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All Interested Parties and Statutory Parties
invited to the Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010066

Date: 9 April 2025

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Planning Act 2008 – Section 88 and 89 and The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 4, 6, 9 and 13**

**Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent
for the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Project**

**Appointment of the Examining Authority, invitation to the preliminary meeting
and notification of hearings**

Following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an examination of the above application I am writing to introduce myself and the other member of the ExA. My name is Neil Humphrey and the other panel member is John McEvoy. A copy of the appointment notice can be viewed under the [Documents tab](#) on the [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

We would like to thank those of you who submitted relevant representations. These representations have assisted us when considering how we will examine this application.



Invitation to the Preliminary Meeting

As a recipient of this letter, you are invited to the preliminary meeting to discuss **the procedure** for the examination of the above application.

Date	Start time	Venue and joining details
Wednesday 7 May 2025	Registration and seating available at venue from: 09:30 Virtual registration Process from: 09:30 Preliminary meeting starts: 10.00	MTC Sopwith Building Airfield Drive, Coventry CV7 9BF and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered

You must register by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) by Friday 25 April 2025 if you intend to participate in the preliminary meeting and provide all the information requested (see below).

If you simply wish to observe the preliminary meeting then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

1. watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or
2. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical event at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to **observe only** by **Friday 25 April 2025** using the [Event Participation Form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Friday 25 April 2025**.

Purpose of the preliminary meeting

The purpose of the preliminary meeting is to enable views to be put to us about how the application should be examined. The ExA will therefore limit the scope of the preliminary meeting to consideration of **how the application will be examined**. See **Annex B** to this letter and the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the



public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for more information.

The preliminary meeting is not an opportunity for you to give your views about what you like or don't like about the application. The merits or disadvantages of the application will only be considered once the examination starts, which is after the preliminary meeting has closed. All relevant and important matters will be taken into account when we make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will take the final decision in this case.

The agenda for the meeting is at **Annex A** to this letter. This has been set following our initial assessment of principal issues arising from our reading of the application documents and the relevant representations received. The initial assessment of principal issues is set out in **Annex C** to this letter.

Written submissions about how the application should be examined

The Planning Act 2008 establishes a principally written process for the examination of applications for Development Consent Orders and representations made in writing carry equal weight to oral representations at all stages of the process.

We are now requesting written submissions from recipients of this letter about how the application should be examined. We particularly wish to hear from you if:

- You consider changes need to be made to the draft examination timetable set out at **Annex D** to this letter; and/or
- you wish to comment about the arrangements for future examination hearings, including the use of virtual methods.

You are invited to make a written submission about how the application is to be examined by **procedural deadline A** (Friday 25 April 2025) (see **Annex D** to this letter).

We request that all submissions are made using the '[Have your say](#)' page on the project webpage on or before **procedural deadline A**. **Annex I** to this letter provides further information about using the '[Have your say](#)' page.

Requests to participate at the preliminary meeting

Please note that you are not required to attend, or make written submissions to, the preliminary meeting in order to participate in the examination. If you are an interested party you can make a written representation and comment on the written representations made by other interested parties during the examination. You will also be able to participate in any hearings that are arranged.

Any request to participate in the preliminary meeting must include the following information:



- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of your letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person; and
- the agenda item on which you wish to speak and a list of the points you wish to make.

Requests to participate should be made using the [Event Participation Form](#) on or before **procedural deadline A** (Friday 25 April 2025).

Please contact the case team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend the preliminary meeting, either virtually or in person.

Format of examination events – preliminary meeting and hearings

The examination of the application will principally be a written process supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for more information.

Both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events form part of the Planning Inspectorate's operating model. We remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings to be held during the examination stage when we provide formal notification of each hearing at least 21 days in advance of it taking place.

We are providing formal notification that the **preliminary meeting will be a blended event and that the open floor hearing (OFH) and the issue specific hearing (ISH) referred to in Annex E to this letter will also be blended events.**

After the preliminary meeting

After the preliminary meeting we will issue a letter (known as the Rule 8 letter) setting out the finalised examination timetable. A note of the meeting will also be published on the [project webpage](#).

Notification of initial hearings

We have made a procedural decision to hold the following initial hearings:

- **Open floor hearing 1 (OFH1)** A blended event to be held on Wednesday 7 May 2025 from 14:30.



- **Issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1)** on initial issues arising from the submission documents. A blended event to be held on 8 May 2025 from 10:00.

Important information about these hearings is contained in **Annex E** to this letter, including what details need to be provided with a request to be heard at a hearing and the procedure that will be followed.

Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority

We have made some further procedural decisions which are set out in detail at **Annexes F and G** to this letter. They are summarised as follows:

Annex F

- The applicant's updates

Annex G

- Statements of common ground.
- Request for suggested locations for an accompanied site inspection.
- Deadline for written representations and local impact reports.
- The applicant to make electronic displays of plans and drawings available at the hearings.
- Notification by statutory parties of their wish to be considered as an IP.
- Additional submissions.

