping in terms of the setting of heritage assets.</p> <p>The ES should contain a rationale for the selection of the study area and ZTV used which includes a justification as to how the study area reflects the zone of influence for the Proposed Development</p> <p>The Scoping Report also refers to the Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI), and that this does not have a mappable output. If the ZVI cannot be represented on a figure, then it is not clear how it can be used to support an assessment. The ES should explain any link between the ZVI and ZTV and provide a clear explanation as to how the ZVI has been used in the assessment. This comment is also relevant to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Chapter.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.3	Para 7.3.4	Description of the baseline environment	Paragraph 7.3.4 states that there are 27 listed buildings within 1km, however then only lists 24. The ES should provide a full and consistent description of the baseline environment.
3.2.4	Para 7.3.6 and Appendix D	Gazetteer	The gazetteer is noted to contain a description of "none" for some assets. The Inspectorate considers that based on the Scoping Report, these are likely to be non-designated heritage assets. The ES should use appropriate terminology to describe the relevant designated and non-designated heritage assets and ensure that all assets have an appropriate description.
3.2.5	Para 7.8.2	Absence of data	The Scoping report states that where there is an absence of Historic Environment Record (HER) data, professional judgement will be used. Where this is the case, the ES should also provide the rationale used in this judgement.

3.3 Landscape and Visual

(Scoping Report Section 8 and Appendix K)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.1	Para 8.4.5	Visual impacts on university hospital receptors	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out visual impacts to receptors at the University Hospital Coventry on the basis that the only views of the project available would be from the upper storeys and hospital users have a low sensitivity as an indoor place of work or short-term patient stays. The Inspectorate agrees that significant visual impacts are unlikely to occur on receptors within the hospital, and that this matter can be scoped out from further assessment.
3.3.2	Para 8.7.14	Visual change as a result of night works	Based on the information provided within the Scoping Report in relation to the urban edge location of the scheme and existence of the current night-time uses of the A46, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of night-time viewpoints can be scoped out of further assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.3	Para 8.6.2	Construction compounds	The ES should provide details of locations and anticipated dimensions of construction compounds and provide an assessment of the potential impacts on landscape and visual receptors.
3.3.4	Para 8.8.3	Visual viewpoints	The Scoping Report states that the representative viewpoints will be undertaken from publicly accessible locations only. Given that the Scoping Boundary fully surrounds Hungerley Hall Farm, and this may also be subject to partial demolition works, the ES should explain any efforts undertaken to agree access to this location, and how in the absence of a specific viewpoint (as none are currently proposed on

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			Figure 8.2), the potential for significant landscape and visual (and other) effects has been adequately assessed.

3.4 Biodiversity

(Scoping Report Section 9)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.1	Para 9.4.1 / Table 9-4	Sensitive receptors scoped in – Field by Caludon Castle School Ecosite	Table 9-4 does not specifically mention the sensitive receptors of Field by Caludon School Ecosite referred to in paragraph 9.4.1. For clarity, the Inspectorate considers that this should be scoped into the assessment in the absence of any justification within the Scoping Report to scope out.
3.4.2	Table 9-4	<p>Proposed receptors to scope out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herald Way Marsh SSSI; • Herald Way Marsh Local Nature Reserve (LNR); • Piles Coppice Local Wildlife Site (LWS); • Claybrookes Marsh LWS; • Binley Little Wood; • Old Pools Wood LWS; • New Close Wood LWS; • Binley Common Farm LWS; • Big Rough (ungraded ecosite) • Ecosite/ungraded; and • Ancient Woodland. 	The Inspectorate considers that the information provided within Table 9-4 and Figure 9.1 in relation scoping out is not evidenced within the Scoping Report, as no survey information is provided. In the absence of information such as evidence demonstrating clear agreement with relevant statutory bodies, the Inspectorate is not in a position to agree to scope these matters from the assessment. Accordingly, the ES should include an assessment of these matters, or the information referred to demonstrating agreement with the relevant consultation bodies and the absence of a Likely Significant Effect (LSE).

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.3	Table 9-4	Great crested newts (GCN)	<p>The Scoping Report indicates that there is a known GCN habitat (paragraph 9.3.20) within the study area (500m as per paragraph 9.2.4) and does not specify any known barriers or other reasons why this would not result in the potential presence of GCN within the Scoping Boundary. The Scoping Report also indicates that GCN are "likely absent" from other waterbodies, and that GCN are to be scoped in if further evidence of their presence is encountered.</p> <p>Based on the absence of specific information, the Inspectorate considers that effects on GCN should be scoped into the assessment. The Applicant's attention is drawn to the Natural England response in relation to GCN (see Appendix 2 of this Opinion).</p>
3.4.4	Figure 9.1	Features with no description in the Scoping Report	<p>Figure 9.1 shows a number of ecological designations within the 2km search area that have no subsequent entry or description in the Scoping Report Chapter 9. The ES should fully describe any relevant biodiversity receptors, and where required, include these within the assessment of likely significant effects or provide a justification for scoping these out.</p>
3.4.5	N/A	Fish species	<p>Within this chapter, the Scoping Report does not refer to the aquatic environment of the nearby receptors (in relation to fish species), such as the River Sowe, which is noted within the Environment Agency consultation response to be a Salmonid river, and where works may be subject to additional permissions. The Scoping Report does however refer to aquatic ecology in paragraph 14.7.4. The Inspectorate therefore considers that an assessment of impacts to fish populations in the River Sowe should be undertaken, including but not limited to brown trout, bullhead & European eel.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.6	Para 9.2.4	Study areas	The Inspectorate considers that the study area for birds and reptiles appears to be limited in geographic coverage (particular in view of the study area for construction dust which is 200m). The ES should provide a justification for the 50m study area for birds and project boundary only for reptiles.
3.4.7	Para 9.3.4	Reptile surveys	With reference to the identified sensitive receptors with a specific study area in paragraph 9.2.4, the Inspectorate is unclear why there has been no reported surveys for reptiles in paragraph 9.3.4. The ES should ensure to present a robust baseline for the Proposed Development, with reference to appropriate surveys where required.
3.4.8	Table 9-2	Local Nature Reserves	Table 9-2 refers to the Stoke Floods and Herald Way March LNRs as a nationally designated site. The ES should ensure to make a clear distinction between sites of national interest and sites of local importance.
3.4.9	Para 9.3.19 / 9.3.30 / 9.3.41	Ecological habitats based on survey data	<p>The Scoping Report indicates that specific habitats have been scoped out of surveys for species such as great crested newts (paragraph 9.3.19), bats (paragraph 9.3.30) and otter (paragraph 9.3.31).</p> <p>Based on the absence of survey data provided to date, a justification for this should also be provided (including any agreement on the survey methodology with the relevant consultees), in particular where the habitats have the potential to be of variable suitability based on seasonal changes such as water level or other ephemeral changes.</p>
3.4.10	Para 9.5.3	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment	Where the BNG assessment is to be undertaken as part of the ES, the ES should ensure clear differentiation between mitigation and compensation, and additional enhancement.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.11	Paragraph 9.7.8	Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The Scoping Report indicates that "Prior to the production of the ES, the ecological baseline, including a survey update, will be presented within the PEIR and issued to the Planning Inspectorate". The Applicant's attention is drawn to the Inspectorate's Advice Note Six which covers the remit of the Inspectorate in the pre application phase. The Inspectorate will not be able to comment on the updated survey information, and the Applicant is advised to include the information in the PEIR to ensure as full a consultation as possible.

3.5 Geology and Soils

(Scoping Report Section 10)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.1	Para 10.3.4	Geotechnical matters (Risk)	<p>The Scoping Report states that geotechnical risk is not considered within this chapter. However, the Scoping Report does not identify how or at what point of the DCO process geotechnical risk is proposed to be assessed.</p> <p>The baseline data presented within this chapter (Table 10-1) refers to two historical surface mineral workings within the Scoping Boundary, and ground investigation reporting is to be undertaken to inform the ES (paragraph 10.3.2).</p> <p>Based on the potential identified risks and availability of site-specific ground investigation data, the ES should either provide a confirmation of how and when the geotechnical risk of the Proposed Development is to be assessed or undertake an assessment. In the event that the assessment is proposed to be at a stage post Development Consent (should it be granted), the ES should confirm how this assessment is secured in the draft DCO.</p>
3.5.2	Para 10.4.2 / Table 10-2	Construction effects	<p>Table 10-2 does not refer to specific effects, and instead refers to scoping in potential mobilisation of contaminants in broad terms. The Inspectorate considers that the assessment should include as a minimum, the potential effects noted in paragraph 10.4.2</p>
3.5.3	Para 10.4.4 / Table 10-2	Operational effects	<p>The Scoping Report does not refer specifically to operational effects other than the permanent loss of agricultural land. However, it is noted, from the road drainage and water environment chapter, that the two impacts listed in paragraph 10.4.4 are proposed to be assessed within that chapter. Where the ES seeks to avoid repetition</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>of assessments between chapters, the assessment should be clearly signposted between chapters.</p> <p>In addition, the Scoping Report does not refer to the potential migration of contamination and ground gas through the introduction of new preferential pathways eg, utilities corridors. As the specific utility diversions are not yet known, and the introduction of preferential pathways is considered as a risk during the construction phase (10.4.2), the Inspectorate considers that the ES should include an assessment of the potential migration of contamination and ground gas through the introduction of new preferential pathways.</p>
3.5.4	Table 10-3	Statutory or non-statutory designated sites – construction and operation	On the basis that there are no statutory or non-statutory designated geological sites within or near the Scoping Boundary, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of these can be scoped out of further assessment.
3.5.5	Table 10-3	Introduction of significant sources of contamination – construction and operation	<p>On the basis that there is unlikely to be the introduction of significant sources of contamination, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of these can be scoped out of further assessment.</p> <p>The ES should however detail the measures taken to ensure that any potentially contaminative materials or working practices are to be controlled to prevent pollution incidents.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.6	NA	NA	NA

3.6 Material Assets and Waste

(Scoping Report Section 11)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.1	Para 11.3.10 / Table 11-2	Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSA)	Based on the information provided in the Scoping Report in relation to the absence of any specific allocations for extraction within the area, and the geographic context of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of impacts to the MSA can be scoped out of further assessment
3.6.2	Para 11.3.11 / Table 11-2	Sterilisation of peat resources – construction and operation	Based on the absence of any mapped peat deposits or geological strata which are known to contain peat, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of the sterilisation of peat resources can be scoped out of further assessment.
3.6.3	Para 11.4.1 / Table 11-2	Recovery and reuse of material and requirement for importation of material into the Proposed Development – construction	<p>The Inspectorate considers that the Proposed Development description indicates that there will be substantial earthworks, and the information presented within the Scoping Opinion indicates that some import of materials will be required. The Inspectorate also considers that the justifications provided to scope this topic out are heavily reliant on assumed figures and the best-case scenario with no quantitative data available at present on which to base the information provided.</p> <p>The Scoping Report estimates that of 126,500m³ of excavation arisings, 67% (85,375m³) is considered likely to be able to be used on a best-case scenario (75% of subsoils are considered to be chemically and geotechnically suitable for reuse). This is lower than both the 90% DMRB target stated in 11.3.13 and 70% project Environmental Management Plan target stated in 11.5.7.</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>In the case that this can be increased by recycling any of the 15,000m³ not specified within the 126,500 m³ total (assumed to be tarmac based on a further entry in Table 11-2), this still does not meet the 90% target.</p> <p>The Inspectorate is also unclear why the Scoping Report assumes zero reuse of the unspecified 15,000 m³ as no justification for this has been provided.</p> <p>The Inspectorate is also unclear whether the stated intention to use best practice and other additional measures to meet the 70% / 90% reuse targets is being relied upon for the conclusion of no significant effects.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate does not agree that this matter can be scoped out and considers that the ES should either provide a more detailed justification to scope out or an assessment of this topic.</p> <p>The Inspectorate also considers that the ES should detail any remaining uncertainties associated with waste generation and movement, and whether the assessments which rely upon transport movement (such as traffic projections, air quality and noise emissions) are considered to be sufficiently robust in the event that this matter is scoped out, as an increase in waste generation has the potential to affect these assessments. .</p>
3.6.4	Para 11.4.1 / Table 11-2	Use of primary aggregates – Construction	<p>The Inspectorate considers that the Proposed Development will involve substantial earthworks, and the information presented within the Scoping Opinion indicates that some material import will be required. The Inspectorate also considers that the justifications provided to scope this topic out are heavily reliant on assumed figures, such as 92,625m³ (62%) of imported material being able to</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>be sourced as secondary / recycled aggregate or from donor sites within the study area.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate does not agree that this matter can be scoped out and considers that the ES should either provide a more detailed justification to scope out or an assessment of this topic.</p> <p>The Inspectorate also considers that the ES should detail any remaining uncertainties associated with material import.</p> <p>The ES should also explain why some materials are still required to be from primary aggregate sources only as detailed in 11.5.7.</p>
3.6.5	Para 11.4.1 / Table 11-2	Waste generation – landfill capacity and Waste generation – effects on ability of local area to take other wastes	<p>The Inspectorate notes that the information presented within the Scoping Opinion indicates that some material disposal is likely to be required.</p> <p>Based on the anticipated disposal volumes and given landfill capacities, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment; however, the ES should explain how the construction traffic movements have been predicted and how these account for material movements.</p>
3.6.6	Para 11.4.2 / Table 11-2	Operational waste generation	<p>Based on the statement in the Scoping Report that operational and maintenance activities will generate limited amounts of waste, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of waste generation during operation can be scoped out of the assessment.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.7	Para 11.8.2	Use of "Worst case scenario"	<p>The Scoping Report methodology indicates that a worst-case scenario will be assumed. This contradicts the information within Table 11-2</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			which has calculated the material reuse on a best-case scenario. The Inspectorate considers that the worst case should be used throughout.

3.7 Noise and Vibration

(Scoping Report Section 12)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.1	Para 12.3.6	Ecological noise receptors	The Scoping Report notes that the assessment of ecological receptors in relation to noise is to be undertaken in Chapter 9 and is therefore not in the scope of Chapter 12. In the interest of proportionate EIA, the Inspectorate is in agreement with this approach.
3.7.2	Para 12.4.12	Vibration impacts – operational phase	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that DMRB LA 111 states " <i>operational vibration is scoped out of the assessment methodology as a maintained road surface will be free of irregularities as part of project design and under general maintenance, so operational vibration will not have the potential to lead to significant adverse effects</i> ". On this basis, the Inspectorate is content to agree that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.3	Table 12-1	Study areas	<p>Table 12-1 indicates that the construction traffic study area is 50m from affected roads, whereas the diversion study area is 25m. The ES should consider whether it is appropriate to have two different study areas for construction noise, in particular given the 50m study area noted for operational noise from affected roads. The rationale behind the study area selection should be fully explained in the ES.</p> <p>The study area should also consider the potential for noise arising from other roads that would see a significant increase in traffic volume as a result of the Proposed Development.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.4	Para 12.5.6	Noise barriers	It is noted that the Scoping Report considers that acoustic barrier is unlikely to be a suitable noise mitigation measure. The ES should detail any agreement on this approach with relevant stakeholders, in particular Hungerley Hall Farm, as the issue of noise mitigation for private receptors has been a particular issue during the examination phase of several road schemes.
3.7.5	Para 12.7.8 / Table 12-3	Construction Noise – determination of significance of effects	The Scoping Report states that the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) 'ABC' method will be adopted for the assessment however does not set out the Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL) threshold levels for construction in Table 12-3, as they are referred to as "baseline noise levels $L_{aeq,T}$ ". The ES should clearly set out the adopted thresholds, explaining why they are appropriate to the context of the Proposed Development.

3.8 Population and Human Health

(Scoping Report Section 13)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.1	N/A	N/A	No matters are proposed to be scoped out.
3.8.2	Tables 13-2 and 13-3	Specific Public Right of Way (PRoW) / other footpaths	<p>Figure 13.1 highlights a Public Right of Way which crosses the Scoping Boundary (Farber Road Bridge).</p> <p>Figure 13.1 also shows an unnamed footpath potentially crossing or adjacent to the Proposed Development boundary, which, with reference to Figure 8.2, appears to be the Sowe Valley Way.</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that both of these receptors should be scoped into the assessment, as they are not specifically referred to within Tables 13-2 and 13-3 of the Scoping Report. This is of particular relevance based on the statement in paragraph 13.3.37 which states that "consideration was being given to promoting the Sowe Valley leisure route to PRoW status."</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.3	Para 13.2.2	Study area	The study area should also account for the area surrounding the construction compounds.
3.8.4	Para 13.3.2	Walkers, Cyclists and Horse Riders (WCH) Surveys	Details of the methodology, location and timespan of the WCH Assessment surveys to be undertaken should be included within the ES.
3.8.5	Paras 13.3.13 –	Agricultural Land Classification	The Scoping Report contains contradictory information on agricultural land:

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
	13.3.14 (and 10.8.4)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 13.3.13 states "<i>MAGIC does not show there to be agricultural land classified by the Post 1988 Agricultural Land classification to the west of the proposed scheme</i>". Paragraph 13.3.14 states "<i>there is Grade 2 and Grade 3 agricultural land to the east of the proposed scheme and Grade 2, Grade 3 and urban land to the west of the proposed scheme</i>". <p>The ES should present a consistent approach to defining the baseline environment.</p> <p>The Scoping Report also states (paragraph 10.8.4) that (Agricultural Land Classification Surveys) may be required at the detailed assessment phase. However, the Scoping Report does not indicate whether these surveys would form part of the ES, or how it would be decided whether surveys would be required.</p> <p>The ES should provide detail on how a consistent and robust baseline and assessment methodology for ALC can be provided in the absence of site-specific surveys. If the surveys are proposed to be undertaken at a stage post Development Consent (should it be granted), the ES should also indicate how this assessment is secured in the draft DCO.</p> <p>It is also noted that agricultural land classification is referred to in both Chapter 10 and Chapter 13. The ES should clearly refer to where the relevant assessment is undertaken, and where a chapter relies on the findings of another, clearly signpost where the assessment is undertaken.</p>
3.8.6	Para 13.3.8 to Para 13.3.35	Baseline data - Frequency of use and severance	For the purpose of providing a suitably robust baseline, the ES should describe the frequency of use for the identified community land, agricultural land and WCH routes, and severance for the community and agricultural land, including the potential severance of the existing (private) Hungerley Hall Farm bridge and requirement for the

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>landowner to use the dumbbell junction with all of the public traffic, in line with the guidance given in DMRB LA 112. The ES should also provide a figure depicting where severance to residential, community, commercial, agricultural and PRow receptors is likely to occur.</p> <p>The ES should provide justification for any permanent severance and set out why no alternative access routes would be required.</p>
3.8.7	Para 13.3.39	WCH enhancements	<p>The Scoping Report indicates that Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council have identified that the existing Hungerley Hall Farm Accommodation Bridge may be suitable for WCH enhancements. This conflicts with the information presented within the Scoping Report which indicates that this may be demolished.</p> <p>The project description in the ES must clearly describe what the proposals for the bridge are and how these have been factored into the assessments in the ES. In the event that WCH enhancements are being relied on in the ES for mitigation, the ES should explain how the mitigation has been secured.</p>
3.8.8	Para 13.7.6	Uncertain effects	<p>The Scoping Report states that this chapter can have an effect nature of "uncertain". The ES should present a justification of where this is used, in particular how the methodology and data availability has enabled the ES to conclude an uncertain effect. The ES should also detail how the uncertainty is proposed to be resolved, and how any significant adverse effects concluded at a later date would be mitigated. A worst-case scenario should be used within the assessment where this is the case.</p>
3.8.9	Appendix I. Figure 13.1	Cycle routes and bridleways	<p>Figure 13.1 displays PRowS, informal paths and footpaths but does not include information on any other type of route such as cycle paths and bridleways. The ES should provide a figure which includes these routes.</p>

