

# **A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)**

## **Scheme number: TR010066**

### **6.3 Environmental Statement**

#### **Appendices**

#### **Appendix 7.2 Landscape Character**

APFP Regulations 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT APPENDICES  
Appendix 7.2 Landscape Character**

<b>Regulation Number</b>	Regulation 5(2)(a)
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# 1. Project Landscape Character Areas

## 1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. Following a review of published landscape character information and preliminary site visit, it was determined that the study area consists of four distinctive local landscape character areas. For the purposes of this assessment these four areas have been defined as Project Landscape Character Areas (PLCA), as shown on Environmental Statement (ES) Figure 7.2 (Landscape Character Context) (**TR010066/APP/6.2**). These four PLCAs have been scoped into the assessment of effects due to the Scheme on landscape character.
- 1.1.2. PLCAs ensure that the assessment of landscape effects focuses on the identification of change that would occur to a specific landscape characteristic or feature due to the Scheme, and not to a part of a wider character area which would have limited or no inter-visibility with the Scheme.
- 1.1.3. The following tables summaries the baseline context, sensitivity operational phase mitigation and construction and operation effects of the Scheme on each PLCA as outlined below. The identified effects are summarised within the main ES Chapter 7 (Landscape and Visual Effects) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**):
- Baseline landscape description: a summary of the key characteristics of the landscape within the extents of the study area that have a bearing on the sensitivity of the PLCA to the Scheme (such as the key characteristics and attributes that are likely to be indicators of the sensitivity of each PLCA to the addition of highway infrastructure).
  - Landscape sensitivity: an identification of a sensitivity rating of the landscape area relative to the Scheme.
  - Operational phase mitigation: outlines PLCA specific design, mitigation, and enhancement measures. Mitigation measures will be integrated into the design of the Scheme to reduce identified landscape effects.
  - Construction and operation (year 1 and 15) phase effects of the Scheme.

## 1.2. Assessment of Project Landscape Character Areas

Table 1-1 PLCA 1 - Walsgrave Hill and Valley including Hungerley Hall Farm

PLCA 1 - Walsgrave Hill and Valley including Hungerley Hall Farm Refer to Figure 7.2 Landscape Character Context (TR010066/APP/6.2)
<p><b>Baseline landscape description:</b></p> <p>This Project Landscape Character Area (PLCA) runs north to south from just off the A46 along Central Boulevard to the northern edge of Coombe Abbey Park. The character area is bisected by the A46, towards the west, following the route of the River Sowe, spreading south across the agricultural fields to B4082.</p> <p>The topography in the character area, east of the A46 rises towards Walsgrave Hill (92m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)) before falling northwards across the valley to Walsgrave Hill Farm and Hill Park Woods and southwards across agricultural fields to the northern edge of Coombe Abbey Park.</p> <p>The two key characteristics of the area are large irregular agricultural fields bound by gappy hedgerows and linear mature woodland belt and hedgerows along the A46 verges. Overall, the A46 has a strong influence on the area in landscape character terms physically and perceptually by cutting through the agricultural fields on the eastern edge of Coventry near Hungerley Hall Farm.</p>
<p><b>Landscape value:</b></p> <p>This PLCA 1 is considered to be of <b>Medium</b> value. This value reflects the balance between no national designations associated with PLCA 1 and local perception of the value attributed through recreation (footpath network) and agricultural resources present along this peri-urban edge of Coventry.</p>
<p><b>Landscape character susceptibility:</b></p> <p>Despite highway infrastructure being a strong influence and existing feature of this PLCA, susceptibility of the PLCA 1 would be <b>High</b>. This high susceptibility results from road Scheme design alterations in alignment, installation of a grade separated junction and related highway infrastructure elements (lighting, gantries, or signage). In addition to potential changes and loss in PLCA 1 baseline character, in terms of linear mature woodland belt and hedgerows along the A46 verges and effects on surrounding field patterns.</p>
<p><b>Landscape sensitivity:</b></p> <p>Combining landscape value and susceptibility of its key characteristics, overall sensitivity of PLCA 1, is assessed to be <b>Medium</b>; in relation to the potential effects of design alternations in highway infrastructure and associated elements (lighting, gantries, or signage) along the A46.</p>
<p><b>Construction effects:</b></p> <p>The construction stage effects of the Scheme primarily result from the removal of existing vegetation and effects on landscape character due to the temporary presence of construction activities.</p> <p>Construction activities include, but not limited to, general site clearance, excavation of cuttings, formation of new earthworks, construction of the new grade separated junction and associated overbridge, carriageway and drainage assets, realignment of existing carriageway, storage of materials and topsoil, presence of plant equipment, and construction vehicles as well as temporary traffic measures.</p> <p>Aside from the existing A46, this is a relatively calm landscape, and the presence of construction activities would adversely affect the peri-urban character of PLCA 1. In landscape character terms, there would be loss and changes to key landscape features including hedgerows, trees and woodland cover and field pattern on land adjacent to the A46. In conjunction with temporary construction effects of introducing permanent features including a detention basin, two ponds and a drainage ditch, grade separated junction and associated overbridge and carriageway, this would adversely alter the baseline landscape character during the construction period.</p> <p>Considering these changes which would cause a loss and alterations to a number of key landscape characteristics through the construction of the Scheme and introduction of noticeably incongruous elements and activity into the landscape, there would be a <b>Major adverse magnitude</b> of landscape character change and a <b>Large adverse significance</b> of effect on the character of the PLCA 1.</p>