Changes to land interests

When the applicant becomes aware that there has been a change in ownership, or a new interest, in relevant land the applicant is requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an interested party under section 102A of the PA2008 by contacting the case team. The examination timetable includes various deadlines for the submission of an updated Book of Reference and schedule of changes to the Book of Reference, which should include confirmation that relevant persons have been informed of their rights under section 102A.

Managing examination correspondence

Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to interested parties during an examination, we aim to communicate with people by email as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer.

As the examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the [project webpage](#). Please make your submissions at relevant deadlines during the examination using the '[Have your say](#)' section of the project webpage. More information is provided in **Annex I** to this letter

There is also a function on the right-hand side of the project webpage called 'E-mail updates'. This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the examination.



Your status in the examination

You have received this letter because you are a person or organisation who is involved in the NSIP process. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [National Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process](#) for further details.

If, having read the advice, you are still unsure about how you are involved in the process please contact the case team using the details at the top of this letter.

Awards of costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the examination. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance [Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders](#).

Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage](#).

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair examination, it is necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

Examination documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex H** to this letter

We look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Neil Humphrey

Lead Member of the Examining Authority



Annexes

- A** Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting
- B** Introduction to the Preliminary Meeting
- C** Initial Assessment of Principal Issues
- D** Draft Examination Timetable
- E** Notification of initial hearings
- F** The Applicant's Updates
- G** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- H** Examination Documents
- I** Information about the 'Have your say' page

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Annex A - Agenda for the preliminary meeting

Date:	Wednesday 7 May 2025
Registration Process:	from 9.30am
Meeting start time:	10.00am
Venue:	MTC Sopwith Building, Airfield Drive, Coventry CV7 9BF and by virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by phone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
Attendees:	The applicant and interested parties who have pre-registered

Agenda for the preliminary meeting	
09.30am	In-person registration process Registration and seating available at venue for in-person attendees
09.30am	Virtual registration process Please join at 09.30am to enter the virtual lobby. From here you will be admitted to the virtual meeting by the case team and given further instructions.
10.00am Item 1	Preliminary meeting The preliminary meeting will formally open at 10.00am . The Examining Authority will join, welcome participants and lead introductions.
Item 2	The Examining Authority's remarks about the examination process – Annex B to Rule 6 letter.
Item 3	Draft examination timetable – Annex D to Rule 6 letter
Item 4	Procedural decisions – Annex F and G to Rule 6 letter
Item 5	Any other procedural matters
Close of the preliminary meeting	

Annex B - Introduction to the preliminary meeting

Background

This annex provides advance access to information that would usually be included in the Examining Authority (ExA)'s introductory remarks. Please read it carefully, as the ExA will only present a summary of the key points at the preliminary meeting, to ensure that the time available for participants to speak is maximised.

The Examining Authority and the case team

The ExA will introduce themselves at the start of the preliminary meeting.

The ExA will be supported by the Planning Inspectorate case team. During the registration process a member of the case team will welcome and admit participants from the virtual lobby and will be available to answer questions by email before and after the preliminary meeting. The contact email address is:

A46Walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Format

The preliminary meeting and other hearings will consist of blended events. This means that they will be held in person, with some participants opting to attend virtually either online by using Microsoft Teams or by telephone. Aware of videoconferencing fatigue, the ExA will try to ensure that regular breaks are taken. More details will be provided in the relevant agendas for such meetings, if required.

Depending on the topics to be discussed and persons who wish to attend later meetings in the examination period; the ExA may decide to hold virtual only hearings. Advance notice will be given in the subsequent relevant hearing notification should the ExA decide to do this.

The purpose of the preliminary meeting

The preliminary meeting is being held to discuss the arrangements for the examination of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and which will generally be referred to in the preliminary meeting and examination as the 'proposed development'. The application has been made by National Highways, which will be referred to as 'the applicant'.

You will find information about the application and, in due course, documents produced for the examination on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website ([project webpage](#)). The project webpage has links to the examination timetable, relevant representations, examination documents and procedure.

You are encouraged to look at the [project webpage](#) if you haven't already done so, because it will be used to communicate with you and to provide access to documents throughout the examination.

The main purpose of the preliminary meeting is to discuss the arrangements for the examination of the application. **It focuses on the process only, and it will not be looking at the substance of the proposals. Questions, discussions and representations about the merits or disadvantages of the proposed development are for the examination itself which will begin the day after the close of the preliminary meeting.**

The preliminary meeting will be your opportunity to influence the process that the ExA intends to follow. The agenda for the preliminary meeting is attached to this Rule 6 letter at **Annex A**. It is important to have the letter and the agenda in front of you and to refer to them during the course of the preliminary meeting. You may wish to print these in advance for reference.

Government guidance and policy

The application is an NSIP in accordance with the definition in sections 14(1)(h) and 22 of the Planning Act 2008. Under section 22, an NSIP must fall within one of the three categories specified, which are expressly stated to be alternatives. The scheme is an ‘alteration of a highway’ under sections 22(1)(b), 22(3) and 22(4)(b). section 104 of the Planning Act 2008 requires applications to be decided in accordance with the relevant National Policy Statement. The National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN) (Department for Transport (DfT), 2024) sets out principles by which applications for road should be assessed.