3.9 Road Drainage and Water Environment

(Scoping Report Section 14)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.1	Table 14-1	Surface water features - Avon – ClaycotonYelvertoft Bk to conf R Sowe	On the basis that this waterbody is not hydraulically linked to an area which may be impacted by the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of this can be scoped out of further assessment.
3.9.2	Table 14-1	Flood Risk - Tidal Flooding – River Sowe	Based on the information provided within Table 14-1 indicating that the River Sowe is not tidal, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of tidal flooding can be scoped out of the ES.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.3	Paragraph 14.2.1 and Figures 14.1 – 14.3	Extended study area	<p>The Scoping Report refers to a study area of 1km, which is extended to an unspecified distance where there are sensitive surface water or groundwater features that may be affected further downstream or down hydraulic gradient respectively.</p> <p>The extended study area does not appear to be represented on the accompanying figures, which instead refer to a 1km and 2km buffer zone.</p> <p>The ES should adequately represent the chosen study area on an appropriate figure and provide evidence as to why the study area (either a specific distance or extension) is considered appropriate. The figures should also all include the order limits.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.4	Table 14-1	Surface water features - Withey Brook and Birchley Wood Brook surface water bodies	<p>With reference to the overarching comment in 2.1.1 above, the Withey Brook and Birchley Wood Brook do not appear to be labelled on the figures provided (14.1 – 14.3), despite being listed as a sensitive surface water feature.</p> <p>The ES should represent all identified sensitive receptors on an appropriate figure(s).</p>
3.9.5	Table 14-1	Flood risk - Updated baseline model	<p>The Scoping Report states that "<i>The updated baseline model (PCF stage 2 Environmental Assessment Report) predicts a significant increase on peak flood levels and localised increases in flood extent</i>". The Inspectorate is unclear as to the context of this statement, in terms of whether this is as a result of climate change predictions, actual modelling compared to the available wider flood risk documentation (Environment Agency, Lead Local Flood Authority etc) or as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The ES should provide clarity on the reliance of the baseline data or assessment conclusions from existing published sources.</p>
3.9.6	Table 14-1	Flood risk - Previous flood conditions	<p>The Scoping Report identifies that "<i>Seven flood events have occurred in this area, three of these being in the past three years due to overgrown channels and filter drains. The underlying cause remains unresolved.</i>"</p> <p>The ES should confirm whether the assessments undertaken will factor in this unresolved cause (as it is a site specific rather than strategic / area wide flood risk) and detail any requirements to investigate and remediate this as part of the construction works, in particular in relation to the potential increase in run off due to an increase in impermeable area. In the event that no works are to be undertaken, the ES should provide a justification of how the</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			conclusions are considered to remain robust given that there is a known and potentially unmitigated ongoing source of flood risk.
3.9.7	Section 14.6	LSE required to be scoped in	The Scoping Report chapter or summary table does not present a specific list of topics to scope in or out for the construction phase. For clarity, the Inspectorate considers that all potential LSE listed within the chapter (and also those referred to in Chapter 10), in particular those in sections 14.4 and 14.6, should be assessed.
3.9.8	Para 14.7.3	Highways England Water Risk Assessment Tool (HEWRAT) assessment	The Scoping Report indicates that a detailed assessment may be required, using the metal bioavailability tool. In the absence of a technical explanation within the Scoping Report, the ES should confirm how any additional non-metallic contaminants have been assessed in detail.
3.9.9	Para 14.7.9	Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) parameters	Whilst it is noted that the ES will include an FRA, the Scoping Report only specifically refers to surface water overland flow (to the Proposed Development) and fluvial flood risk (from the Proposed Development). The ES FRA should include all relevant sources of flooding, and the parameters of the FRA should be agreed with the relevant consultees. The Inspectorate refers the applicant to the consultation responses from the Environment Agency and Warwickshire County Council.

3.10 Climate

(Scoping Report Section 15)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.10.1	Para 15.4.4	Greenhouse Gas (GHG) assessment and Climate Change Resilience Assessment - Decommissioning impacts	The Scoping Report states that impacts from decommissioning are proposed to be scoped out on the basis that the scheme will be in use beyond the design life of the road infrastructure, and that any future decommissioning is unlikely and would require an additional planning submission. On this basis, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out of further assessment.
3.10.2	Para 15.4.5	Climate change resilience assessment - construction	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that the construction phase is over a short period of time and the effects of climate change occur over greater periods. On the basis that the construction phase is expected to last between 18 months and 2 years, the Inspectorate is in agreement that an assessment of climate change resilience during the construction period can be scoped out of further assessment.
3.10.3	Para 15.7.2	GHG assessment	<p>The Scoping Report states that "<i>However, it may be determined at a later stage that some of the lifecycle stages can be scoped out due to either lack of data availability or if the emissions are likely to be negligible in comparison to the other lifecycle stages.</i>"</p> <p>Where the lifecycle is proposed to be scoped out due to the emissions being negligible in comparison to other lifecycle stages, the Inspectorate is in agreement with this provided that a justification is provided, and the ES assesses the overall GHG emissions.</p> <p>The Inspectorate does not however agree that a lack of data is a valid justification to scope this matter out of assessment. Accordingly, the ES should present assessments of this matter based on reasonable</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			estimates (any estimates and assumptions should be identified in the ES) and referring to the worst-case scenario defined for the Proposed Development.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.10.4	Para 15.3.8	Climate change projections	The Scoping Report states, " <i>The projections show shortfalls for the Fourth Carbon Budget and Fifth Carbon Budget of 188 MtCO₂e and 253 MtCO₂e respectively</i> ". It is not explained what these shortfalls actually refer to, for example reductions between budgets, anticipated actual emission under / over budget etc. The ES should provide a clear explanation when referring to the methodology used.
3.10.5	Table 15-4	Lifecycle stages	The Scoping Report does not refer to categories B6 and B7. The ES should provide a justification for the omission of these categories.
3.10.6	Section 15.6	Description of LSE	The Inspectorate considers that the information provided in section 15.6 does not actually refer to the likely significant effects of climate change, and instead refers to the methodology to be used. As noted above, the ES should provide a list of potential significant effects (and the methodology used) for the greenhouse gas emissions and climate change resilience.
3.10.7	Para 15.7.2	Assumptions	The Scoping Report states that where data is lacking, appropriate assumptions will be made. These assumptions should be recorded and justified within the ES.

3.11 Cumulative

(Scoping Report Section 16)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.11.1	N/A	N/A	No matters are proposed to be scoped out.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.11.2	Para 16.1.8	Town and Country Planning (TCPA) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations - Schedule 2 development	The Scoping Report refers to the use of the TCPA EIA Regulations (Schedule 2) indicative threshold criteria. The Scoping Report however only refers to developments which fall under category 10 (b), urban development projects. The Inspectorate considers that the ES should assess any relevant schemes from all subcategories of schedule 1 and schedule 2 and include these on the long or short lists(s).
3.11.3	Para 16.1.14	Methodology – balance of scores	The Scoping Report states that the significance would be based on a "balance of scores." If a scoring system is to be used, the ES should provide a justification and full explanation for the use of this system.

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

TABLE A1: PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES¹

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Health and Safety Executive	Health and Safety Executive
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant Integrated Care Board	NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board
Natural England	Natural England
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	Historic England
The relevant fire and rescue authority	West Midlands Fire and Rescue
	Warwickshire Fire and Rescue
The relevant police and crime commissioner	West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner
	Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner
The relevant parish council(s)	Combe Fields Parish Council
	Binley Woods Parish Council
The Environment Agency	The Environment Agency
The Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs) and Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs)	Transport for West Midlands
The Relevant Highways Authority	Warwickshire County Council Highways
	Coventry City Council Highways

¹ Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations')

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The relevant strategic highways company	National Highways
The Coal Authority	The Coal Authority
The Canal and River Trust	The Canal and River Trust
United Kingdom Health Security Agency, an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care	United Kingdom Health Security Agency
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate
The Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission Northwest and West Midlands

TABLE A2: RELEVANT STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS²

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant Integrated Care Board	NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant NHS Foundation Trust	West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust
Railways	National Highways Historical Railways Estate
Canal Or Inland Navigation Authorities	The Canal and River Trust
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
Licence Holder (Chapter 1 Of Part 1 Of Transport Act 2000)	NATS En-Route Safeguarding
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
Homes and Communities Agency	Homes England

² 'Statutory Undertaker' is defined in the APFP Regulations as having the same meaning as in Section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant Environment Agency	The Environment Agency
The relevant water and sewage undertaker	Severn Trent
The relevant public gas transporter	Cadent Gas Limited
	Northern Gas Networks Limited
	Scotland Gas Networks Plc
	Southern Gas Networks Plc
	Wales and West Utilities Ltd
	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
	ES Pipelines Ltd
	ESP Connections Ltd
	ESP Networks Ltd
	ESP Pipelines Ltd
	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
	Independent Pipelines Limited
	Indigo Pipelines Limited
	Last Mile Gas Ltd
	Leep Gas Networks Limited
	Quadrant Pipelines Limited
	Squire Energy Limited
	National Gas Transmission plc
The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers	Eclipse Power Network Limited
	Energy Assets Networks Limited

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	ESP Electricity Limited
	Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
	Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
	Independent Power Networks Limited
	Indigo Power Limited
	Last Mile Electricity Ltd
	Leep Electricity Networks Limited
	Mua Electricity Limited
	Optimal Power Networks Limited
	The Electricity Network Company Limited
	UK Power Distribution Limited
	Utility Assets Limited
	Vattenfall Networks Limited
	National Grid Electricity Distribution (West Midlands) Limited
The relevant electricity transmitter with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
	National Grid Electricity System Operation Limited

TABLE A3: SECTION 43 LOCAL AUTHORITIES (FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 42(1)(B))³

LOCAL AUTHORITY ⁴
Rugby Borough Council
Coventry City Council

³ Sections 43 and 42(B) of the PA2008

⁴ As defined in Section 43(3) of the PA2008

LOCAL AUTHORITY⁴
Warwickshire County Council
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Harborough District Council
Blaby District Council
North Warwickshire Borough Council
Warwick District Council
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
West Northamptonshire Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Worcestershire County Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Leicestershire County Council
Staffordshire County Council

TABLE A3: NON-PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES

ORGANISATION
West Midlands Combined Authority

APPENDIX 2: RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES

CONSULTATION BODIES WHO REPLIED BY THE STATUTORY DEADLINE:
Canal and Rivers Trust
Environment Agency
Historic England
National Air Traffic Services
National Gas
National Grid Electricity Transmission
Natural England
North Warwickshire Borough Council
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Severn Trent Water
United Kingdom Health Security Agency
Warwickshire County Council*

*Due to an administrative error, Warwickshire County Council was sent the scoping consultation letter at a later date than the other consultation bodies, and therefore had a later statutory deadline for their responses.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A46 Walsgrave](#)
Subject: RE: TR010066 - A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) - EIA Scoping Notification
Date: 20 July 2023 11:08:28
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for consulting the Canal & River Trust on the above matter.

I can advise that the proposed project red line is approximately 2.25km away from the Coventry Canal, which is the nearest asset that the Trust is responsible for. Having reviewed the proposal, we do not consider that this project will affect any of our assets or infrastructure and we therefore have **no comments** to make on the Scoping Report.

Regards,

Ian Dickinson MRTPI
Area Planner

Tel: [REDACTED]
E-Mail: [REDACTED]@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Canal & River Trust, The Kiln, Mather Road, Newark, Notts NG24 1FB

The Canal & River Trust is a registered charity entrusted with the care of 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales. **Get involved, join us - Visit I Donate I Volunteer** at www.canalrivertrust.org.uk Please visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk to find out more about the Canal & River Trust. Follow [REDACTED] from the Canal & River Trust on Twitter.

From: A46 Walsgrave <A46Walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 2:57 PM
To: National Planning Function <NationalPlanning.Function@canalrivertrust.org.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@canalrivertrust.org.uk)>
Subject: TR010066 - A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) - EIA Scoping Notification

You don't often get email from a46walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

FAO Heather Clarke

Dear Ms Clarke,

Please see attached correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in relation to the proposed A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project).

Please note the deadline for consultation responses is 28 July 2023 and is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Thank you

Mr Gary Chapman
Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Our ref: XA/2023/100018/01-L01
Your ref: TR010066-000003
Date: 28 July 2023

Dear Mr Chapman

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT (30 JUNE 2023)

A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSGRAVE)

Thank you for referring the above consultation which was received on 30 June 2023.

The Environment Agency has reviewed the Environmental Scoping Report undertaken by National Highways for the above scheme, referenced HE604820-OIL-EGN-00-RP-LE-30002 Revision P01.

For the topics within our remit, we broadly agree with the topics that have been scoped in and scoped out of the EIA and wish to make the following comments.

Groundwater

The proposed development is located on land moderately sensitive from a Controlled Waters perspective. Whereas it sits on Mercia Mudstone bedrock (a Secondary B aquifer), the shallow soils and superficial deposits (Secondary A aquifer) will connect with the nearby Smite Brook and River Sow, and thus any road runoff will likely drain either to ground or surface water. This is acceptable under normal conditions, but if there are any road traffic accidents and/or spillages, this could be risky so if there is a need to improve and manage this situation through sustainable drainage solutions (SuDS).

SuDS should be designed and maintained to current good practice standards, including the provision of suitable treatment or pollution prevention measures. The design of infiltration SuDS schemes and of their treatment stages needs to be appropriate to the sensitivity of the location and subject to a relevant risk assessment, considering the types of pollutants likely to be discharged, design volumes and the dilution and

Environment Agency
9, Sentinel House Wellington Crescent, Fradley Park, Lichfield, WS13 8RR.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Cont/d..

attenuation properties of the aquifer.

All construction activities should be controlled via a Construction Environmental Management Plan. Additionally, during construction works, the developer will need to ensure all earthworks and materials are subject to relevant waste controls, either via permit or Materials Management Plan and CL:AIRE Declaration for imported / re-used soils.

Furthermore, there will need to be a watching brief for any contamination encountered and deal with it appropriately if and when observed. A programme of water quality monitoring should be undertaken, prior to and during construction to ensure that no detrimental effect of the water environment occurs, and to allow any pollution incidents to be identified and remedied.

We understand and encourage that ground investigation will be undertaken to determine the ground and groundwater conditions within the proposed scheme extent. The information obtained should be used to inform the risk assessment of any identified contaminated land impacting on the groundwater and to determine the requirements for protective measures if deemed necessary. An assessment of the requirement for dewatering activities as part of the construction works should also be undertaken following the ground investigation. Also, below ground structures or piles where installed may create vertical pathways between aquifers or through confining layers such as the Mercia Mudstone (thinning towards the west), potentially allowing the potential migration of contaminants towards or into the underlying Sherwood Sandstone Principal aquifer.

Finally, we note that Figure 2.3 in Appendix A shows historical landfills are located in the north and south of the study area, both within the proposed scheme and in close proximity. Any disturbance, handling and possible redeposits of materials will need to be carefully undertaken and under control of the relevant sampling regime, risk assessment, remedial strategy and permits obtained.

Flood Risk

As is discussed in Table 14-1 parts of the proposed development site are located within high and medium risk Flood Zones. Hydraulic modelling has been undertaken to confirm this baseline scenario, and we have previously agreed that the modelling undertaken by the applicant is acceptable for use in supporting this scheme.

As stated in section 5.5.5 of the report a site specific flood risk assessment (FRA) must be undertaken. The FRA should include:

- Existing and proposed topographic site level plan to Ordnance Datum
- The use of the latest climate change allowances for a development of this type. The Environment Agency has updated their guidance on how climate change could affect flood risk to new developments which was published on 20th July 2021 and came into immediate effect and these new climate change allowances should be used. More information can be found at the following link - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances>.
- Maps showing all return periods and blockage scenarios modelled as part of the Hydraulic modelling.
- An assessment of the flood duration, depth, velocity and flood hazard rating in the 1 in the 20, 100 and 100 year plus climate change flood event. It must be demonstrated the user of the scheme will be safe including safe access access/egress arrangements.
- More vulnerable parts of the site, such as the access routes, must be in lowest

flood risk parts of the site where possible.

- The layout of the site is such that the built development is parallel the flow of the water to reduce the impediment of water in a flood event where possible.
- Floodplain compensation for any loss of capacity in the 1 in 100 year plus climate change event. This must be provided on a “level for level” and “volume for volume” basis within the boundary of the application site.

Although modelling has been undertaken to ascertain the baseline flood risk, further assessment using a model will be required if any permanent works will take place in the 1 in 100 year plus climate change event. This should include:

- The running of the 1 in 20, 100, 100 plus climate change and 1000 year return periods for the baseline (without development) and design (with development) scenarios.
- Where there is potential for blockage to occur in a flood event, such as at a culvert or bridge, then the 1 in 100 plus climate change event must be ran with a 90% blockage if the bore area is 1 square metre or less or a 50% blockage if the bore area is greater than 1 square metre. If the site is shown to be within the 1 in 20 year extent the blockage scenario must also be ran for a 1 in 20 year event.
- Sensitivity testing. This should include changes in coefficients used for Manning’s ‘n’ hydraulic roughness, contraction/ expansion losses and changes in peak flows.
- Calibration against observed flood events if the data is available.
- Maps showing the flood heights, depths, velocity and flows for ALL return periods modelled must be produced and included in the Modelling report or flood risk assessment.

Please note: any increase in level over model tolerances (10mm) on third party land requires mitigation or redesign of the works to eliminate that impact.

Any new area of culverting or extension of existing culverts should be avoided wherever possible. If it is determined that there are no alternatives to culverting part of a watercourse, then the culvert should span bank top to bank top and not reduce the channel cross-sectional area. The culvert should be included in the flood model. The model should include additional blockage runs in accordance with the guidance for modelling listed above.

Water-based biodiversity

3.2.36 states the proposed outline drainage strategy for Option 11 is for three attenuation ponds to be constructed to attenuate the increase in impermeable area, before discharging to the River Sowe to the west via new outfalls. A new culvert may be required to carry flow under the proposed connector road to maintain an existing drainage ditch.

The Smite Brook is currently severely impacted by the barrier that creates Coombe Pools SSSI. As the removal/bypass of this ecological barrier is not feasible and there are potential WFD derogation from these proposed works, the Water Environment (WFD) Regulations compliance assessment should explore options for mitigation for these impacts, e.g. design of SUDs ditch course to provide additional naturalised habitat (subject to sufficient water quality standards) and/or Enhancement of the Smite Brook and River Sowe in the vicinity of Hungerly Farm Hall.

Please note: the naturalisation of the watercourses would also provide potential opportunities for supplying material for the build.

Table 9-4: *Potential ecology impacts – construction and operation*: The River Sowe is a Salmonid River so potential impacts to Brown Trout need to be considered. Works to rivers during Salmonid spawning season may be restricted and as such may require an environmental permit.

We suggest adding Brown Trout, Bullhead & European Eel to Ecological feature list. Historic records show eels in 1993.

We welcome the acknowledgement of potential to secure biodiversity net gain for the scheme as detailed in 9.5.2.

Table 14-1: *Summary of existing road drainage and the water environment baseline*:

- *Water Framework Directive (surface water)* Several watercourses are failing to achieve good ecological status under WFD, a common reason for this is poor livestock management. Mitigation for the scheme should consider addressing this issue by improving fencing creating buffers etc within the landscaping and long-term management plan.
- *Flood Risk*: this section states '*the most notable increases in flood extent occur upstream of the A46 on Smite Brook where the culvert and embankment provide significant flow restrictions*'. The enhancement of Smite Brook via WFD measures such as improved floodplain connection, channel enhancement or incorporating Natural Flood Management options on the surrounding land should be considered to mitigate this impact as it has the potential to provide multiple benefits.

We welcome the acknowledgement of potential adverse impacts during construction and operation and that a detailed WFD assessment would be required where potential significant impacts are identified. This should also look for potential enhancement opportunities. Enhancement opportunities should be pursued regardless of whether a detailed WFD assessment is undertaken.

