



Planning Act 2008 – Section 91

Application by National Highways for an order granting development consent for the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Project

Agenda for issue specific hearing 1: issues arising from application and initial submissions

Date:	Thursday 8 May 2025
Time:	10:00am Room opens 9:15am/ Virtual registration from 9:15am
Venue:	Blended event, in person at : MTC Sopwith Building, Arfield Drive, Coventry CV7 9BF and virtually using Microsoft Teams
Access and parking:	Limited free on-site parking
Background information:	Please see Annex A

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome, introductions and arrangements for the hearing**
 - 1.1 The Examining Authority (ExA) will welcome participants, lead introductions, and address housekeeping matters.
- 2. Purpose of the Hearing**
 - 2.1 The ExA will explain the purpose of the hearing. Except where indicated, questions will be directed primarily at the applicant, but other interested parties (IP) will be invited to respond to each agenda item.
- 3. Walking, cycling and horse riding (WCH) provision.**
 - 3.1 The ExA would like a greater understanding of the development of the WCH routes in the vicinity of the A46 and possible future connections across the trunk road. In this case the ExA will have questions for both the applicant and local highway authorities.
 - 3.2 The ExA in addition would like to fully understand how the future WCH provision would be accommodated within the draft DCO to enable possible future connections and the extent of additional land and/ or rights being acquired to facilitate such future provisions.



4. Traffic modelling sensitivity testing – local road changes.

- 4.1 The ExA would like to better understand the position with respect to the modelling undertaken around the introduction of cycling facilities along Binley Road and Brinklow Road and the implications for the modelling of the effect of the project on congestion on local roads in this area. The ExA would like to hear the views of both the applicant and Coventry City Council in this regard.

5. Relationship between the project and Coombe Pool.

- 5.1 Reference will be made to Sheet 2 of the General Arrangement plans [AS-002]. The ExA would like to better understand the proposed physical changes to the landscape between the existing and proposed A46 and the western edge of Coombe Pool.
- 5.2 Reference will also be made to Environmental Statement Figure 8.3 [APP-052] showing a construction mitigation noise barrier between the proposed A46 and the western edge of Coombe Pool. The ExA will need a clearer understanding from the applicant of the scale of works of the proposed barrier.

6. Significant residual effects for noise impacts upon Coombe Pool during construction

- 6.1 The ExA will need to better understand the effectiveness of the site-specific mitigation techniques the applicant will use to reduce noise impacts upon Coombe Pool Site of Special Scientific Interest during the construction stage and the operation stage. The ExA will have questions for the applicant related to Environmental Statement Figure 8.3 [APP-052] and Table 8-22 of Environmental Statement Chapter 8 – Biodiversity [APP-030].

7. Protection of Soil Resources

- 7.1 The ExA will refer to the obligations set out in Section 6 of the Environmental Statement Appendix 9.2 [APP-093]. The ExA will seek clarification from the applicant on how these obligations will be collated into the relevant management plans.

8. Flood Risk Assessment

- 8.1 The submitted flood risk assessment:

References from Section 13.4 of Environmental Statement Chapter 13 (Road Drainage and Water Environment), [APP-035]), and Table 3-1 of the Consultation Report [APP-115] will be made by the ExA about the applicants ongoing engagement with Coventry City Council. The ExA will need to understand the position the City Council hold on the flood risk assessment.

- 8.2 Coombe Pool Flood Mitigation Scheme:

References from Section 8.7 (Reservoir Flood Risk) of Environmental Statement Appendix 13.1 (Flood Risk Assessment) [APP-101] and Relevant Representation (Coventry City Council) [RR-013] will be made by the ExA to the Coombe Pool Flood Risk Mitigation Scheme. To more fully understand the risks to the A46, the ExA will want to hear the views of Coventry City Council and the applicant on potential mitigation options.