The ExA will consider the proposed development in accordance with the NPSNN and any other applicable policy or considerations the ExA deem to be important and relevant. The PA2008 makes it clear that, in making a decision, the relevant Secretary of State “*must decide the application in accordance with any relevant NPS*” (section 104(3)), subject to certain provisos. Essentially, the provisos are that the application must not breach legal or treaty obligations, and that any adverse impact of the proposed development would not outweigh its benefits.

The Secretary of State is entitled to disregard any representations that relate to the merits of the designated National Policy Statement (NPS). In practice, this means that the ExA will not spend time examining representations that challenge policy set out in NPSs, or the validity of NPSs themselves. The focus will be on the merits or disadvantages of the proposed development, tested to the appropriate extent using the tests set out in relevant designated NPSs that are in force.

Other important and relevant planning policies that the ExA may consider include policies in the relevant local authorities’ development plans. However, if these conflict with policy in a NPS, then the NPS will take precedence.

In summary, the preliminary meeting will establish the procedures and timetable for the examination of the proposed development. It will set a framework for the ExA to enable the Secretary of State to consider and decide the application. In doing so, the ExA will have regard to:

- The positions and representations of all interested parties (IPs);

- any local impact reports (LIR) prepared and provided by relevant local authorities;
- other prescribed matters; and
- any other matters that appear to be both relevant and important to the Secretary of State's decision.

Preliminary meeting invitees

The applicant is invited to the preliminary meeting and is generally given the opportunity to reply to any representations made.

Everyone who has made a valid relevant representation has been registered as an interested party (IP) and has been invited to the preliminary meeting. All interested parties are entitled to involvement in the examination.

Each person or organisation with an interest in land or rights that are affected by a compulsory acquisition request in this application is an affected person (AP) and has been invited to the preliminary meeting. In addition to a general entitlement to involvement in the examination, APs have a right to be heard in relation to any objection about the effects of compulsory acquisition on their interests in land, and a right to be notified of any compulsory acquisition hearing. All APs are IPs, whether or not they have made a valid relevant representation.

Certain bodies are statutory parties, and they have been invited to the PM. Statutory parties can elect to become IPs without having made a valid relevant representation by notifying the ExA in writing.

The ExA has the power to involve people who are not IPs in the examination as though they are IPs, including by inviting them to the PM. However, this is only done in exceptional circumstances, for example if it was clear that the application would materially affect a person, they are not automatically an IP or eligible to elect to become an IP and they had been unable to take the necessary action to register as an IP.

Conduct of the preliminary meeting

The ExA estimate that the PM will take up to two hours to complete.

During the PM participants may have to make allowances and be patient if there are delays associated with the technology used. In recognition of the fatigue associated with on-screen communication, the ExA will provide breaks during the PM as appropriate.

A digital recording of the PM will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the PM. The recording allows any member of the public who is interested in the application and the examination to find out what has been discussed at the PM. The making and publication of these recordings are a means by which the ExA meets the legal requirement to hold the PM (and any other hearings) in public. In this regard, **anyone speaking at the PM will need to**

introduce themselves each time they speak, to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the event is clear who was speaking. A written note of the PM will be produced and published as soon as practicable following the close of the PM.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) applies. Participants must do their best to avoid providing any information which should otherwise be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point should ask the case team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain.

The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and retain them for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the DCO. If you actively participate in the PM, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording will be made available in the public domain. Please see our [Privacy Notice](#) for more information about how we handle your data.

Following the ExA's introductions, each participant who has been registered to speak will be asked to introduce themselves, including any organisations or groups that they represent. The ExA will then conduct the meeting in accordance with the agenda (provided in **Annex A**). If you prefer not to have your image recorded, you can switch off your camera at any point.

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online livestream of the event and the recording of the event. A limited number of seats will be available for observers who wish not to be filmed at the venue. Please contact the case team to notify them if you prefer not to be filmed at the event. A transcript of the event will also be published on the project page of our website after the event.

The examination process

The starting point is that the relevant legislation, section 87 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), states that "it is for the Examining Authority to decide how to examine the application".

Examining inspectors are employed by the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate is an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. This is an application for Development Consent. For the examination of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects the ExA produces an independent and impartial report with a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State. In the case of this project this is the Secretary of State for Transport. **It is the Secretary of State who will make the decision on the application, not the ExA.**

The examination of NSIPs follows different processes to those, for example, of a public inquiry into a planning appeal following the refusal of planning permission. **The main differences are that the examination of NSIPs are primarily a written**

process, and hearings take on an inquisitorial approach as opposed to an adversarial one.

This means that the ExA will probe, test and assess the evidence primarily using written questions. While some hearings are held to provide supplementary evidence, questions to the applicant or to witnesses will come from the ExA. Questioning or cross-examination of witnesses by other parties will not generally be allowed.

In terms of opportunities to provide evidence in writing, the draft examination timetable makes provision for the following written processes:

- Local authorities can submit LIRs if they wish. Whilst these are voluntary, the PA2008 provides that if they are provided, they must be considered by the Secretary of State in reaching a decision. Consequently, LIRs are a very important method for local authorities to communicate issues of concern to the ExA, the Secretary of State and their residents.
- IPs can make written representations (WRs) and comment on WRs made by other parties.
- IPs can respond to the ExA's written questions (ExQ) and comment on responses to these written questions provided by others.
- IPs may be asked to contribute to the making of statements of common ground (SoCG) if it appears that there are matters on which they and the applicant agrees, and if it would be useful for this to be clarified. SoCGs most usefully extend to catalogue matters that are not agreed or are outstanding.