We welcome the reference to the required environmental permits required to facilitate this scheme in section 15.5.13.

Further Advice

The Environment Agency would welcome the opportunity to further engage and advise further on the matters outlined above, in order to provide you with confidence and clarity in relation to our position on the DCO proposals prior to formal submission and outside the statutory engagement process. This would fall within the scope of our Cost Recoverable Planning Advice service, and as such would be subject to a fee of £100 per staff hour of time.

We will contact you further in relation to this, but in the meantime should you wish to gain our views on any draft assessments or proposals please contact us at NIteam@environment-agency.gov.uk for a quote.

Yours sincerely

Ms Jane Field
Planning Specialist

Direct dial [REDACTED]

Direct fax

Direct e-mail [REDACTED]@environment-agency.gov.uk



Historic England

Mr Joseph Jones
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6857

Our ref: PL00793479

Your ref: TR010066

24 July 2023

Dear Mr Jones

SCOPING CONSULTATION: APPLICATION BY NATIONAL HIGHWAYS FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSgrave)

Thank you for your e-mail of ?? July 2023 consulting us about the above EIA Scoping Report.

This development could, potentially, have an impact on a number of designated heritage assets and their settings in the area around the site.

There is an extensive listing in the Scoping Report of the heritage assets, and we would draw particular attention to:

Grade II* Registered Park and Garden associated with Coombe Abbey

The listed buildings within the Park, particularly The Woodlands, Grade II* listed, which formed a part of what was the Menagerie.

Grade II listed Hungerley Hall Farmhouse and its potentially curtilage listed farm buildings

The impact of the scheme on the setting of those heritage assets (and hence on their significance) will depend very much upon the details of scheme. That includes any increase in noise, potential further lighting pollution, large scale signage, fencing and the nature of the proposed green elements of the landscaping.

In line with the advice in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), we would expect the Environmental Impact Assessment Statement to contain a thorough assessment of the likely effects which the proposed development might have upon those elements which contribute to the significance of these assets and the others in the area. The assessment should include one based on the guidance set out in *The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice*



THE FOUNDRY 82 GRANVILLE STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 2LH

Telephone 0121 625 6888
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.



Advice in Planning: 3 published by Historic England.

We would also expect the Environmental Impact Assessment to consider the potential impacts on non-designated features of historic, architectural, archaeological or artistic interest, since these can also be of national importance and make an important contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of an area and its sense of place.

We would strongly recommend that you involve the appropriate staff in both planning authorities (that is Coventry and Rugby) and their expert advisors. They are best placed to advise on: local historic environment issues and priorities; how the proposal can be tailored to avoid and minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

The assessment should also take account of the potential impact which associated activities (such as construction, servicing and maintenance, and associated traffic) might have upon perceptions, understanding and appreciation of the heritage assets in the area. The assessment should also consider, where appropriate, the likelihood of alterations to drainage patterns that might lead to *in situ* decomposition or destruction of below ground archaeological remains and deposits.

If you have any queries about any of the above, or would like to discuss anything further, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Molyneux


Nicholas Molyneux
Principal Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas
[REDACTED]@HistoricEngland.org.uk



THE FOUNDRY 82 GRANVILLE STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 2LH

Telephone 0121 625 6888
HistoricEngland.org.uk



From: [NATS Safeguarding](#)
To: [A46 Walsgrave](#)
Subject: RE: TR010066 - A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) - EIA Scoping Notification [SG32636]
Date: 03 July 2023 10:59:56
Attachments: 

Our Ref: SG32636

Dear Sir/Madam

NATS operates no infrastructure within 10km of the site in question and anticipates no impact from the proposal. Accordingly, we have no comments to make on the consultation.

Yours faithfully



NATS Safeguarding

E: natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL
www.nats.co.uk




NATS Public

From: A46 Walsgrave <A46Walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 June 2023 14:45
Subject: TR010066 - A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) - EIA Scoping Notification

Your attachments have been security checked by Mimecast Attachment Protection. Files where no threat or malware was detected are attached.

Dear Sir / Madam

Please see attached correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in relation to the proposed A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project).

From: [.Box.Assetprotection \(National Gas\)](#)
To: [A46 Walsgrave](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] TR010066 - A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) - EIA Scoping Notification
Date: 03 July 2023 09:25:43
Attachments: 

Joseph,

Thank you for your email.

Regarding your Scoping Notification TR010066, there are no National Gas Transmission assets affected in this area.

If you would like to view if there are any other affected assets in this area, please raise an enquiry with www.lsbud.co.uk. Additionally, if the location or works type changes, please raise an enquiry.

Kind regards

Asset Protection Team

From: A46 Walsgrave <A46Walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 June 2023 14:45
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TR010066 - A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) - EIA Scoping Notification

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If you suspect this email is malicious, please use the 'Report Phish' button.

Dear Sir / Madam

Please see attached correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in relation to the proposed A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project).

Please note the deadline for consultation responses is 28 July 2023 and is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Thank you

Joseph Jones



Joseph Jones | Associate EIA Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate

Complex Land Rights

Ellie Laycock

Development Liaison Officer

UK Land and Property

[REDACTED] [@nationalgrid.co](mailto:[REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com)

[m \[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com)

www.nationalgrid.com

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY:
a46walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

11 July 2023

Dear Sir / Madam

**RE: A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) (the Proposed Development)
Scoping Consultation**

I refer to your letter dated 30th June 2023 regarding the above Proposed Development.

This is a response on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET).

NGET has no existing apparatus within or in close proximity to the proposed site boundary but would like to be kept informed as the proposal progresses.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Ellie Laycock
Development Liaison Officer, Complex Land Rights

Date: 11 July 2023
Our ref: 440499
Your ref: TR010066-000003



The Planning Inspectorate

BY EMAIL ONLY

Consultations
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 900

Dear Sir or Madam,

Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping consultation (Regulation 15 (4) of the Town and Country Planning EIA Regulations 2017): Improvements/upgrades to the A46 Walsgrave Junction to improve traffic flow in the area.

Location: A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)

Thank you for seeking our advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) in the consultation dated 30 June 2023 ,received on 30 June 2023.

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

A robust assessment of environmental impacts and opportunities based on relevant and up to date environmental information should be undertaken prior to a decision on whether to grant planning permission. Annex A to this letter provides Natural England's advice on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development.

Further guidance is set out in Planning Practice Guidance on [environmental assessment, natural environment and climate change](#).

Please send any new consultations or further information on this consultation to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Rob Sargent
West Midlands Team

Annex A – Natural England Advice on EIA Scoping

General Principles

[Schedule 4](#) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, sets out the information that should be included in an Environmental Statement (ES) to assess impacts on the natural environment. This includes:

- A description of the development – including physical characteristics and the full land use requirements of the site during construction and operational phases
- Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development
- An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen
- A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development including biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land, including land take, soil, water, air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation, cultural heritage and landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors
- A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium, and long term, permanent and temporary, positive, and negative effects. Effects should relate to the existence of the development, the use of natural resources (in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity) and the emissions from pollutants. This should also include a description of the forecasting methods to predict the likely effects on the environment
- A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment
- A non-technical summary of the information
- An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information

Further guidance is set out in Planning Practice Guidance on [environmental assessment](#) and [natural environment](#).

Cumulative and in-combination effects

The ES should fully consider the implications of the whole development proposal. This should include an assessment of all supporting infrastructure.

An impact assessment should identify, describe, and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment (subject to available information):

- a. existing completed projects;
- b. approved but uncompleted projects;
- c. ongoing activities;
- d. plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and
- e. plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e. projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects.

Environmental data

Natural England is required to make available information it holds where requested to do so. National datasets held by Natural England are available at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/data/default.aspx>.

Detailed information on the natural environment is available at www.magic.gov.uk.

Natural England's SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS dataset which can be used to help identify the potential for the development to impact on a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the [Natural England Open Data Geoportal](#).

Natural England does not hold local information on local sites, local landscape character, priority habitats and species or protected species. Local environmental data should be obtained from the appropriate local bodies. This may include the local environmental records centre, the local wildlife trust, local geo-conservation group or other recording society.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

General principles

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (paragraphs 174-175 and 179-182) sets out how to take account of biodiversity and geodiversity interests in planning decisions. Further guidance is set out in Planning Practice Guidance on the [natural environment](#).

The potential impact of the proposal upon sites and features of nature conservation interest and opportunities for nature recovery and biodiversity net gain should be included in the assessment.

Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) is the process of identifying, quantifying, and evaluating the potential impacts of defined actions on ecosystems or their components. EclA may be carried out as part of the EIA process or to support other forms of environmental assessment or appraisal. [Guidelines](#) have been developed by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

Local planning authorities have a [duty](#) to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their decision making. Conserving biodiversity can include habitat restoration or enhancement. Further information is available [here](#).

Nationally designated sites

The development site is within or may impact on the following **Site of Special Scientific Interest**:

- Combe Pool [1001242 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and paragraph 180 of the NPPF. Further information on the SSSI and its special interest features can be found at www.magic.gov.uk.

Natural England's SSSI Impact Risk Zones can be used to help identify the potential for the development to impact on a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the [Natural England Open Data Geoportal](#).

The Environmental Statement should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest within the SSSI and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. The consideration

of likely significant effects should include any functionally linked land outside the designated site. These areas may provide important habitat for mobile species populations that are interest features of the SSSI, for example birds and bats. This can also include areas which have a critical function to a habitat feature within a site, for example by being linked hydrologically or geomorphologically.

Regionally and Locally Important Sites

The ES should consider any impacts upon local wildlife and geological sites, including local nature reserves. Local Sites are identified by the local wildlife trust, geoconservation group or other local group and protected under the NPPF (paragraph 174 and 175). The ES should set out proposals for mitigation of any impacts and if appropriate, compensation measures and opportunities for enhancement and improving connectivity with wider ecological networks. Contact the relevant local body for further information.

Protected Species

The conservation of species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 is explained in Part IV and Annex A of Government Circular 06/2005 [*Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System.*](#)

Applicants should check to see if a mitigation licence is required using NE guidance on licencing [NE wildlife licences](#). Applicants can also make use of Natural England's (NE) charged service [Pre Submission Screening Service](#) for a review of a draft wildlife licence application. NE then reviews a full draft licence application to issue a Letter of No Impediment (LONI) which explains that based on the information reviewed to date, that it sees no impediment to a licence being granted in the future should the DCO be issued. This is done to give the Planning Inspectorate confidence to make a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State in granting a DCO. See [Advice Note Eleven, Annex C – Natural England and the Planning Inspectorate | National Infrastructure Planning](#) For details of the LONI process.

The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water voles, badgers and bats). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law. Records of protected species should be obtained from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations and local groups. Consideration should be given to the wider context of the site, for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area.

The area likely to be affected by the development should be thoroughly surveyed by competent ecologists at appropriate times of year for relevant species and the survey results, impact assessments and appropriate accompanying mitigation strategies included as part of the ES. Surveys should always be carried out in optimal survey time periods and to current guidance by suitably qualified and, where necessary, licensed, consultants.

Natural England has adopted [standing advice](#) for protected species, which includes guidance on survey and mitigation measures. A separate protected species licence from Natural England or Defra may also be required.

District Level Licensing for Great Crested Newts

District level licensing (DLL) is a type of strategic mitigation licence for great crested newts (GCN) granted in certain areas at a local authority or wider scale. A [DLL scheme for GCN](#) may be in place at the location of the development site. If a DLL scheme is in place, developers can make a financial contribution to strategic, off-site habitat compensation instead of applying for a separate licence or carrying out individual detailed surveys. By demonstrating that DLL will be used, impacts on GCN can be scoped out of detailed assessment in the Environmental Statement.

Priority Habitats and Species

Priority Habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. Lists of priority habitats and species can be found [here](#). Natural England does not routinely hold species data. Such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely.

Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land. Sites can be checked against the (draft) national Open Mosaic Habitat (OMH) inventory published by Natural England and freely available to [download](#). Further information is also available [here](#).

An appropriate level habitat survey should be carried out on the site, to identify any important habitats present. In addition, ornithological, botanical, and invertebrate surveys should be carried out at appropriate times in the year, to establish whether any scarce or priority species are present.

The Environmental Statement should include details of:

- Any historical data for the site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys)
- Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal
- The habitats and species present
- The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether priority species or habitat)
- The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species
- Full details of any mitigation or compensation measures
- Opportunities for biodiversity net gain or other environmental enhancement

Ancient Woodland, ancient and veteran trees

The ES should assess the impacts of the proposal on any ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, and the scope to avoid and mitigate for adverse impacts. It should also consider opportunities for enhancement. Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat of great importance for its wildlife, its history, and the contribution it makes to our diverse landscapes. Paragraph 180 of the NPPF sets out the highest level of protection for irreplaceable habitats and development should be refused unless there are wholly exceptional reasons, and a suitable compensation strategy exists.

Natural England maintains the Ancient Woodland [Inventory](#) which can help identify ancient woodland. The [wood pasture and parkland inventory](#) sets out information on wood pasture and parkland.

The [ancient tree inventory](#) provides information on the location of ancient and veteran trees.

Natural England and the Forestry Commission have prepared [standing advice](#) on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees.

Biodiversity net gain

The Environment Act 2021 includes NSIPs in the requirement for Net Gain but the implementation details including what marine net gain means is not yet clear and not likely to come into force until November 2025.

National Policy Statements are also being reviewed to incorporate these changes. Some developers also have made commitments e.g. National Grid to deliver a 10% BNG. Others have overarching KPIs within their funding periods.

We should continue to push developers to deliver BNG and refer to our sector specific guidance and BNG guidance where you can. For some developers who have big programmes of work across their estate or who have started projects some years ago they might still be using Metric 2.0. Some might have already shared what their programme is and where they will be delivering their gains. On those projects where they are not predicting gains we should encourage developers to maximise and take opportunities as they build out their projects.

The ES should use an appropriate biodiversity metric such as [Biodiversity Metric 3.0](#) together with ecological advice to calculate the change in biodiversity resulting from proposed development and demonstrate how proposals can achieve a net gain.

The metric should be used to:

- assess or audit the biodiversity unit value of land within the application area
- calculate the losses and gains in biodiversity unit value resulting from proposed development
- demonstrate that the required percentage biodiversity net gain will be achieved

Biodiversity Net Gain outcomes can be achieved on-site, off-site or through a combination of both. On-site provision should be considered first. Delivery should create or enhance habitats of equal or higher value. When delivering net gain, opportunities should be sought to link delivery to relevant plans or strategies e.g. Green Infrastructure Strategies or Local Nature Recovery Strategies. These are prepared by local planning authorities.

Landscape and visual impacts

The environmental assessment should refer to the relevant [National Character Areas](#). Character area profiles set out descriptions of each landscape area and statements of environmental opportunity.

The EIA should include a full assessment of the potential impacts of the development on local landscape character using [landscape assessment methodologies](#). We encourage the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), based on the good practice guidelines produced jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment in 2013. LCA provides a sound basis for guiding, informing, and understanding the ability of any location to accommodate change and to make positive proposals for conserving, enhancing or regenerating character.

A landscape and visual impact assessment should also be carried out for the proposed development and surrounding area. Natural England recommends use of the methodology set out in *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 2013* ((3rd edition) produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management. For National Parks and AONBs, we advise that the assessment also includes effects on the 'special qualities' of the designated landscape, as set out in the statutory management plan for the area. These identify the particular landscape and related characteristics which underpin the natural beauty of the area and its designation status.

The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. This should include an assessment of the impacts of other proposals currently at scoping stage.

To ensure high quality development that responds to and enhances local landscape character and distinctiveness, the siting and design of the proposed development should reflect local characteristics and, wherever possible, use local materials. Account should be taken of local design policies, design codes and guides as well as guidance in the [National Design Guide](#) and [National Model Design Code](#). The ES should set out the measures to be taken to ensure the development will deliver high standards of design and green infrastructure. It should also set out detail of layout alternatives, where appropriate, with a justification of the selected option in terms of landscape

impact and benefit.

The National Infrastructure Commission has also produced Design Principles [Design Principles for National Infrastructure - NIC](#) endorsed by Government in the National Infrastructure Strategy.

Connecting People with nature

The ES should consider potential impacts on access land, common land, public rights of way and, where appropriate, the England Coast Path and coastal access routes and coastal margin in the vicinity of the development, in line with NPPF paragraph 100. It should assess the scope to mitigate for any adverse impacts. Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) can be used to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.

Measures to help people to better access the countryside for quiet enjoyment and opportunities to connect with nature should be considered. Such measures could include reinstating existing footpaths or the creation of new footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Access to nature within the development site should also be considered, including the role that natural links have in connecting habitats and providing potential pathways for movements of species.

Relevant aspects of local authority green infrastructure strategies should be incorporated where appropriate.

Soils and Agricultural Land Quality

Soils are a valuable, finite natural resource and should also be considered for the ecosystem services they provide, including for food production, water storage and flood mitigation, as a carbon store, reservoir of biodiversity and buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and sustainably managed. Impacts from the development on soils and best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land should be considered in line with paragraphs 174 and 175 of the NPPF. Further guidance is set out in the Natural England [Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land](#).

As set out in paragraph 211 of the NPPF, new sites or extensions to sites for peat extraction should not be granted planning permission.

The following issues should be considered and, where appropriate, included as part of the Environmental Statement (ES):

- The degree to which soils would be disturbed or damaged as part of the development
- The extent to which agricultural land would be disturbed or lost as part of this development, including whether any best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land would be impacted.

This may require a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey if one is not already available. For information on the availability of existing ALC information see www.magic.gov.uk.

- Where an ALC and soil survey of the land is required, this should normally be at a detailed level, e.g. one auger boring per hectare, (or more detailed for a small site) supported by pits dug in each main soil type to confirm the physical characteristics of the full depth of the soil resource, i.e. 1.2 metres. The survey data can inform suitable soil handling methods and appropriate reuse of the soil resource where required (e.g. agricultural reinstatement, habitat creation, landscaping, allotments and public open space).

- The ES should set out details of how any adverse impacts on BMV agricultural land can be minimised through site design/masterplan.
- The ES should set out details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be avoided or minimised and demonstrate how soils will be sustainably used and managed, including consideration in site design and master planning, and areas for green infrastructure or biodiversity net gain. The aim will be to minimise soil handling and maximise the sustainable use and management of the available soil to achieve successful after-uses and minimise off-site impacts.

Further information is available in the [Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites](#) and The British Society of Soil Science Guidance Note [Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction](#).

Air Quality

Air quality in the UK has improved over recent decades but air pollution remains a significant issue. For example, approximately 85% of protected nature conservation sites are currently in exceedance of nitrogen levels where harm is expected (critical load) and approximately 87% of sites exceed the level of ammonia where harm is expected for lower plants (critical level of 1µg) ^[1]. A priority action in the England Biodiversity Strategy is to reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity. The Government's Clean Air Strategy also has a number of targets to reduce emissions including to reduce damaging deposition of reactive forms of nitrogen by 17% over England's protected priority sensitive habitats by 2030, to reduce emissions of ammonia against the 2005 baseline by 16% by 2030 and to reduce emissions of NO_x and SO₂ against a 2005 baseline of 73% and 88% respectively by 2030. Shared Nitrogen Action Plans (SNAPs) have also been identified as a tool to reduce environmental damage from air pollution.

The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of developments which may give rise to pollution, either directly, or from traffic generation, and hence planning decisions can have a significant impact on the quality of air, water and land. The ES should take account of the risks of air pollution and how these can be managed or reduced. This should include taking account of any strategic solutions or SNAPs, which may be being developed or implemented to mitigate the impacts on air quality. Further information on air pollution impacts and the sensitivity of different habitats/designated sites can be found on the Air Pollution Information System (www.apis.ac.uk).