**Operational phase mitigation:**

Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (TR010066/APP/6.2))

Along the Scheme's western boundary, there would be hedgerows with tree planting to reinstate the field pattern lost along the Scheme embankments' base. Woodland belts and scrub planting with scattered trees along the B4082 link road aim to integrate and screen the Scheme.

Specific visual mitigation measures relating to Hungerley Hall Farm property and associated buildings would include hedgerow with trees to the rear with a dense woodland belt between the A46 and B4082 link road. The proposed SUDs area at Hungerly Hall Farm offers landscape and visual integration and includes hedgerow planting with individual trees, woodland, scrub planting and different grassland habitats.

Along the Scheme's eastern boundary, hedge planting to reinstate field patterns lost along the embankments base, along with isolated trees along the road verge which tie into the wider former parkland estate character near to Coombe Abbey Park would be introduced.

**Operation effects in year 1:**

Clearance of hedgerows, trees, and woodland belt cover, in addition to new earthworks and related infrastructure associated with; the grade separated junction and overbridge, B4082 link road near Hungerley Hall Farm would be most evident at year 1.

Although the landscape integration and reinstatement design of the Scheme would be considered and appropriate, prior to the establishment of mitigation planting, alterations in the constitution of the landscape character and loss of key features would be apparent.

As such at year 1 of operation, the Scheme would result in a **Moderate adverse magnitude** of landscape change with a **Moderate adverse significance** of effect on the character of the PLCA 1.

**Operation effects in year 15:**

The aim of mitigation planting is to reinstate the two key characteristics of the area lost by the Scheme, including hedgerows with trees along field boundaries adjacent to A46 and linear woodland belt along the A46 verges. In addition to connecting into the wider existing landscape character through additional planting including woodland blocks, scrub, hedgerows, and scattered trees.

By year 15 of operation, the change due to the Scheme would have reduced and there would be a **Minor adverse magnitude** of change and a **Slight beneficial significance** on PLCA 1. This reduction in effect reflects the enhancements associated with mitigation planting, the restoration of the baseline conditions and current characteristics of PLCA 1 affected by the Scheme.

The lesser reduction in magnitude of change between year 1 and year 15, is due to the proximity of the A46, especially the grade separated junction, related highway infrastructure (lighting, gantries, or signage), B4082 link road and the wider effect associated with residual traffic movements.