The draft examination timetable includes a series of numbered deadlines for receipt of written submissions. Timely submissions received by the relevant deadline and that address its purpose will be accepted. **The latest time for submission of documents at any deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA. Documents received after the relevant deadline are only accepted at the discretion of the ExA and may not be accepted to ensure fairness to all parties.** Circumstances where documents are submitted late without good reason, causing inconvenience or delay to other parties can amount to unreasonable behaviour.

These written processes will be the principal means used by the ExA to gather information, evidence and views about the application. However, the examination will only be effective if all parties resolve to give timely, full, frank, clear and evidenced answers to every question that is relevant to their interests and to engage fully with any other related processes such as the completion of WRs and SoCGs.

There is no merit in withholding or delaying information, or in failing to co-operate, and should it occur, any unreasonable behaviour that caused another party to incur wasted expenditure could lead to an award of costs against the offending party.

The ExA has discretion to make amendments to the examination timetable for the wider benefit of the examination. If possible, events will be arranged for times when all relevant parties are available, but the ExA is under a duty to complete the examination by the end of the six-month period beginning with the day after the close

of the PM. This requirement is set by legislation, and while the ExA will try to rearrange event dates to accommodate all relevant parties, in practice there will be limited scope to alter dates set out in the draft examination timetable.

The statutory time limit for the examination means that where there are matters that still need to be discussed and agreed between the applicant and IPs, it will be very helpful to the ExA if these could be progressed as early as possible.

Hearings

The draft examination timetable (see **Annex D**) includes provision for hearings, at which the ExA takes oral evidence from the various parties.

Any registered IP may request an **open floor hearing** (OFH) to make oral representations about the application if they believe this to be preferable to relying on their written representation, though both carry equal weight. Oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing, but **they should not simply repeat matters previously covered in the written submission**. Rather, they should focus on specific detail and explanation to help inform the ExA. There should be no new or unexpected material in oral representations. A written summary note with any supporting evidence or references will be requested of each speaker following the hearing.

As with all examination events, OFHs are subject to the powers of control of the ExA, as set out in the PA2008 and supporting legislation. Participants must register in advance by the deadline shown in the examination timetable and in accordance with the instructions. It is common practice for the ExA to set a time limit for each speaker and speakers with common points are asked to come together to nominate a spokesperson or representative speakers to cover specific topics, so as to avoid repetition. Speakers representing public authorities, community and membership organisations or multiple IPs are normally provided with an additional time allowance, recognising their representative role.

The applicant's draft DCO provides for the compulsory acquisition of land and rights, and the temporary possession of land. Affected persons (ie those whose land or rights over land are affected) have a right to request and be heard at a **compulsory acquisition hearing** (CAH). If one or more APs request to be heard then a CAH must be held. Provisional dates for CAHs are included in the draft examination timetable along with deadlines by which requests to be heard must be submitted.

The draft examination timetable includes a deadline for participants to notify the ExA that they wish to speak at:

- **An OFH (Procedural deadline A - Friday 25 April 2025); and**
- **A CAH (Deadline 1 – Tuesday 27 May 2025).**

The ExA has the discretion to hold **issue specific hearings** (ISHs) if it would aid in the examination and there is a specific reason this would be more helpful than reliance on written evidence only. The lack of an ISH on one or more topics does not suggest that that topic is less important than others which are subject to a hearing. Rather, it is an indication that the ExA is satisfied that the issues can be fully

considered through written submissions and responses to its written questions and that each party has had a fair opportunity to put its case.

The draft examination timetable includes a number of dates reserved for ISHs and IPs may make suggestions for topics to be discussed at an ISH in their written or oral representations to the PM.

It may be necessary for the ExA to hold more than one ISH on the draft DCO. This is normal practice, and they are held on a without prejudice basis. Parties can suggest modifications and amendments to the draft DCO provided by the Applicant with the application, without prejudicing their overall position on the application.

Holding such hearings does not imply that the ExA has reached any judgements on the merits of the application. Whatever the ultimate recommendation is, the ExA must make sure that the draft DCO is fit for purpose if the Secretary of State decides to grant consent, as any consent will be subject to requirements (ie conditions) set out in the DCO.

At hearings it will not normally be necessary for parties to make long and detailed submissions that require (for example) PowerPoint presentations. Any supporting detail/information can be provided in writing following the event by the relevant deadline.

Site inspections

As part of the examination process the ExA may undertake site inspections. These can be either unaccompanied or accompanied.

The purpose of these is for the ExA to see features of the proposals within the context of the evidence put forward. Notes of unaccompanied site inspections (USIs) are published on the [project webpage](#).

The ExA undertook a USI on 19 and 20 March. The notes of this inspection can be found on the Examination Library [\[EV2-001\]](#)

Accompanied site inspections (ASI) will only be necessary to view land to which there is no public right of access, or with no clear view from nearby locations with open public access. The purpose of ASIs is familiarisation only and no discussion of the merits of the proposed development will be entertained during an ASI.