Information on air pollution modelling, screening and assessment can be found on the following websites:

- SCAIL Combustion and SCAIL Agriculture - <http://www.scail.ceh.ac.uk/>
- Ammonia assessment for agricultural development <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/intensive-farming-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit>
- Environment Agency Screening Tool for industrial emissions <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-emissions-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit>
- Defra Local Air Quality Management Area Tool (Industrial Emission Screening Tool) – England <http://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/laqm>

Water Quality

The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of developments which may give

^[1] [Report: Trends Report 2020: Trends in critical load and critical level exceedances in the UK - Defra, UK](#)

rise to water pollution, and hence planning decisions can have a significant impact on water quality, and land. The assessment should take account of the risks of water pollution and how these can be managed or reduced. A number of water dependent protected nature conservation sites have been identified as failing condition due to elevated nutrient levels and nutrient neutrality is consequently required to enable development to proceed without causing further damage to these sites. The ES needs to take account of any strategic solutions for nutrient neutrality or Diffuse Water Pollution Plans, which may be being developed or implemented to mitigate and address the impacts of elevated nutrient levels. Further information can be obtained from the Local Planning Authority.


Climate Change

The ES should identify how the development affects the ability of the natural environment (including habitats, species, and natural processes) to adapt to climate change, including its ability to provide adaptation for people. This should include impacts on the vulnerability or resilience of a natural feature (i.e. what's already there and affected) as well as impacts on how the environment can accommodate change for both nature and people, for example whether the development affects species ability to move and adapt. Nature-based solutions, such as providing green infrastructure on-site and in the surrounding area (e.g. to adapt to flooding, drought and heatwave events), habitat creation and peatland restoration, should be considered. The ES should set out the measures that will be adopted to address impacts.

Further information is available from the [Committee on Climate Change's](#) (CCC) [Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk](#), the [National Adaptation Programme](#) (NAP), the [Climate Change Impacts Report Cards](#) (biodiversity, infrastructure, water etc.) and the [UKCP18 climate projections](#).

The Natural England and RSPB [Climate Change Adaptation Manual](#) (2020) provides extensive information on climate change impacts and adaptation for the natural environment and adaptation focussed nature-based solutions for people. It includes the Landscape Scale Climate Change Assessment Method that can help assess impacts and vulnerabilities on natural environment features and identify adaptation actions. Natural England's [Nature Networks Evidence Handbook](#) (2020) also provides extensive information on planning and delivering nature networks for people and biodiversity.

The ES should also identify how the development impacts the natural environment's ability to store and sequester greenhouse gases, in relation to climate change mitigation and the natural environment's contribution to achieving net zero by 2050. Natural England's [Carbon Storage and Sequestration by Habitat report](#) (2021) and the British Ecological Society's [nature-based solutions report](#) (2021) provide further information.

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
To: [A46 Walsgrave](#)
Subject: FW: TR010066 - A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) - EIA Scoping Notification
Date: 04 July 2023 14:49:37
Attachments: 

Joseph

Thank you for the email and the letter.

North Warwickshire Borough Council can confirm that it has no substantive comments.

I would just make two points:

- i) Would the potential for a direct road access into the Hospital from the Western roundabout be “safeguarded” in the design of that roundabout?
- ii) The plan on page 309 just identifies Rugby BC. Should it not identify all of the other Warwickshire Borough and District Areas ?

Many thanks

Jeff Brown
Head of Development Control
North Warwickshire Borough Council

From: A46 Walsgrave <A46Walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 June 2023 15:21
Subject: TR010066 - A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) - EIA Scoping Notification

Caution: Warning external email

FAO Head of Planning:

Dear Sir / Madam

Please see attached correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in relation to the proposed A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project).

Please note the deadline for consultation responses is 28 July 2023 and is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Thank you

Joseph Jones

From: Jacqueline Padbury

To: A46 Walsgrave

Cc: Darren Grant; Claire Hill; Karina Duncan; Maria Bailey

Subject: RE: TR010066 - A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) - EIA Scoping Notification

Date: 03 July 2023 13:23:11

Thank you for consulting with us, but just to confirm that NBBC have no comments to make on this NSIP.

Jacqui Padbury (MA MRTPI)
Principal Planning Policy Officer

T: [REDACTED]

Follow us: @nbbccouncil

-----Original Message-----

From: A46 Walsgrave <A46Walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 3:21 PM

Subject: TR010066 - A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) - EIA Scoping Notification

FAO Head of Planning:


Dear Sir / Madam

Please see attached correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in relation to the proposed A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project).

Please note the deadline for consultation responses is 28 July 2023 and is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Thank you

Joseph Jones

From: [Asset Protection](#)
To: [A46 Walsgrave](#)
Cc: [STW Ofwat](#)
Subject: RE: TR010066 - A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) - EIA Scoping Notification
Date: 12 July 2023 15:06:38
Attachments: 

ST Classification: UNMARKED


Good afternoon

Please be advised that we have the following assets located within the Proposed Scheme Extent;

Pressurised sewers approx. x438582 y278717 and x439052 y280878

Please see attached general precautions.

Kind regards
Anna Cheung

Asset Protection
Asset Strategy & Planning
Chief Engineer


From: A46 Walsgrave <A46Walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 June 2023 14:45
Subject: TR010066 - A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) - EIA Scoping Notification

You don't often get email from a46walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email originating outside Severn Trent.
Think before you click on links or open attachments.

Dear Sir / Madam

Please see attached correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in relation to the proposed A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project).

Please note the deadline for consultation responses is 28 July 2023 and is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Thank you



SEVERN TRENT WATER

GENERAL CONDITIONS AND PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN WHEN CARRYING OUT WORK ADJACENT TO SEVERN TRENT WATER'S APPARATUS

Please ensure that a copy of these conditions is passed to your representative and/or your Contractor on site. If any damage is caused to STW apparatus, the person, Contractor or Subcontractor responsible must inform STW immediately on:

0800 783 4444 (24 hours)

These general conditions and precautions apply to the public sewerage, water distribution and telemetry systems. The conditions include sewers which are the subject of an Agreement under Section 104 of the Water Industry Act 1991 and mains installed in accordance with the Agreement for the self construction of water mains. Please be aware that due to The Private Sewers Transfer Regulations June 2011, the number of public sewers has increased, but many of these are not shown on the public sewer record. However, some idea of their positions may be obtained from the position of inspection covers and their existence must be anticipated.

On request, STW will issue a copy of the plan showing the approximate locations of STW apparatus although in certain instances a charge will be made. The position of private drains, private sewers and water service pipes to properties are not normally shown but their presence must be anticipated. This plan is furnished as a general guide only and no warranty as to its accuracy is given or implied. The plan must not be relied upon in the event of excavations or other works in the vicinity of STW apparatus. No person or Company shall be relieved from liability for damage caused by reason of the actual position and/or depths of STW apparatus being different from those shown on the plan.

In order to achieve safe working conditions adjacent to any apparatus the following should be observed:

1. All STW apparatus should be located by hand digging prior to the use of mechanical excavators.
2. All information set out in any plans received from us, or given by our staff at the site of the works, about the position and depth of the mains, is approximate. Every possible precaution should be taken to avoid damage to our apparatus. You or your contractor must ensure the safety of our equipment and will be responsible for the cost of repairing any damage caused.
3. Water mains are normally laid at a depth of 900mm. No records are kept of customer service pipes which are normally laid at a depth of 750mm; but some idea of their positions may be obtained from the position of stop tap covers and their existence must be anticipated.
4. During construction work, where heavy plant will cross the line of STW apparatus, specific crossing points must be agreed with the Company and suitably reinforced where required. These crossing points should be clearly marked and crossing of the line of STW apparatus at other locations must be prevented.
5. Where it is proposed to carry out piling or boring within 20 metres of any STW apparatus, STW should be consulted to enable any affected STW apparatus to be surveyed prior to the works commencing.
6. Where excavation of trenches adjacent to any STW apparatus affects its support, the STW apparatus must be supported to the satisfaction of STW. Water mains and some sewers are pressurised and can fail if excavation removes support to thrust blocks to bends and other fittings.
7. Where a trench is excavated crossing or parallel to the line of any STW apparatus, the backfill should be adequately compacted to prevent any settlement which could subsequently cause

damage to the STW apparatus. In special cases, it may be necessary to provide permanent support to STW apparatus which has been exposed over a length of the excavation before backfilling and reinstatement is carried out. There should be no concrete backfill in contact with the STW apparatus.

8. No apparatus should be laid along the line of STW apparatus irrespective of clearance. Above ground apparatus must not be located within a minimum of 3 metres either side of the centre line of STW apparatus for smaller sized pipes and 6 metres either side for larger sized pipes without prior approval. No manhole or chamber shall be built over or around any STW apparatus.
9. A minimum radial clearance of 300 millimetres should be allowed between any plant being installed and existing STW apparatus. - We reserve the right to increase this distance where strategic assets are affected.
10. Where any STW apparatus coated with a special wrapping is damaged, even to a minor extent, STW must be notified and the trench left open until the damage has been inspected and the necessary repairs have been carried out. In the case of any material damage to any STW apparatus causing leakage, weakening of the mechanical strength of the pipe or corrosion-protection damage, the necessary remedial work will be recharged.
11. It may be necessary to adjust the finished level of any surface boxes which may fall within your proposed construction. Please ensure that these are not damaged, buried or otherwise rendered inaccessible as a result of the works and that all stop taps, valves, hydrants, etc. remain accessible and operable. Minor reduction in existing levels may result in conflict with apparatus such as valve spindles or tops of hydrants housed under the surface boxes. Checks should be made during site investigations to ascertain the level of such apparatus in order to determine any necessary alterations in advance of the works.
12. With regard to any proposed resurfacing works, you are required to contact STW on the number given above to arrange a site inspection to establish the condition of any STW apparatus in the nature of surface boxes or manhole covers and frames affected by the works. STW will then advise on any measures to be taken, in the event of this a proportionate charge will be made.
13. You are advised that Severn Trent Water Limited will not agree to either the erection of posts, directly over or within 1.0 metre of valves and hydrants,
14. No explosives are to be used in the vicinity of any STW apparatus without prior consultation with STW.

TREE PLANTING RESTRICTIONS

There are many problems with the location of trees adjacent to sewers, water mains and other STW apparatus and these can lead to the loss of trees and hence amenity to the area which many people may have become used to. It is best if the problem is not created in the first place. Set out below are the recommendations for tree planting in close proximity to public sewers, water mains and other STW apparatus.

15. Please ensure that, in relation to STW apparatus, the mature root systems and canopies of any tree planted do not and will not encroach within the recommended distances specified in the notes below.
16. Both Poplar and Willow trees have extensive root systems and should not be planted within 12 metres of a sewer, water main or other STW apparatus.
17. The following trees and those of similar size, be they deciduous or evergreen, should not be planted within 6 metres of a sewer, water main or other STW apparatus. E.g. Ash, Beech, Birch, most Conifers, Elm, Horse Chestnut, Lime, Oak, Sycamore, Apple and Pear.



18. STW personnel require a clear path to conduct surveys etc. No shrubs or bushes should be planted within 2 metre of the centre line of a sewer, water main or other STW apparatus.
19. In certain circumstances, both the Company and landowners may wish to plant shrubs/bushes in close proximity to a sewer, water main or other STW apparatus for screening purposes. The following are shallow rooting and are suitable for this purpose: Blackthorn, Broom, Cotoneaster, Elder, Hazel, Laurel, Privet, Quickthorn, Snowberry, and most ornamental flowering shrubs.



UK Health
Security
Agency

Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Department
Seaton House, City Link
London Road
Nottingham, NG2 4LA

nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ukhsa

Your Ref: TR010066
Our Ref: 64028

Mr Joseph Jones
Senior EIA Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

28 July 2023

Dear Mr Jones,

**Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)
Scoping Consultation Stage**

Thank you for including the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in the scoping consultation phase of the above application. ***Please note that we request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided below is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID.*** The response is impartial and independent.

The health of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an individual's genetic make-up, to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population, vulnerable groups, and individual people. Although assessing impacts on health beyond direct effects from for example emissions to air or road traffic incidents is complex, there is a need to ensure a proportionate assessment focused on an application's significant effects.

Having considered the submitted scoping report we wish to make the following specific comments and recommendations:

Environmental Public Health

We understand that the promoter will wish to avoid unnecessary duplication and that many issues including air quality, emissions to water, waste, contaminated land etc. will be covered elsewhere in the Environmental Statement (ES). We believe the summation of

relevant issues into a specific section of the report provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key information, risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts, relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.

In terms of the level of detail to be included in an ES, we recognise that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. UKHSA and OHID's predecessor organisation Public Health England produced an advice document *Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime*¹, setting out aspects to be addressed within the Environmental Statement¹. This advice document and its recommendations are still valid and should be considered when preparing an ES. Please note that where impacts relating to health and/or further assessments are scoped out, promoters should fully explain and justify this within the submitted documentation.

In regard to air pollution, our position is that pollutants associated with road traffic, particularly particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen are non-threshold, i.e., an exposed population is likely to be subject to potential harm at any level and that reducing public exposure to non-threshold pollutants (such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) below air quality standards will have potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure) and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise). We encourage their consideration during development design, environmental and health impact assessment, and development consent.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of UK Health Security Agency
nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk

Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration.

¹
<https://khub.net/documents/135939561/390856715/Advice+on+the+content+of+environmental+statements+accompanying+an+application+under+the+Nationally+Significant+Infrastructure+Planning+Regime.pdf/a86b5521-46cc-98e4-4cad-f81a6c58f2e2?t=1615998516658>

From: [Joanne Archer](#)
To: [A46 Walsgrave](#)
Cc: [Ella Casey](#); [REDACTED]@coventry.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@coventry.gov.uk; [Alan Law](#); [Marion Borman](#); [Alison Kennedy](#); [Vanessa Evans](#); [Pam Neal](#)
Subject: TR01066 -000003 A46 Walsgrave - Environmental Scoping Report
Date: 31 July 2023 18:45:28

OFFICIAL

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your consultation response dated 30th June 2023 in respect of an Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed A46 Walsgrave highway improvement scheme.

It is unclear from the consultation whether you have separately consulted with other WCC statutory consultees, and I have not yet received a response to the email sent enquiring. Therefore please find comments from Warwickshire County Council (WCC) in respect of Transport and Public Rights of Way. Should you require consultation responses from other WCC statutory consultees please let me know and we will expedite this.

Transport

The ESR does not detail why it is not proposed to include a transport chapter as part of the EIA, or on what basis this topic has been assessed as being out of scope. WCC consider that the EIA should include a transport chapter, and that the EIA should be supported by a Transport Assessment report (TA). The TA should consider all users, detail the suitability of the traffic model that is to be built for the preliminary design stage, provide the traffic modelling results for base and forecast years as well as construction traffic volumes and vehicle types, any isolated junction assessment modelling, any mitigation measures that may be required, swept path tracking, provide dimensioned layout, cross-section and long-section drawings and Road Safety Audits.

Whilst it is noted that there are currently no footways along the A46 or B4082, and the scheme does not propose any, the proposed scheme shows the B4082 extended in a north-easterly direction parallel to the A46 to connect with the proposed dumbbell/bridge arrangement. The proposals for the scheme should detail what the proposed signed speed limit would be for this new piece of road infrastructure, and the traffic volumes/type that are likely to use it.

The ESR refers to current and future economic activity and development sites in the area, and the adjacent allocated residential site in the CCC Local Plan. If delivered, this new highway infrastructure would provide a route that could be used by pedestrians and cyclists from the existing and future residential/commercial areas, and would bring them closer to the A46 carriageway and a new bridge over the A46. Therefore the safety of any pedestrians or cyclists who may choose to use that infrastructure needs to be carefully considered, measures proposed to prohibit their use if necessary and measures to ensure use of alternative routes if appropriate.

It was raised in a recent meeting with National Highways consultants that provision has not been made for existing or future sustainable transport users, and for future development sites that obligation would have to be met by those developers. However, if at all possible, consideration should be given (maybe by site promoters if they are being consulted with by National Highways) to ensuring that safe and suitable sustainable transport linkages can be delivered in the future – it would be disappointing not to be able to secure sustainable transport infrastructure in the future for the sake of not considering it now and then the costs of provision become unreasonable or the future development unviable.

Traffic Management – options 1 and 2 are referred to at paragraphs 2.5.4 – 2.5.14 within the ESR for the construction stage. If implemented these would require diversions to be in place on the local road network. The diversion routes, programming and timescales should be discussed with the Traffic Management Teams at WCC and CCC as soon as details allow. There would be implications for other developments that also require traffic management (section 278 works for new development sites, utility works associated with new development and maintenance of statutory undertakers equipment) and these would all need to be considered in the round as soon as possible. This and other information related to construction activity such as HGV routes, compound arrangements, workforce parking, measures to prevent mud and debris being deposited onto the adopted highway should be provided as a Framework Construction Management Plan.

Public Rights of Way

The ESR correctly states that there are no public rights of way (PRoW) that will be impacted by the proposed scheme. The existing PRoW R75x, which is a bridleway, provides a connection between Coombe Fields Road in the east (WCC network) and Farber Road in the west (CCC network). This bridleway uses the existing accommodation bridge over the A46, approximately 1.5km north-east of the A46/B4082 roundabout junction, and whilst within the extents of the scheme is not shown to be altered/upgraded.

As raised in a recent meeting with National Highways consultants for this scheme, there are no proposals for enhancement of the existing PRoW network. However it would be helpful if within the EIA, confirmation can be given that the bridleway will not be affected by any closures during the construction phase, and if not then the likely impacts of any works on the bridleway and its users.

Other

It is noted that the existing overpass farm bridge, approximately 350m north-east of the A46/B4082 roundabout is proposed to be demolished. Whilst not part of WCC Network, it is advised that the landowner should be directly consulted if not already done so, as although option 11 refers to access being provided via the dumbbell roundabout it is not shown on the layout drawings so it is not clear what alternative means of access will be available.

Flood Risk

Will reply under separate cover

Ecology, Landscape and Historic Environment

Will reply under separate cover

It is noted that various WCC teams are already engaged with National Highways and their consultants in connection with this scheme, and we would want this to continue.

Kind Regards

Joanne Archer


Delivery Lead Planning and Highways Development Management

Planning & Environment

Environment, Planning & Transport

Communities

Warwickshire County Council


Email: @warwickshire.gov.uk
Website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk

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From: [FRM Planning](#)
To: [A46 Walsgrave](#)
Cc: [Ella Casey](#)
Subject: Warwickshire LLFA comments on A46 Walsgrave ESR consultation
Date: 31 July 2023 16:01:03

OFFICIAL

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for consulting Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) on the Environmental Scoping Report (ESR).

We have reviewed the ESR with regards to surface water drainage and flood risk matters, and note that the ESR proposes a chapter in the ES on 'Road Drainage and the Water Environment'. We also note that a detailed Drainage Strategy and a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment will be produced. The content of the ESR is fairly high-level but would appear to capture the pertinent issues in relation to flood risk and drainage. At this stage we make the following specific comments:

- The LLFA will expect a surface water drainage strategy based on sustainable drainage principles. Whilst the LLFA note that attenuation basins are proposed, a robust Drainage Strategy should be provided that fully considers a variety of SuDS measures across the development to manage both surface water runoff quality and quantity, whilst also providing opportunity for biodiversity improvements.
- Any alterations or proposed new structures (e.g. outfalls or culverts) within the Smite Brook or any other ordinary watercourse will require prior written Land Drainage Consent. This consenting process is separate to the DCO process.
- It is noted that hydraulic modelling has been completed as part of the option selection process to obtain a baseline. Updated hydraulic modelling will be required as part of the Flood Risk Assessment showing the impact of any altered or new structures (particularly culverts or any works within floodplains) to upstream and downstream areas, with appropriate mitigation detailed within the FRA.
- Given the site lies partly within Coventry City Council, views should be sought from Coventry LLFA in addition to Warwickshire LLFA.
- The LLFA have detailed guidance on our expectations for drainage design for developers, available [here](#).