Table 1-2 PLCA 2 - Coombe Abbey Park and Old Lodge Farm

<b>PLCA 2 - Coombe Abbey Park and Old Lodge Farm</b> <b>Refer to Figure 7.2 Landscape Character Context (TR010066/APP/6.2)</b>
<p><b>Baseline landscape character:</b></p> <p>This PLCA encompasses Coombe Abbey Park and agricultural fields, south of the B4027 associated with Old Lodge Farm, just north of Binley Woods. These two areas were part of the former wider Coombe Abbey estate. Coombe Abbey Park has a strong sense of landscape character, consisting of lime tree lined avenue drive, scattered parkland trees, roundels, and vistas; surrounded by a thick woodland belt, consisting of walks and Coombe Pool Fishery (open selected times of the year, June to March).</p> <p>The 'Twelve O'clock Ride' and Coombe Abbey Park entrance drive (both outside of the PLCA2 boundary, to the east) are part of the Centenary Way Long Distance Footpath, which link the two areas together. Agricultural fields surrounding Old Lodge Farm are large and irregular, bound by gappy hedgerows and isolated field trees.</p>
<p><b>Landscape value:</b></p> <p>PLCA 2 is considered to be of <b>High</b> value as it contains Coombe Abbey Park, a registered historic landscape, including a series of footpaths associated with parkland as well as local value attributed to agricultural resources near Old Lodge Farm.</p> <p>For more information on Coombe Abbey Park Registered Park and Garden (RPG), refer to ES Chapter 6 (Cultural Heritage) (TR010066/APP/6.1).</p>
<p><b>Landscape character susceptibility:</b></p> <p>As described in the Baseline landscape character section, the immediate surrounding landscape of Coombe Abbey Park is important to how the location is perceived. The Scheme and wider study area sits within its locality, any changes the local landscape resulting from highway infrastructure, would potentially have impacts upon the baseline character and therefore susceptibility of PLCA 2 would be <b>High</b>.</p>
<p><b>Landscape sensitivity:</b></p> <p>Potential effects of design alternations in highway infrastructure and associated elements (lighting, gantries, or signage) on the surrounding local landscape of Coombe Abbey Park would potentially have impacts upon the character of the area. Combining landscape value and susceptibility of its key characteristics, the overall sensitivity of PLCA 2 is assessed to be <b>High</b>.</p>
<p><b>Construction effects:</b></p> <p>The construction stage effects of the Scheme primarily result from the removal of existing vegetation and effects on landscape character due to the temporary presence of construction activities.</p> <p>Construction activities include, but not limited to, general site clearance, excavation of cuttings, formation of new earthworks, construction of the new grade separated junction and associated overbridge, carriageway and drainage assets, realignment of existing carriageway, storage of materials and topsoil, presence of plant equipment, and construction vehicles as well as temporary traffic measures.</p> <p>Aside from the existing A46 and B4027 (Brinklow Road), this is a quiet landscape, and the presence of construction activities would adversely affect perceived character of PLCA 2. Due to the extent of the Scheme works the Construction activities will be limited within PLCA 2 to tree belt removal and proposed earthworks (environmental bund) along the boundary of the A46 and Coombe Pool.</p> <p>Changes to this key landscape feature, in close proximity to Coombe Abbey Park, would impact the baseline landscape character during the construction period. Considering the limited geographical extent, temporary construction period and existing baseline character; there would be a <b>Minor adverse magnitude</b> of landscape character change and a <b>Slight adverse significance</b> of effect on the character of the PLCA 2.</p>
<p><b>Operational phase mitigation:</b></p> <p>Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (TR010066/APP/6.2)).</p> <p>Along the Scheme's boundary with Coombe Abbey Park infill scrub with intermittent trees and various grassland types are proposed to reinstate the temporary landscape character lost during construction.</p>
<p><b>Operation effects in year 1:</b></p>

Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting, loss of mature woodland belt cover and presence of new earthworks (environmental bund) associated with the realignment of A46 would be most evident at year 1. However, despite change in the baseline landscape character, the extent would be geographically limited to the western boundary edge of the PLCA. As such at year 1 of operation the Scheme would result in a **Minor adverse magnitude** of landscape change with a **Slight adverse significance** of effect on the character of the PLCA 2.

**Operation effects in year 15:**

At year 15 of operation the change due to the Scheme would have lessened resulting in **Negligible magnitude** of change and a **Slight beneficial significance** of landscape effect on PLCA 2. This reduction in significance reflects the limited geographical extent of the changes caused by the Scheme, existing intervening landform, vegetation, and mitigation planting replicating characteristics of the wider PLCA 2 affected by the Scheme along Coombe Abbey Park and A46 boundary.