The ExA may decide to hold USIs to relevant nominated locations, supported by the submission of additional written, photographic, video or even drone material if this would be preferable to not visiting sites or holding ASIs in circumstances which could make them difficult and unduly time-consuming to conduct (for example if public health restrictions are in place). The ExA may also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of a USI on an access required basis (ARSI)

The ExA may not wish or need to hold an accompanied site inspection (ASI). Nevertheless, the draft examination timetable in **Annex D** makes provision for one to be held. At **procedural deadline A (Friday 25 April 2025)**, the ExA requests the submission of suggestions for sites/ locations which may need to be visited on an accompanied basis should an ASI be considered necessary. Before submitting suggestions, IPs should first read the USI note [\[EV2-001\]](#). The ExA is unlikely to need to revisit sites already seen without very good reason for doing so. Please note that it is not possible at an ASI to make further oral representations. If after considering these requests the ExA consider that an ASI is necessary, then the draft examination timetable includes a date (week commencing 8 July 2025) when this could be held.

Annex C - Initial assessment of principal issues

This is the initial assessment of principal issues (IAP1) relating to the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) prepared as required under section 88(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). It has been prepared by the ExA following its reading of:

- The application documents;
- the relevant representations received in respect of the application; and
- its consideration of any other important and relevant matters.

It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant matters, and it also represents a snapshot in time. New issues may arise. Some of the issues identified here may increase in relevance and weight during the Examination and others may decrease or cease to be principal issues. Inevitably, some issues will overlap or interrelate.

The ExA will have regard to all important and relevant matters during the examination and when it writes its recommendation report.

The order of the issues listed does not imply any order of prioritisation or importance; they have been listed alphabetically.

There are a number of matters that will be taken into account as overarching or integral components of the IAP1. These include:

- the need for and the benefits of the proposed development;
- the consideration of alternatives;
- Habitats Regulation Assessment process;
- the achievement of good design;
- the achievement of sustainable development; and
- the effects of linkages/ overlap between issues (in-combination and cumulative effects).

The ExA will conduct all aspects of the examination with these in mind

Initial Principal Issues	
1	Air quality
2	Climate
3	Development Consent Order and control documents
4	Drainage and water environment
5	Ecology
6	Historic environment
7	Landscape and visual
8	Noise and vibration
9	Social, economic and land use considerations
10	Traffic and transport

Annex D - Draft examination timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to **complete** the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the preliminary meeting.

The examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	Procedural deadline A (PDA) Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written submissions on examination procedure, including any submissions about the draft examination timetable.• Requests to be heard orally at the preliminary meeting (PM), including which agenda items you wish to speak on, and why your points need to be made orally rather than in writing (see Annex B to this letter).• Notification of wish to have future correspondence delivered electronically, including confirmation of email address.• Requests by interested parties (IP) to participate in the open floor hearing on 7 May 2025 (see Annex E to this letter).• Requests by IPs to participate in the issue specific hearing on 8 May 2025 (see Annex E to this letter).• Applicant's submission of the land rights tracker (see Annex F to this letter).• Suggested locations for site inspections, including the reason for nomination, issues to be observed there, and whether the location(s) can be accessed using public highways.	Friday 25 April 2025
2.	Preliminary meeting (PM)	Wednesday 7 May 2025 10:00am
3.	Open floor hearing 1 (OFH1) (see Annex E to this letter) (if requested).	Wednesday 7 May 2025 2.30pm

