

## **A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Scheme number: TR010066**

### **6.3 Environmental Statement Appendices** **Appendix 8.16 Assessment of Noise Impacts on Ecological Features**

APFP Regulations 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)  
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ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT APPENDICES  
Appendix 8.16: Assessment of Noise  
Impacts on Ecological Features

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# 1. Introduction and methodology

## 1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. This document has been produced as an Appendix to the Environmental Statement (ES) (**TR010066/APP/6.1**) for the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Scheme to detail the assessment of noise impacts upon ecological features. For the full details including methodologies, survey results and conclusions relied upon in this appendix you are encouraged to read the main document.
- 1.1.2. The ES (**TR010066/APP/6.1**) for the Scheme identifies potential construction and operational noise impacts upon Coombe Pool Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is located partially within the Order Limits and adjacent to the west. The SSSI is primarily designated for breeding grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), wintering waterbirds including shoveler (*Anas clyptea*) and breeding waterbirds. Also mentioned within the SSSI citation are the designated sites breeding and wintering woodland bird assemblages.
- 1.1.3. Five otter (*Lutra lutra*) couches were identified during surveys to establish the ecological baseline and inform the ES (**TR010066/APP/6.1**). Three otter couches are present on the banks of Coombe Pool lake, one on Smite Brook and a fifth couch is present on the River Sowe. Couch locations are shown on Figures 1 -14 in Annex A.
- 1.1.4. Three potential bat roosts were identified within buildings within Hungerley Hall Farm. Due to limitations upon the survey it was not possible to confirm these roosts and their precise locations within the Hungerley Hall Farm complex. The potential roosts identified at the Farm include one common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) day roost, night roost or potential foraging resource, and two potential day roost, night roost or feeding roost of unidentified species.
- 1.1.5. This Appendix details an assessment of construction and operational noise impacts on the above identified ecological features. Whilst the bat roosts identified are only potential roosts, an assessment has been undertaken on a precautionary basis.

## 1.2. Assessment methodology

- 1.2.1. In the absence of precise locations of potential bat roosts identified in Hungerley Hall Farm, due to survey limitations, a worst-case approach has been applied to the assessment. Noise data modelled at 3m high has been used for the assessment of impacts upon potential bat roosts. This is because modelled noise data from this height would be considered applicable to any roosting



features on the building facades. Modelled data includes day and night data and the following months from the construction period have been assessed September 2026, October 2026, June 2027, August 2027, September 2027, October 2027, June 2028 considering the classification of the potential roosts as either day roosts, night roosts or feeding roosts (i.e. not hibernation roosts).

- 1.2.2. CIEEM undertook a literature review on the effects on noise upon bats in *Noise Impacts on Bats – A Sound Assessment?* (CIEEM, 2020). Within this publication CIEEM state “*Applying the precautionary principle, non-natural, unfamiliar or unpredictable noise exceeding 50 dB, Lmax at 8+ kHz within a roost could begin to have deleterious effects (e.g. increased stress)*”. However, CIEEM also states that this shouldn’t be cited as threshold for disturbance. In the absence of a definitive reliable noise threshold for effects to roosting bats, 50dB for unfamiliar noise has been used, however where there is any increase in noise this has also been considered as potential for disturbance.
- 1.2.3. In the absence of definitive thresholds for noise disturbance on other ecological features assessed within this Appendix, including otters and birds (both breeding and wintering), 3dB has been used as a threshold at which noise changes would be noticeable (from existing levels), with reference to the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessments’ (IEMAs) *Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment* (IEMA, 2014).

### 1.3. Limitations

- 1.3.1. The assessment of noise impacts upon ecological features detailed within this Appendix is based upon noise modelling undertaken for Scheme construction and operation. The construction assessment was undertaken with the absence of data from the following months in the construction phase: April 2027, May 2027, July 2027, April 2028 and May 2028. This was due to requirement of a rapid production of the data for this assessment. This limitation is therefore applicable to the construction assessment of noise impacts upon otter, roosting bats at Hungerley Hall Farm and breeding birds at Coombe Pool SSSI (including grey heron and waterbirds). However, it is not considered a significant limitation as the construction months for which modelled data has been provided cover works that would be ongoing throughout the construction phase and therefore provide an accurate representation of the construction period as a whole. As modelling has focused on works when in closest proximity to the SSSI it is likely this assessment is based on a worst-case scenario and as works proceed away from the SSSI impacts will likely reduce.

## 2. Assessment of likely significant effects

### 2.1. Construction

#### Otters

- 2.1.1. Table 1 below details the modelled daytime noise levels respectively experienced at each otter couch within the 'do minimum' opening year (hereafter referred to as the DMOY (i.e. the background noise levels – what the noise levels are predicted to be in 2028 without the Scheme)) and the cumulative noise levels during construction (i.e. the DMOY plus construction noise from the Scheme).
- 2.1.2. The table provides a visual representation of exceedance of background noise levels in the daytime, during the construction period. In the absence of a construction barrier, noise levels at the five otter couches during construction are in exceedance of the DMOY levels, by varying degrees, in every month. Noise levels will then return to background levels in June 2028.

Table 1: Daytime construction noise levels at the five identified otter couches including DMOY noise and construction noise

Month	Couch – daytime construction cumulative noise (dB (A)) Laeq 16hr				
	1 – on Coombe Pool lake	2 – on the River Sowe	3 – on Smite Brook	4 – on Coombe Pool lake	5 – on Coombe Pool lake
<b>DMOY</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>54.8</b>
Sept-26	53.0	55.0	56.1	56.6	55.7
Oct-26	52.3	54.6	54.6	55.7	54.9
Nov-26	54.1	56.2	56.6	58.4	57.3
Dec-26	55.9	58.1	57.4	60.4	59.1
Jan-27	56.1	58.5	58.2	60.4	59.3
Feb-27	55.6	58.5	58.1	59.7	58.6
Mar-27	54.7	57.4	57.0	58.9	57.8
Jun-27	52.6	55.3	54.9	56.1	55.3
Aug-27	53.9	54.4	55.7	58.4	56.9
Sept-27	52.7	54.7	55.0	56.4	55.5
Oct-27	53.3	55.0	55.3	57.2	56.1
Nov-27	52.4	54.4	54.7	55.9	55.1
Dec-27	53.4	54.6	57.1	57.2	56.1
Jan-28	52.5	54.4	55.3	56.1	55.2
Feb-28	54.1	54.6	64.7	58.0	56.9
Mar-28	54.2	54.4	56.6	58.9	57.3

Month	Couch – daytime construction cumulative noise (dB (A)) Laeq 16hr				
	1 – on Coombe Pool lake	2 – on the River Sowe	3 – on Smite Brook	4 – on Coombe Pool lake	5 – on Coombe Pool lake
Jun-28	52.2	54.3	54.6	55.6	54.8

2.1.3. Table 2 below details the modelled daytime absolute noise change (i.e. the change in noise level between the background noise level and the cumulative noise level comprised of the background plus the construction noise level from the Scheme) at each otter couch and provides a comparison between the source noise levels and the existing noise level and has been used to determine the potential impact of the works in accordance with the below, with reference to the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessments' (IEMAs) *Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment* (IEMA, 2014).

- With a difference of -10dB, the source noise is unlikely to be discernible against existing noise levels.
- A difference of -3dB will be detectable, with the source noise level being noticeably quieter than the existing noise levels.
- A difference of 0dB between the existing noise level and the source noise level will sound about equal in volume.
- A difference of +3dB with the source noise level being noticeably louder than the existing noise levels.
- With a difference of +10dB, the source noise will become the loudest dominant noise source and be heard above all other background levels therefore considered to be potentially more disturbing.

2.1.4. Levels of exceedance are shown in Table 2 in accordance with the following:

- **Green shading:** where there is no exceedance of background levels.
- **Yellow shading:** areas where construction absolute noise change levels is in exceedance of background levels but remain under <3dB
- **Red shading:** areas where construction absolute noise change levels is in exceedance of background levels by ≥3dB but do not exceed 10dB
- **Purple shading:** areas where construction absolute noise change levels is in exceedance of DMOY levels by ≥10dB

Table 2: Daytime construction absolute noise level changes at the five identified otter couches

Month	Couch – daytime absolute noise change (dB (A))				
	1 – on Coombe Pool lake	2 – on the River Sowe	3 – on Smite Brook	4 – on Coombe Pool lake	5 – on Coombe Pool lake
Sept-26	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.0	0.9

Month	Couch – daytime absolute noise change (dB (A))				
	1 – on Coombe Pool lake	2 – on the River Sowe	3 – on Smite Brook	4 – on Coombe Pool lake	5 – on Coombe Pool lake
Oct-26	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1
Nov-26	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.8	2.5
Dec-26	3.7	3.8	2.8	4.8	4.3
Jan-27	3.9	4.2	3.6	4.8	4.5
Feb-27	3.4	4.2	3.5	4.1	3.8
Mar-27	2.5	3.1	2.4	3.3	3.0
Jun-27	0.4	1.0	0.3	0.5	0.5
Aug-27	1.7	0.1	1.1	2.8	2.1
Sept-27	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.7
Oct-27	1.1	0.7	0.7	1.6	1.3
Nov-27	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
Dec-27	1.2	0.3	2.5	1.6	1.3
Jan-28	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.5	0.4
Feb-28	1.9	0.3	10.1	2.4	2.1
Mar-28	2.0	0.1	2.0	3.3	2.5
Jun-28	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

- 2.1.5. The output of the noise modelling indicates that there will be an exceedance of daytime DMOY noise levels at each otter couch across the course of the construction period. Exceedances <3dB, shown in yellow in Table 2, are considered unlikely to be noticeable above the DMOY levels and as such are not further analysed.
- 2.1.6. Exceedances >3dB but below 10dB largely occur between December 2026 and March 2027, with all five couches experiencing increases >3dB in January and February 2027. However, an isolated exceedance of DMOY levels by +3.3dB would also impact one of the couches on Coombe Pool lake in March 2028. The most significant exceedance, of +10.2dB, would occur in February 2028 and impact the otter couch on Smite Brook.
- 2.1.7. Potential effects of noise disturbance impacts upon otters occupying couches during construction include temporary abandonment of the couches. As otter couches are not where cubs are raised (this activity occurs in natal dens and breeding sites, none of which were identified within the study area) otters in couches are less sensitive to disturbance and the effects of abandonment are less severe. It is anticipated that otters disturbed whilst occupying couches

during construction would simply move elsewhere on Coombe Pool lake, Smite Brook and/or the River Sowe, or other surrounding watercourses, outside of the area of disturbance.

- 2.1.8. This temporary disturbance during construction is due to last a period of four months between December 2026 and March 2027 with the exception of disturbance in two other months. This is a cumulative impact as the disturbance during these periods will prevent otters using all of these couches as such it is assessed as a moderate adverse impact which would result in a **slight adverse (not significant) effect** on otters occupying couches during the construction phase.
- 2.1.9. Note, as otters use couches as daytime resting places changes in nighttime noise levels would not be expected to disturb otters as otters would not be occupying couches at this time.

### Coombe Pool SSSI

#### *Breeding waterbirds (excluding grey heron)*

- 2.1.10. Modelling of construction daytime and nighttime noise levels has been used to identify potential noise disturbance impacts on breeding waterbirds during the early, mid- and late breeding season within Coombe Pool SSSI and includes modelled data from the following months:
- March 2027
  - June 2027
  - August 2027
  - March 2028
  - June 2028
- 2.1.11. Noise modelling has confirmed absolute daytime noise changes impacting the Coombe Pool lake in June 2027 are between +0.1dB and +0.9dB and no changes in nighttime noise in this month. These daytime increases in noise are significantly below the threshold which is considered to produce a noticeable change (3dB) and as such no impacts are considered upon breeding birds during this month due to noise disturbance. All other modelled months during the breeding season (including March and August 2027 and March and June 2028) would experience exceedances >3dB and as such are discussed further.

Table 3 below details the maximum construction absolute noise changes (dB) in the modelled breeding months within the construction phase and the areas of the Coombe Pool lake impacted, including the percentage area impacted of the 36ha Coombe Pool lake. Months scoped out above due to lack of absolute noise changes >3dB are not included in the table. Table 3: Maximum daytime absolute noise changes during construction and areas of the Coombe Pool lake impacted

Month	Day/night	Absolute noise change (dB) range	Areas of Coombe Pool lake where maximum absolute noise change (dB) is >3dB exceedance of DMOY noise levels					
			Exceedance between >3dB - ≤5dB		Exceedance between >5dB - ≤10dB		Combined exceedance (all exceedance >3dB)	
			Area	% of Coombe Pool lake	Area	% of Coombe Pool lake	Area	% of Coombe Pool lake
March 2027	Day	0.2dB – 6.7dB	7.03ha	19.53%	1.29ha	3.58%	8.32ha	23.11%
	Night	No change >+3dB						
August 2027	Day	0.1dB – 8.6dB	3.75ha	10.42%	1.96ha	5.44%	5.71ha	15.86%
	Night	No changes in noise levels						
March 2028	Day	0.5dB – 8.5dB	4.18ha	11.61%	1.85ha	5.14%	6.03ha	16.75%
	Night	No change >+3dB						
June 2028	Day	No change >+3dB						
	Night	0.5dB – 3.5dB	0.01ha	0.03%	No change >5dB		0.01ha	0.03%

\*areas are based upon estimates of the size of the lake within the Coombe Pool SSSI derived using GIS

- 2.1.12. Figures 6, 7, 10 and 13 of Annex A provide a visual representation of construction daytime and nighttime absolute noise change levels within the breeding months.
- 2.1.13. Modelling demonstrates that there would be an increase in noise levels within breeding months during construction in exceedance of the noticeable 3dB threshold. Absolute noise changes would be between >+0.1dB and >+8.6dB. Noise changes >3dB would impact significant areas of the Coombe Pool lake in March 2027, August 2027 and March 2028 with 23.11%, 15.86% and 16.75% of the total Coombe Pool lake area impacted respectively. In accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 108 (National Highways, 2020) the level of impact of this temporary increase in noise, given the significant extent of the Coombe Pool lake impacted, is assessed as moderate adverse, resulting in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.