It is noted that the LLFA is already engaged with Highways England and their consultants on the flood risk and drainage matters relating to the proposal, and we would encourage this to continue.

Kind regards,

Dan Lamb

Best regards,
Flood Risk Management

Please send responses to FRMplanning@warwickshire.gov.uk

Our updated Flood Risk Guidance for Development was

published in June 2023. The [new guidance is available here](#) and [our website details the changes within this update.](#)


Flood Risk Management
Planning Delivery
Environment Services
Warwickshire County Council

Tel. [REDACTED]
Email: FRMplanning@warwickshire.gov.uk
www.warwickshire.gov.uk

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LATE SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES

From: [Chris Kingham](#)
To: [A46 Walsgrave](#)
Cc: [Neil Holly](#); [Ella Casey](#)
Subject: RE: A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave Scoping)
Date: 31 July 2023 17:33:48
Attachments: 

Good afternoon,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by National Highways (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) (the Proposed Development)

Scoping Consultation

Please find a response letter from RBC attached. The additional viewpoints and Coombe Abbey Conservation Area Appraisal referred to in the letter are also attached.

Copies of the Air Quality SPD and Climate Change and Sustainable Design and Construction SPD referred to in the letter can be downloaded from https://www.rugby.gov.uk/directory/25/our_planning_strategies_policies_and_evidence/category/92

Due to the issue highlighted below we have not been able to obtain a response from RBCs Arboricultural and Landscape Officer owing to annual leave. Additional comments from this Officer may follow in due course.

Finally, please kindly note that I am not involved in this project and all queries concerning this should continue to be directed to Neil and Ella (cc'd into this email).

I would be grateful if you can acknowledge receipt of this email and the attached response letter.

Regards,

Chris Kingham

Principal Planning Officer



Development Team
Rugby Borough Council
Town Hall
Evreux Way
Rugby
CV21 2RR

Our reference: PR23/0556
Your reference: TR010066-000003

Date: 31-Jul-2023

Mr G Chapman
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Mr Chapman,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by National Highways (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) (the Proposed Development)

Scoping Consultation

I write further to your letter dated 30th June 2023 in relation to the above scoping consultation. Rugby Borough Council (RBC) has considered the Environmental Scoping Report (HE604820-OIL-EGN-00-RP-LE-30002-P01) and requests that the following comments are taken into account by the Planning Inspectorate when adopting its Scoping Opinion.

Section	Report	Comment
2.3.5.	Potentially sensitive receptors to the proposed scheme have been identified and are presented on the environmental constraints plan as shown in figure 2.3 in Appendix A and summarised as follows ...	The residential properties at Highfields and Combe Warren (accessed off Brinklow Road) should be included in this list given their proximity to the proposed development.
2.3.6.	Designated heritage assets located within 500m of Walsgrave Junction include ...	Please also include Coombe Abbey Conservation Area within the list. A copy of the Coombe Abbey Conservation Area Appraisal (2010) is also attached with this response.
2.4.4. and 13.3.36	Opportunities for walking, cycling and horse-riding (WCH) will be explored further during the preliminary design stage and may include and/or encourage controlled crossings, footpaths and cycleways.	Public Right of Way (PRoW) R75x extends across Farber Road Bridge which crosses over the A46. This PRoW extends from the bridge towards Combe Fields Road where it becomes PRoW R75b. It terminates on Combe Fields Road a few meters to the south of a new access road created for a new employment development known as Prospero Ansty (see planning permission R19/1540 for up to 160,000m ² of B1 and B2 uses on a 65ha site). This new road connects into Ansty Business Park (see planning permission R09/0035/MEIA for 124,484m ² of B1 uses).

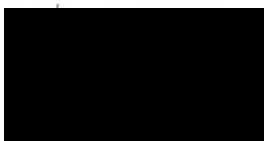
		<p>RBC would strongly encourage the further exploration of the potential to improve and upgrade this route as an off-road footpath and cycleway. Access between Coventry and this significant employment area is currently hindered by the need to cross the A46. This consequently offers an excellent opportunity to better enhance this connection and encourage trips by active travel.</p> <p>RBC would also encourage the development of any opportunities for providing better connectivity with UHCW.</p>
2.4.5.	The proposed outline drainage strategy for the proposed scheme is for three attenuation ponds to be constructed to attenuate the increase in impermeable area, before discharging to the River Sowe to the west via new outfalls.	RBC would welcome the opportunity to consider the potential environmental effects of the three attenuation ponds when full details of their location and size are known.
5.4.18.	During construction, the responsibility for further environmental mitigation and the adherence to environmentally responsible working practices will fall to the Principal Contractor.	This must be conditioned under a construction and environmental management plan or similar.
6.1.20.	Local policy ...	Should refer to Local Plan Policy HS5 (Traffic Generation and Air Quality) and RBC Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (July 2021).
Table 6-5	Summary of potential air quality impacts for assessment	Mitigation will be necessary for the control of construction dusts as identified. It is recommended that the scoping out of vehicle emission changes associated with changed traffic flows should be checked against any potential for construction over-runs, taking works beyond the two year mark.
7	Multiple references to heritage assets.	<p>Please also ensure the impact on Coombe Abbey Conservation Area is assessed. This should also be shown on relevant figures including figure 7.1.</p> <p>A copy of the Coombe Abbey Conservation Area Appraisal (2010) is attached with this response.</p>
7.3.14	Other designated assets outside of the 1km study area are considered to either not share intervisibility within the proposed scheme or do not draw significance from the proposed scheme area in their long distance views.	The potential impact on Brinklow Castle needs to be given further consideration. The raised earthworks associated with this motte and bailey castle mean that this site is elevated within the landscape. The significance and understanding of this heritage asset is partially derived from its relationship with and views of the surrounding area.
8.1.11.	Rugby Borough Council's Local Plan 2011-2031 Draft publication ...	<p>RBC's Local Plan has been adopted so references to the draft publication should be removed. Please ensure the adopted June 2019 version is used.</p> <p>Policy NE3 of the Local Plan is also relevant and should be referenced in this section.</p>

8.2.3.	A 1km radius study area around the site is proposed.	It is queried whether a 1km radius on land to the north, east and south of the site is appropriate. The landscape is significantly more open in these areas giving rise to the potential for views over a wider area. It is suggested that the radius should be extended up to 3km in these areas.
8.4.4.	Key visual receptors which will be considered in the LVIA are ...	Given the proximity it is particularly considered that the visual impact on the residential properties of Highfields and Combe Warren (accessed off Brinklow Road) should be considered. Equally, the impact on Combe Pool Fishery and associated path should be assessed.
8.4.6.	The visual assessment will be informed by a set of viewpoints which are representative of views of the site.	RBC would suggest that further additional viewpoints should be included as identified in the attached "Environmental Scoping Report - A46 Walsgrave Junction Upgrade - Additional Viewpoints". RBC would welcome the opportunity to have further discussions on the viewpoints as the scheme advances.
9.1.3.	The following key policy has been used to inform this chapter ...	This section should include reference to Policy NE1 (Protecting Designated Biodiversity and Geodiversity Assets) of RBCs Local Plan.
9.3.1. (Page 110)	The following statutory and non-statutory bodies will be consulted fully during the environmental assessment process and their responses will be included in the associated reporting: Natural England and Coventry City Council Biodiversity Officer.	RBC would strongly advise that Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Ecology are also consulted.
12	Noise	RBC would welcome further discussions on including an assessment of noise impacts arising on other roads that would see a significant increase in traffic volumes. (Note – this is being done with air quality).
12.3.2.	The proposed noise survey is proposed to be undertaken in the following locations ...	<p>Given the proximity it is particularly considered that the impact on the residential properties of Highfields and Combe Warren (accessed off Brinklow Road) should be considered.</p> <p>The potential noise impacts on Walsgrave Hill Farm and Combe Abbey Hotel, although further away, need to be given further thought and consideration as the proposals advance.</p>
12.3.8	Consultation with Rugby District Council and Coventry City Council will be progressed ...	Correct to Rugby Borough Council.
13.3.12.	There are a number of planning applications within the study area shown on the Coventry City Council Planning Register interactive map. These will be reviewed at the ES stage.	Although not in the 500m buffer study area, RBC wishes to highlight that there are a number of applications for employment development on land in close proximity to the east of the buffer in RBCs area. Some of these approved developments are being constructed currently or have only recently been constructed and occupied. The recently built development is not shown on the base mapping. RBC would be happy to provide further details of these permissions if deemed to be relevant.

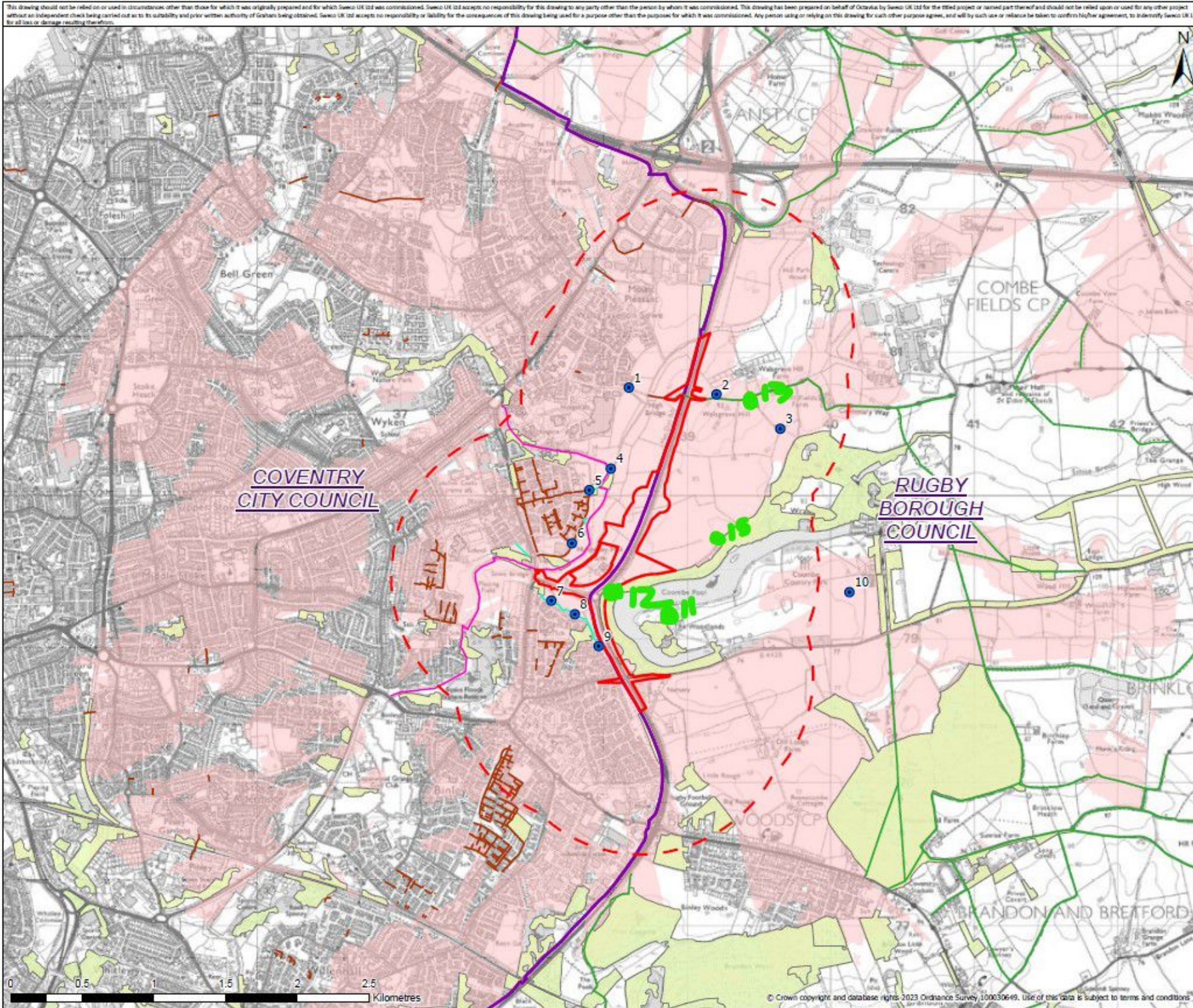
14.1.3.	Legislation, policy and guidance ...	This section should include relevant policies from RBC namely Policy SDC5 (Flood Risk Management), Policy SDC6 (Sustainable Drainage) and Policy SDC7 (Protection of the Water Environment and Water Supply). The Climate Change and Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document (February 2023) is also relevant.
15.1.12.	Local policy ...	This section should include relevant policies from RBC namely Policy SDC1 (Sustainable Design) and the Climate Change and Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document (February 2023).
15.3.4.	The proposed scheme falls within the Coventry Local Authority area ...	The proposed scheme also falls within the RBC Local Authority area.
15.6.1. and 15.7.6.	The significance will be determined on the level of impact the proposed scheme's GHG emissions has on Government's ability to meet its carbon reduction targets.	It is queried whether this would be too high a threshold for significance. No scheme on its own is likely to significantly impact national carbon reduction targets, as section 15.7.6 acknowledges. It is rather the case that each scheme cumulatively has an impact. A lower threshold should consequently be considered and RBC would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries in relation to the above.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Smith MRTPI
 Chief Officer - Growth & Investment
 Rugby Borough Council



Proposed Scheme Extent

Study Area - 1km

Local Authority Boundary

Proposed Representative Viewpoint Locations - refer to Environmental Scoping Report Chapter 8

Public Rights of Way - Coventry

Public Rights of Way - Warwickshire

Local Paths

Sowe Valley Way

10m National Forest Inventory – Woodland 10m

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)*

* ZTV image shown is the PCF Stage 2 ZTV as per Figure 7.1 (HE604820-ACM-ECON-WAL-SW-000-2-MP-LE-0018)
As Figure 7.1 ZTV Note: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) has been generated using a 5m Digital Terrain Model which does not take account of the screening effects of vegetation, buildings or other structures. Woodland from National Forest Inventory has been incorporated into the DTM with an assumed height of 10m. ZTV is based upon a series of points spaced 25m apart (using the Pavement Edge of Cartageway and Central Reservation Edge) at a height of 4.5m (HGV Trucks) above the proposed scheme elevation, and 10m at notional lighting column locations in the centre of each roundabout with an observer eye height of 1.6m. The ZTV does not include embankments and cuttings and there are some areas where the proposed scheme alignment is lower than the existing ground level.

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01	20.04	SWECO		

Designer

Contributor

Client

Project Title

**A48 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS UPGRADE
WALSgrave JUNCTION**

Project Stage

PCF STAGE 3

Drawing Title

FIGURE 8.2 : VISUAL CONTEXT

Suitability

SUITABLE FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

Sheet Size	Scale	Status	Revision
A3	1:25,000	S3	P01

Drawing Number

HE604820-OIL-ELS-00-DR-LX-30002

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 Kilometres

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RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COOMBE ABBEY

CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL



June 2010

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INTRODUCTION

Coombe Abbey Conservation Area comprises the abbey as the central focus with subservient buildings to the rear. The designation is landscape dominated with the formal avenue leading up to the abbey and evidence of the three phases of landscaping remaining. The abbey is now a hotel and much of the grounds a country park. The built form is varied and limited to groups of buildings; the central core, the farm buildings to the east and former menagerie to the west. Isolated buildings such as the western gatehouse aid the understanding of the area. Water is a key feature with the medieval character moat around the abbey leading to the lake to the west.

Conservation Areas were introduced by the Civic Amenities Act in 1967. A Conservation Area is defined by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as an 'area of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. Section 69 of the Act places a duty on the Local Authority to review its Conservation Areas, Section 71 requires the Authority to formulate and publish proposals for their preservation and enhancement. Coombe Abbey is one of 19 Conservation Areas in the Borough.

Local Authorities have a duty to identify, designate, preserve and enhance Conservation Areas within their administrative area. The aim in a Conservation Area is to preserve or enhance not merely individual buildings but all those elements, which may include minor buildings, trees, open spaces, walls, paving, and materials etc., which together make up a familiar and attractive local scene. The relationship between buildings and spaces within Conservation Areas creates a unique environment, which provides a sense of identity and amenity for residents and an irreplaceable part of our local, regional and national heritage.

The positive identification of areas for designation helps focus attention on its qualities and encourages a sensitive approach to any proposed development. The Local Planning Authority will exercise particular care to ensure that change, where it occurs, will preserve or enhance the character of an area. The designation of a Conservation Area ensures the quality of design and context are considerations in determining Planning Applications.

There are different planning controls in Conservation Areas and anyone proposing development should seek advice from Rugby Borough Planning Authority. In addition to planning controls that govern alterations and extensions Planning Permission would be required for the following development in Conservation Areas:

- The cladding of any part of the exterior of a dwelling with stone, artificial stone, pebble dash, render, timber, plastic or tiles;
- An extension extending beyond a wall forming a side elevation of the original dwelling;
- An extension having more than one storey and extending beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling;
- Any enlargement of a dwelling consisting of an addition or alteration to the roof;
- The provision of a building, container, enclosure, swimming or other pool where it would be situated on land between a wall forming a side elevation and the boundary of the dwelling or to the front of the original principle elevation;

- The installation, alteration or replacement of a chimney, flue or soil and vent pipe which fronts a highway and forms either the principal elevation or a side elevation of a dwelling;
- The installation, alteration or replacement of a microwave antenna on a dwelling, or within the grounds, on a chimney, wall or roof slope facing onto and visible from a highway or on a building greater than 15 metres in height.

In addition Conservation Area consent is required where in excess of 115 cubic metres of buildings are to be demolished. Conservation Area designation also protects trees within the boundary by requiring owners to give the Local Planning Authority six weeks notice of their intention to carry out any work on trees that have a trunk in excess of 75mm in diameter measured 1.5 metres from the ground.

All Planning Applications for development which would affect the character of a Conservation Area must be advertised in the local press and site notices posted.

This document is an appraisal of Coombe Abbey Conservation Area. It is based on guidelines issued by English Heritage, the Government's advisor on the historic built environment, and has been prepared by Rugby Borough Council. The principal objectives of the appraisal are to:

- define and record the special interest of Coombe Abbey Conservation Area to ensure there is full understanding of what is worthy of preservation;
- increase public awareness of the aims and objectives of Conservation Area designation and stimulate their involvement in the protection of its character and to inform decisions made by Rugby Borough Council, the Parish Council and local residents;
- reassess current boundaries to make certain that they accurately reflect what is now perceived to be of special interest and that they are readable on the ground;
- assess the action that may be necessary to safeguard this special interest and put forward proposals for their enhancement.

It is however not intended to be wholly comprehensive in its content and failure to mention any particular building, feature or space should not be assumed to imply that they are of no interest. This assessment should be read in conjunction with the Rugby Borough Local Plan 2006 saved policies, submission Core Strategy, and national policy guidance particularly Planning Policy Statement 5 Planning for the Historic Environment and its practice guide. These documents provide more detailed information on local and national policy relating to Conservation Areas.

MAP 1 CONSERVATION AREA DESIGNATION



LOCATION AND CONTEXT

Coombe Abbey is located some nine miles north-west of Rugby and some two miles east of Coventry. The site comprises formal gardens, informal pleasure grounds, walled gardens, parkland, lakes and avenues. The site is bordered by the A427 to the south which runs between Brinklow and Coventry. Two avenues run beyond to the south and south-west of the house. On the remaining boundaries the site joins agricultural land.

The surrounding land on the north, south and west of the house is relatively level. The Smite Brook runs from north-east to south-west through a valley to the north and west of the house. This was dammed in the late eighteenth century to form a lake. On the eastern side of the house the ground level rises.

Views out of the site are generally rural. To the north and north-east views are of the surrounding agricultural land. To the south the views are across the A427 towards Birchley Wood, The Grove and New Close Wood. Through this area the two avenues extend south towards Brandon.