4.	Issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1) on initial issues arising from application submission documents (see Annex E to this letter).	Thursday 8 May 2025 10.00am
5.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The examination timetable. 	As soon as practicable following the preliminary meeting
6.	Deadline 1 (D1) For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-hearing submissions, including written summaries of oral submissions to the hearings held between 7 and 8 May 2025. Comments on relevant representations. Written representations (WR). Summaries of WRs exceeding 1500 words. Local impact reports (LIR) from any local authorities. Comments on any responses to section 51 advice or pre-examination procedural decisions submitted by the applicant before or at the PM. Comments on any additional submissions accepted at the discretion of the ExA (see Annex F to this letter). Comments on the applicant's land rights tracker. Requests by affected persons to participate in a compulsory acquisition hearing. Notification by statutory parties of their wish to be considered as an IP. Applicant's updates (see Annex F) Applicant's draft itinerary for ASI (if required). Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. 	Tuesday 27 May 2025
7.	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ExA's written questions (ExQ1). 	Tuesday 10th June 2025
8.	Deadline 2 (D2) For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on the applicant's draft itinerary for an accompanied site inspection (if held). 	Tuesday 17 June 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D1. • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. 	
9.	<p>Deadline 3 (D3)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExQ1. • Comments on WRs. • Comments on LIRs. • Applicant's updates (see Annex F) • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. • Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D2. 	Tuesday 24 June 2025
10.	<p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved for any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue specific hearing(s) (if required). • Open floor hearing(s) (if required). • Compulsory acquisition hearing(s) (if required). • Accompanied site inspection (if required). 	Week commencing Monday 8 July 2025
11.	<p>Deadline 4 (D4)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing submissions, including written summaries of oral submissions to the hearings held during w/c 8 July 2025 (if held). • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. • Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D3. 	Tuesday 22 July 2025
12.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ExA's further written questions (ExQ2). (if required) 	Tuesday 12 August 2025
13.	<p>Deadline 5 (D5)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p>	Tuesday 26 August 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExQ2 (if issued). • Applicant's updates (see Annex F) • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. • Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D4. 	
14.	Hearings Dates reserved for any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue specific hearing(s) (if required). • Open floor hearing(s) (if required). • Compulsory acquisition hearing(s) (if required). 	w/c 15 September 2025
15.	Publication by the ExA of: The report on the implications for European sites (RIES) and any associated questions (if required).	Tuesday 23 September 2025
16.	Deadline 6 (D6) For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing submissions, including written summaries of oral submissions to the hearings held during w/c 15 September 2025 (if held). • Applicant's updates (see Annex F) • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. • Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D5. 	Tuesday 14 October 2025
17.	Publication by the ExA of: The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if required).	Tuesday 21 October 2025
18.	Deadline 7 (D7) For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to the RIES (if issued). • Responses to the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if issued). • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. 	Tuesday 28 October 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D6. 	
19.	<p>Deadline 8 (D8)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant's final updates (See Annex E) Applicant's closing summary statement. Summary statements from parties regarding matters that they have previously raised during the examination and that have not been resolved to their satisfaction. Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D7. 	Tuesday 4 November 2025
20.	<p>Deadline 9 (D9)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. 	Thursday 6 November 2025
21.	The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months	Friday 7 November 2025

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions.

Report on the implications for European sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's recommendation to the Secretary of State. The ExA may also raise questions in the RIES to confirm or clarify matters that remain outstanding.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of The Habitats Regulations 2017.

Annex E - Notification of initial hearings

The Examining Authority (ExA) provides notice of the following initial hearings:

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue and joining details
Wednesday 7 May 2025	Open floor hearing	Registration and seating available at venue from: 14.00 Virtual registration Process from: 14.00 Hearing starts: 14.30	MTC Sopwith Building Airfield Drive, Coventry CV7 9BF and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
Thursday 8 May 2025	Issue specific hearing (ISH1) On initial issues arising from the application submission documents	Registration and seating available at venue from: 09.30 Virtual Registration Process from: 09.30 Hearing starts: 10.00	MTC Sopwith Building Airfield Drive, Coventry CV7 9BF and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered

NOTE: If any of the above hearings are no longer required then notification that a particular date is no longer required will be published as soon as practicable on the [project webpage](#), providing reasonable notice to interested parties of the decision to cancel them.

You must register by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) by procedural deadline A, Friday 25 April 2025 if you intend to participate in of the hearings and provide all the information requested (see below).

If you simply wish to observe any of the hearings then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

1. watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or

2. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical hearing at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to **observe only** by **Friday 25 April 2025** using the [Event Participation Form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Friday 25 April 2025**.

Any request to participate in a hearing **must include** the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;
- confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in, the agenda item(s) on which you wish to speak and/or brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise;
- the [Examination Library](#) reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

Requests to participate should be made using the [Event Participation Form](#) on or before **procedural deadline A**.

Please contact the case team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend any of the hearings, either virtually or in person.

Hearing agendas

For the issue specific hearing the ExA will publish a high level draft agenda on the [project webpage](#) at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of the hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For the open floor hearing an agenda may not be published.

Procedure at hearings

The examination of the application will principally be a written process supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. See the

Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for more information.

The Planning Inspectorate's advice for members of the public provides important information about hearing procedures:

- [What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event](#)
- [Registering to speak at, or attend, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event](#)

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties.

Hearing livestream and recording

A link to a livestream for each hearing will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before any hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe a hearing in real time.

All hearings are recorded, and the recordings will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the examination to find out what has been discussed.

Annex F – The applicant’s updates

The draft examination timetable in **Annex D** includes deadlines for the applicant to provide updates to the examination. The deadlines are set at points in the timetable where it will help with the smooth running of the examination for the ExA to have the up-to-date information at that time. This annex sets out the ExA’s procedural decision for the matters to be included in the applicant’s updates.

Statements of common ground

Annex G sets out the statements of common ground (SoCG) between the applicant and various interested parties that are requested by the ExA, and the matters to be covered.

The SoCG are to be accompanied by a document summarising:

- The status of each SoCG.
- The matters agreed between the applicant and each interested party.
- The main outstanding concerns held by each interested party, the reasons for those concerns, the next steps to be taken to address them and the progress anticipated by the next submission of the applicant’s update and by the close of the examination.
- When it is anticipated that any draft SoCG will be finalised and when the finalised signed and dated copies will be submitted to the examination.

Final versions must be submitted by deadline 8.

Statement of commonality of SoCG

The statement of commonality of SoCG is a ‘living’ document that provides a table showing commonality on specific points between the various SoCG. The purpose of this document is to provide the ExA with an overview of the position between the applicant and the relevant parties.