Table 1-3 PLCA 3 - Gainford Rise Open Space (Smite Brook) and Binley

PLCA 3 - Gainford Rise open space (Smite Brook) and Binley (Coventry East) Refer to Figure 7.2 Landscape Character Context (TR010066/APP/6.2)
<p><b>Baseline landscape character:</b></p> <p>This PLCA runs from the existing Walsgrave Junction southwards to the A428 near Binley. The area is predominantly a mix of residential developments circa 1960s – 1970s spreading north from Clifford Bridge Road, across Brinklow Road (B4027) and latterly 1990s south along Skipworth Road. The southern edge of the character area consists of out-of-town business and retail parks along Kynner Way and Harry Weston Road.</p> <p>The character is very urbanised with little green space. There is a 'green wedge' running along the character area's eastern boundary parallel with the A46, consisting of Smite Brook (part of the Gainford Rise open space). There are also green public open spaces including children's play parks associated with the residential developments along Valencia Road and Hepworth Road.</p>
<p><b>Landscape value:</b></p> <p>PLCA 3 is considered to be of <b>Low</b> value, reflecting the combination of no national designations associated with PLCA 3 and being an area of urban fringe character of predominantly residential and out-of-town retail; as described in the <i>Baseline landscape character</i> section.</p>
<p><b>Landscape character susceptibility:</b></p> <p>As highway infrastructure is a common feature in the urban landscape of PLCA 3, as such the susceptibility would also be <b>Low</b>; due to the limited potential changes in PLCA character based on highway infrastructure alterations.</p>
<p><b>Landscape sensitivity:</b></p> <p>Combining landscape value and susceptibility of its key characteristics, overall sensitivity of PLCA 3 is assessed as <b>Low</b>; due to the limited potential changes in PLCA character as an urban fringe area where highway infrastructure is a common feature.</p>
<p><b>Construction effects:</b></p> <p>The construction stage effects of the Scheme primarily result from the removal of existing vegetation and effects on landscape character due to the temporary presence of construction activities.</p> <p>Construction activities include, but not limited to, general site clearance, excavation of cuttings, formation of new earthworks, construction of the new grade separated junction and associated overbridge, carriageway and drainage assets, realignment of existing carriageway, storage of materials and topsoil, presence of plant equipment, and construction vehicles as well as temporary traffic measures.</p> <p>Loss and changes to woodland belts adjacent to the A46 in relation to the construction of earthworks are limited temporary changes to key landscape features within PLCA 3.</p> <p>Considering the limited geographical extent, temporary construction period and existing baseline character; there would be a <b>Minor adverse magnitude</b> of landscape character change and a <b>Slight adverse significance</b> of effect on the character of the PLCA 3.</p>
<p><b>Operational phase mitigation:</b></p> <p>Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (TR010066/APP/6.2))</p> <p>There are limited interventions in this PLCA afforded by the Scheme. Mitigation measures will reinstate landscape character lost along the roadside during the realignment of the A46 consisting of infill planting along the embankments comprising of woodland blocks, scrub with intermittent trees, individual trees, and various grassland types.</p>
<p><b>Operation effects in year 1:</b></p> <p>Although the landscape integration and reinstatement design of the Scheme would be considered and appropriate, the clearance of hedgerows, trees and woodland belt cover and presence of new earthworks associated with the B4082 link road near Hungerley Hall Farm, would be most evident at year 1.</p> <p>These changes and key features loss, alter the constitution of the landscape character temporarily, prior to the establishment of mitigation planting. As such at year 1 of operation the Scheme would result in a</p>

**Minor adverse magnitude** of landscape change with a **Slight adverse significance** of effect on the character of the PLCA 3.

**Operation effects in year 15:**

At year 15 of operation the change due to the Scheme would have lessened resulting in **Negligible magnitude** of landscape change and a **Neutral significance** of landscape effect on PLCA 3. Reduced significance of effect reflects the limited geographical extent of the changes arising from the Scheme, existing intervening landform and vegetation and mitigation planting replicating the key characteristic of PLCA 3 affected by the Scheme.

