



Our ref: TR010066

FAO Neil Humphrey
Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

National Highways
A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN

0300 123 5000

25 April 2025

Dear Mr Humphrey,

**A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSGRAVE) – TR010066
APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO RULE 6 LETTER**

Introduction

In advance of the Preliminary Meeting in respect of the application for the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Scheme (the "Application"), this letter addresses a number of matters raised in the Examining Authority's (ExA) notice of the Preliminary Meeting (the Rule 6 Letter (**PD-006**)), to be discussed further at the Preliminary Meeting if necessary.

Statements of Common Ground (Annex G)

National Highways was already working towards producing Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with a number of consultees in relation to the Scheme, which aligns with the requested SoCGs from the ExA in Annex G of the Rule 6 Letter (**PD-006**), as follows:

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

National Highways will endeavour to meet the deadlines set out in the timetable in relation to submission of the SoCGs, with them first being submitted at Deadline 1.

National Highways will also keep the ExA updated on the progress of the SoCGs and negotiation with the Statutory Undertakers and any required Protective Provisions throughout the Examination.

Timetable for Examination

National Highways has the following comments on the ExA's timetable:

Overall timescale

In general, the Applicant believes that given the lack of significant issues raised by the Application (including the short initial assessment of principal issues list in the Rule 6 letter), the small number of relevant representations submitted and the general support the Scheme has received, the examination could be shortened, for example to around four months, as any outstanding issues are likely to be resolved quickly.

We anticipated the six SoCGs that have now been requested by the Examining Authority in the Rule 6 letter several months ago, and they are currently near completion. We will be able to update the Examining Authority on further progress at the Preliminary Meeting.

Item 7 - Publication by the ExA of: The ExA's written questions (ExQ1) - 10 June 2025

The Applicant considers that the ExA's questions are proposed to be issued later than usual in the examination timetable, and only two weeks are scheduled to answer them, with responses requested by Deadline 3 on 24 June 2025. The Applicant requests that these questions are issued earlier, if possible. This will aid the Applicant and any other consultees that need to contribute to answering the ExA's questions to resolve any remaining issues sooner and assist in working towards a shorter examination.

Item 12 - Publication by the ExA of: The ExA's further written questions (ExQ2). (if required) - 12 August 2025

The second round of the ExA's questions in August also provides two weeks to respond, by 26 August. The Applicant requests for these questions to be published before the start of the school summer holidays (end of July), if possible, if they are required.

Item 13 - Deadline 5 - 26 August 2025

This deadline falls the day after the August Bank Holiday. The Applicant is mindful of ensuring that its staff, consultants, advisers and contractors are able to take adequate breaks and are not required to work over the Bank Holiday break. It would assist the Applicant in preparing its responses to this deadline, to move Deadline 5 back to Friday 22 August. This will still allow the Applicant and other Interested Parties sufficient time to respond to the deadlines. It is not anticipated that this will affect the progress of the Examination.

Item 15 - Publication by the ExA of: The report on the implications for European sites (RIES) and any associated questions (if required) - 23 September 2025

The Applicant is currently settling an SoCG with Natural England. The Applicant believes that Natural England will agree that there is no impact on European sites, and this will be recorded in the SoCG. Therefore, the Applicant requests that the deadline for the publication of the Report on the Implications for European Sites and responding to it is either brought forward in the timetable or is eliminated altogether. This will assist with achieving a shorter examination.

Documents submitted at Procedural Deadline A

Table 1 provides a complete list of all documents being submitted by the Applicant and the reasons for their submission. The documents are submitted in clean and tracked change versions if they are updated versions of existing documents.

Table 1 List of documents

Updated Documents				
Document Title	Document Number	Planning Inspectorate Document Reference for latest version	Revision	Reason for Submission
Land Plans	2.2	APP-012	1	Updated due to changes in land from permanent acquisition to temporary possession
Draft Development Consent Order	3.1	APP-005	1	Updated due to changes in land from permanent acquisition to temporary possession and other changes
Explanatory Memorandum	3.1	APP-006	1	Updated to reflect the changes made to the draft DCO
Statement of Reasons	4.1	APP-008	1	Updated due to changes in land from permanent acquisition to temporary possession
Book of Reference	4.3	AS-016	2	Updated due to changes to parties, including changes in land from permanent acquisition to temporary possession
New Documents				
Application Document Tracker	8.1	X	0	Submitted following request from ExA in Rule 6 letter (PD-006)
Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker	8.2	X	0	Submitted following request from ExA in Rule 6 letter (PD-006)
Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order	8.3	X	0	Submitted following updates to the draft Development Consent Order
Other				
Applicant's Response to Rule 9 - Procedural decision requesting further information from National Highways	X	X	X	Submitted following Rule 9 - Procedural decision requesting further information from National Highways (PD-005) from ExA on 20 March 2025
Applicant's Response to Rule 6 Letter	X This document	X	X	Submitted following request from ExA in Rule 6 letter (PD-006)

Please do not hesitate to make contact should you need clarification on any of the matters detailed within this letter.

Yours sincerely,



National Highways Project Manager for A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)
A46CoventryJcns@nationalhighways.co.uk