Navigation document

The navigation document is a ‘living’ document which should capture all updates/ revisions to the application documents along with any new documents submitted into the examination by the applicant. A final version must be submitted by deadline 8.

Updates to the Book of Reference, Statement of Reasons and Land Plans

The latest, fully up-to-date versions of Book of Reference, Statement of Reasons, Land Plans, and any related updates to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO).

Land Rights Tracker

The ExA notes the ‘Schedule of all objections to the granting of compulsory acquisition powers and progress of negotiations with land interests subject to compulsory acquisition powers, which forms Annex B to the Statement of Reasons [\[APP-008\]](#). However, the ExA wishes to take this data a stage further with the capture and manipulation of all non-agreed land rights at the outset of the examination in a simple, usable table. The aim is to make the process of the applicant’s reporting of ongoing discussions with affected persons and others much easier, and the reporting of such matters to the Secretary of State more efficient.

With that in mind, the ExA has made a procedural decision to request that the applicant completes and maintains a land rights tracker; an example of which will be sent to the applicant by the case team. In the example, the structure of the land rights tracker would provide a comprehensive account of the status of non-agreed affected persons, with certain cells providing a restricted drop-down menu of possible responses. Open cells would only be inputted with succinct, focused wording to ensure the table is readable. The ExA and Secretary of State would, upon receipt of regular updates and final versions of the land rights tracker, be able to manipulate and sort the table for accurate referencing and review.

The ExA recognises the tracker is in draft only and is not a statutory requirement. However, it is hoped that the applicant and affected persons will recognise the purpose of the land rights tracker is to simplify the whole examination, recommendation and decision-making process, and the use of dropdown menus will hopefully make the process of updating the tracker a relatively simple and speedy process. The ExA hopes all parties will therefore positively engage in the process.

Should the applicant consider that the required information for the land rights tracker can be captured in a different and more efficient way or by using different software, it may wish to discuss with the case manager and update the ExA at the preliminary meeting.

In order to further assist in the smooth running of the examination the land rights tracker is to be accompanied by a document summarising the progress made since the last submission.

The examination timetable in Annex D sets out the submission dates for the land rights tracker and summary document. Affected persons will have the opportunity to provide a response at the next deadline following the applicant’s submissions deadline. The applicant can avoid submitting updates as stated above if there are no changes to the previous version. In this situation the applicant should set out that no changes have been made since last submission in the covering letter submitted at the relevant deadline.

The above information will be published on the [project webpage](#), so commercial and/ or confidential details need not be given.

Updates to the dDCO and Explanatory Memorandum

To include:

- The latest, fully up-to-date versions of the dDCO and Explanatory Memorandum.
- Clean copies and copies showing tracked changes to the previous versions.
- A clean (all tracking removed) standalone MS Word version of the dDCO, with no header or cover page. (*This will not be published, it is for our internal use*) **(at D5 and D8 only)**.
- The email notification from <https://publishing.legislation.gov.uk/> confirming the dDCO has successfully passed validation. (This will be redacted and published) **(at D8 only)**.
- The statutory instrument (SI) validation report – the PDF version available through the link in the email notification. (This will not be published) **(At D8 only)**
- A table showing the amendments made to the dDCO in each update and the reasons for the changes made.

Status of negotiations with statutory undertakers

A schedule of progress in relation to the protective provisions included in the draft Development Consent Order, and any related side agreements, setting out:

- The name of each organisation that each protective provision applies to where this is not identified in the draft Development Consent Order.
- The scope and purpose of any relevant side agreements with each organisation.
- Whether the protective provisions and any side agreements have been agreed with each organisation, providing written evidence from each party of any agreement. If written confirmation is not received by all relevant parties before the close of the examination, then the ExA may be minded to recommend to the Secretary of State that it does not make a decision until it has satisfied itself that the protective provisions and any relevant side agreements have been agreed.
- A summary of the progress made since the last update, any outstanding matters, the next steps to be taken, and the progress anticipated by the close of the examination.

The above information will be published on the [project webpage](#), so commercial and/ or confidential details need not be given.

Schedule of progress in securing other consents

The schedule of progress in securing other consents is a 'living' document which should be updated throughout the examination. The ExA requests that the Consents and Agreements Position Statement [[APP-007](#)] is updated as the status of negotiations with the relevant consenting authority progresses.

Annex G - Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority

In addition to the required applicant's updates set out in Annex F above, the Examining Authority (ExA) has made the following additional procedural decisions:

1 Statements of common ground (SoCG)

In relation to some of the principal Issues identified in **Annex C** to this letter, the ExA would be assisted by the preparation of SoCGs between the applicant and certain interested parties. The draft examination timetable at **Annex D** to this letter therefore establishes **deadline 1** for submission of the initial SoCGs as part of the applicant's updates (see **Annex F**).

The aim of a SoCG is to agree factual information and to inform the ExA and all other parties by identifying where there is agreement and where the differences lie at an early stage in the examination process. It should provide a focus and save time by identifying matters which are not in dispute or need not be the subject of further evidence. It can also usefully state where and why there may be disagreement about the interpretation and relevance of the information. Unless otherwise stated or agreed, the SoCG should be agreed between the applicant and the other relevant interested party or parties and submitted **by the applicant**.