Table 1-4 PLCA 4 - Sowe Valley/ Dorchester Way

<b>PLCA 4 - Sowe Valley/Dorchester Way (Coventry East)</b> <b>Refer to Figure 7.2 Landscape Character Context (TR010066/APP/6.2)</b>
<p><b>Baseline landscape character:</b></p> <p>This PLCA is located along the western edge of Coventry, from the intersection of M69 junction 2 and A46 Coventry Eastern Bypass, following the River Sowe and its tributaries southwards towards the Walsgrave roundabout and the B4082 link road.</p> <p>The most northern section comprises of distribution and retail units just off Parkway. Directly south is the Walsgrave residential area located between Hinckley Road in the west and Brade Drive in the east; predominately a 1970s/1980s development with some late 1990s/early 2000s infill. South of the residential Walsgrave area is the University Hospital Coventry which dominates the skyline of the surrounding area.</p> <p>South of University Hospital Coventry, the Sowe Valley follows the River Sowe in a south-eastern direction before heading due south and returning westwards, south of Tesco, near Dorchester Way. Dorchester Way follows the rivers arched route characteristic; the development vernacular consists of predominately 1970s/1980s properties. The area has direct access via a series of public paths off Abbotsbury Close, Bridport Close, Sturminster Close and Fontmell Close to the Sowe Valley/Dorchester Way open space.</p>
<p><b>Landscape value:</b></p> <p>PLCA 4 is considered to be of <b>Low</b> value, reflecting the combination of no national designations associated with PLCA 4 and being an area of urban fringe character of predominantly residential and out-of-town retail.</p>
<p><b>Landscape character susceptibility:</b></p> <p>As highway infrastructure is a common feature in the urban landscape of PLCA 4, the susceptibility would also be <b>Low</b>; due to the limited potential changes in PLCA character based on highway infrastructure alterations.</p>
<p><b>Landscape sensitivity:</b></p> <p>Combining landscape value and susceptibility of its key characteristics, overall sensitivity of PLCA 4 is assessed as <b>Low</b>. This is due to the limited potential changes in PLCA character as an urban fringe area with highway infrastructure already a common feature.</p>
<p><b>Construction effects:</b></p> <p>The construction stage effects of the Scheme primarily result from the removal of existing vegetation and effects on landscape character due to the temporary presence of construction activities.</p> <p>Construction activities include, but not limited to, general site clearance, excavation of cuttings, formation of new earthworks, construction of the new grade separated junction and associated overbridge, carriageway and drainage assets, realignment of existing carriageway, storage of materials and topsoil, presence of plant equipment, and construction vehicles as well as temporary traffic measures.</p> <p>In landscape character terms, loss and changes to key landscape features including hedgerows, trees and woodland cover and field pattern on land adjacent to the A46, would adversely alter the baseline landscape character during the construction period.</p> <p>Considering these temporary changes which would cause a loss and alterations to key landscape characteristics through the construction of the Scheme and introduction of noticeably incongruous elements and activity into the landscape, there would be a <b>Moderate adverse magnitude</b> of landscape character change and a <b>Slight adverse significance</b> of effect on the character of the PLCA 4.</p>
<p><b>Operational phase mitigation:</b></p> <p>Environmental Masterplan (ES Figure 2.4 (TR010066/APP/6.2))</p> <p>Along the Scheme's western boundary, landscape integration and reinstatement would include hedgerow planting with individual trees, woodland block, and scrub planting with scattered trees with specific regard to the grade separated junction. Hedgerow with tree planting would reinstate field pattern lost along the embankments' base with woodland belts, scrub planting with scattered trees along the B4082 link road, aiming to reflect existing baseline landscape character.</p>

**Operation effects in year 1:**

Although the landscape integration and reinstatement design of the Scheme would be considered and appropriate, the clearance of hedgerows, trees and woodland belt cover and presence of new earthworks associated with the grade separated junction and B4082 link road, would be most evident at year 1.

Mitigation planting would not have matured up the grade separated junction embankments or along the realigned A46 verges, as such highway infrastructure elements (lighting, gantries, or signage) associated with the grade separated junction would be prominent man-made features within the landscape.

These changes and a number of key feature losses would alter the constitution of the landscape character temporarily, prior to the establishment of mitigation planting. As such at year 1 of operation the Scheme would result in a **Moderate adverse magnitude** of landscape change with a **Slight adverse significance** of effect on the character of the PLCA 4.

**Operation effects in year 15:**

At year 15 of operation the change due to the Scheme would have lessened resulting in **Minor adverse magnitude** of landscape change with a **Neutral significance** of effect on the character of the PLCA 4.

Mitigation planting would have begun to mature and achieve a level of integration. The realigned A46 verge hedgerow with tree planting would have begun to re-enclose the arable fields, reinstating the lost field pattern.

The lesser reduction in magnitude of change between year 1 and year 15 is due to the proximity of the A46, especially the grade separated junction, related highway infrastructure (lighting, gantries, or signage), B4082 link road and the wider effect associated with residual traffic movements.