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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and  
any Other Person invited to the Preliminary  
Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010066

Date: 14 May 2025

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Dear Sir/ Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8 and 9.**

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

#### **Examination timetable and procedure**

This letter (the Rule 8 letter) provides important information about the examination of this application. The letter includes:

- The examination timetable
- An invitation to submit written representations
- Details of the publication of the Examining Authority's (ExA) written questions
- A request for statements of common ground
- A request for local impact reports from local authorities
- Other procedural decisions made by the ExA
- Information about the availability of examination documents (**Annex C**)
- Guidance on the use of the 'Have your say' tab on the project webpage

All documentation associated with this examination, including a note of the preliminary meeting and the recording of that meeting, can be viewed under the [documents tab](#) on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website ([project webpage](#)).

#### **The examination timetable**

We have made a procedural decision about the way the application will be examined. The final examination timetable is attached at **Annex A** to this letter.

The examination timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in our Rule 6 letter [\[PD-006\]](#). In finalising the examination timetable, we have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made orally or in writing to the preliminary meeting. The main changes we made to the draft examination timetable are set out at **Annex B** to this letter.

Please note that the examination timetable contains a number of deadlines for receipt of information by the Planning Inspectorate. All deadlines are at 23:59 on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable, we may disregard them.

We request that all interested parties make their submissions using the [Have your say page](#) on the project webpage on or before the applicable deadline. **Annex D** to this letter provides further information about using the Have your say page.

If we consider it necessary to vary the examination timetable during the examination, notification will be sent to interested parties, statutory parties and other persons invited to the preliminary meeting. The changes will be published on the [project webpage](#).

### **Written representations**

All interested parties are now invited to submit written representations and any comments on the relevant representations already submitted. These should be submitted by **deadline 1 (Tuesday 27 May 2025)**.

Written representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our initial assessment of principal issues in Annex C of our Rule 6 letter. [\[PD-006\]](#).

Any person, other than the applicant, who submits a written representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why. Interested parties should also provide with their written representations any data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions to avoid delays in the examination (see paragraph 009 of the [government's guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects](#) for further information about written representations).

We have requested further types of written submissions at various points in the examination (see **Annex A**).

Any written representations and any further written submissions requested during the examination, that exceed 1500 words, should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made.

Representations **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on third party websites. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [Advice for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about making written submissions.

## Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority

**Annex B** to this letter contains important details and clarifications about procedural decisions we made at, or following, the preliminary meeting. These include:

- Examination timetable;
- Statements of common ground;
- Local impact reports; and
- Changes to land interests.

## Format of Examination Events

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

## Hearings and site inspections

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 also 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](#)

On this basis the examination timetable at **Annex A** to this letter includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and we will notify all interested parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the examination at least 21 days in advance of them taking place. That notification will include a deadline for interested parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to participate at the notified hearing(s).

We will also undertake site inspections. Where we are able to view the site from public land we are likely to do this unaccompanied and a note of the site inspection will be published on the project webpage. The examination timetable also reserves time for us to undertake an accompanied site inspection (ASI) in the week commencing 8 July 2025, if required. We will consider each suggested site location, including those provided 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. We 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.

## 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.

If you have received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate but are able to receive communications by email, please inform the case team using the contact details at the top of this letter as soon as possible.

As the examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the [project webpage](#).

A [Have your say page](#) is available on the website which provides a portal through which parties should make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the Examination. Further information about the Have your say page is provided at **Annex D** 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](#).

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** Examination Timetable
- B** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C** Examination Documents
- D** Information about the 'Have your say' tab

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

## Examination Timetable

### Submission times for Deadlines

The 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.

### Publication dates

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

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.	<b>Procedural deadline A (PDA)</b> Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written submissions on examination procedure, including any submissions about the draft examination timetable.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Notification of wish to have future correspondence delivered electronically, including confirmation of email address.</li> <li>• Requests by interested parties (IP) to participate in the open floor hearing on 7 May 2025.</li> <li>• Requests by IPs to participate in the issue specific hearing on 8 May 2025.</li> <li>• Applicant's submission of the land rights tracker.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 25 April 2025</b>
2.	<b>Preliminary meeting (PM)</b>	<b>Wednesday 7 May 2025</b> 10:00am

3.	<b>Open floor hearing 1 (OFH1).</b>	<b>Wednesday 7 May 2025</b> 2.30pm
4.	<b>Issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1)</b> on initial issues arising from application submission documents.	<b>Thursday 8 May 2025</b> 10.00am
5.	<b>Issue by the ExA of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The examination timetable.</li> </ul>	<b>As soon as practicable following the preliminary meeting</b>
6.	<b>Deadline 1 (D1)</b> For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post-hearing submissions, including written summaries of oral submissions to the hearings held between 7 and 8 May 2025.</li> <li>Comments on relevant representations.</li> <li>Written representations (WR).</li> <li>Summaries of WRs exceeding 1500 words.</li> <li>Local impact reports (LIR) from any local authorities.</li> <li>Comments on any responses to section 51 advice or pre-examination procedural decisions submitted by the applicant before or at the PM.</li> <li>Comments on any additional submissions accepted at the discretion of the ExA.</li> <li>Comments on the applicant's land rights tracker.</li> <li>Requests by affected persons to participate in a compulsory acquisition hearing.</li> <li>Notification by statutory parties of their wish to be considered as an IP.</li> <li>Applicant's updates.</li> <li>Applicant's draft itinerary for ASI (if required).</li> <li>Any other information submitted by the applicant.</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 27 May 2025</b>
7.	<b>Publication by the ExA of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ExA's written questions (ExQ1).</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>

