

Date: 25 April 2025
Our ref: 510649
Your ref: TR010066



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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear John McEvoy

Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)– Rule 6 Letter

Thank you for your consultation dated 09 April 2025. The following constitutes Natural England's formal statutory response to the Rule 6 Letter. Natural England is an Interested Party (IP) within the examination of the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)

1. Attendance of the Preliminary Meeting

Thank you for your invitation to the Preliminary Meeting on the 7 May 2025. Natural England will not be attending as we have no comments to make on the procedural aspects of the examination.

2. Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI)

Natural England does not plan to attend any site inspections, noting we are not permitted to provide advice during these visits.

3. Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (CAH)

Natural England does not plan to attend any Compulsory Acquisition Hearings, as these fall outside of our remit.

4. Issue Specific Hearings (ISH)

Natural England will only attend hearings by exception, targeting those ISH that have the greatest likelihood of resolving significant environmental risks. In such instances our attendance will be virtual. We highlight that where Natural England does not attend hearings, this should not be construed as a lack of concern on outstanding issues, as opposed to the likelihood of these being resolved.

Natural England would be pleased to respond to any questions from the ExA that arise from the hearings at a subsequent deadline.

As regards the first set of hearings, to date we are not aware of any significant progression of key issues since the submission of our Relevant Representations and we are not aware of any new information from the Applicant that is proposed to be discussed in the initial hearings. Therefore, we will not be attending the open floor hearing 1 on the 7 May 2025 or the ISH 1 on the 8 May 2025.

5. Engagement with the Applicant

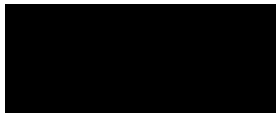
During the Examination Natural England will, where possible, engage with the Applicant to ensure issues are progressed. Due to the timing implications of multiple examinations, Natural England will focus our

engagement on key issues where the proposals are being amended in response to concerns, or where new or updated assessments present an opportunity for issue resolution.

Natural England are currently engaging with the applicant to progress issues raised in our relevant representations, and a Statement of Common Ground will be submitted at Deadline 1.

Please let me know if you have any relevant questions in the meantime, via consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely




Senior Adviser
Sustainable Development
West Midlands Area Team