Landscape Character Assessments categorise the English landscape. Coombe Abbey Park is within the designated Regional Character Area 1 Dunsmore. The Dunsmore Parkland comprises an enclosed estate landscape with a well wooded character and woodland edges, parkland and tree belts. Coombe comprises eighteenth and nineteenth century parks.

Photograph 2 Landscaped setting



GENERAL CHARACTER AND FORM

Coombe Abbey lies to the east of a major fault line in the underlying rocks dividing the coal bearing Carboniferous strata from the shale and sandstone layers of the Polesworth Formation. The geology was covered in the Glacial and Post Glacial periods by layers of sand, gravel and clay. The designation comprises layers of clay, mudstone and gravel above the original shale and sandstone and the impact of brooks and rivers have modified these layers.

The Conservation Area comprises different periods of landscaping and groups of buildings. The central core comprises the abbey as the prominent feature with the landscaping, in the form of the tree avenue, leading to the primary building. Landscaping around the abbey prevents views escaping and ensures the dominance of the building.

To the rear the subservient buildings comprise a mix of materials. The tennis building and stables are of contrasting red brick and of a smaller scale than the abbey. Although the cottages are of stone they do not compete with the abbey given the location and more limited scale.

The grounds provide historic evidence of the different phases of landscaping. Although no period has been fully maintained sufficient remains allows clear understanding of the evolution. The wider countryside setting is at times read in conjunction with the land within the Conservation Area; at other times the impact of the surrounding land is limited by the enclosure created by planting.

The key landscape characteristics include formal avenues, undeveloped fields, pleasure grounds and woodland. To the west the area is dominated by the lake which guides the eye away from the abbey into the surrounding land. At the western point the lake

encircles a further group of buildings which include the former menagerie and outbuildings.

The other main collection of buildings is found on the eastern side. The walled garden is linked to a farmhouse and a group of more modern agricultural structures. Other buildings tend to be isolated and include the boathouse and visitor building. The latter is the clearest illustration of the country park use, along with the car park to the east and playground to the west of the avenue.

Photograph 3 The formal garden



LANDSCAPE SETTING, GREEN AND OPEN SPACES AND TREES

The current Coombe Abbey Park is a result of three landscaping phases. The first phase of landscaping took place from the mid sixteenth century to the late seventeenth century and comprised development of the formal gardens adjacent to the abbey and extended into the deer park. The second phase saw the creation of a landscape park in the mid to late eighteenth century which removed the majority of the formal landscape. The last phase dates from the late nineteenth century which saw the reintroduction of the formal gardens close to the main house. The importance of the grounds is that they reflect elements of each of these phases.

Landscaping plays a major role in the Conservation Area. The designation is set within countryside which provides a rural approach. Although Coventry is in close proximity along the western boundary it does not impact upon the character or appearance of the Conservation Area. Fields border the Conservation Area on all sides.

The connection between the Conservation Area and surrounding land remains. For example the remnants of the avenue, to the south entrance beyond the designation, illustrates the former scale of the unit. The landscaped grounds created by Capability Brown remains sufficiently to appreciate the wider landscape and to allow the surrounding land to be read as a continuation of the designation.

Within the designation there are a number of different landscape elements. The approach from the south is framed by the Lime and Horse Chestnut avenue which provides a sense of enclosure and leads the eye to the abbey. This is strengthened by the Yew hedge surrounding the courtyard. Wider views are limited by the Yew, Cypress, Cedar and Willow to the west and the Oak, Yew, Copper Beech and Cedar to the east. This sense of enclosure contrasts with the open fields to the east of the approach.

The formal garden to the west provides the foreground to the abbey. The remnants of the pleasure grounds result in sparser tree planting with grassland and to the north a greater tree covering is provided by the woodland. The landscape controls views to and from the abbey.

The majority of the large trees within the designation date from the 1850's. Original planting patterns remain discernible; however, twentieth century planting has resulted in a more mixed character landscape with the later planting not based upon historic precedent.

Photograph 4 The lake providing the foreground to the abbey



HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The site housed a Cistercian monastery that was founded in 1150. The monks of Coombe were sheep farmers with their area stretching over the villages of Upper and Lower Smite. During the fifteenth century substantial works to the abbey took place. However, the abbey was dissolved in 1539 and the site and buildings were granted to Mary, Duchess of Somerset and Richmond. They then passed to John Dudley, later Duke of Northumberland, and in 1557 to Robert Kelway, Surveyor of the Court of Wards and Liveries. He sublet the site to Sir William Wigston, a Leicester merchant.

In 1581 Robert Kelway died and left the estate to his daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Harrington. They lived at Coombe and were responsible for converting it into a substantial country house which by the 1660's had 51 hearths. The buildings

were arranged around three sides of the former monastic cloister with the south side left open by the removal of the church. There was a timber framed gallery stretching over the three cloister walks surmounted by rows of gables and lit by windows with small pediments. The hall was on the north side flanked to the east by a great chamber and to the west by a kitchen, the main residential quarters faced west and on the east side there was a gallery.

In 1603 John Harrington became a lord and was entrusted with the guardianship of James I's daughter, Princess Elizabeth. She lived at Coombe until 1608 before moving to Kew and during those 5 years substantial changes were made to the house. The south fronts of the east and west wings were remodelled in stone, with large mullioned and transomed windows and ogee shaped gables and a fan vaulted porch with carving was added to the eastern side of the east range. This led down from the gallery in the east range to a walled garden which was surrounded by a raised walkway (the outer wall survives).

The excess of Princess Elizabeth's household left Harrington impoverished and he died in 1613. His son and heir died in 1614 leaving the house to his sister, Lucy, Countess of Bedford. She was a leading member of James's court. She sold the house in 1622 to Elizabeth, widow of Sir William Craven, a former mayor of London. Craven left money which was used to build up a substantial group of estates. By fighting on the Protestant side in the early years of the Thirty Years War he gained the favour of Charles I who made him Lord Craven and protector of Princess Elizabeth.

Lord Craven's estates were confiscated by Parliament after the civil war but the house was not demolished. Craven subsequently regained his lands and after the Restoration he was given an earldom by Charles II. Coombe Abbey became the residence of Craven's godson Sir Issac Gibson who acted as his agent and built an unpretentious gabled extension of stone at the southern end of the west range between 1667 and 1669. Gibson died and Coombe became home of Lord Craven's cousin and prospective heir Sir William Craven and in 1682-9 Lord Craven financed another major rebuilding of the house.

The work comprised the building of a new west range and rebuilding of part of the north range containing the hall. The architect was William Winde, another of Craven's godsons. Winde was responsible for assembling a team of craftsman including the master carpenter Jonathan Wilcox, the sculptor Edward Pierce and the plasterer Edward Gouge.

The new west range of local grey sandstone, was two storeys with a hipped roof and tall chimneys. It was originally intended to have a symmetrical elevation of 15 bays with a recessed centre surmounted by a pediment and projecting pavilions at each end. However, Sir Isacc Gibson's recently built south wing survived and this side of the house has had a lopsided appearance ever since.

The new west wing was completed in 1684 and then the western end of the north front was refaced. Work had finished by 1689 but operations in the garden continued. Kip's drawing of around 1707 shows an ornamental parterre stretching south from the Jacobean garden to the east of the house on the site of the present car park. This was in the style of George London and may have been designed by him. A public road from

Coventry to Brinklow ran close to the north front and to the west of the house there were stables and outbuildings.

Lord Craven died in 1697 and the Coombe estate passed to Sir William's son who was granted the title of Lord Craven. There were no further alterations at the abbey until the 6th Lord Craven commissioned Capability Brown to landscape the park in 1771-7. This involved clearing away the late seventeenth century formal gardens creating lawns which swept up to the front of the house, closing the road to the north and damming Smite Stream to create a 77 acre lake in the park to the west. A kitchen garden surrounded by a ha-ha was created to the north east of the house, a stable block built to the north along with a pedimented building used as a brewhouse and new drives were constructed to maximise the improved landscape. A west lodge was built in the form of a triumphal arch and an east lodge in the Gothic style. Lord Craven created a menagerie overlooked by a building with an octagonal tower surmounted by a dome, while to the south of the house, to the right of the entrance to the present drive, there was a castellated dog kennel, since demolished. The main alteration to the house was the addition of a third storey to the courtyard side of the north range.

Lord Craven died in 1791 and his son who was made earl in 1801 built an indoor tennis court to the north of the house around 1810. In 1861-2 William Eden Nesfield produced a scheme for rebuilding the house again. The final project, also worked on by Richard Norman Shaw, involved demolishing the whole of sixteenth century east wing with the exception of the twelfth century chapter house doorway and replacing with a larger block built of red sandstone. Some alterations were carried out to the outbuildings to the north, facing the north side of the eighteenth century stable block with tile hanging and adding a clock turret. Work began in 1863 and was still unfinished when Lord Craven died in 1866.

Nesfield's east wing dwarfed earlier buildings and gave the south front an unbalanced appearance. There was an impressive elevation to the east overlooking a recreated formal garden with an arcade on the ground floor and ranks of mullioned and transomed windows surmounted by steep pitched roofs of French character. The new buildings derived much of its effect from a moat dug along the south front of the new house with a boathouse at basement level. The moat continued across to the west front where it drained into a rectangular canal which formed part of the centre piece of a formal garden designed by W A Nesfield. The new garden was laid out with parterres and new pleasure grounds to the north of the house with the planting of 73 Wellingtonias and the building of green houses in the kitchen gardens carried out by William Miller.

By the early twentieth century there was a steep decline. The estate was sold in 1923 to John Gray, a Coventry builder. He demolished Nesfield's east wing and ruined the appearance of the west wing by lowering the roof and demolishing the north pavilion. In 1952 it was leased to the General Electric Company who ran it as a residential hostel. Coventry City Council bought the abbey after Gray's death in 1964. They leased it to a company putting on medieval banquets in the north parlour.

However, by the 1970's the building stood empty and derelict. Parts of the structure became dangerous, ceilings collapsed and dry rot spread to many areas. Between 1976 and 1985 several works of restoration were carried out involving external masonry and roof repairs to various parts of the building, principally the south-west wing.

In 1985 when the west range was reported to be in a serious state of dilapidation a phased programme of major restoration was announced. In the first phase the pedimented west facade was restored and an entirely new roof structure with lead and slate coverings was built over the west range.

The grounds have however since experienced a new lease of life as a country park with the renovated house as the centre point. Repairs, alterations and new buildings have been sympathetically carried out.

Photograph 5 Views to the abbey framed by the landscaping



ARCHAEOLOGY

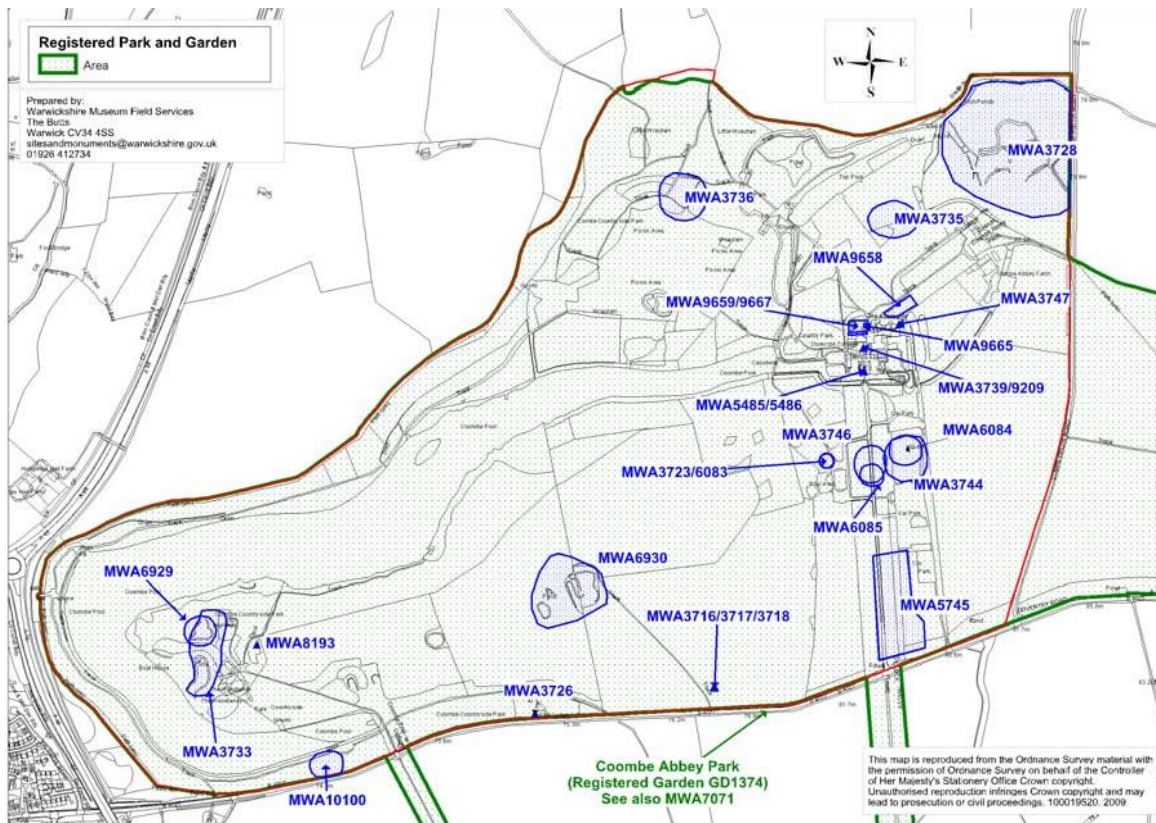
A Cistercian Abbey was founded in 1150. Elements of the claustral buildings were incorporated in the 16th century Country House which stands on the site, a Grade 1 Listed Building. Coombe Abbey Country House was altered during the 17th and 19th centuries. Excavation over the last 20 years has revealed a complex of deeply stratified archaeological deposits, with survival of material from the 12th century onwards. Fishponds, potentially dating to the earliest use of the site, survive as earthworks in the wider environs of Coombe Abbey.

The whole Conservation Area lies within the Registered Park and Garden of Coombe Abbey Park. This parkland contains a number of features associated with the landscaping of the park in the late 18th century by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, with structures by Henry Holland. Formal gardens were also laid out in the mid to late 19th century by William Andrews Nessfield and William Miller.

Lancelot Brown's work includes the gate lodges, the menagerie, the lake, a boat house and the kennels. He was also responsible for the terraces and Italianate parterres which

were restored in the 1860s. Nessfield's work includes the Dovecote in the stable block and the moat in front of the house (excavated partly on the site of the former church).

A number of earth mounds or tumuli have been recorded within the parkland. Some of these have been interpreted as Bronze Age barrows, although it is possible that they may actually relate to the post-medieval landscaping of the gardens, as possible locations for garden gazebos. A number of chance finds have been made within the grounds of including Roman and Medieval pottery.



MAP 2A ARCHAEOLOGY RECORDED ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

HER Records

MWA3739	Combe Abbey
MWA5486	Moat at Combe Abbey
MWA3726	West Lodge E of Combe Pool, Combe Abbey
MWA3747	Dovecote in the stable block, Combe Abbey
MWA3744	Possible Bronze Age round barrow
MWA3746	Possible Bronze Age round barrow, Combe Fields
MWA3723	Mound S of Combe Abbey
MWA5746	Dog Kennels Site at Combe Abbey
MWA5745	Site of Dog Kennels at Coombe Abbey
MWA6083	Mound S of Combe Abbey
MWA6084	Post Medieval earthwork gazebo
MWA6085	Post Medieval earthwork gazebo

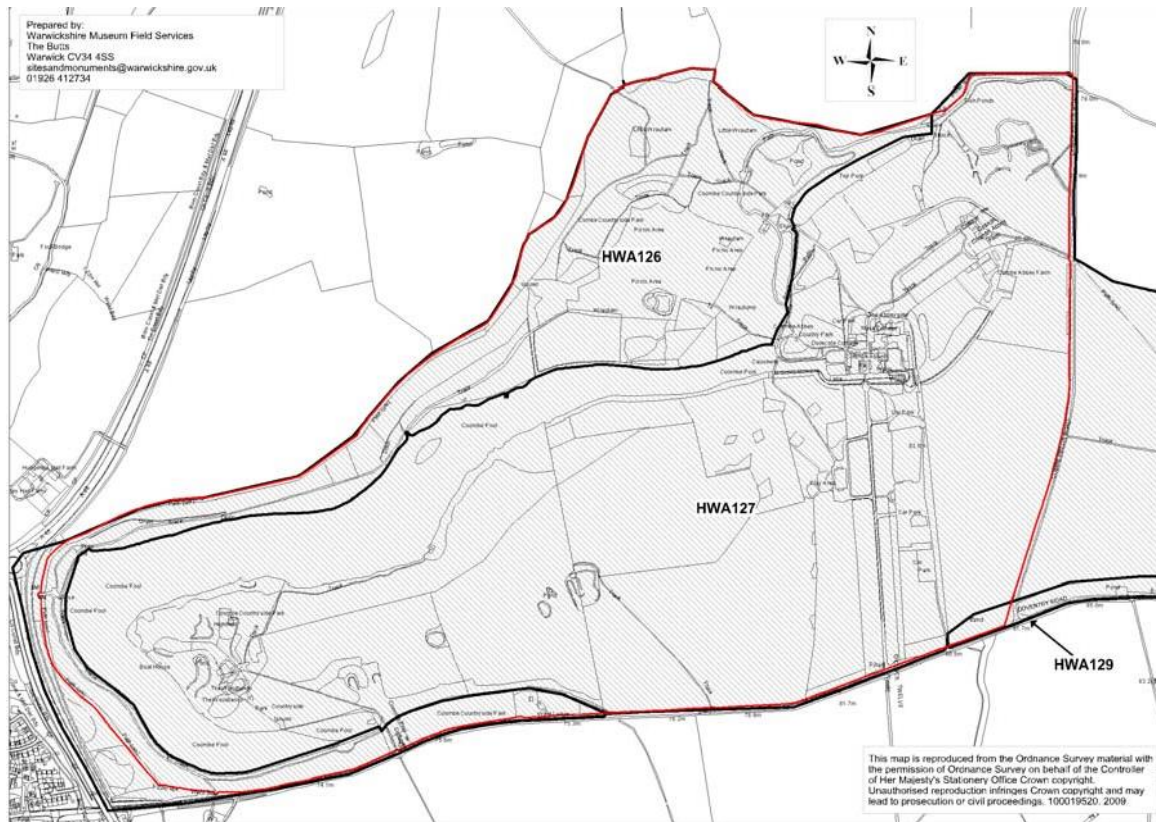
MWA6930	Site of Clay Pits at Combe Fields Deer Park
MWA6929	Site of Gravel Pit NW of The Woodlands
MWA3733	Quarry within Combe Abbey Deer Park
MWA3736	Quarry, Little Wrautam, W of Combe Abbey
MWA3735	Site of Dovecote to N of Combe Abbey
MWA3728	Fishponds at Coombe Abbey
MWA3716	Findspot - Roman pottery
MWA3717	Findspot - Medieval iron lock
MWA3718	Findspot - Medieval decorated tiles
MWA7071	Combe Abbey Landscape Park
MWA9658	Undated linear located by geophysical survey.
MWA9659	The former 19th century kitchen block at Coombe Abbey.
MWA9665	Post-medieval icehouse at Coombe Abbey.
MWA9667	Two post-medieval culverts at Coombe Abbey.
MWA10100	Area of ridge and furrow in Coombe Abbey Landscape Park
MWA8193	The Menagerie within Combe Abbey Deer Park

The majority of the Conservation Area extends across the area of the Registered Park and Garden of Coombe Abbey (GD1374).

Almost the entire conservation area is within the designed landscape of Coombe Abbey Park. The Western end of Coombe Abbey Woods, within the Country Park is marked on the Ordnance Survey First Edition. Prior to this the area appears to have been a medieval deer park.