8.	<p><b>Deadline 2 (D2)</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on the applicant's draft itinerary for an accompanied site inspection (if held).</li> <li>• Any other information submitted by the applicant.</li> <li>• Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D1.</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 17 June 2025</b>
9.	<p><b>Deadline 3 (D3)</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to ExQ1.</li> <li>• Comments on WRs.</li> <li>• Comments on LIRs.</li> <li>• Applicant's updates.</li> <li>• Any other information submitted by the applicant.</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.</li> <li>• Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D2.</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 24 June 2025</b>
10.	<p><b>Hearings</b></p> <p>Dates reserved for any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue specific hearing(s) (if required).</li> <li>• Open floor hearing(s) (if required).</li> <li>• Compulsory acquisition hearing(s) (if required).</li> <li>• Accompanied site inspection (if required).</li> </ul>	<b>Week commencing Monday 8 July 2025</b>
11.	<p><b>Deadline 4 (D4)</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-hearing submissions, including written summaries of oral submissions to the hearings held during w/c 8 July 2025 (if held).</li> <li>• Any other information submitted by the applicant.</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 22 July 2025</b>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.</li> <li>Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D3.</li> </ul>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Publication by the ExA of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ExA's further written questions (ExQ2). (if required)</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 8 August 2025</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Deadline 5 (D5)</b> For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses to ExQ2 (if issued).</li> <li>Applicant's updates.</li> <li>Any other information submitted by the applicant.</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.</li> <li>Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D4.</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 22 August 2025</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Hearings</b> Dates reserved for any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue specific hearing(s) (if required).</li> <li>Open floor hearing(s) (if required).</li> <li>Compulsory acquisition hearing(s) (if required).</li> </ul>	<b>w/c 15 September 2025</b>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Publication by the ExA of:</b> The report on the implications for European sites (RIES) and any associated questions (if required).	<b>Tuesday 23 September 2025</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>Deadline 6 (D6)</b> For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post-hearing submissions, including written summaries of oral submissions to the hearings held during w/c 15 September 2025 (if held).</li> <li>Applicant's updates.</li> <li>Any other information submitted by the applicant.</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 14 October 2025</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D5.</li> </ul>	
<b>17.</b>	<p><b>Publication by the ExA of:</b></p> <p>The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if required).</p>	<b>Tuesday 21 October 2025</b>
<b>18.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 7 (D7)</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses to the RIES (if issued).</li> <li>Responses to the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if issued).</li> <li>Any other information submitted by the applicant.</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.</li> <li>Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D6.</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 28 October 2025</b>
<b>19.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 8 (D8)</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant's <b>final</b> updates.</li> <li>Applicant's closing summary statement.</li> <li>Any other information submitted by the applicant.</li> <li>Summary statements from parties regarding matters that they have previously raised during the examination and that have not been resolved to their satisfaction.</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.</li> <li>Comments on any further information/ submissions received by D7.</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 4 November 2025</b>
<b>20.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 9 (D9)</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 6 November 2025</b>
<b>21.</b>	The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months	<b>Friday 7 November 2025</b>

## **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 and/or Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

## Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

We have made a number of procedural decisions following the preliminary meeting:

### 1. Examination timetable

Following representations made we have amended the examination timetables as follows:

Item 12 – Publication of the ExQ2 – Friday 8 August 2025

Item 13 – Deadline 5 – Friday 22 August 2025

### 2. Statements of common ground (SoCG)

The applicant is taking the lead in the preparation of SoCGs and it will aid the smooth running of the examination if all interested parties who are participating in the preparation of SoCGs liaise and co-operate with the applicant in respect of their production. We set out in our Rule 6 letter [\[PD-006\]](#), the SoCGs we request are submitted during the examination of this application. Final signed versions of the SoCGs listed below are requested to be submitted **by the applicant** at the latest by **deadline 8 Tuesday 4 November 2025**:

1. SoCG between the applicant and Warwickshire County Council.
2. SoCG between the applicant and Coventry City Council.
3. SoCG between the applicant and Rugby Borough Council.
4. SoCG between the applicant and the Environment Agency.
5. SoCG between the applicant and Historic England.
6. SoCG between the applicant and 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 content of SoCGs will help to inform us about the need to hold any further issue specific hearings during the examination, and to enable us and the applicant to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

### 3. Local impact reports (LIR)

A LIR is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a proposed development on a local authority's area (or any part of that area). For more information about the importance and content of LIRs see the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for local authorities](#).

Local authorities, defined in section 56A of the Planning Act 2008, are invited to submit LIRs by **deadline 1**.

### 4. 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 [a46walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:a46walsgrave@planninginspectorate.gov.uk). 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.

## 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](mailto: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 and submission made to the examination; and
- each procedural decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference number 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.**

## 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 2005 or A46W. 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 A** 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](#)' please contact the case team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.