### *Breeding grey heron*

- 2.1.14. The heronry is located to the far east of Coombe Pool lake, understood to be a minimum of 1km from the existing road, as confirmed by the site Ecologist and

reported on within Chapter 8(Biodiversity) (**APP-030**) of the Environmental Statement.

- 2.1.15. Modelled construction absolute noise changes demonstrate changes in noise during the breeding season (in months March 2027, June 2027, August 2027, March 2028 and June 2028) between +0.5dB and +2.3dB impacting the easternmost section of the Coombe Pool lake. These increases are below the noticeable threshold of 3dB and as such no impacts are anticipated upon the heronry or nesting herons from noise increases during construction.
- 2.1.16. Impacts upon breeding grey heron from increases in noise during construction may result from disturbance during foraging including avoidance of foraging habitat and a decreased efficiency in foraging. Grey heron was recorded during breeding bird surveys for the Scheme on three occasions between April and May 2022 on the westernmost section of the Coombe Pool lake, including two locations on the western banks closest to the main works. Due to the presence of a heronry on the Coombe Pool lake, observations of heron within breeding bird surveys and assumed fish populations within the Coombe Pool lake (a managed fishing lake) it is considered likely that the Coombe Pool lake is a foraging resource for breeding heron. Noise modelling has demonstrated significant increases in noise (i.e. >3dB and in cases >5dB (see Table 3 and Figures 6, 7, 10 and 13)) in areas of the Coombe Pool lake and as such the level of impact of construction noise disturbance upon breeding heron during foraging is assessed as moderate adverse resulting in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.

#### *Wintering waterbirds (including Shoveler)*

- 2.1.17. Modelling of construction noise levels used to identify potential noise disturbance impacts on waterbirds during the wintering and passage seasons within Coombe Pool SSSI includes modelled data from the following months:
- September 2026
  - October 2026
  - November 2026
  - December 2026
  - January 2027
  - February 2027
  - September 2027
  - October 2027
  - November 2027



- December 2027
- January 2028
- February 2028

2.1.18. Noise modelling has confirmed both daytime and nighttime absolute noise changes impacting the Coombe Pool lake in November 2027 and January 2028 (1.6dB and 0.7dB worst-case absolute changes respectively) are below the noticeable threshold of 3dB and as such no impacts are considered upon wintering birds during these months due to noise disturbance. Impacts upon wintering waterbirds due to changes in noise levels in October 2026 have also been scoped out as modelled daytime increases impacting the Coombe Pool lake are a maximum of 0.3dB and there are no changes in noise during the nighttime.

2.1.19. Table 4 below details the maximum absolute noise changes impacting the Coombe Pool lake in each of the wintering and passage months and the area of the Coombe Pool lake impacted. Months scoped out above due to lack of absolute noise changes >3dB are not included in the table.

Table 4: Absolute construction noise changes by month impacting Coombe Pool lake

Month	Day/Night	Absolute noise change (dB) range	Areas of Coombe Pool lake where maximum absolute noise change (dB) is >3dB exceedance of DMOY noise levels					
			Exceedance between >3dB - ≤5dB		Exceedance between >5dB - ≤10dB		Combined exceedance (all exceedance >3dB)	
			Area	% of Coombe Pool lake	Area	% of Coombe Pool lake	Area	% of Coombe Pool lake
Sept 2026	Day	No change >+3dB						
	Night	+0.4dB - +6.6dB	24.29ha	67.47%	2.57ha	7.14%	26.86ha	74.61%
November 2026	Day	+0.2dB - +7.2dB	5.41ha	15.03%	0.43ha	1.19%	5.84ha	16.22%
	Night	No change >+3dB						
December 2026	Day	+3.0dB* - 10dB	7.05ha	19.58%	6.24ha	17.33%	13.29ha	36.92%
	Night	No change >+3dB						
January 2027	Day	+0.4dB - +7.9dB	15.85ha	44.03%	5.78ha	16.06%	21.63ha	60.08%
	Night	No change >+3dB						



Month	Day/Night	Absolute noise change (dB) range	Areas of Coombe Pool lake where maximum absolute noise change (dB) is >3dB exceedance of DMOY noise levels					
			Exceedance between >3dB - ≤5dB		Exceedance between >5dB - ≤10dB		Combined exceedance (all exceedance >3dB)	
			Area	% of Coombe Pool lake	Area	% of Coombe Pool lake	Area	% of Coombe Pool lake
February 2027	Day	+0.3dB - +7dB	15.57ha	43.25%	2.96ha	8.22%	18.53ha	51.47%
	Night	No change >+3dB						
September 2027	Day	+0.1dB - +3.3dB	0.04ha	0.11%	No change >5dB		0.04	0.11%
	Night	No change >+3dB						
October 2027	Day	+0.1dB - +5.1dB	1.27ha	3.53%	<0.01ha	<0.03%	Ca. 1.27ha	3.53%
	Night	No changes in noise levels						
December 2027	Day	No change >+3dB						
	Night	+0.2dB - +3.5dB	1.30ha	3.61%	No changes >5dB		1.30	3.61%
February 2028	Day	+0.2dB - +3.1dB	0.09ha	0.25%	No changes >5dB		0.09	0.25%
	Night	No change >+3dB						

\*an area of the Coombe Pool lake <0.01ha in size would experience construction daytime absolute noise changes of between +10.1dB and +10.2dB. As this area is so small it is considered insignificant.

- 2.1.20. Figures 1-5, 8-9, 11-12 and 14 in Annex A provide a visual representation of construction daytime absolute noise change levels within the wintering and passage months.
- 2.1.21. Modelling of construction absolute noise change levels across the area of Coombe Pool lake in the wintering and passage months has revealed maximum absolute noise changes of up to +10dB (December 2026 daytime). The percentage the Coombe Pool lake impacted varies depending on the month and time of day. The most significant impacts, with absolute noise level changes greater than 3dB are expected to occur between September 2026 and February 2027 where areas of Coombe Pool lake impacted range from 16.22% to 74.61% of the total open water.
- 2.1.22. The impacts of increased noise during construction on wintering waterbirds could include an avoidance of foraging areas, reduced efficiency of foraging and

abandonment and/or avoidance of roosting habitat. According to DMRB LA 108 (National Highways, 2020), the level of impact of this temporary noise increase impacting Coombe Pool lake is considered a moderate adverse level of impact, given the extent of the Coombe Pool lake affected as detailed in Table 4 above. Due to the detectable increases in noise levels (i.e. increases greater than 3dB) affecting significant areas of the Coombe Pool lake (between 16.22% and 74.61%) for an extended period in the wintering season between September 2026 to February 2027 the effect on this nationally important feature is assessed as a large adverse (significant) effect.

### *Woodland breeding and wintering birds*

- 2.1.23. The citation for Coombe Pool SSSI considers both breeding and wintering woodland species as features of the SSSI. As such, this assessment considers potential impacts from the Scheme upon the woodland assemblage.
- 2.1.24. Following the breeding and wintering bird surveys undertaken at PCF stage 3 (see ES Appendix 8.3: Breeding Bird and Barn Owl Report and ES Appendix 8.11: Wintering Bird Report (**TR010066/APP/6.3**)) the woodland immediately adjacent to the A46 carriageway was shown to support low numbers of common woodland and garden species including tits, thrushes, warblers and corvids. All of these were recorded either holding territories during the breeding season and foraging over winter. The reduced numbers are likely due to the proximity of the existing road reducing the suitability for birds maintaining territories and due to the dense understorey present within the woodland areas adjacent to the Order Limits. The Scheme would result in a temporary increase in noise during construction that would impact the nearby woodland areas for approximately 22-months. Once operational the Scheme would result in a reduction in noise levels of around -1dB.
- 2.1.25. As identified above the area is considered sub-optimal for breeding and wintering woodland birds as demonstrated by the results of the breeding and wintering bird surveys and considered likely due to the proximity to the existing A46. The species notified within the SSSI citation for woodland species are largely for Birds of Conservation Concern ((BoCC) British Trust for Ornithology, 2021) Green species and as such these species are not considered at risk given their common nature and increasing populations. Redwings (*Turdus iliacus*) and fieldfares (*Turdus pilaris*) are BoCC Amber and BoCC Red respectively and wintering bird data has shown that redwings and fieldfares have been recorded foraging regularly within the arable fields outside the SSSI but have on occasion been recorded foraging within the designated site. Specifically, redwing (in two groups, one within the area of impact and one group further west of the Order Limits) were recorded within SSSI woodland during one winter bird survey and fieldfare (one individual) was also recorded on one occasion only, this was

during a particularly cold period of weather where temperatures dropped to -3C as such forcing the birds to utilize these areas. This foraging is primarily located in the areas further north-west and not immediately adjacent to the carriageway. As such, any potential impacts to woodland assemblages of the SSSI is considered to be minimal and short-term. The operational noise reduction within the SSSI due to the implementation of the Scheme would result in a beneficial effect to these species (see paragraph 2.2.10).

### Potential bat roosts – Hungerley Hall Farm

- 2.1.26. Tables 5 to 7 below detail construction noise levels which would impact the buildings with the potential bat roosts in at Hungerley Hall Farm. Due to limitations upon the initial bat surveys and internal access into the unstable buildings there is uncertainty regarding the precise location of any roosts. A precautionary worst-case approach has therefore been applied. Absolute noise changes identified in Tables 5 to 7 are the highest absolute noise change impacting any point of the building. The highest absolute noise change values for the potential roost in B4 also consider the values from the adjoining building to the south. As internal access was not possible it is uncertain whether these buildings connect and bats may be able to fly through. DMOY and cumulative noise levels identified in Tables 5 to 7 are the levels at the modelled points of highest absolute noise change. Where there is no noise change due to an absence of works the highest DMOY level for any modelled point on the building/s is reported.
- 2.1.27. The CIEEM literature review found studies which evidence noise avoidance between 68dB and 84dB for bats on the wing and unpredictable noise at 50dB within a roost as a precautionary threshold at which deleterious effects “could” occur upon roosting bats.
- 2.1.28. As such, this 50dB precautionary threshold has been used for construction noise. Noise levels are shown in Tables 5 to 7 in accordance with the following:
- No shading: where there is no exceedance of DMOY levels.
  - **Green shading**: where there is an exceedance of DMOY levels however cumulative noise levels are below 50dB
  - **Yellow shading**: where there is an exceedance of DMOY levels and cumulative noise levels and DMOY levels are above 50dB therefore the background noise is already in exceedance of the 50dB threshold
  - **Red shading**: where there is an exceedance of DMOY levels and cumulative noise levels are above 50dB however DMOY levels are below 50dB as such the increase in noise due to construction works results in crossing the 50dB threshold.

Table 5: Worst-case modelled construction noise data for potential bat roosts in B1 at Hungerley Hall Farm during the bat active season

Month	Day/night	DMOY noise levels*	Cumulative noise level (DMOY + construction)*	Absolute noise change (dB)
September 2026	Day	50.7dB	58.2dB	+7.5dB
	Night	43.66dB	60.1dB	+16.4dB
October 2026	Day	53.1dB	53.3dB	+0.2dB
	Night	57.43dB	No works.	0.0dB
June 2027	Day	50.7dB	51.8dB	+1.1dB
	Night	57.43dB	No works.	0.0dB
August 2027	Day	62.1dB	63.1dB	+1.0dB
	Night	57.43dB	No works	0.0dB
September 2027	Day	50.8dB	51.6dB	+0.8dB
	Night	56.17dB	56.3dB	+0.2dB
October 2027	Day	50.2dB	51.9dB	+1.7dB
	Night	57.43dB	No works.	0.0dB
June 2028	Day	66dB	No works.	0.0dB
	Night	53.92dB	54.2dB	+0.3dB

\*at modelled point of worst absolute noise change. Where the worst case absolute noise change is applicable to several modelled points, the highest DMOY and cumulative noise level data is provided

Table 6: Worst-case modelled construction noise data for potential bat roosts in B2 at Hungerley Hall Farm during the bat active season

Month	Day/night	DMOY noise levels*	Cumulative noise level (DMOY + construction)*	Absolute noise change (dB)
September 2026	Day	53.2dB	55.5dB	+2.3dB
	Night	53.02dB	62.2dB	+9.1dB
October 2026	Day	52.9dB	53.4dB	+0.5dB
	Night	53.65dB	No works.	0.0dB
June 2027	Day	52.9dB	54.3dB	+1.4dB
	Night	53.65dB	No works.	0.0dB
August 2027	Day	61.1dB	61.9dB	+0.8dB
	Night	53.65dB	No works.	0.0dB
September 2027	Day	56.5dB	56.8dB	+0.4dB
	Night	53.65dB	53.8dB	+0.1dB
October 2027	Day	48.1dB	49.1dB	+1.0dB

Month	Day/night	DMOY noise levels*	Cumulative noise level (DMOY + construction)*	Absolute noise change (dB)
	Night	53.65dB	No works.	0.0dB
June 2028	Day	61.9dB	No works.	0.0dB
	Night	53.65dB	53.9dB	0.2dB

Table 7: Worst-case modelled construction noise data for potential bat roosts in B4 at Hungerley Hall Farm during the bat active season

Month	Day/night	DMOY noise levels*	Cumulative noise level (DMOY + construction)*	Absolute noise change (dB)
September 2026	Day	57.1dB	58.9dB	+1.8dB
	Night	49.42dB	57.0dB	+7.6dB
October 2026	Day	53.2dB	53.7dB	+0.5dB
	Night	51.67dB	No works.	0.0dB
June 2027	Day	53.2dB	54.6dB	+1.4dB
	Night	51.67dB	No works.	0.0dB
August 2027	Day	53.7dB	54.7dB	+1.0dB
	Night	51.67dB	No works.	0.0dB
September 2027	Day	56.2dB	56.8dB	+0.6dB
	Night	48.07dB	48.2dB	+0.2dB
October 2027	Day	57.2dB	57.7dB	+1.1dB
	Night	51.67dB	No works.	0.0dB
June 2028	Day	59.6dB	No works.	0.0dB
	Night	49.06dB	49.3dB	+0.3dB

2.1.29. The above tables demonstrate that, as a worst-case scenario, bats which may be roosting in B1 and B4 could be impacted by unfamiliar nighttime noise levels in January 2026. In these month noise levels impacting the buildings in question would be in exceedance of 50dB where background levels are below this.