HLC Records

HWA126	Broad-leaved Woods with Sinuous Boundaries
HWA129	Mixed Plantation
HWA127	Park/Garden



MAP 2B ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING MATERIALS AND FEATURES

The abbey is the oldest building in the Conservation Area with elements remaining from the twelfth century. The organic growth of the building is clear with major development taking place over the course of a number of centuries. Modern alterations have taken place and new buildings erected to maintain this organic approach.

More consistency is found in the subordinate buildings to the rear of the abbey. The red brick and slate stable and the former tennis court buildings are consistent in materials and status. Other supporting buildings, such as cottages and the farmhouse, are of red brick and incorporate a rural style.

The more formal buildings tend to comprise stone. The gate piers announcing the entrance of the abbey are of stone and the west gate house incorporates formal elements including rusticated stone and a triumphal arch.

Walls feature prominently in the Conservation Area. The walled garden comprises a three metre high red brick wall enclosure. The garden wall to the west parterre comprises Sandstone ashlar and acts as a retaining wall. The structure includes fragments of fifteenth century fan vaulting. The garden wall to the east garden dates from the sixteenth/seventeenth century and is made of coursed squared sandstone and originally formed part of the outer wall of the Great Garden laid out around 1600. The

north garden wall to the Menagerie comprises a boundary wall of red brick with coping dating from around 1770 to 1778. The southern wall is from the same period.

DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT

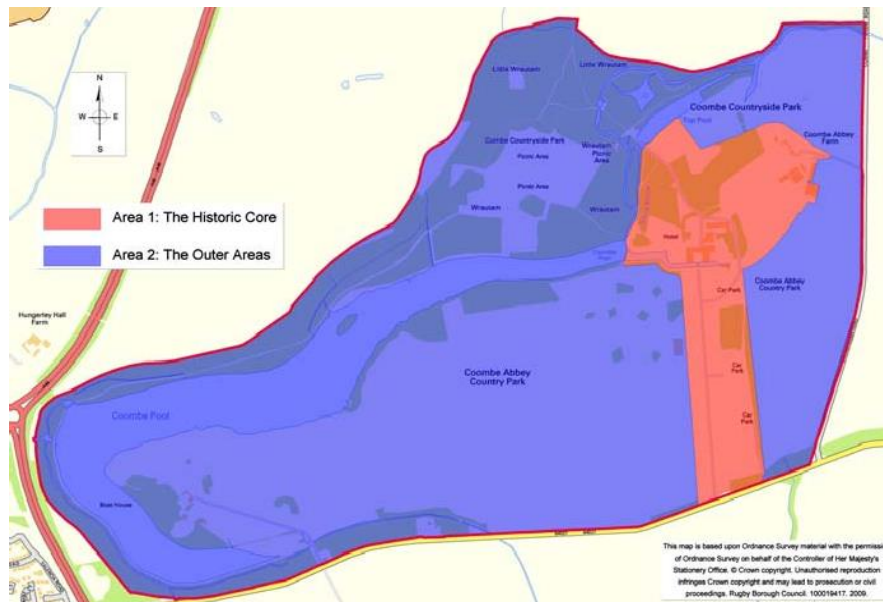
In order to make the appraisal more accessible the detailed assessment of the architectural and historic character has been divided into two smaller areas (see map below) and comprise:

Area 1: The Historic Core

Area 2: The Outer Areas

The zones are used as a tool to analyse and understand the area rather than to define whole areas as separate entities.

MAP 3 SUB AREAS



Area 1: The Historic Core

Coombe Abbey is situated near to the centre of the site with subservient buildings to the rear. The abbey demonstrates different periods of development and has a greater status than the stables and stableyard. The approach to the abbey from the south is via the Lime tree avenues with the abbey framed by the trees. At the abbey the setting is provided by the formal gardens to the west, the nineteenth century park to the north-west, the eighteenth century pleasure grounds to the north-east and east and the productive area and nineteenth century pleasure grounds also to the north-east.

The status of the abbey is demonstrated by the impressive entrance from the south. It is framed by a pair of late eighteenth century rusticated piers of sandstone ashlar on a plinth. This leads to a double avenue of Limes and Horse Chestnut trees between which the drive leads in a linear form to the abbey. The mid nineteenth century stone bridge comprising Gothic arches leads the drive into the courtyard which is enclosed by the north, east and west ranges of the abbey.

The abbey is the primary structure and comprises three ranges. The house includes parts from the twelfth and fifteenth centuries including the cloisters to the west and north-west of the courtyard and the warming room to the south-east. The cloister arches are infilled with sixteenth century windows, the windows above are timber oriels. The eclectic ensemble is illustrated by this elevation which further east includes gables punctuating the eaves with stone mullioned and transomed windows. To each side the elevations project forward.

Photograph 6 The western elevation



To the west the late seventeenth century element comprises three sections, each is under a gable with stone mullions within. Small scale horizontal windows, large scale mullioned and transomed windows and a vertical ecclesiastical window decorate the large elevation which is set with the moat as the foreground. The setting is completed with glimpses of the formal gardens to the west. To the east the range is modern. Of three storeys it comprises high pitched roofs, turrets and oriel windows and is an imposing addition. However, given the width of the ranges to the east the addition does not overwhelm.

This extension is also read from the rear elevation and contains formal elements including stone quoins, mullions, transoms and gables in addition to gothic motifs such as turrets.

The setting of the abbey is provided by the medieval style moat to the southern front with a bridge leading to the courtyard and a canal to the lake. To the east the moat terminates with a rock cascade. The formal garden to the west is laid out as an Italian garden comprising yew hedging with parterres, fountains and a marble statues. Further west the influence of water is again significant with the roofscape of the abbey reflected in the still water body that is fed by the moat.

Photograph 7 The moat providing the immediate setting of the abbey



This western facade comprises two elements. The southern part projects forwards under three gables with mullioned windows and stone quoins. The northern section is two storey under a hipped roof with pediment above. Greek and Roman motifs, stone quoins and armorial decoration within the pediment emphasis the classical elements of the design.

To the north of the abbey are a series of subordinate structures. Of mixed materials, including brick and sandstone ashlar, they compliment the main building. The siting of the stables was governed by the landscaping carried out by Capability Brown as the original range would have been obtrusive from the new approaches. The building is the focal point of the range of service buildings supporting the abbey. Of red brick with ashlar dressings under a slate hipped roof it is two storey with a six window range and a central projecting range. Above is a timber and lead clocktower in the form of a dovecote with an inscribed pediment.

Photograph 8 The stables



The building is read in conjunction with the former tennis court. Dating from the early nineteenth century it is of red brick and ashlar with a Welsh slate hipped roof and is a high single storey structure. A defining element is the high full length horizontal sliding sashes.

To the other side of the rear courtyard are two cottages and outbuildings. Previously a brewhouse and bakery it dates from the late eighteenth century and comprises sandstone ashlar under a slate roof. The building is two storey and the wide gable adds to the sense of enclosure within the rear courtyard.

These outbuildings are linked to the productive area and nineteenth century pleasure grounds to the north-east. The character of this area is dominated by red brick structures and the character is far removed from the grandeur of the abbey and the formal grounds. Viewed from the south the eastern side of the Conservation Area comprises a farmhouse and the walled garden. The Gardeners Cottage dates from the mid nineteenth century to the design of Eden Nesfield. The building is red brick with ashlar dressings under a plain tile roof, all in a Domestic Revival style. The farmhouse is set well back from the adjacent highway and is read in conjunction with the walled garden. The tall red brick walls surround the rectangular area with the formal approach characterised by the arches in the western wall. Three openings to each side of the drive are supported by stone columns. The inner area is now grass and all former structures have been removed. However, the area maintains its working characteristics.

Photograph 9 The walled garden



Surrounding the brick structures are the remnants of the nineteenth century pleasure grounds. The land comprises grassland with significant tree planting. However, much of the intricate planting from the original layout has been lost.

The remaining setting for the abbey comprises the nineteenth century parkland to the north and north-west. Part of this parkland was formed under Capability Brown's works,

the remainder dates from the nineteenth century. The earlier planting has greater simplicity of species, the older areas contrasts with a far wider range of trees. The overall character is of woodland areas with large swathes of grassed area. Closer to the buildings the area has more of a managed feel with fewer trees, paths and grassland. The planting provides enclosure around the abbey and restricts views to the primary building.

Area 2: The Outer Areas

The outer areas of the Conservation Area comprise large parts of grassland, the lake and a group of buildings to the western extremity of the designation. To the east of the southern approach fields border the more formal element of the area. To the south-west and west this character is maintained. These parts contribute to the open setting but do not provide significant visual interest in their own right.

The most prominent contributor is the great lake formed by Brown. The body is formed from the moat surrounding the abbey, curves southwards and returns partly to the east. The lake takes the view away from the abbey and leads the eye to the west. The sheer scale of the lake ensures it is the primary element in the landscape. The lake is enclosed to the north by the mature tree planting. To the south the boathouse sits on the southern side of the lake and is red brick with a plain tile roof.

As the lake commences its partial return to the east there is a further group of buildings. These comprise The Woodlands and its farm buildings. The former is a Menagerie viewing lodge with attached menagerie keeper's house, now a house. The structures date from the latter part of the eighteenth century and comprise sandstone ashlar with brick under a slate roof. The building contains a complex plan of polygonal wing to the left, a centre range and a projecting cross wing to the right. The building is an unusual feature within the landscape and it is modelled on the menagerie at Versailles.

Photograph 10 The lake



To the north is a group of menagerie farm buildings. The buildings comprise red brick with a plain tile roof and form a loose courtyard with the main dwelling. The site is completed by the characterful red brick walls which feature throughout the site.

Although much of the historical definition of the grounds has been lost there are sufficient remnants of the estate to demonstrate its former scale and influence. One such structure is the western gate house. Dating from the latter part of the eighteenth century and probably designed by Capability Brown it comprises sandstone ashlar and end brick stacks. A defining characteristic is the Roman triumphal arch.

A further defining characteristic is as a result of the use of part of the Conservation Area for a country park. To the west of the approach avenue are the modern visitor centre and adventure playground. To the east hardstanding is provided for car parking together with the associated paraphernalia such as ticket machines and barriers.

Photograph 11 Use of the site as a country park



CONTRIBUTION OF UNLISTED BUILDINGS

The majority of buildings in the Conservation Area are listed; unlisted buildings are therefore rare. However, a pair of cottages, at the entrance to The Woodlands, makes a positive contribution providing a red brick cottage character. Within the historic core the new accommodation building to the north-west provides further enclosure around the abbey and contributes to the organic development of the site.

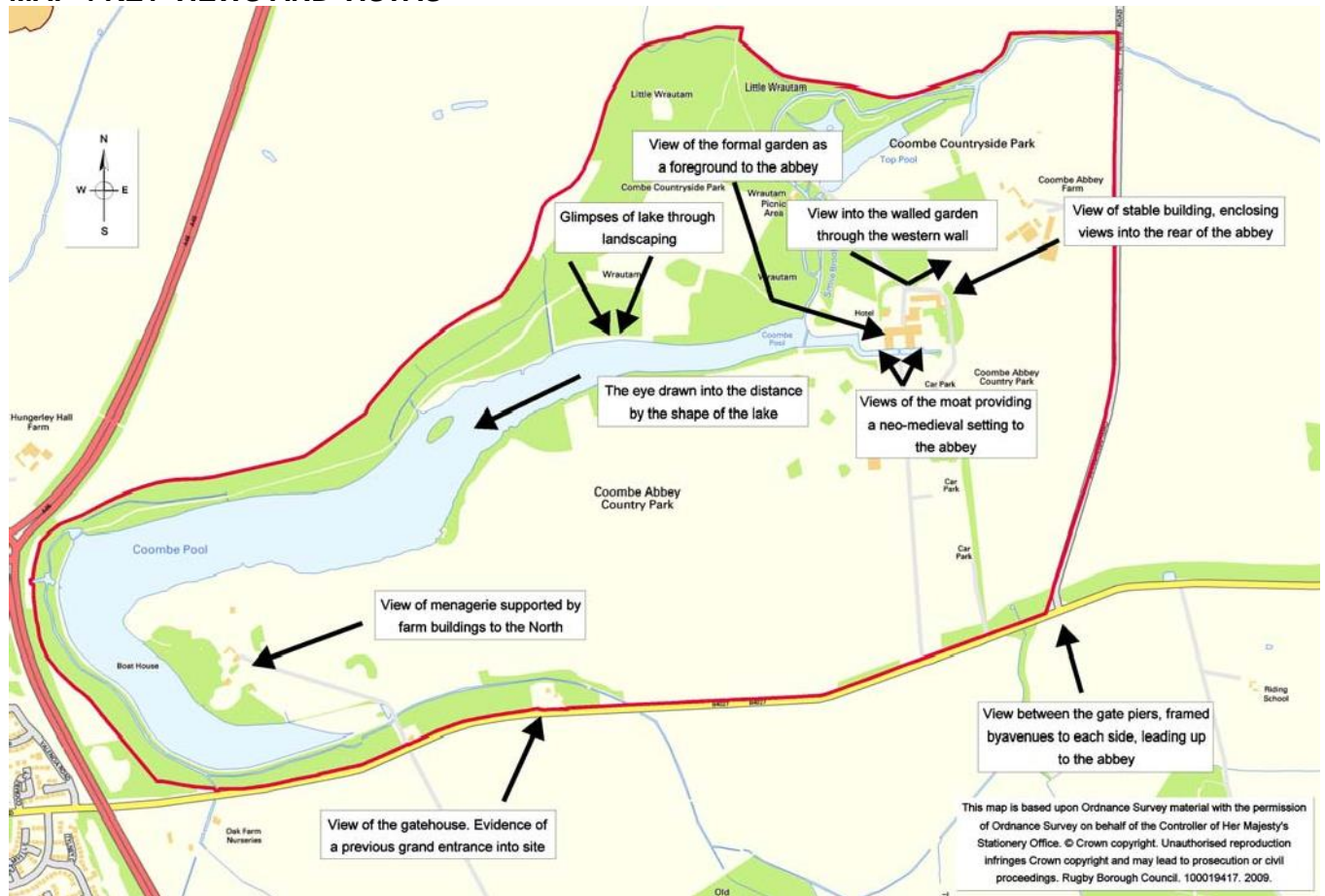
MAP 5 LISTED BUILDINGS AND IMPORTANT UNLISTED BUILDINGS



STREET FURNITURE

Street furniture is an important element in Conservation Areas reinforcing local identity. Signs are consistent and kept to a minimum and timber posts are used to direct visitors. Street lighting is limited to decorative lamps. Timber bollards and low level timber rails are used to border grassed areas and have a relatively limited impact. The lack of clutter benefits the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

MAP 4 KEY VIEWS AND VISTAS



EXISTENCE OF ANY NEUTRAL AREAS

The environmental quality of the Conservation Area is generally good but there are a number of neutral elements. The use of the site as a country park has had an inevitable impact through additional drives, hardsurfacing for car parks and adventure play grounds. The visitors building is large and of a monumental style but appears rather at odds with its surroundings.

Part of the character of the area is the trees and woodland. However, greater woodland and tree management, in order to reintroduce the historic planting patterns, would benefit the Conservation Area.

CONCLUSIONS

The historic character of Coombe Abbey has been well maintained and many of the architectural details in the older buildings have been preserved. The organic development of the central core of buildings can still be read and are well related to the remains of the three main phases of landscape development. The designation comprises two character areas; the central group of buildings and the surrounding landscaping and the wider environment.

The overall quality of the Conservation Area remains high with the traditional buildings and historic landscape prevailing. Changes have taken place to buildings and

landscaping but the designation retains its integrity. Enhancements could be achieved however with development of the landscaping to reflect more elements of the former layout and restoration of key areas such as the walled garden.

PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

General Condition

The Conservation Area is in a generally good condition in terms of buildings and maintenance of open spaces and landscaping. There are no primary buildings at risk or any in a serious state of disrepair. However, the walled garden is in a poor state of repair and all former buildings and structures within the enclosure have been lost. The farm buildings serving The Woodlands also require additional work. A number of minor structures around the estate would benefit from repairs.

Problems, pressure and capacity to change

The sheer scale of the site makes long term management difficult. This is illustrated by the derelict condition of the abbey towards the latter part of the twentieth century. On-going repairs and maintenance of the historic buildings is costly and necessary. This also applies to the management of the landscaping. A long term management plan is required for implementation to provide greater evidence of the former landscaping phases and to ensure the continued regeneration of trees.

The use of the land as a hotel and country park brings its own pressures. The hotel is a commercial operation; however a large amount of its appeal is the building and its surroundings. The heritage and commercial interests are not always served by the same undertakings and this can lead to pressure for development that at times may not be in the best interest of the historic site and buildings. However, a balance is needed as the hotel represents a beneficial use of the building. The country park is a local resource and is to be encouraged. However, the needs of the country park again need to be balanced with the heritage issues of the site.

A further issue is the fragmented ownership. The abbey and large areas of the landscape are owned by Coventry City Council and within this area there are a number of privately owned properties. Therefore achieving an overall long term vision and effective management of the Conservation Area is a greater challenge.

Future management proposals

The Local Planning Authority has a duty to ensure that proposals for development either preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Conservation Area. Rugby Borough Council is committed to this duty.

In order to ensure that proposals for development can be adequately addressed the submission of detailed plans and elevations will be required with the submission of any planning application within the Conservation Area. This is likely to require the submission of drawings relating to new building within its context and street scene. 1:50 scale drawings of plans and elevations are considered an appropriate scale. For more detailed proposals and for specific elements of a proposed scheme, for example

fenestration details, scale drawings of 1:5 or 1:10 may be required. A Design and Access Statement will also be necessary.

Opportunities for enhancement

Although the visual quality of the Conservation Area is high there are areas where improvements could take place:

- ensure planting schemes and species follows historic themes;
- carry out tree surgery to mature trees as agreed;
- remove alien species such as conifers;
- re-instate wherever possible the late nineteenth century views to the south and west from the abbey;
- resurface the stable courtyard in granite setts or similar;
- consider re-using historic buildings for original purposes, e.g. keeping horses in the stables;
- provide a greater level of landscaping within the parking areas;
- resurface the car parks in a more sensitive material;
- remove planting to re-open intended views;
- restore the use of the walled garden to cultivation together with provision of structures, following historic evidence;
- clear rainwater goods to prevent fabric damage.

APPENDIX 1

Summary of listed buildings in Coombe Abbey Conservation Area

West Lodge, Grade II*. House, formerly gate lodge, c.1775. Probably designed by Capability Brown. Sandstone ashlar with some brick to ends. Lead roof removed. Brick stacks to ends. 2 storeys, 2 window range with one storey, one bay wings to left and right. In style of a Roman triumphal arch. Central archway. To left and right a round-headed sash of 12 panes, with further 12 pane sashes to wings with wedge lintels. Above round headed sashes to left and right a blind window with wedge lintels. Flanking arch, and to corners of main range, Corinthian pilasters supporting entablature. Plinth and first floor storey band. Parapet to flanking wings. Urns to left and right corners of main range decorated with festoons. This building was designed as the lodge to the new main drive, laid out as part of the new landscape garden by Capability Brown 1771-1776.

Gate Piers, Coombe Abbey, Grade II. Late C18. Sandstone ashlar. Pier is rusticated and has a plinth. Panelled top decorated with festoons, flutes and paterae.

Garden Wall, Coombe Abbey, 40 metres NW of front to garden steps, Grade II. Wall. Sandstone ashlar incorporated fragments of C15 fan vaulting, probably from Coombe Abbey. Buttressed. Included for group value.