9. Biodiversity topics



- 9.1 The ExA would like to gain a deeper understanding of a number of topics related to biodiversity including the woodland creation proposals, the impacts of unnatural lighting on Coombe Pool, water course and detention basin enhancements, and green engineering methods. References will therefore be made by the ExA to Environmental Statement Chapter 2 (The Scheme) [APP-024], and relevant representation [RR-012] (Environment Agency). Under this agenda item, the ExA will have questions for the applicant, Coventry City Council, and the Environment Agency.

10. Action points arising from the Hearing

11. Any other business

12. Close of Hearing

Attendees

All IPs are welcome to attend the hearing but should note that the hearing is primarily to hear oral representations on the agenda items. With this in mind, please refer to **Annex A** for further information including how to register to participate. The ExA specifically invites representatives from the following parties to attend because the ExA considers their oral representations on the agenda items will assist in progressing the Examination:

- Applicant
- Coventry City Council
- Rugby Borough Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- Environment Agency



ANNEX A

Background information

The purpose of this hearing is to focus on issues which the Examining Authority (ExA) wishes to address primarily to the applicant. In accordance with Section 91 of the Planning Act 2008, the ExA is holding this hearing to consider oral representations on the issues on the agenda.

All IPs and affected persons (AP) may participate in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams, but to assist with their management you have been requested to register by completing the **Issue Specific Hearing Participation Form**. The deadline to register for the ISH was Friday 25 April 2025. IPs and APs who have not registered by this date should contact the case team as soon as possible: A46Walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Full instructions on how to join online will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered. If you are joining a hearing online as an active participant, please connect to the hearing in good time. In common with traditional hearings, the event will start on time irrespective of any late arrivals, for whom access may not be possible.

The event will also be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the event date.

To enable a prompt start, the hearing venue will be open for participants to take their seats prior to the start time of each hearing. Please refer to the individual agendas for confirmation of room opening times.

The Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provide that the ExA will probe, test and assess the evidence at hearings through direct questioning of persons making oral representations. Questioning will therefore be led by the ExA. Cross-questioning of the person giving evidence by another person will **only** be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that a person has had a fair chance to put their case. Parties wishing to make a representation will be invited to do so at the ExA's discretion.

The ExA will begin the hearing with opening comments and introductions, then will run through housekeeping matters and explain how the hearing will be conducted.

The agenda is for guidance only. It is not designed to be exclusive or exhaustive. The ExA may add other issues for consideration, may alter the order in which issues are considered and will seek to allocate sufficient time to each issue to allow proper consideration of them. The hearing will finish as soon as the ExA deems that all matters have been covered. Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does not preclude further examination of the issue, including the asking of further written questions.



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All IPs and APs are welcome to attend the hearing and are entitled to make oral representations. However, this is subject to the power of the ExA to control the conduct and management of the hearing in the interests of the efficient use of time.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the day. If there are additional matters to be dealt with or submissions that take a considerable amount of time, there may be a need to continue the session for longer on the day. Alternatively, it may be necessary to prioritise matters and defer others to written questions.

Each hearing is held at the discretion of the ExA to consider matters that it considers to be important and relevant to the effective and robust examination of the application. Consequently, the business of the hearing will be limited to the matters identified in the agenda or otherwise raised by the ExA.

Active participation is at the invitation and discretion of the ExA. Oral submissions must address the matters and questions identified on the hearing agenda or raised by the ExA at the hearing. Oral submissions on other subject matters or from persons who have not been invited to speak by the ExA may only be heard at the discretion of the ExA, who may decide that such matters are not heard in the interests of relevance, efficiency or fairness. An open floor hearing allows for any other oral representations to be made.

Participants may be legally represented if they wish, but the hearing will be conducted to ensure that legal representation is not required.

A recording and transcript of each hearing will be published by the Planning Inspectorate on the project webpage and any IP or AP may make a written submission on the specific matters either included in the agendas or arising at the hearing by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 27 May 2025)**.