2.1.30. Whilst the CIEEM literature review states that unfamiliar noise, which bats would not be habituated to, of greater than 50dB may cause adverse impacts to roosting bats, modelled data shows increases in absolute noise change levels in other months which should also be considered a risk of causing noise disturbance (shown in yellow in Tables 5 – 7) including significant increases in some instances (e.g. up to +9.1dB). Whilst bats may already experience levels upwards of the precautionary 50dB threshold, increases on top of this could potentially ‘worsen the effect’ of noise and result in adverse effects to roosting

bats. However, it is worth acknowledging that the noise levels within Tables 5- 7 would likely be reduced 'at the bat' given bats are roosting within the buildings and the structures can be expected to reduce the noise levels somewhat.

- 2.1.31. The construction noise impacts on roosting bats in day roosts, night roosts, and/or feeding roosts could potentially result in temporary roost abandonment. However, since the identified roosts have been classified as either day, night or feeding roosts (all of which are considered low conservation value roosts), it is expected that any bats disturbed by the construction noise would simply relocate to an alternative, unimpacted roost nearby. Therefore, the level of impact from temporary roost abandonment during construction is assessed as moderate adverse resulting in a **slight adverse (not significant) effect**.

## 2.2. Operation

### Otters

- 2.2.1. Table 8 details the results of modelling of operational short-term noise levels (noise levels within the opening year of the Scheme) at the five identified otter couches. The short-term change is categorised in accordance with the below with reference to the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessments' (IEMAs) *Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment* (IEMA, 2014):.

- **Green shading:** where there is a modelled reduction in noise levels short-term
- **Yellow shading:** where the short-term change in noise levels shows an increase <3dB
- **Red shading:** where the short-term change in noise levels shows an increase ≥3dB

Table 8: modelled operational noise including DMOY, 'do something' opening year (hereafter referred to as DSOY (i.e. noise levels in the opening year following Scheme construction)) and short-term change, at the five identified otter couches

Month	Couch – modelled noise levels and short-term change (dB)				
	1 – on Coombe Pool	2 – on the River Sowe	3 – on Smite Brook	4 – on Coombe Pool	5 – on Coombe Pool
DMOY	54.2	56.3	56.61	57.57	56.78
DSOY	53.91	54.23	54.65	57.83	56.74
ST change	-0.29	-2.07	-1.96	0.26	-0.04

- 2.2.2. The modelled noise data for operational noise levels at the otter couches indicates a reduction in noise levels at four out of the five couches as a result of the Scheme. Since the modelling has demonstrated a decrease in noise levels at these otter couches the level of change is considered as a permanent minor



beneficial change. However, it is unlikely this beneficial effect will have a noticeable effect on otter, as the reductions are of less than 3dB and may not be detectable (see paragraph 1.2.3). Therefore, the Scheme in operation is assessed as having a **neutral (not significant) effect** on these four otter couches due to changes in noise levels.

- 2.2.3. Short-term noise levels during Scheme operation are anticipated to increase by 0.26dB at one otter couch on Coombe Pool lake. As this increase is significantly below the change threshold considered detectable (3dB) the level of impact is assessed as a permanent minor adverse impact. This impact would be unlikely to have an effect on otter due to being below the detectable threshold and as such the Scheme in operation is assessed as having a **neutral (not significant) effect** on these otter couch four due to changes in noise levels.

### Coombe Pool SSSI

#### *Breeding and wintering waterbirds (excluding grey heron)*

- 2.2.4. As described in ES Chapter 10 (Noise and Vibration) (**APP-033**) paragraph 11.10.31, as part of the Scheme, sections of the roads within the Order Limits A46 dual carriageway shall be surfaced with a low-noise road surface (Commitment NV4 of the REAC (**APP-110**), Appendix A of the First Iteration EMP (**REP1-010**)). For this high-speed carriageway, the surface material shall be specified to reduce road traffic noise by 2.5dB when compared with hot rolled asphalt surfacing.
- 2.2.5. As described in ES Chapter 2 The Scheme (**APP-024**) in paragraph 2.5.15 the proposed alignment reduces the existing speed limit from 70mph to 50mph from approximately 50m north of the Brinklow Road underbridge to 2m within the northern extent of the Order Limits. The alignment has been designed so the A46 can be kept as far from Coombe Pool SSSI as possible whilst still being able to achieve a 50mph speed limit. The A46 mainline would continue to be owned, maintained and operated by National Highways.
- 2.2.6. Noise modelling for the operational phase of the Scheme has identified short-term change noise levels (i.e. a change between DMOY (i.e. in 2028 without the Scheme) and DSOY (i.e. in 2028 with the Scheme)), including both reductions in noise impacting some areas of Coombe Pool lake and increases in noise impacting other areas, impacting the Coombe Pool lake between -1.0dB and +3.5dB. However, the area of the Coombe Pool lake impacted by increases in noise >3dB is less than 0.01ha in size, and as such this increase is beyond the recognised identifiable change threshold (i.e. 3dB) and therefore considered to result in an insignificant impact and as such it is not considered further.

- 2.2.7. Approximately 6.66ha of the open water area (18.5%) would experience short-term operational change in noise levels of between +0.5dB and +3dB. However, as these changes are below the level considered to produce a noticeable change in noise (>3dB). Noise levels at the closest edge of the Coombe Pool lake to the Order Limits in the DMOY (i.e. in the absence of the Scheme) would be 61.5dB, which would increase to 64dB in the DSOY scenario (i.e. with the implementation of the Scheme). The TIDE guidance (Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies, 2013) identifies continuous/repetitive noise between 60dB and 72dB as moderate disturbance stimuli. The change in noise levels, which is between this band, would therefore not result in a change considered to result in an increase from the current disturbance level. As such, no impacts are considered likely upon breeding and wintering waterbirds as a result of short-term increases in noise during operation.
- 2.2.8. Noise modelling has also identified operational short-term reductions in noise levels of -0.5dB would impact approximately 9.73ha (27.03%) of the Coombe Pool lake, in addition to reductions of -1.0dB impacting approximately 0.22ha (0.61%) of the Coombe Pool lake. Although these reductions in noise levels are below the noticeable threshold of 3dB, they may still result in (i.e., greater than 3dB) benefits for the calling of waterbirds on the Coombe Pool lake compared to the noise levels during operation. Waterbirds use calls during the breeding season for courting and defending territories, and therefore, reductions in noise levels that make the calls more detectable from the background levels could have beneficial impacts on breeding behaviour. While it is not possible to confirm or quantify this potential beneficial effect, considering the reduction in noise levels and the likely positive impacts resulting from this permanent change, the level of impact is assessed as minor beneficial, resulting in a **slight beneficial (not significant) effect** on breeding waterbirds during operation. There is considered to be no change in the level of impact of the below the noticeable threshold noise changes on wintering birds using the Coombe Pool lake, and as such, it has a **neutral (not significant) effect**.

#### *Breeding grey heron*

- 2.2.9. Modelled short-term operational noise changes have identified no changes in noise over the majority of the eastern end of Coombe Pool lake where the heronry is located, with a small area approximately 2.61ha in size which would experience a -0.5dB reduction in noise short-term during operation. As the exact location of the heronry in relation to this area which would experience noise reduction is not known (the heronry was located well outside the survey area) there is considered to be no impacts to the heronry itself as a result of operational noise changes.



- 2.2.10. The increases in noise impacting other areas of the Coombe Pool lake as identified in paragraph 2.2.5 are below the detectable threshold and as such no impacts upon foraging grey heron are anticipated. Grey heron males utilise calls during the breeding season to attract a mate and as such noise reduction levels resulting in the calls becoming more detectable from background levels could result in beneficial impacts upon breeding behaviour. Whilst confirmation and quantification of this potential beneficial effect is not possible, in recognition of the reduction in noise levels and likely positive impacts resulting from this permanent change the level of impact is assessed as minor beneficial resulting in a **slight beneficial (not significant) effect** on breeding grey heron during operation.

#### *Woodland breeding and wintering birds*

- 2.2.11. The modelled noise data for short-term operational change, modelled at 4m height, identifies that approximately 0.25ha of SSSI woodland would experience an increase in noise greater than 5dB, and approximately 0.5ha of SSSI woodland would experience detectable increases between 3dB and 5dB.
- 2.2.12. A small portion of the woodland would experience increases in noise of less than 3dB at operational phase. Since these increases are below the noticeable threshold of 3dB there would be considered to be no impacts on woodland birds. Significant areas of SSSI woodland further east around the north of the Coombe Pool lake and south would see reductions in noise levels during operation of up to -2dB. Although not a significant noticeable change in itself, this reduction could be expected to result in beneficial impacts on breeding woodland birds if the noise levels are reduced by more than 3dB below singing levels. It is considered that the areas of the SSSI woodland in which noise would be reduced would become more suitable for breeding and wintering birds therefore sufficiently mitigating the smaller area negatively impacted by increase in noise greater than 3dB. The level of impact is therefore assessed as minor beneficial result. A **slight beneficial (not significant) effect** is reported upon the SSSI, taking into consideration the fact that there is still an area of woodland that would experience a significant increase in noise.

#### **Potential bat roosts – Hungerley Hall Farm**

- 2.2.13. Modelled noise data has identified a short-term operational noise change (the change in noise between the DMOY to the DSOY) impacting the buildings in which the three potential roosts are located of between -2.04dB and +0.73dB.
- 2.2.14. The minor increases in noise would impact B1 and B4 which within the DMOY scenario would already be experiencing levels >50dB. Furthermore, the

increases are minor in dB and bats would be expected to habituate to these minor changes over time lessening any potential impacts in the long-term.

- 2.2.15.** Reductions in noise at the buildings may result in the buildings becoming more suitable for roosting bats during operation. However, as the reductions in noise are very minor the level of this permanent impact is assessed as minor beneficial and the effect considered **neutral (not significant)**.

## 3. Re-assessment of noise impacts upon Coombe Pool SSSI

### 3.1. Introduction

- 3.1.1. This document was originally produced as an Appendix to the Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 8 Biodiversity (**APP-030**) for the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Scheme to detail the assessment of noise impacts upon ecological features. It has since been updated and resubmitted at deadline 3 and now also supports the Environmental Statement Addendum (ESA) (Construction Noise Impacts at Coombe Pool SSSI) (**TR010066/EXAM/8.22**). For the full details including methodologies, survey results and conclusions relied upon in this updated Appendix 8.16 (Assessment of Noise Impacts on Ecological Features), reference should be made to the main ES Chapter 8 Biodiversity (**APP-030**) and the ESA (Construction Noise Impacts at Coombe Pool SSSI) (**TR010066/EXAM/8.22**). The ESA includes a description of the construction information and noise modelling which has been used to re-assess the impacts from noise during construction. This has also been presented in section 3 of this document. A description of the mitigation proposed is also provided in section 3, and is also presented in the update to ES Chapter 8 Biodiversity (**APP-030**) submitted at Deadline 3.
- 3.1.2. The ES Chapter 8 Biodiversity (**APP-030**) reported significant effects on Coombe Pool SSSI during construction due to temporary noise impacts following assessment detailed in earlier sections of this Appendix. Further detailed noise modelling was undertaken as described in section 3.2, following the DCO application submission to assess and evidence a reduction in the significance of effects via the use of a construction mitigation acoustic fence and additional mitigation measures. This section of the Appendix describes the additional noise modelling, proposed mitigation measures and updated assessment. The reassessment was undertaken for the qualifying features of Coombe Pool SSSI only (breeding grey heron, breeding and wintering waterbirds, breeding and wintering woodland birds).
- 3.1.3. No further noise modelling was undertaken for the otter couches or potential bat roosts as previously the identified effects were not significant as detailed in section 2 of this Appendix. The further noise modelling and assessment of the more detailed programme does not change the outcome of the assessment previously presented for otter and bats.

### 3.2. Noise modelling

- 3.2.1. The review of the construction programme has considered those specific construction activities that resulted in the worst month in total for absolute noise

change which are expected to occur in September 2026 (night-time). The construction activities proposed during September 2026 (night-time) and resulting noise levels occur from the out-of-hours creation of the construction access areas of the A46 layby (northbound and southbound) and the B4082.

- 3.2.2. As September is not within the wintering bird season (October to March) or the bird breeding season (March to August) the worst month within the wintering and breeding season was then reviewed which is December 2026 (day time). The more detailed construction programme information for December 2026 has been used to re-model the noise impacts upon the SSSI and identify the mitigation required. The wintering and breeding bird seasons have been considered as these are relevant to the species for which the SSSI is designated for.
- 3.2.3. The noise modelling for December 2026 (daytime) represents the construction activities and noise levels resulting primarily from the Phase 1 works, including the north-west, north-east, south-east, south-west slip roads and attenuation pond works areas. The modelling also included site clearance works on the southbound carriageway south of the Walsgrave roundabout (i.e. adjacent to the SSSI). Due to the complexity of the detailed construction programme information in this month, the noise modelling exercise identified that the worst-case overall daytime site noise emissions from all works areas within the Order Limits occurs on the 17 December 2026, and the worst-case site noise emissions from works closest to the SSSI occurs on 15th December 2026. Months where night works are to take place within the wintering or bird breeding season and where absolute noise during construction is in exceedance of background levels by >3dB have been identified as December 2027 and June 2028.
- 3.2.4. The additional noise modelling undertaken made use of the same base noise model and calculation configurations. This includes; existing topography/ground levels (including the bund adjacent to the SSSI), ground absorption, existing structures, reflections, calculation standards, source height above ground, etc. Source noise levels for construction activities were derived using the same equipment references and libraries as used in the ES Chapter 11 (Noise and Vibration) (**APP-033**). To this end, the limitations and assumptions made in the additional construction noise model are the same as those set out in section 11.6 of ES Chapter 11 (Noise and Vibration) (**APP-033**).
- 3.2.5. In all instances (pre- and post-submission assessments) the calculations of absolute change across the SSSI used the same Do Minimum Opening Year 'DMOY' scenario mapping to represent the existing conditions. DMOY noise contours are calculated using the UK road traffic noise index, dB LA10.18hr. Conversions to daytime 16-hour ambient noise levels were undertaken using the conversion presented in BS 8233:2014 Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings (BSI, 2014); conversions to the night-time 8-hour ambient

noise levels were undertaken using Method 3 of the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) Project report PR/SE/451/02 Converting the UK traffic noise index LA10,18h to EU noise indices for noise mapping (TRL, 2002)

- 3.2.6. Source noise levels for construction activities were derived using the same equipment references and libraries as used in the ES Chapter 11 (Noise and Vibration) (**APP-033**); construction equipment and activity noise levels were derived in both cases from Annex C of BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 1: Noise (BSI, 2014).
- 3.2.7. In both the assessment and modelling undertaken following the programme review for December 2026, noise sources were modelled as area sources covering the full area of the indicated works locations provided in the construction programme information. This approach reflects the moving nature of the construction equipment within a constrained area and is considered to be a worst-case approach with regard to resultant noise propagation predictions. In all cases, it was assumed that the equipment and noise emissions would be generated at a height relative to the existing local topography within the indicated works areas.
- 3.2.8. As per the assessments presented in the ES, the noise modelling results were used to determine the absolute change in ambient baseline noise levels over the SSSI during construction works. This was achieved through the logarithmic summation of the baseline environmental noise contours (derived from the Do Minimum Opening Year (DMOY) mapping) and the construction noise contours, followed by the subtracting of the ambient baseline noise contours to produce the absolute noise change in 16-hour (daytime) or 8-hour (night-time) ambient noise level.
- 3.2.9. The review of the construction programme also involved the rationalisation of construction equipment. As a result, the equipment allowances for some tasks led to a reduction in plant quantity or size. Noise emissions during construction works are the cumulative result of both equipment size, on-time and quantity. Therefore, reductions in plant size or quantity for each task would result in reduced noise emissions.
- 3.2.10. Following the review of the construction programme and additional noise modelling it was reconfirmed that mitigation measures are required to reduce the significance of effects from noise during construction upon Coombe Pool (wintering and breeding waterbirds). Ultimately it was found that mitigation using noise barriers will be the most efficient and practicable approach to reduce noise at the SSSI.