Kitchen garden and associated bothies, gardeners cottage 130 north east of Coombe Abbey, Grade II. Gardeners cottage, bothy and adjoining kitchen garden walls. 1863-5, by Eden Nesfield for the Earl of Craven, late C20 alterations. Red brick, with ashlar dressings and plain tile roofs. Domestic Revival style, cottage has 2 external side wall stacks with ashlar copings. 2 storey, 2 bays, L plan. Windows are wooden glazing bar casements, some renewed late C20. Garden front has projecting wing to left, half hipped, with 3 light casement to ground floor, and 4 light casement above. In the return angle, a hipped porch with pointed arched doorway and original half glazed door. Chimney to right has an inscribed plaque. Rear has central bay with hipped roof, lean to porch and side door, flanked by left by gabled projecting wing and to right by hipped wing. All have a single window on each floor. C20 single storey addition to north. Bothy in similar style has 2 storey block to north and lower range, single storey plus attics, to south. Garden front has 2 windows to ground floor and central C20 lean to addition. Above, 2 light casement in central hipped through eaves dormer, flanked by prominent side wall stacks, that to right with an inscribed plaque. Rear has an off centre door in an altered opening, prominent side wall stacks, that to right with an inscribed plaque. Rear has an off centre door in an altered opening, flanked by a single 2 light casement to the right, and 2 similar windows to left. Above, a large hipped through eaves dormer with a 4 light casement, and to right a single small window. Lower range has to right a segment headed door flanked to left by a 3 light casement and beyond, 2 smaller 2 light casements. Above, to right, a 2 light casement in a hipped through eaves dormer. Garden walls, approx. 3 m high, have stone and blue brick copings, and form a rectangular enclosure. North range has 2 doors, an inserted opening, and adjoining the bothy, a range of single storey lean to buildings with slate roofs. Brackets on the north side formerly carrying line shafting. At the west end, an arcade, now with inserted central opening, with alternating round and square granite piers. South side has an opening with square piers.

Coombe Abbey Stable Block, Grade II. Late C18. Brick in Flemish bond with ashlar dressings and hipped slate roof. Brick roof stacks. 2 storeys, 6 window range, with one window projecting central ridge. Central archway with rusticated quoin surround. Small doorway to right of blocked arch, with stone lintel. Round headed recessed casements to ground storey, the one to the right of arch partly blocked. Gauged brick lintels. 9 pane casements to first floor with gauged brick lintels. Pediment above. Sandstone, plinth, ground and first floor storey bands, and a moulded eaves cornice. Wood and lead clocktower, in form of dovecote, above pediment inscribed 'Vivete Fugid'. Altered ranges to left, and extending forward from right. Late C19 coach house and hayloft to rear, probably designed by Nesfield. Dated 1863.

Boat House on south side of The Pool, Grade II. C. 1770-78. With later alterations. Probably by Lancelot (Capability) Brown. Red brick and plain tile roof. Single storey. Open ended to the pool and entrance door opposite. King post roof construction possibly early C19. The boathouse is marked on a plan of 1778.

Woodlands, Grade II. Hunting Lodge, now house. Late C18 with C9 additions. Probably by Capability Brown. Sandstone ashlar, with some brick. Slate and lead roofs with ashlar stacks. Complex plan of polygonal wing to left, centre range and projecting cross wing to right. 2 storeys, 5 window range. C20 plank doors within hexagonal porch with wood modillion eaves cornice. 12 pane unhorned sashes to ground floor of left polygonal range, to right of door and to front of wing to right. One blind window to right facade of wing. 9 pane unhorned sashes to first floor of polygonal range, those to main range and right wing with keyblocks. Plinth and first floor storey band. Stone modillion eaves cornice.

Wall to south of The Woodlands, Grade II. Boundary wall, c.1770-78 with later alterations. By Lancelot Brown. Red brick with coping in part and remains of bases for urns. This wall extends south east of The Woodlands to the edge of the pool and is approx. 2-3 m in height but has occasional gap or area of collapse. The wall was originally built by Brown together with that to north of The Woodlands to cut off the area of land bordering The Pool which he had formed into a Menagerie. The area is named as such and the wall is shown on the plan of 1778.

Wall to north of The Woodlands, Grade II. Boundary wall, c.1770-78 with later alterations. By Lancelot Brown. Red brick with coping in part and remains of bases for urns. This wall extends north and north east of The Woodlands to the edge of the pool and is approx. 3 m in height but has occasional gap or area of collapse. The wall was originally built by Brown together with that to south of The Woodlands to cut off the area of land bordering The Pool which he had formed into a Menagerie. The area is named as such and the wall is shown on the plan of 1778. (attached to the western side of this wall a range of single storey outbuildings. Red brick with plain tile roofs and a single ridge stack. Central range has to right 2 doorways with plank doors flanked by a single 2 light glazing bar casement. Set back to right remodelled C19 wing. Set back to left an original wing with 2 plank doors and two 2 light casements. These buildings were built to serve the Menagerie, to provide food storage and winter quarters for the exotic animals kept here.

Menagerie farmbuildings, north west of The Woodlands, Grade II. C.1778. Built to serve the Menagerie designed by Lancelot (Capability) Brown. Red brick with plain tile. Two 1

plan ranges linked by a gate. The larger northern range has a two storey wing to the west with a segment headed carriage arches, that to the right with double plank doors. Beyond to the right a stable door flanked by single 2 light glazing bar casements all with segment heads. Above 3 tall 2 light glazing bar casements to the eaves. Beyond to right a slightly set back lower range with a single stable door. This range continues at right angles with a further stable door and becomes single storey with two stable doors and a shuttered opening between. The smaller southern range, single storey with the 2 cart entrances to the north range, and 2 bricked up cart shed entrances to the south range that to the left with a 3 light glazing bar casement. Beyond a single plank door flanked by single light glazing bar casements. These buildings are extremely rare, they were built to store food and bedding for the animals in the Menagerie, and they also provided space for sheltered winter accommodation for these exotic beasts.

Tennis Court, Grade II*. Former tennis court. C.1820 or possibly earlier C19. Red brick (one east wall rendered) with Welsh slate hipped roof. High single storey. Later entrance doors to rendered wall with C20 sliding doors on long wall to left. On both long walls are recessed blank panels with gauged brick flat arches. Above running full length are horizontal sliding sash windows with glazing bars, cantelivered out and forming galleries. Blocked windows and C20 door on rear wall.

2 cottages and outbuildings, 30 m from north front, Grade II. Formerly perhaps pavilion/stable. Late C18. Sandstone ashlar with slate roof and 3 stone stacks to roof. 2 storeys plus attic, 3 window range. Gable facing which has pediment of full width with moulded cornices. 3 recessed round headed arches to ground floor with thermal windows in arches, and blind below. Central arch has CV20 door inserted. Three 6 pane sashes above wedge lintels. Thermal window to centre with pediment. Raised band at impost level on ground floor. Further 6 pane sashes to side and rear. Moulded stone cornices. Bitumen and lead coated coped gables. Included for group value.

Garden wall, to south and west of Stableblock, Grade II. Late C16/early C17 with later rebuilding. Coursed squared sandstone approx. 2,5 metres high. The L plan wall extends approx. 50m south from the south east corner of part of the stable block and approx 25 m east of the same point. this wall was part or the outerwall of the Great Garden laid out c1600 and is shown on Knyff and Kip's perspective view of Coombe Abbey of c1690.

Coombe Abbey and Bridge over moat, Grade I. Country House, formerly Cistercian Abbey. C12 origins with C13, late C16, late C17 and C19 alterations and additions, in part by Issac Gibson and William Winde. Sandstone ashlar with tiled and slate roofs. U plan. Entrance facade to inner left of courtyard comprises C15 cloister with C16 additions above. Plank door within C19 stone porch to centre right. 9 bays of stone C15 four light cusped windows with 4 centred arch heads. Buttressed between windows. To far left a block round-headed arch. First floor stuccoed timber frame and stone built late C16. 7 wood oriel windows of 4 leaded lights with mullions and transoms and gabled heads supported on consoles. Range continuing forward from right has second storey of 2 four light wood casements. Moulded eaves cornice above. Range opposite entrance facade has remains of late C12 Chapter House with central arch of 4 orders of shafts and capitals. Arches to either side of 2 round headed lights within round headed arch supported on 3 orders of shafts, the middle paired. To either side a round headed arch of 3 orders. Blocked arch to right. Additions by Nesfield built above in 1860's

demolished 1925. To right, remains of C12 warming room rebuilt by Nesfield, with some original details. Garden front of 2 ranges. To left, 2 storey 7 window range designed by William Winde, 1680-91. 24 pane sashes to ground and first floor with moulded architraves and triangular pediments, segmental pediments and flat hoods supported on consoles. Central first floor window has flat hood supported on fluted columns with capitals. Central 3 bay section projects slightly forward, the angles quoined. Pediment above was carved by Howard Pierce. Modillion eave cornice. Range to left, and attic storey were demolished 1925. Rainwater heads dated 1684. Mid C17 wing to right by Issac Gibson of 2 storeys. Paired sashes to ground and first floors originally had mullions and transoms, and have moulded architraves. 3 light stone mullioned windows to second floor gables. First and second floor windows have hood moulds. C20 bay to ground floor. Left angle of range has quoins. North facade: site of William Winde's North Saloon remains. East facade: site of Nesfield's east range demolished C20, of which Neo-Norman arches on ground floor remain.

The Woodlands Menagerie, Grade II*. Menagerie viewing lodge and attached menagerie keepers house, now house. C1775 with C19 and C20 alterations. Probably Capability Brown. Sandstone ashlar with some brick. Slate and lead roofs with ashlar stacks. Complex plan of polygonal wing to left, centre range and projecting cross wing to right. 2 storeys, 5 window range. C20 plank door with hexagonal porch with wood modillion eaves cornice. 12 pane unhorned sashes to ground floor of left polygonal range, to right of door and to front of wing to right. One blind window to right facade of wing. 9 pane unhorned sashes to first floor of polygonal range, those to main range and right wing with keyblocks. Plinth and first floor storey band. Stone modillion eaves cornice.

APPENDIX 2

Useful Contacts

A copy of this appraisal will be available at the Rugby Borough Council offices and on the Council's website at www.rugby.gov.uk.

For specific information about the conservation area and conservation issues please contact:

Development Strategy
Rugby Borough Council
Town Hall
Evreux Way
Rugby
CV21 2RR

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: localplan@rugby.gov.uk

For further information relating to archaeology contact:

County Archaeologist
Warwickshire Museum Field Services
The Butts
Warwick CV34 4SS
Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]

For further information relating to listed buildings and conservation areas contact:

Historic England
The Axis
10 Holliday Street
Birmingham
B1 1TG

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: midlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk

For detailed advice on repairing and restoring Georgian houses, contact:

The Georgian Group
6 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 5DX

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: office@georgiangroup.org.uk

For “Care for Victorian Houses” leaflet, contact:

The Victorian Society
1 Priory Gardens
Bedford Park
London
W4 1TT

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: admin@victoriansociety.org.uk

For a range of technical advice leaflets, contact:

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)
37 Spital Square
London
E1 6DY

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: info@spab.org.uk

APPENDIX 3

Bibliography

Archaeology and Planning (PPG16)

The Buildings of England – Warwickshire. Nikolaus Pevsner and Alexandra Wedgewood. Penguin Books

Houses of Warwickshire

Parklands Consortium Ltd Ten Year Management and Maintenance Plan

Warwickshire Towns and Villages, Geoff Allen, pub Sigma Leisure, 2000

Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5)

Rugby Borough Local Plan 2006 Saved Policies

Submission Core Strategy

GLOSSARY

Bargeboards: board at the gable of a building covering the ends of the horizontal roof timbers and forming a 'V', often pierced and decorated.

Bay window: window of one or more storeys projecting from the face of the window at ground level.

Casement: window hinged at the side.

Corbel: block of brick projecting from a wall.

Dormer window: window standing up vertically from the slope of a roof.

Framed building: where the structure is carried by the framework.

Mullion: vertical member between the lights of a window opening.

Rendering: the process of covering outside walls with a uniform skin to protect from the weather.

Transom: horizontal member between the lights of a window opening.

Vernacular: the traditional local construction style.

Communities

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16th August 2023

Dear Sir / Madam

RE: A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave Scoping) - TR010066

I humbly apologise for the lateness of this response regarding ecological and landscape matters.

Ecology

The Scoping Report is comprehensive and WCC Ecology is content with the coverage. The County has three comments that the inspector may wish to consider:

- It has been agreed with Natural England that the whole of Warwickshire falls within the Nature Range of great crested newts (GCNs) within England. Therefore, there are very few areas (predominately urban) where it is significantly unlikely to be exclude the presence of GCNs. Therefore, in this location GCNs should not be 'scoped out'. However, it is expected that this species could be covered within reasonable avoidance measures with any Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), or equivalent.
- If the project is not to be completed by November 2025, then WCC would request that a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain is required. This would be consistent with the statement on the government website [\[here\]](#) that states:

We will incorporate biodiversity net gain (BNG) requirements for all (terrestrial) NSIP projects from November 2025 and develop an approach for marine net gain (MNG). The biodiversity net gain requirement for NSIPs is to achieve at least 10% measurable net gain on all terrestrial and intertidal development, which is to be secured for at least 30 years.

Warwickshire has a full operational BNG market therefore this objective is deliverable should BNG not be able to be secured through onsite measures.


- The referenced Warwickshire Coventry and Solihull Green Infrastructure Strategy has been updated and will shortly be reconsulted upon and subsequently adopted. This updated version should be taken into consideration when preparing the EIA.

Landscape

WCC would recommend that the 1km radius for the study area as referenced in Section 8.2 is extended to take into account all selected viewpoints and additional viewpoints as requested by RBC.

Section 8.6 Description of the likely significant effects - should include the potential landscape and visual impacts arising from the introduction of the three attenuation features and how the proposed planting would tie in with existing vegetation and the wider landscape pattern.

Yours sincerely



David Lowe

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your ref TR010066-000003
my ref AS/Pre-App/CC23_A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave).1

Dear Ms Reeves,

Re: Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by National Highways (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) (the Proposed Development).

Thank you for your consultation on this Scoping Report. Please accept my apologies for the delay in my response.

The following comments are in respect of the archaeological implications of this proposal and are without prejudice to any comments which Historic England or the relevant Conservation Officers may have in respect of any potential impacts on non-archaeological heritage assets which may lay within, or in the wider vicinity of, this proposal.

Comments on Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the Scoping Report.

- Para. 7.3.21 of the scoping report references two phases of archaeological work across this area, comprising a geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching to the south. It further states that 'In addition to the HER records within the proposed scheme extent, these surveys demonstrates the low potential for previously unknown archaeological remains to survive within the Area'.

I do not agree with this conclusion, and would highlight the following:

- There is too limited baseline data available for this area to come to this conclusion. The study area is relatively small and, as it is in an area which has not been subject to much previous development, the limited number of known sites may reflect the lack of previous intrusive archaeological fieldwork across this area, rather than a lack of archaeological sites (see also comments below in respect of non-intrusive survey). Whilst this chapter highlights that the earliest known archaeological features within the study area date to the medieval period (ridge and furrow), I would highlight that archaeological features pre-dating the medieval period have been previously identified from the wider area, including a possible Roman enclosure visible as a cropmark 400m to the east of this proposal (MWA19114), an as yet undated possible circular enclosure cropmark c.1200m to the south-east, and Roman features recorded during fieldwork c2100m to the east.

- That the geophysical (magnetometry) survey referred to only identified a limited number of potential archaeological features does not mean that only a limited number of archaeological features survive across this area. The effectiveness of magnetometry survey is dependent on a number of factors such as the types of archaeological features present and the local geology; even in the optimum conditions for this type of survey, it will not identify all types of features. The local geologies and soil types are not optimum for this type of survey, and in our experience, whilst such surveys can and do identify some potential archaeological features, others are frequently missed. Therefore, whilst such survey can be an effective tool for identifying potential archaeological features to target by subsequent evaluative fieldwork, the absence of such features does not mean that they are not present, only that they have not been detected by the survey. I would also note that, as stated earlier in this paragraph, this survey identified ‘potential evidence for sporadic activity of unknown date suggestive of some use, though relatively small scale’. As those potential features have not been further examined, their character and significance has not yet been established. It is therefore premature to suggest these potential features are not significant, as could be read into the conclusion quoted above.

I therefore consider that there is insufficient information available at this time to come to the conclusion that ‘low potential for previously unknown archaeological remains to survive within the Area’ as proposed by this paragraph. I would note, however, that this lack of sufficient baseline data does seem to have to have been taken into account later in this chapter, with it being proposed to undertake further assessment, including geophysical survey and trial trenching, to inform the ES. Given the limited archaeological information currently available from the immediate vicinity of this proposal, I would also recommend that the archaeological information from a wider area than the 300m study area currently proposed be examined during the ES process.

- Table 7.7.1, which sets out the potential impacts on cultural heritage within the proposed scheme extent, should reference potential damage through compaction during and post-construction due to factors such as the storage of materials etc, as well as the compaction caused by the vehicle movements currently referenced.
- Table 7.7.1 references potential changes to the groundwater levels etc having a potential impact, however, para. 7.5.1, which does reference the management of noise and vibration, does not reference any monitoring and management of the groundwater conditions (if appropriate). It should.
- Paragraph 7.6.1 states that ‘none of the impacts are likely to be of a level and character that cannot be reduced, avoided, or mitigated using standard mitigation measures’. It is not clear what ‘standard mitigation measures’ are considered to be in this instance. I would note that, as set out above, there is insufficient baseline information available at this time to enable an adequate assessment to be made of the archaeological potential of this area and any impacts that the proposal may have on any archaeological features present. It cannot, therefore, be ruled out at this stage that there may be archaeological features present which would be worthy of preservation *in situ*, which may not be possible within the constraints of the project as presently proposed.
- Whilst I am pleased to note that paragraph 7.6.4 acknowledges that there is a potential for archaeological features to survive across this area, I consider that, given the limited archaeological information currently available, it is premature to consider that ‘any remains would most likely be of low value’. As there is insufficient information to be able to assess the significance of any archaeological features present, and the impacts that the proposal will have upon these, I also consider that it is premature to conclude that ‘archaeological monitoring in

areas of higher potential would reduce impacts on archaeological remains to result in the neutral (not significant) effect’.

- I note that paragraph 7.2.1 states that a ‘Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) was not available when undertaking the assessment which has informed this report, and that therefore a 1km study area was determined to be appropriate based on professional judgement. I would recommend that this study area be reassessed once the ZTV is available. The assessment of potential impacts on setting should also take into account potential impacts on the setting of significant non-designated heritage assets, as well as any designated ones which lie within the ZTV.

Comments on Proposed Assessment Methodology

I am pleased to note that Cultural Heritage is to be considered further in the ES (para. 7.6.14), and that paragraph 7.7.1 proposes this including a desk-based assessment (supplemented with sites visits), non-intrusive geophysical survey (magnetometry) and archaeological trial trenching.

I note that some initial background research has been undertaken during the production of this scoping report, which including obtaining information from the relevant Historic Environment Records (HER). I would, however, highlight that, as referenced in paragraph 7.3.2 this background research only included examining any ‘**other readily available online information** sources such as aerial photographs, historic mapping etc [emphasis mine]’. The desk-based assessment undertaken as part of the ES process should also examine any other relevant background material including that held by the relevant Record Offices and other archives, not just that available on-line.

I would also highlight my comments above in respect of the ineffectiveness of geophysical survey at determining the absence of the archaeological features, as whilst that survey will hopefully provide information which will help guide the trial trench locations (i.e. it may identify potential archaeological features which can be targeted by the trenching), the absence of any such features across any part of the proposal site should not be taken to indicate that an area is ‘blank’ and therefore does not warrant trial trenching.

Para. 7.7.3 states that the study area for potential impacts will include ‘the footprint of the proposed scheme plus any land outside that footprint which includes any heritage assets which could be physically affected’. It is not clear whether this includes any areas of temporary works, such as site compounds and temporary access roads where heritage assets have not yet been identified; it should. It should also consider any potential impacts caused by works to mitigate other environmental impacts, for example, areas of planting to screen the works, areas of ecological mitigation etc which may lie outside of the main construction site.

I would be happy to advise further on the scope of the archaeological assessment and the relevant ES chapter on request.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Stocks
Senior Historic Environment Officer