SoCGs are requested to be prepared between the applicant and:

- 1) Warwickshire County Council.
- 2) Coventry City Council.
- 3) Rugby Borough Council.
- 4) The Environment Agency.
- 5) Historic England.
- 6) Natural England.

All of the SoCGs listed above should cover the articles and requirements in the draft Development Consent Order. Any interested party seeking that an article or requirement is reworded should provide the form of words which are being sought.

The draft examination timetable makes provision for updated SoCGs to be submitted at various deadlines with final versions by **deadline 8**.

2 Accompanied site inspection – suggested locations

The draft examination timetable at **Annex D** to this letter includes a date reserved for an accompanied site inspection (ASI) on week commencing 8 July 2025.

The ExA requests that interested parties submit suggested locations for the ExA to visit as part of an ASI by **procedural deadline A** (Friday 25 April 2025). The request must include:

- Sufficient information to identify the location;
- the issues to be observed at the location;
- information on whether the site can be accessed via public land; and
- the reason why the location has been suggested.

Interested parties should be aware that ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to the ExA about the proposed development. However, participants may be invited by the ExA to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

The applicant is requested to prepare a draft itinerary for the ASI to be submitted by **deadline 1**. This should include:

- Relevant locations referred to in the relevant representations received;
- any other locations at which the applicant has predicted likely significant environmental effects; and
- the locations suggested by interested parties submitted by **procedural deadline A**.

Comments by interested parties on the applicant's draft itinerary must be submitted by **deadline 2**.

The ExA will consider each suggested site location, including those provided in the applicant's draft itinerary, to determine if it could be viewed from public land on an unaccompanied basis or if it is necessary to view it on an accompanied basis. The ExA will also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of an unaccompanied site inspection on an access required basis.

The ExA will publish its final itinerary at least five working days before the date of the ASI.

3 Deadline for the submission of written representations and local impact reports

In order to maximise the time available to examine the application the ExA has made the procedural decision to request written representations (WRs) and local impact reports (LIRs) at **deadline 1 (Tuesday 27 May 2025)**. For the avoidance of doubt, the ExA wishes to make it clear that WRs and LIRs are two separate documents and must be submitted separately and independently of each other.

Rule 10(2) of the Examination Procedure Rules sets out the minimum notice period of 21 days, which the ExA must provide notice for the submission of WRs. However, as the deadline for submission of WRs is set at **deadline 1 (Tuesday 27 May 2025)** and the ExA is giving notice, in this letter, in excess

of 21 days, the ExA is satisfied that IPs have been permitted sufficient time in which to draft and submit WRs.

4 The Applicant to make electronic displays of plans and drawings available at hearings

For any issue specific and compulsory acquisition hearings, the ExA may wish to refer to plans and drawings to assist in discussion points. The applicant is therefore requested to make provisions for the electronic display of such plans and documents. The ExA will provide details in advance of which plans and drawings will be required.

For IPs joining virtually, the ExA considers the most appropriate way of participation would be for persons to have access to the Examination Library. As each plan or drawing is uploaded, the ExA will notify those persons attending virtually of the EL reference number (eg [APP-001]) and IPs will then be able to access the document themselves. The ExA considers this to be preferable to the alternative of low-resolution plans and drawings being prepared and screened on Microsoft Teams by the applicant which, despite best intentions, are often difficult to see and navigate for online users.

5 Deadline for notification by statutory parties of their wish to be considered as an interested party

The ExA has made a procedural decision that, in order to facilitate a timely start to the examination, statutory parties must have decided whether they wish to be considered as an IP and notified the Planning Inspectorate of their decision by **deadline 1**.

6 Additional submissions

In addition to the documentation submitted by **procedural deadline A** the ExA has exercised its discretion and made a procedural decision to accept the following additional submissions:

1	Applicant's response to s51 advice [PD-002] issued on 12 December 2024 – [AS-001] to [AS-013]
2	Applicants documents in compliance with Section 56 and 59 of Planning Act 2008 – [AS-014] to [AS-021]
3	North Warwickshire Borough Council – additional submission [AS-022]

Annex H - Examination documents

The application documents and relevant representations can be inspected on the [project webpage](#).

How to stay up to date

All further documents submitted in the course of the examination will also be published under the [Documents tab](#) of the project webpage.

You can also sign up to get [email updates](#).

If you have any questions about the process, examination events or how to access the documents, you can email A46Walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or contact us on 0303 444 5000.

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the [Examination Library](#) (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue button under the documents tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- Each application document;
- each representation made to the examination; and
- each procedural decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. **Please quote the unique reference number from the EL when referring to any examination documents in any future submissions that you make.**

Annex I - Information about the 'Have your say' page

The '[Have your say](#)' page is available on the [project webpage](#).

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top your postcard or email from the Planning Inspectorate) beginning either 2002 or A46W-AFP, A46W-S5, or A46W-SO. If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do not have your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered interested party then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

You will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on a third party website eg technical reports, media articles etc. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [Advice for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about making written submissions. All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary; this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

You should select the relevant deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate submission item as described in the examination timetable at **Annex D** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the Submission items then please select the submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the '[Have your say](#)' page please contact the case team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.