- 3.2.11. Further detailed modelling of absolute noise change during construction in December 2026 with the use of a construction noise barrier was undertaken. The modelling of a noise barrier for mitigation was undertaken based on a 2.0m tall temporary noise barrier as presented on update to ES Figure 8.3 Proposed construction mitigation noise barrier – December 2026 daytime (from ES Figures 8.1-8.3 (**APP-052**)) resubmitted at Deadline 3.
- 3.2.12. It should be noted that the assessment presented in ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) (**APP-030**) assumed that wintering water birds are present as a worst case precautionary approach. In accordance with DMRB LA 108 (National Highways, 2020), the ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) (**APP-030**) reported that the level of impact of the temporary noise increase impacting Coombe Pool lake during construction is considered a moderate adverse level of impact, given the extent of the Coombe Pool lake affected without mitigation. Due to the detectable increases in noise levels (i.e. increases greater than 3dB) affecting significant areas of the Coombe Pool lake during December 2026 the effect on this nationally important feature is assessed as a large adverse (significant) effect without mitigation. However, the recent wintering bird surveys undertaken during winter 2023/2024 (which was based upon one visit during October and two visits per month from November to March) did not record any Shoveler present on site as presented in ES Appendix 8.11 (Wintering Bird survey Report (**APP-086**)). Natural England have further confirmed the site is supporting below average numbers of birds consistently in recent years at the site as stated in correspondence received from Natural England on 1st May 2025, however, Natural England are unable to suggest why this may be occurring.
- “Looking at the shoveler counts for the site from the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) for the last 6 seasons, they are well below the known natural fluctuation threshold set out in the SSSI conservation objectives of 60 individuals. We do not know at present the specific reasons why the numbers have declined.”*
- 3.2.13. Lower numbers of Shoveler at the SSSI than stated on the citation have also been reported by the Coventry City Council ecologist as detailed within section 8.8 of the Environmental Statement Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) (**APP-030**), who reports ‘about two to three pairs’ use the lake.
- 3.2.14. It is considered possible that Shoveler and other overwintering waterbirds have access to higher quality and larger wetland reserves developed by parties such as the RSPB and Wetland Trust within the region that have been developed in more recent years, for instance Brandon Marshes finished a three year £500k improvement scheme in early 2025 that aimed to improve the lake and reedbed, whilst Sandwell Valley has undergone massive lagoon creation works since 2019. All these improvements to sites within the wider local area are creating more favourable habitat for this species and therefore numbers may have



naturally been declining at Coombe Pool SSSI in recent years to the point where Shoveler may not be present at all in significant numbers with regularity. Such alternative reserves are often free of dogs, or only allow dogs on leads and free of anglers. Neither of these occur at Coombe Pool as anglers have access and fishing platforms along the western and northern parts of the lake and the site is popular with dog walkers which likely leads to regular and frequent disturbance making Coombe Pool less favourable and forcing birds towards the eastern side where pathways are not immediately adjacent to the lake. Given these conditions are likely to continue in future, the existing carriageway and proposed works alongside Coombe Pool are considered unlikely to be responsible for this declining population trend, with the numbers and usage of the site itself considered unlikely to change due to the Scheme.

### 3.3. Proposed mitigation measures

- 3.3.1. During the construction works a noise barrier shall be installed and maintained in accordance with Commitment NV2 of the REAC (**APP-110**), Appendix A of the First Iteration EMP (**REP1-010**). The noise barrier will be in place, where practicable, when an absolute noise change of 3dB or greater at the SSSI was identified (as noted in paragraph 8.10.12 of the updated ES Chapter 8 Biodiversity) (**APP-030**) resubmitted at Deadline 3. The location and extent of the modelled noise barrier is presented in updated ES Figure 8.3 Proposed construction mitigation noise barrier – December 2026 daytime, of ES Figures 8.1-8.3 (**APP-052**) resubmitted at Deadline 3.
- 3.3.2. To create the noise barrier Heras fence panels shall be secured to the existing post and rail fence that forms the boundary fence between National Highways owned land and the SSSI. Acoustic blankets will be fixed securely to the Heras fence panels with cable ties and 'Velcro' overlaps, which ensures that there are no gaps between the acoustic blankets, hence forming an acoustic barrier. This acoustic barrier, which will be approximately 2m high, shall be installed prior to any excavation of the bund in this location and will remain in place until the works are complete.
- 3.3.3. To avoid potential additional impacts upon the SSSI an acoustic barrier of 2m has been considered as at this height the fence would not require foundations for installation. By avoiding the need for foundations, excavations within the root protection zones of the trees within the SSSI will not be required thus avoiding potential permanent impacts.
- 3.3.4. Further noise modelling with the use of the construction noise barrier has been undertaken. This modelling has identified the absolute noise change during construction in December 2026. This has been used to determine the significance of effects presented below in section 3.4.

### 3.4. Assessment of effects

- 3.4.1. The absolute noise change modelling detailed in Table 10 shows a reduction in the area of Coombe Pool lake impacted by noticeable noise change levels (i.e. changes >3dB) to 26.14% (9.41ha) with a mitigation noise barrier secured on the existing post and rail fence between National Highways land and the SSSI as detailed in section 3.3. This difference in absolute noise change between the assessment without mitigation and the assessment with the mitigation noise barrier is shown in the updated Figure 8.3 Proposed construction mitigation noise barrier – December 2026 daytime (part of ES Figures 8.1-8.3) (**APP-052**) resubmitted at Deadline 3 of the updated ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) (**APP-030**) submitted at Deadline 3.

Table 10: Absolute noise change impacting Coombe Pool Lake in December 2026 with the use of a mitigation noise barrier

Month	Day/Night	Absolute noise change (dB) range	Areas of Coombe Pool lake where maximum absolute noise change (dB) is >3dB exceedance of DMOY noise levels					
			Exceedance between >3dB - ≤5dB		Exceedance between >5dB - ≤9.2dB		Combined exceedance (all exceedance >3dB)	
			Area	% of Coombe Pool lake	Area	% of Coombe Pool lake	Area	% of Coombe Pool lake
December 2026	Day	+0.3dB - +9.2dB	2.45ha	6.81%	6.96ha	19.33%	9.41ha	26.14%
	Night	No change >+3dB						

- 3.4.2. In addition to reducing noise levels during the month of December 2026, the mitigation noise barrier would be used throughout the duration of construction and therefore reduce absolute noise change levels and areas of Coombe Pool impacted throughout construction.
- 3.4.3. As a means of determining the effectiveness of the construction noise mitigation barrier, checks of Coombe Pool lake, both prior to works starting and during the works, will be undertaken to provide some mechanism to ensure any unforeseen impacts can be accounted for and mitigated. An Ornithological Specialist (OS) will undertake monthly site visits during construction works over the sensitive winter (including winter passage) periods (October to February) and during the breeding season (March to August). The OS will deliver toolbox talks to the onsite teams and provide advice or guidance should any works be found to cause disturbance.
- 3.4.4. The purpose of these visits will be to record the presence and behaviour of waterbirds within the acoustic impact zone of the works (areas of the SSSI



where exceedance of baseline noise levels would be >3dB (see ES Figure 8.3 Proposed construction mitigation noise barrier – December 2026 daytime updated and resubmitted at deadline 3 showing the extent of exceedance during the worst-case month within the breeding or wintering (including winter passage seasons - December 2026)), noting any disturbance events caused by the works or otherwise and to note the circumstances in which any action had to be taken to stop works (see below). The monthly visits will likely take place at the beginning of the week on a Monday following the break over a weekend as birds may be utilising areas near to the site following the weekend when works may be limited. The focus of each month will be the weeks of the highest noise generating activities. The target species will be the qualifying features of the SSSI including breeding waterbirds, grey heron and wintering waterbirds including shoveler.

- 3.4.5. The monitoring will be undertaken each breeding or wintering (including winter passage) month during construction where the SSSI would experience exceedances of baseline noise levels >3dB in consideration of the qualifying features of the SSSI including both breeding and wintering assemblages. Nocturnal monitoring, with the use of night vision aids, will be undertaken in those breeding or wintering (including winter passage) months where night works are to take place and where absolute noise during construction is in exceedance of background levels by >3dB (as identified within ES Appendix 8.16 (Assessment of Noise Impacts on Ecological Features) (**APP-091**) as December 2027 and June 2028). Given that night works would be minimal, as opposed to ongoing daytime works, nocturnal monitoring would be undertaken immediately prior to each night shift (a night shift including works over multiple consecutive nights).
- 3.4.6. The OS will stop works if there are significant numbers of qualifying species within the acoustic impact zone which display signs of being disturbed by the works. In order to determine disturbance the OS will record the behaviour of birds that come into the impact areas and a surrounding buffer and use professional judgement to determine whether the works are causing disturbance. If birds are feeding, loafing or roosting without being disturbed (i.e. no flight response or 'headsup') then works can continue. If there is a significant response or if it is considered that significant numbers of birds are actively avoiding using suitable habitat closer to the works than they currently were, then works will be stopped. Works can restart once the birds have moved outside the impact area or observations indicated that they were content to remain at their original location.
- 3.4.7. Full details of the wintering season and breeding season monitoring works policy will be presented within an Ornithological Noise Monitoring at Coombe Pool SSSI Method Statement (hereafter referred to as Ornithological method

statement) or similar produced as part of the Second Iteration EMP. This Ornithological method statement will be secured through Commitment BD10 of the REAC (**APP-110**), Appendix A of the First Iteration EMP (**REP1-010**) (resubmitted at Deadline 3), compliance with which is secured through Requirement 4 of the draft DCO (**REP1-002**).

- 3.4.8. A cold works policy will be enacted to cover the winter period. All works will stop when a Severe Weather warning is issued, in line with the JNCC guidance (2025). This occurs whenever half of the weather stations in England record a minimum daytime temperature of lower than +1°C air temperature and -2°C grass temperature for 7 consecutive days in line with JNCC warnings around extreme weather events. Works will restart when 48 hours have passed that do not fulfil the criteria for freezing conditions (the temperature does not remain below 0°C for eighteen consecutive hours). The OS would monitor the Met Office weather and any local weather station data alongside the JNCC website and will need to carefully review assemblage numbers and both the ongoing and proposed works, to ensure disturbance does not occur. Full details of the cold works policy will be presented within the Ornithological method statement or similar produced as part of the Second Iteration EMP.
- 3.4.9. The monitoring results during construction along with a summary of disturbance events, updated construction programme and a register of attendance for Toolbox talks will be kept to demonstrate compliance.
- 3.4.10. When mitigation, inclusive of a mitigation noise barrier and the monitoring detailed above, is considered the following change in the significance of effects are anticipated:
- A reduction from moderate adverse (significant) effect on breeding waterbirds to a **slight adverse (not significant) effect** resulting from a negligible adverse level of impact
  - A reduction from moderate adverse (significant) effect on breeding grey heron to a **slight adverse (not significant) effect** resulting from a negligible adverse level of impact
  - A reduction from large adverse (significant) effect on wintering waterbirds including shoveler to a **slight adverse (not significant) effect** resulting from a negligible adverse level of impact

## Glossary and acronyms

Term	Definition
Absolute noise change	Change in noise level between the baseline noise level without the Scheme in the opening year of the Scheme (i.e. 2028 for this Scheme) and the cumulative noise level which is the background noise level without the Scheme in the opening year plus the construction noise level.
Ambient noise	Ambient noise is the total sound in a given situation at a given time usually composed of sound from many sources, near and far.
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BS	Building Standard
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
Decibel	<p>The unit of measurement used for sound pressure levels and noise levels quoted in decibels (dB).</p> <p>NOTE 1: The decibel scale is logarithmic rather than linear; the threshold of hearing is zero decibels while, at the other extreme, the threshold of pain is about 130 decibels.</p> <p>NOTE 2: These limits are seldom experienced and typical levels lie within the range of 30dB(A) (a quiet night time level in a bedroom) to 90dB(A) (at the kerbside of a busy road).</p>
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges
Do-minimum (DM)	Scenario without the Scheme.
Do-something (DS)	Scenario with the Scheme.
DMOY	Do-minimum opening year scenario (DMOY) i.e. the conditions at the time the Scheme would open but if the Scheme didn't exist – i.e. the future baseline without the Scheme. The opening year is 2028 for this Scheme.
DMFY	Do-minimum future year scenario (DMFY). The future year is the year that is 15 years after the Scheme opening year (i.e. 2043 for this Scheme). DMFY is the scenario considering the conditions in 2043 without the Scheme.
DSFY	Do-something future year scenario (DSFY). The scenarios in 2043 with the Scheme.
DSOY	The Scenario with the Scheme in the year the Scheme opens (i.e. for this Scheme the opening year is 2028).
ES	Environmental Statement
ESA	Environmental Statement Addendum
Future year	The 15th year after opening.
IEMA	Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment

Term	Definition
L <sub>A10</sub>	The A-weighted sound level, in dB, that is exceeded 10% of the measurement period.  NOTE: This is the standard index used within the UK to describe traffic noise.
L <sub>A10,18hr</sub>	The noise level, in dB, that is exceeded 10% of the time between 0600 and 2400.
L <sub>Aeq</sub>	The equivalent continuous sound level (L <sub>Aeq</sub> ) is the level of a notional steady sound, which at a given position and over a defined period of time, would have the same A-weighted acoustic energy as the fluctuating noise.
L <sub>night</sub>	A façade noise index derived from the L <sub>A10,18hr</sub> using the TRL conversion method PR/SE/451/02.
Long-term	Noise change based on the +15 year assessment (for example Do-minimum opening year scenario (DMOY) against Do-minimum future year scenario (DMFY) and DMOY against Do-something future year scenario (DSFY).
Noise	Unwanted sound.
Noise mapping	The production of computer software generated maps showing how the predicted levels of outdoor noise vary with location.
Noise modelling	Software to predict noise levels.  NOTE: This can be undertaken either by specialist software to provide a 3D representation of the project and nearby noise sensitive receptors or a simple spreadsheet.
Noise monitoring	Measurement of noise levels.
Noise sensitive receptor	Receptors which are potentially sensitive to noise.  NOTE: Examples include dwellings, hospitals, healthcare facilities, education facilities, community facilities, END quiet areas or potential END quiet areas, international and national or statutorily designated sites, public rights of way and cultural heritage assets.
Opening year	The first year of operation.
Operational noise assessment	An assessment to determine the operational noise impacts and effects of a road project.
OS	Ornithological Specialist
Short-term	Noise change based on parallel assessment year (for example DMOY against Do-something opening year scenario (DSOY)).
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
Vibration	A to-and-fro motion which oscillates about a fixed equilibrium position.

## 4. References

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[https://www.bto.org/our-science/publications/birds-conservation-concern#:~:text=Commonly%20referred%20to%20as%20the,Conservation%20Concern%205%20\(BOCC5\)](https://www.bto.org/our-science/publications/birds-conservation-concern#:~:text=Commonly%20referred%20to%20as%20the,Conservation%20Concern%205%20(BOCC5)) (accessed August 2024).

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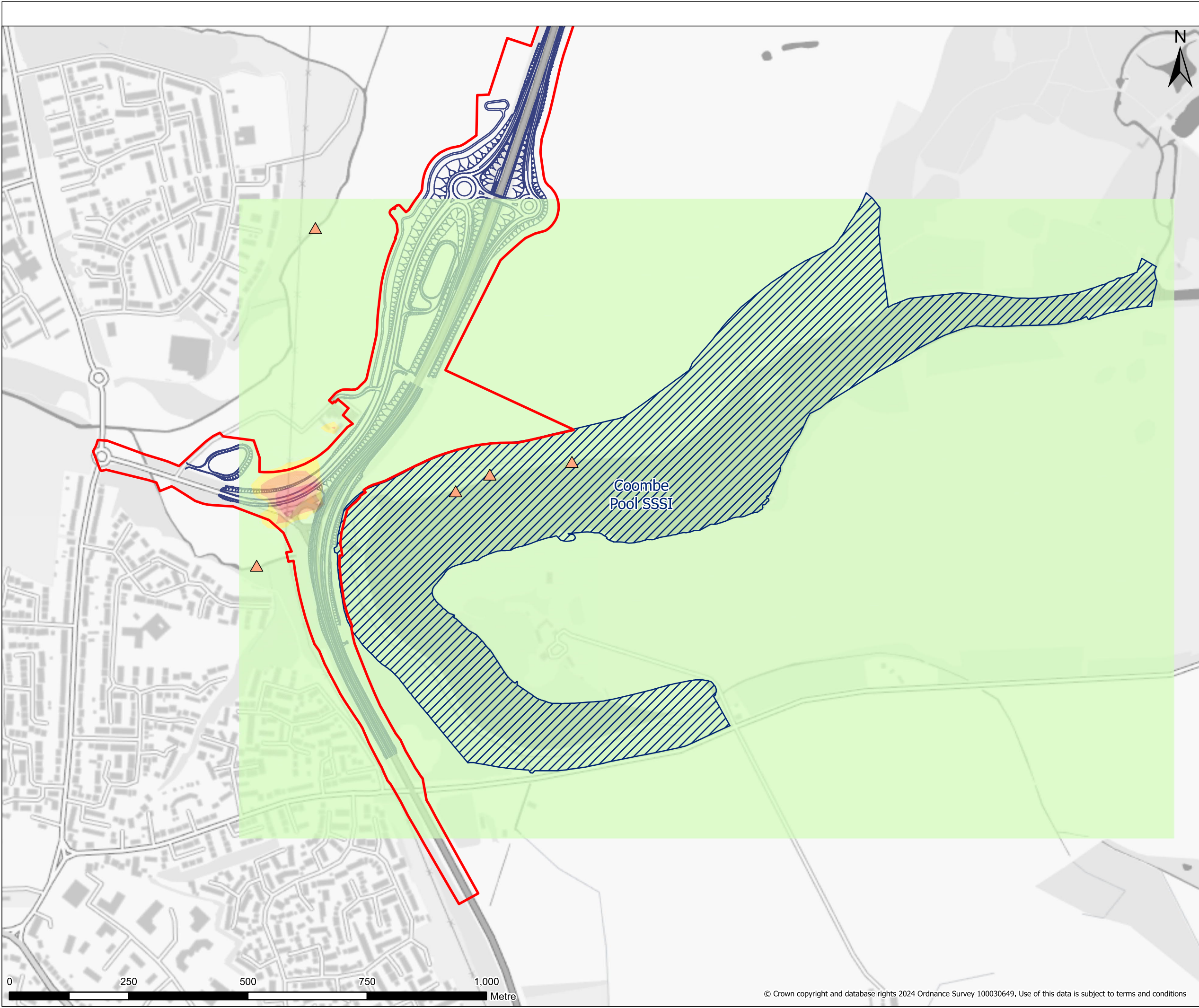
JNCC (2025). Severe weather scheme criteria and weather station locations. Available online at: [Severe Weather Scheme criteria and weather station locations](#) (Accessed June 2025).

National Highways (2020). Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. LA 108: Biodiversity. Available online at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/search/af0517ba-14d2-4a52-aa6d-1b21ba05b465> (Accessed August 2024).

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## Annex A: Drawings





**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

**Noise difference**

- ND <= -5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= -3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND <= 0 dB
- 0 < ND <= 3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND <= 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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P02	03,10,2024	FIRST EDITION	AC	BM	CF
REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP
Designer					
Contractor					
Client					
Project Title					
A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSGRAVE)					
Project Stage					
DCO APPLICATION					
Drawing Title					
APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 1 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS DAY TIME - SEPTEMBER 2026					
Suitability					
FOR INFORMATION					
Sheet Size	Scale	Status	Revision		
A3	1:7,500	S3	P02		
Drawing Number					
HE604820-OIL-EBD-00-DR-LB-30058					





**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

**Noise difference**

- ND <= -5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= -3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND <= 0 dB
- 0 < ND <= 3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND <= 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP

Designer

Contractor

Client



Project Title  
A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSgrave)

Project Stage  
DCO APPLICATION

Drawing Title  
APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 2 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS DAY TIME - NOVEMBER 2026

Suitability  
FOR INFORMATION

Sheet Size A3	Scale 1:7,500	Status S3	Revision P02
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Drawing Number  
HE604820-OIL-EBD-00-DR-LB-30059





**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

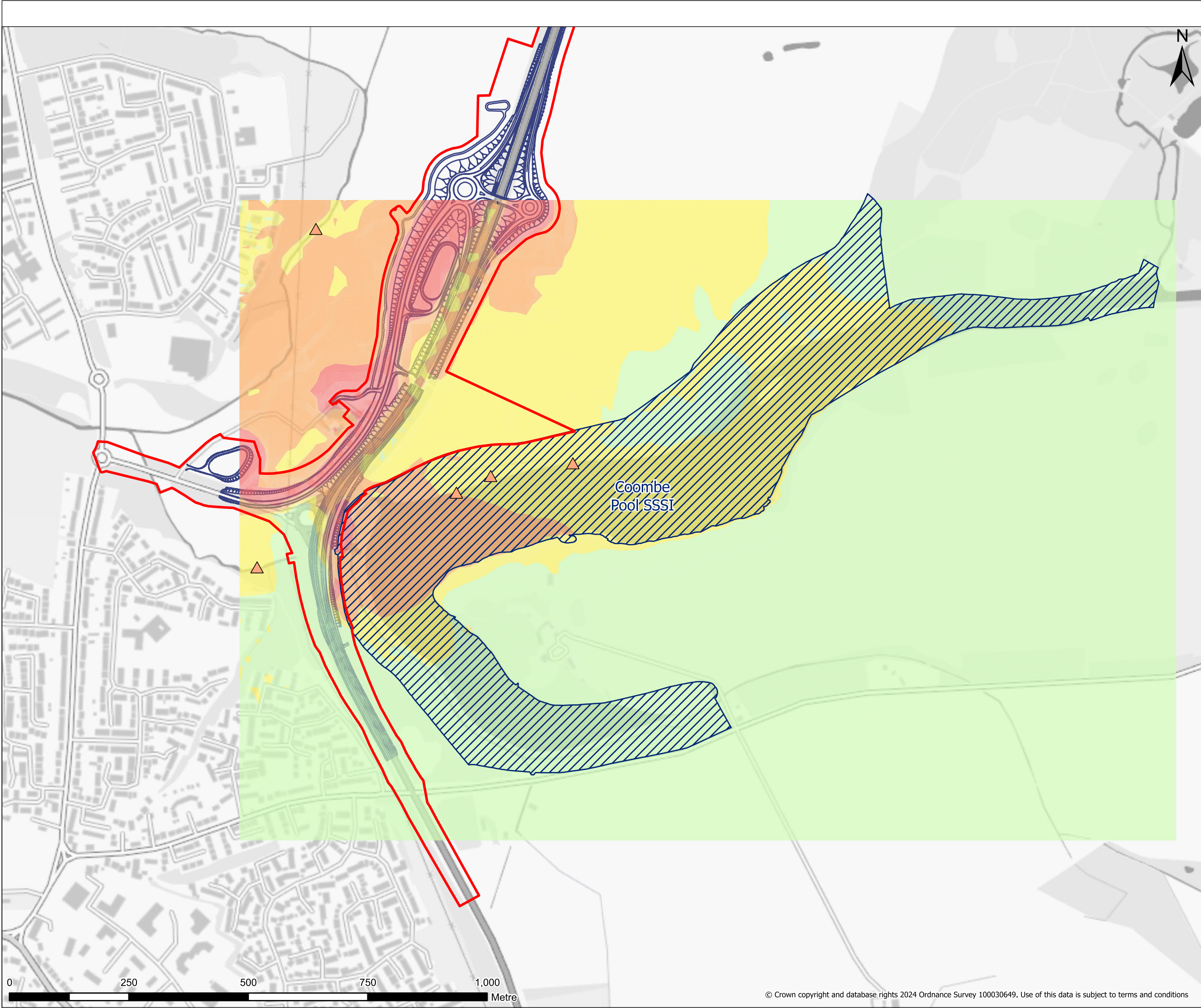
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- 3.0 < ND <= 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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P02	03,10,2024	FIRST EDITION	AC	BM	CF
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Designer					
Contractor					
Client					
Project Title					
A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSGRAVE)					
Project Stage					
DCO APPLICATION					
Drawing Title					
APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 3 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS DAY TIME - DECEMBER 2026					
Suitability					
FOR INFORMATION					
Sheet Size	Scale	Status	Revision		
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Drawing Number					
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**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

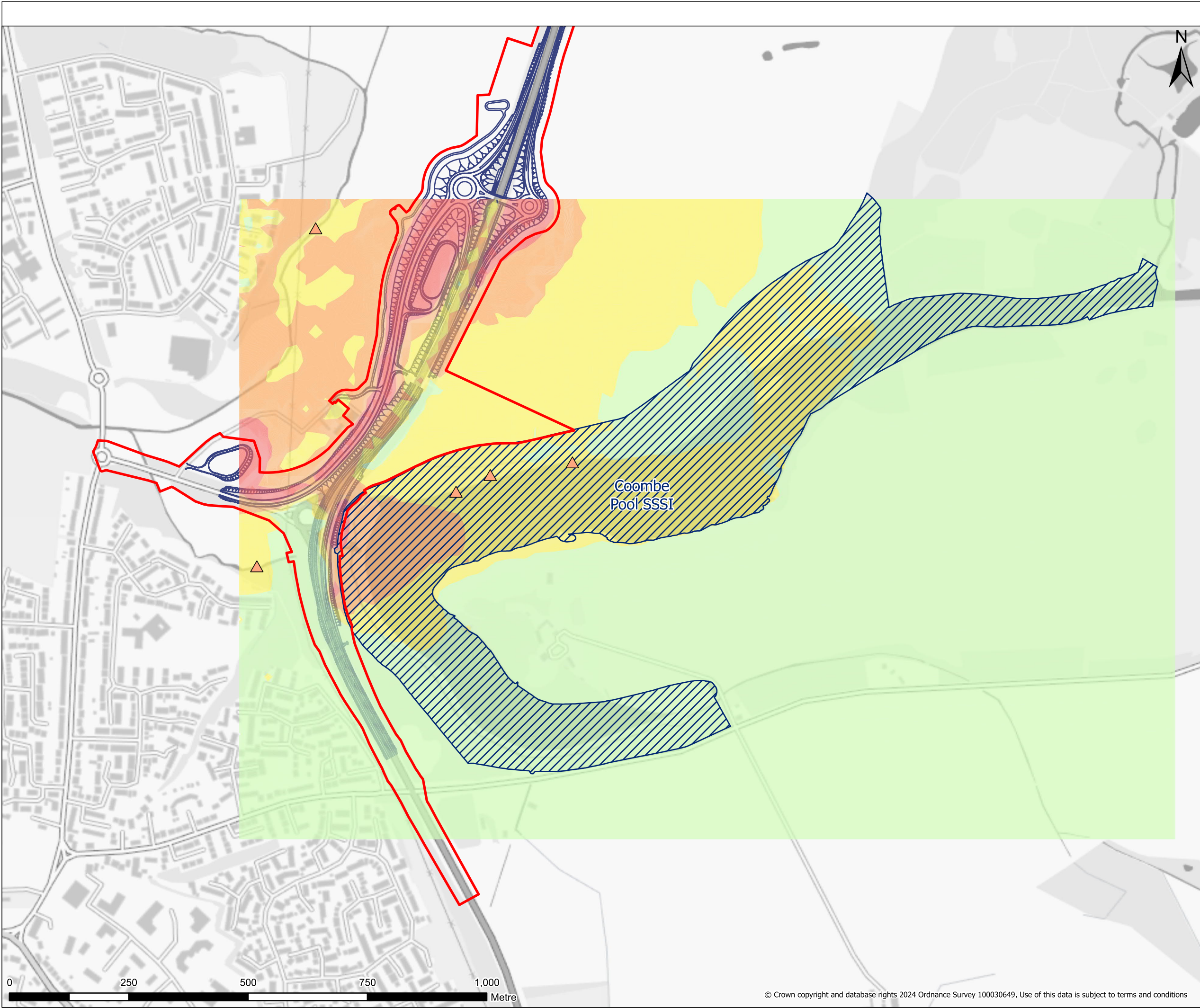
**Noise difference**

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- 0 < ND <= 3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND <= 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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P02	03,10,2024	FIRST EDITION	AC	BM	CF
REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP
Designer					
Contractor					
Client					
Project Title					
A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSGRAVE)					
Project Stage					
DCO APPLICATION					
Drawing Title					
APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 4 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS DAY TIME - JANUARY 2027					
Suitability					
FOR INFORMATION					
Sheet Size	Scale	Status	Revision		
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Drawing Number					
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**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

**Noise difference**

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- 3.0 < ND ≤ 0 dB
- 0 < ND ≤ 3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND ≤ 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND ≤ 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP

Designer

Contractor

Client

national highways

Project Title

A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSGRAVE)

Project Stage

DCO APPLICATION

Drawing Title

APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 5 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS DAY TIME - FEBRUARY 2027

Suitability

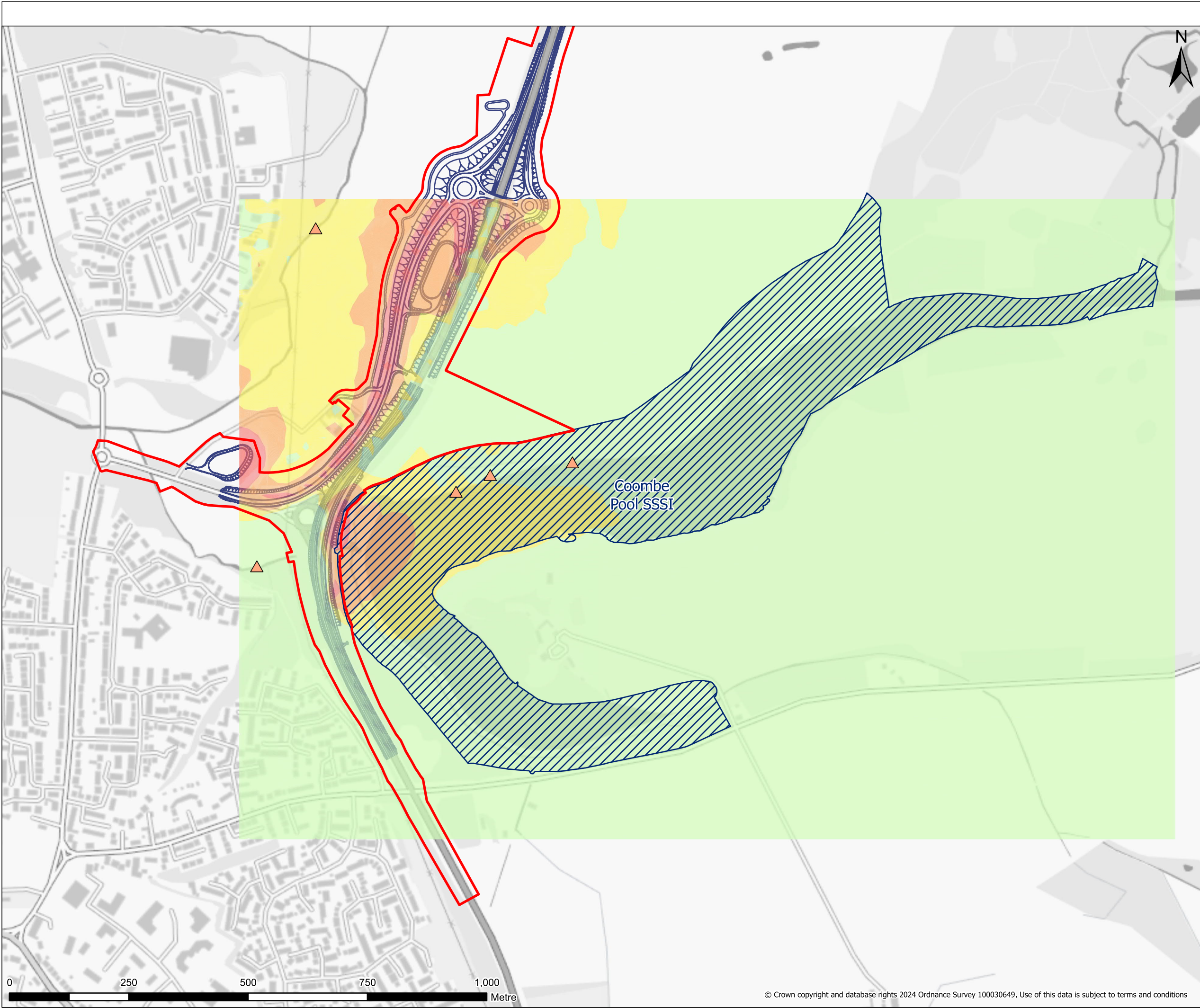
FOR INFORMATION

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Drawing Number

HE604820-OIL-EBD-00-DR-LB-30062





**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

**Noise difference**

- ND ≤ -5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND ≤ -3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND ≤ 0 dB
- 0 < ND ≤ 3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND ≤ 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND ≤ 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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Bedworth  
Coventry  
Rugby  
Kenilworth  
M6  
A45  
A46  
A4177

P02	03,10,2024	FIRST EDITION	AC	BM	CF
REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP

Designer

Contractor

Client

Project Title

A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSGRAVE)

Project Stage

DCO APPLICATION

Drawing Title

APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 6 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS DAY TIME - MARCH 2027

Suitability

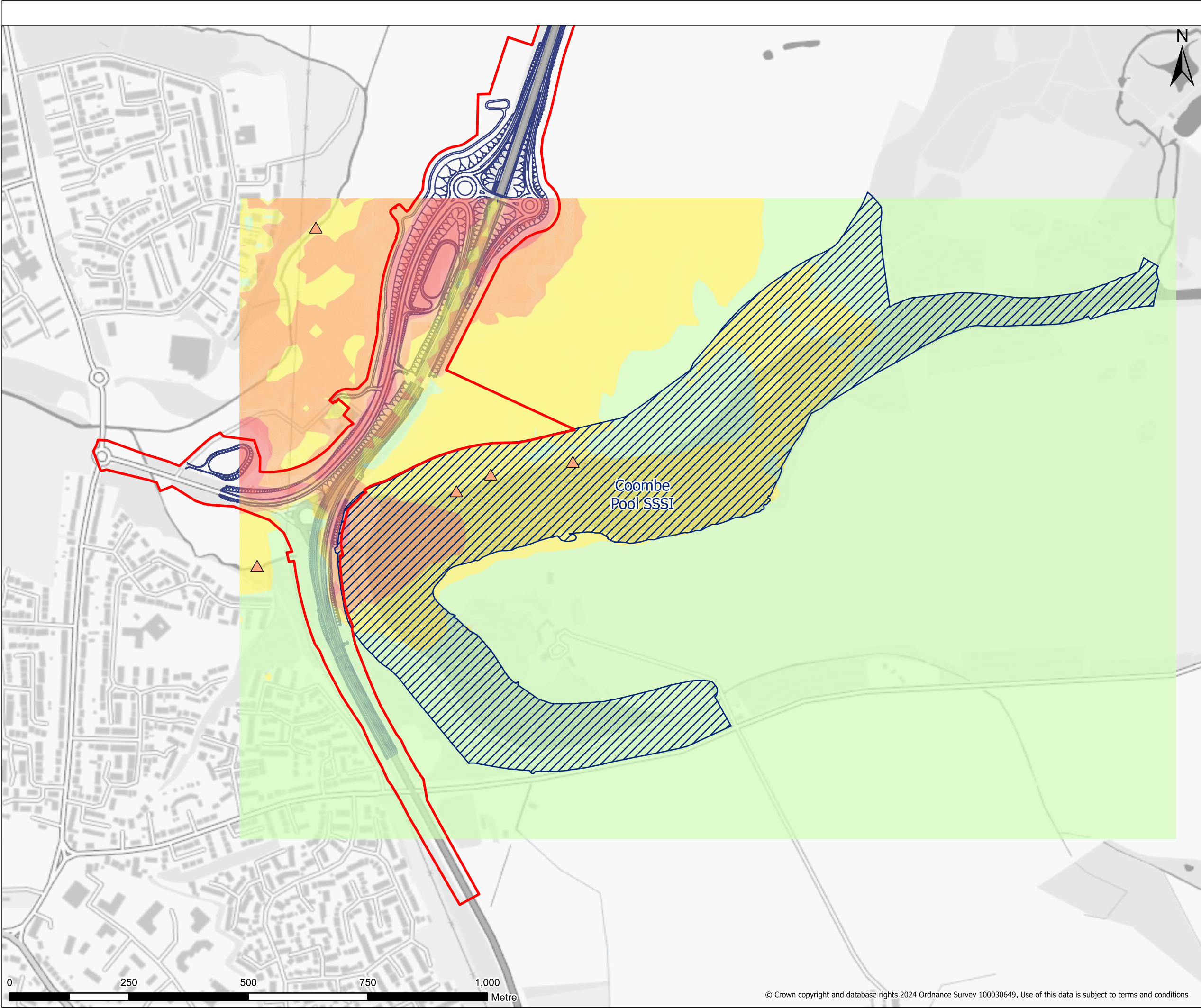
FOR INFORMATION

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Drawing Number

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**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

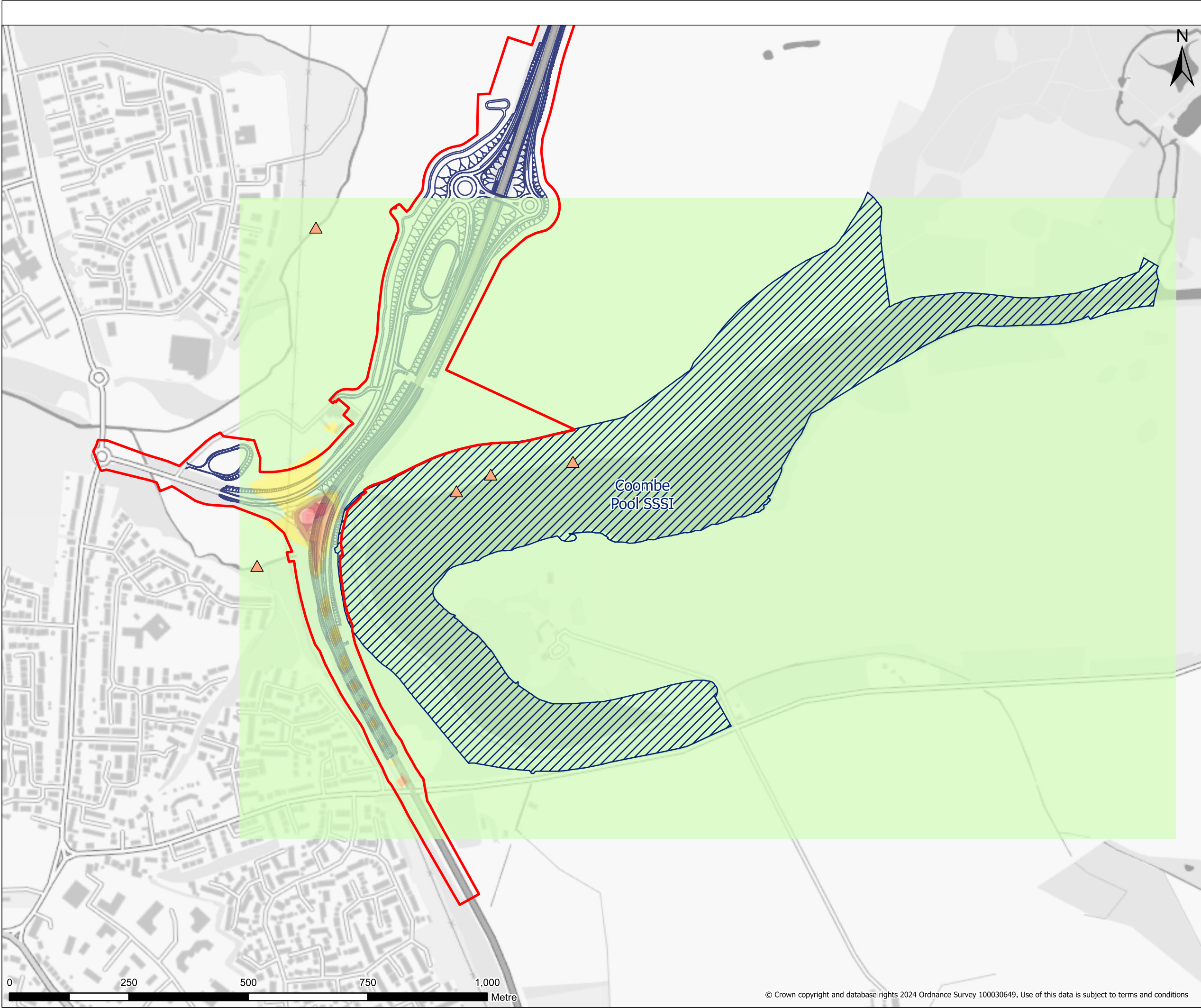
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- 3.0 < ND <= 0 dB
- 0 < ND <= 3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND <= 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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P02	03,10,2024	FIRST EDITION	AC	BM	CF
REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP
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Contractor					
Client					
Project Title					
A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSGRAVE)					
Project Stage					
DCO APPLICATION					
Drawing Title					
APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 7 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS DAY TIME - AUGUST 2027					
Suitability					
FOR INFORMATION					
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Drawing Number					
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**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

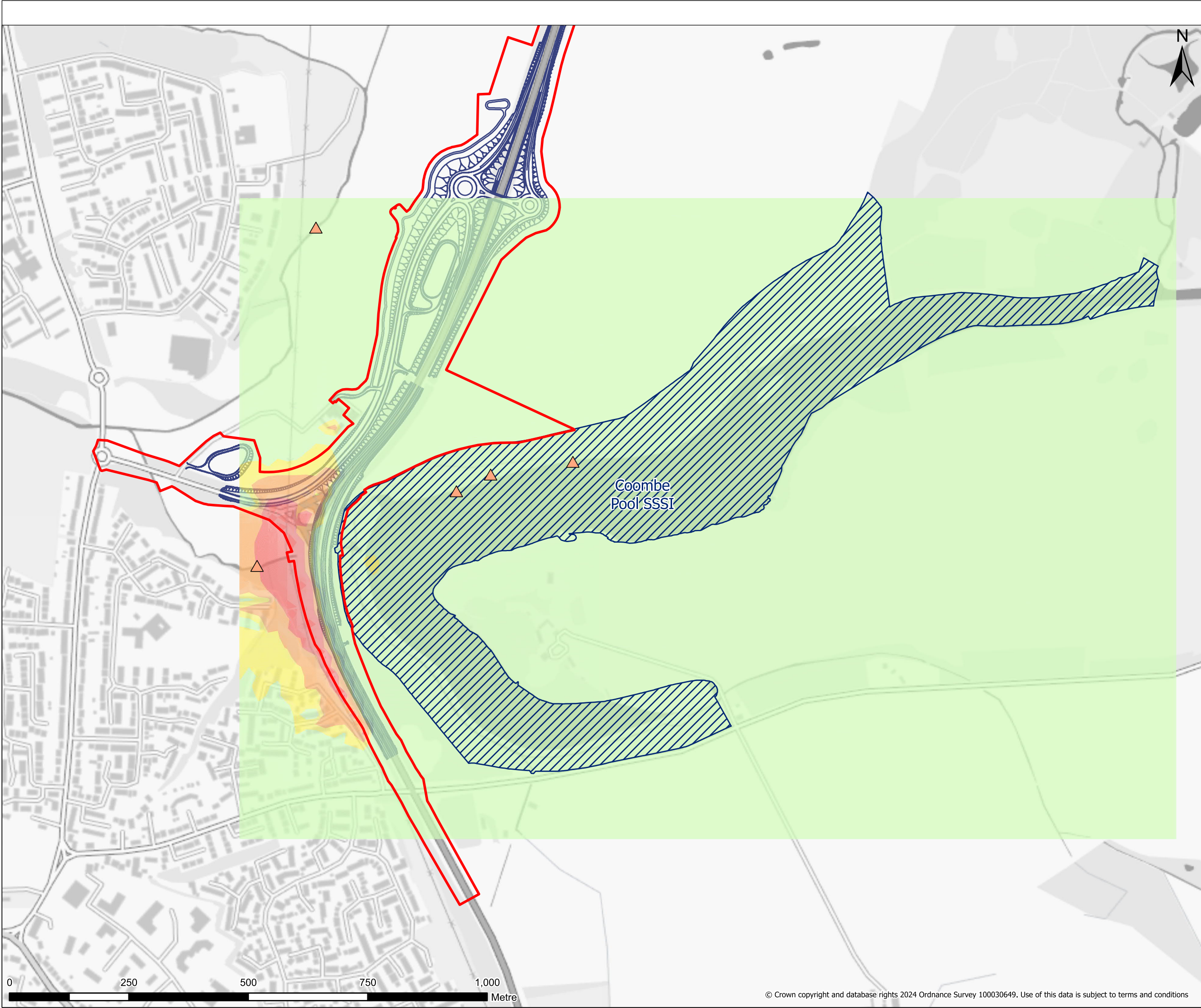
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- 3.0 < ND <= 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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P02	03,10,2024	FIRST EDITION	AC	BM	CF
REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP
Designer					
Contractor					
Client					
Project Title					
A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSGRAVE)					
Project Stage					
DCO APPLICATION					
Drawing Title					
APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 8 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS DAY TIME - DECEMBER 2027					
Suitability					
FOR INFORMATION					
Sheet Size	Scale	Status	Revision		
A3	1:7,500	S3	P02		
Drawing Number					
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**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

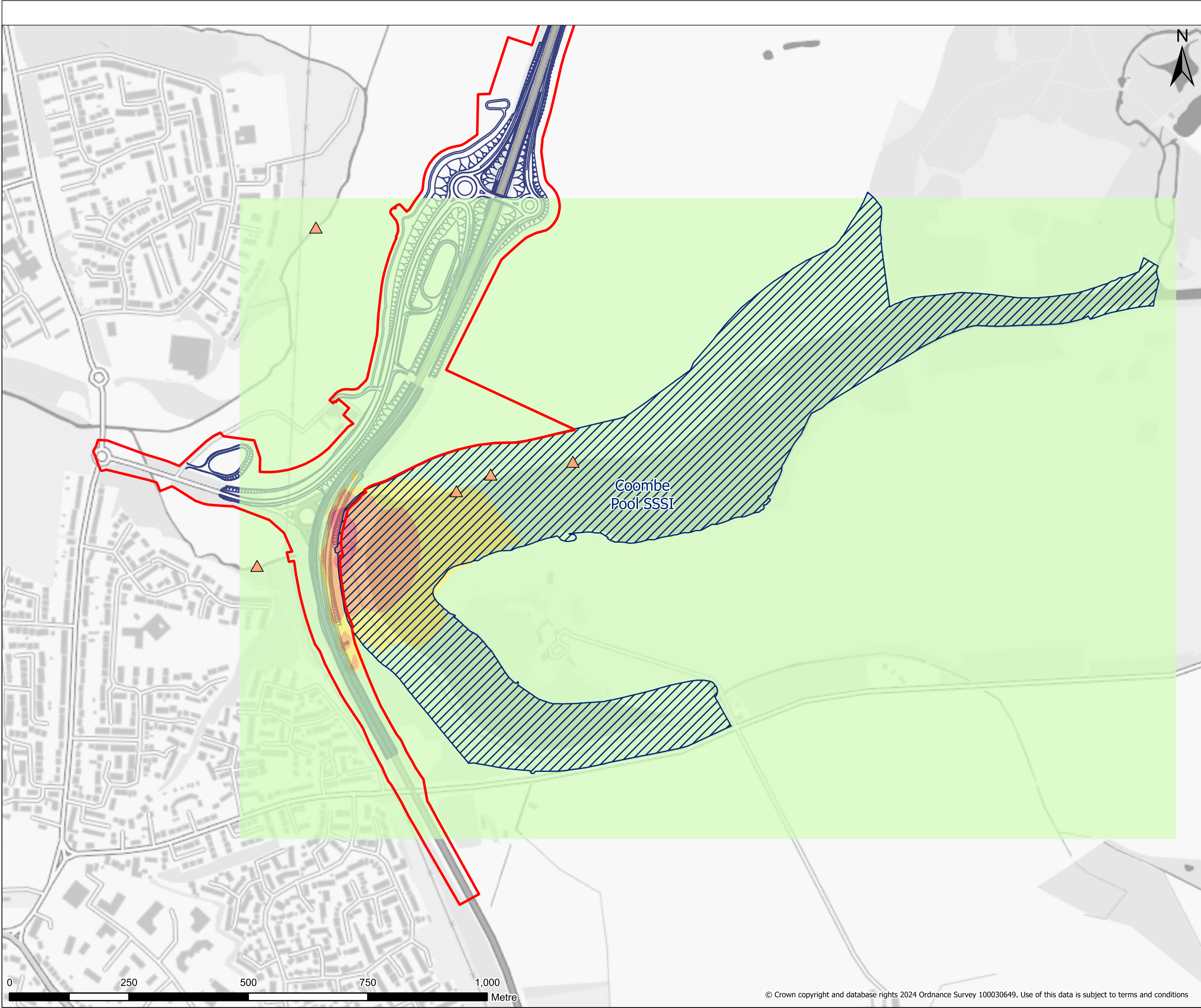
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- 3.0 < ND <= 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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P02	03,10,2024	FIRST EDITION	AC	BM	CF
REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP
Designer					
Contractor					
Client					
Project Title					
A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSGRAVE)					
Project Stage					
DCO APPLICATION					
Drawing Title					
APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 9 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS DAY TIME - FEBRUARY 2028					
Suitability					
FOR INFORMATION					
Sheet Size	Scale	Status	Revision		
A3	1:7,500	S3	P02		
Drawing Number					
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**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

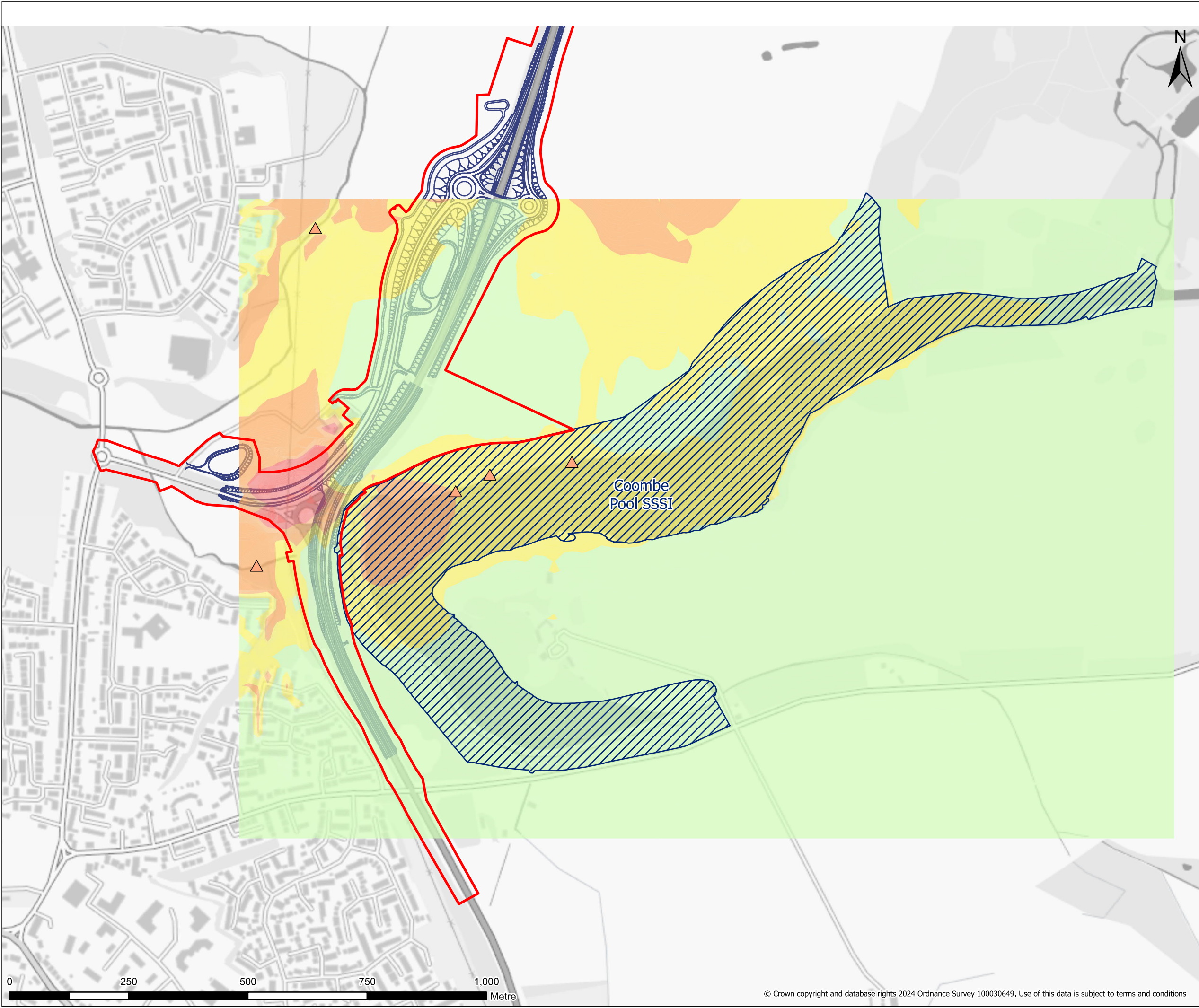
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- 3.0 < ND <= 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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P02	03,10,2024	FIRST EDITION	AC	BM	CF
REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP
Designer					
Contractor					
Client					
Project Title					
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Project Stage					
DCO APPLICATION					
Drawing Title					
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Suitability					
FOR INFORMATION					
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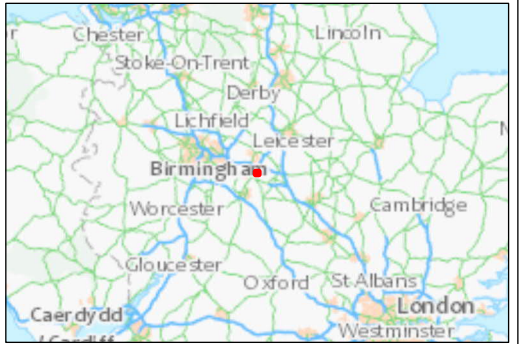
**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

**Noise difference**

- ND <= -5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= -3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND <= 0 dB
- 0 < ND <= 3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND <= 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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P02	03,10,2024	FIRST EDITION	AC	BM	CF
REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP

Designer

Contractor

Client



Project Title  
A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSGRAVE)

Project Stage  
DCO APPLICATION

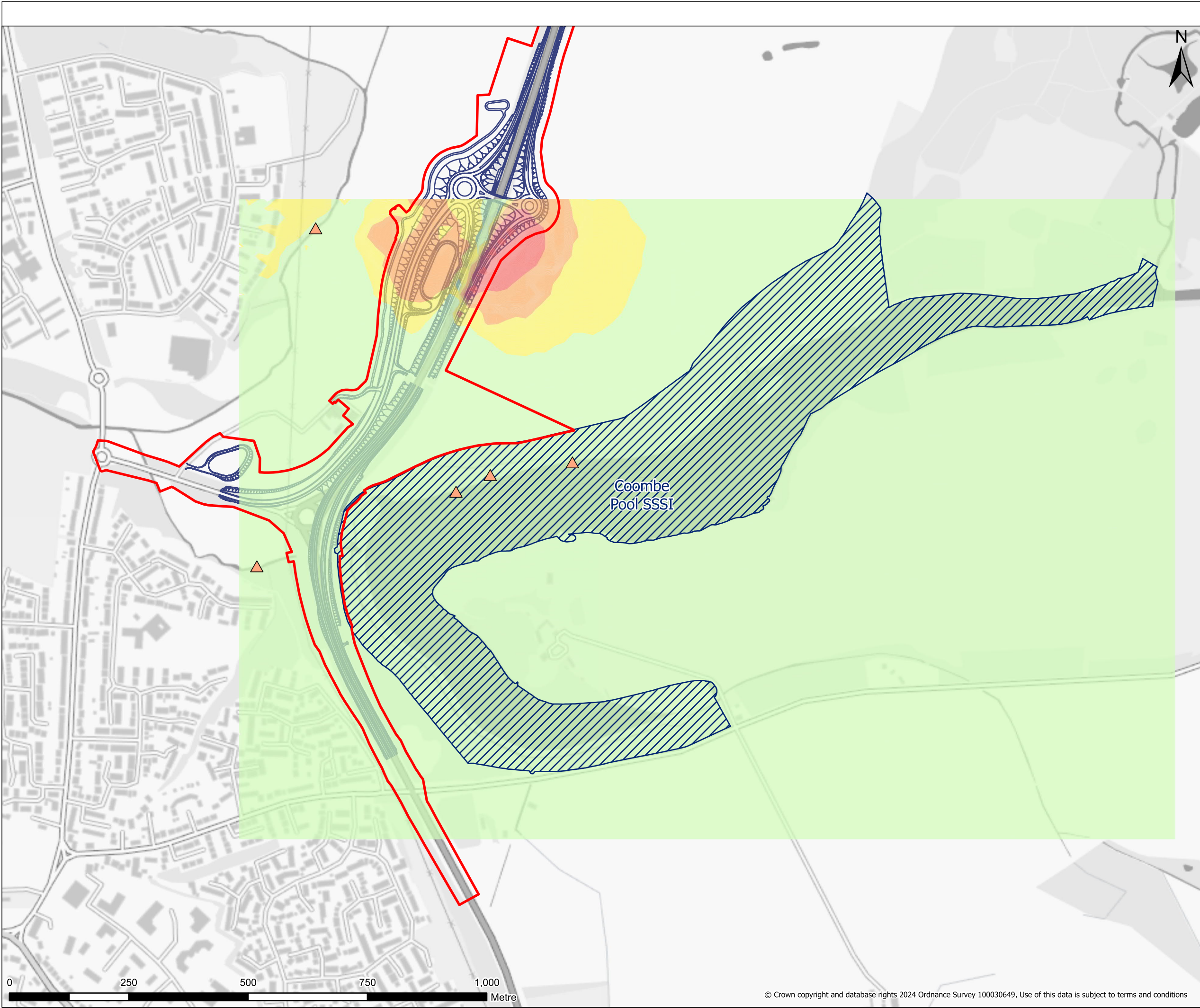
Drawing Title  
APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 11 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS NIGHT TIME - SEPTEMBER 2026

Suitability  
FOR INFORMATION

Sheet Size	Scale	Status	Revision
A3	1:7,500	S3	P02

Drawing Number  
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**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

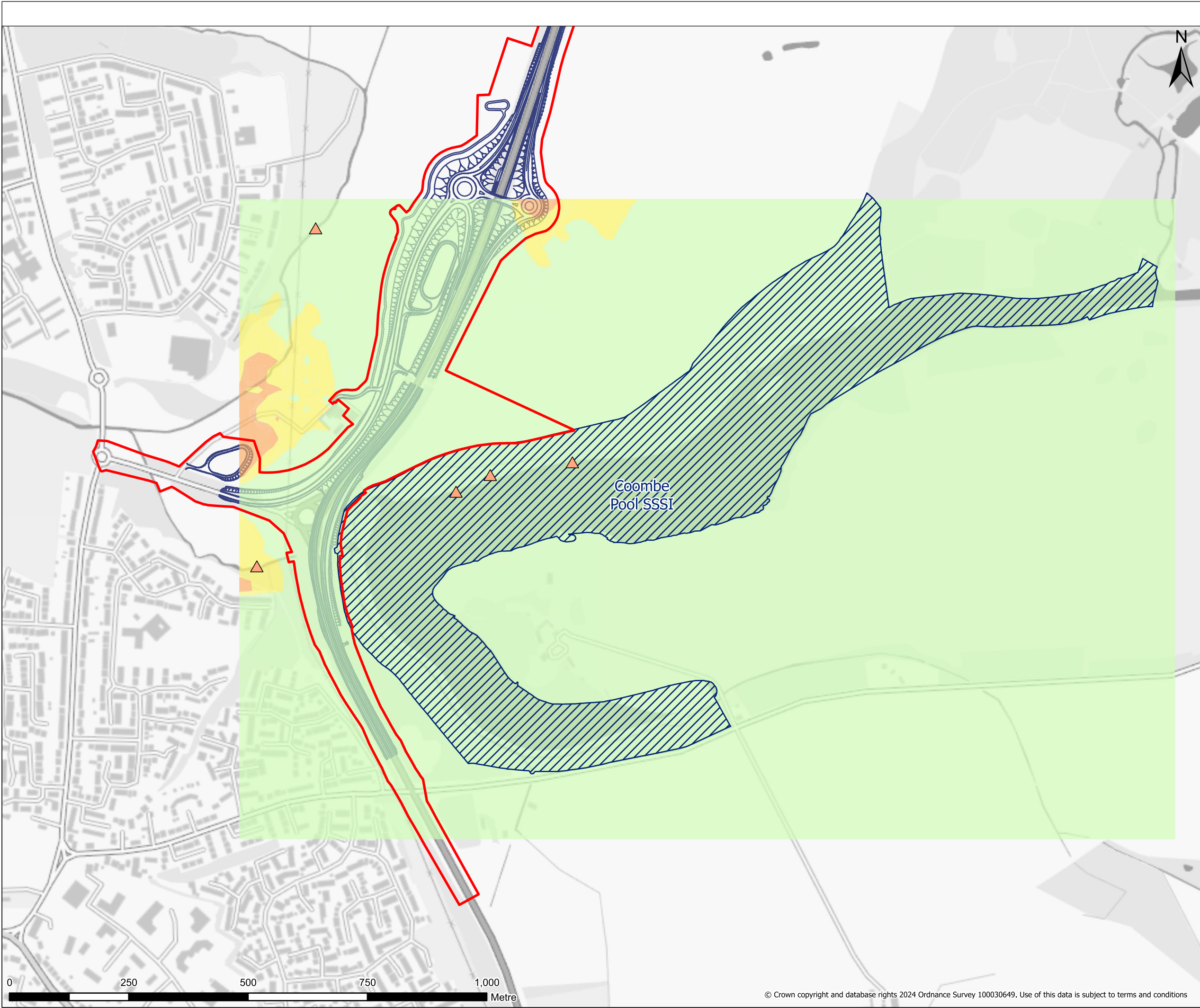
**Noise difference**

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- 3.0 < ND <= 0 dB
- 0 < ND <= 3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND <= 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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P02	03,10,2024	FIRST EDITION	AC	BM	CF
REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP
Designer					
Contractor					
Client					
Project Title					
A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSGRAVE)					
Project Stage					
DCO APPLICATION					
Drawing Title					
APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 12 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS NIGHT TIME - FEBRUARY 2027					
Suitability					
FOR INFORMATION					
Sheet Size	Scale	Status	Revision		
A3	1:7,500	S3	P02		
Drawing Number					
HE604820-OIL-EBD-00-DR-LB-30069					





**Legend**

Order Limits

Proposed Scheme Design

Otter Couch

Coombe Pool SSSI

**Noise difference**

ND <= -5.0 dB

-5.0 < ND <= -3.0 dB

-3.0 < ND <= 0 dB

0 < ND <= 3.0 dB

3.0 < ND <= 5.0 dB

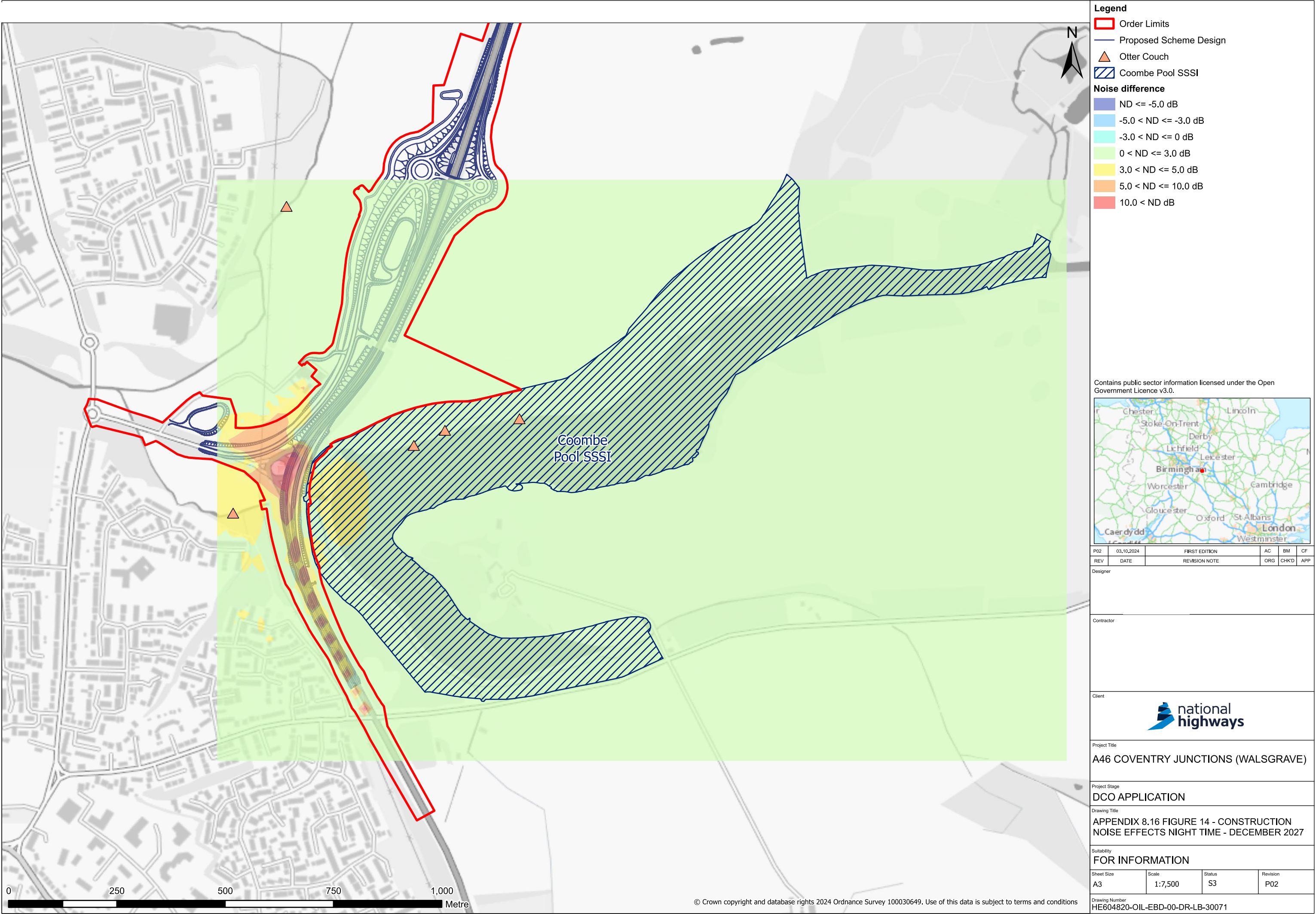
5.0 < ND <= 10.0 dB

10.0 < ND dB

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P02	03,10,2024	FIRST EDITION	AC	BM	CF
REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP
Designer					
Contractor					
Client <div></div>					
Project Title A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSgrave)					
Project Stage DCO APPLICATION					
Drawing Title APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 13 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS NIGHT TIME - MARCH 2027					
Suitability FOR INFORMATION					
Sheet Size A3	Scale 1:7,500	Status S3	Revision P02		
Drawing Number HE604820-OIL-EBD-00-DR-LB-30070					





**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Proposed Scheme Design
- Otter Couch
- Coombe Pool SSSI

**Noise difference**

- ND <= -5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= -3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND <= 0 dB
- 0 < ND <= 3.0 dB
- 3.0 < ND <= 5.0 dB
- 5.0 < ND <= 10.0 dB
- 10.0 < ND dB

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P02	03,10,2024	FIRST EDITION	AC	BM	CF
REV	DATE	REVISION NOTE	ORG	CHKD	APP

Designer

Contractor

Client

national highways

Project Title

A46 COVENTRY JUNCTIONS (WALSgrave)

Project Stage

DCO APPLICATION

Drawing Title

APPENDIX 8.16 FIGURE 14 - CONSTRUCTION NOISE EFFECTS NIGHT TIME - DECEMBER 2027

Suitability

FOR INFORMATION

Sheet Size	Scale	Status	Revision
A3	1:7,500	S3	P02

Drawing Number

HE604820-OIL-EBD-00-DR-LB-30071