

A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Scheme number: TR010066

8.9 Statement of Common Ground with Historic England

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Rule 17(1)

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**The Infrastructure
Planning
(Examination
Procedure) Rules
2010**

**A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)
Development Consent Order 202[X]**

**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH
HISTORIC ENGLAND**

Rule Number	Rule 17(1)
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Author	A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Project Team, National Highways

Version	Date	Status of Version
Rev 0	27 May 2025	Deadline 1
Rev 1	22 July 2025	Deadline 4

STATUS OF STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared by the Applicant with input from Historic England. The stakeholder has not had sufficient time to review all updates therefore it has not been signed or agreed via email. The Applicant considers that this Statement of Common Ground presents an accurate description of the matters raised and the status of each matter, based on the engagement that has taken place to date.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared in respect of the A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Scheme (the “Scheme”) following the application made by National Highways Limited (the “Applicant”) to the Secretary of State for Transport, via the Planning Inspectorate (the “Inspectorate”) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the “2008 Act”). A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in Chapter 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) (**APP-024**).
- 1.1.2. This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere with the application documents. All application documents are available on the Planning Inspectorate website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/west-midlands/a46-coventry-junctions-walsgrave/>
- 1.1.3. This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the parties to it, and where agreement has not (yet) been reached. SoCGs are an established means in the planning process of allowing all parties to identify and focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.

1.2. Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1. This SoCG has been prepared between (1) the Applicant and (2) Historic England.
- 1.2.2. The Applicant (previously known as Highways England) became the Government-owned Strategic Highways Company on 1 April 2015. It is the highway authority in England for the strategic road network and has the necessary powers and duties to operate, manage, maintain, and enhance the network. Regulatory powers remain with the Secretary of State. The legislation establishing the Applicant made provision for all legal rights and obligations, including in respect of the application, to be conferred upon or assumed by the Applicant.
- 1.2.3. Historic England is the non-departmental public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England’s historic environment. It does this by championing historic places, identifying and protecting England’s heritage, supporting change, understanding historic places and providing expertise at a local level. Historic England’s remit includes assessment, processing grants, giving advice to developers and local authorities, as well as designation, heritage data,

government policy and communications. Historic England is a prescribed consultee for the Application under Sections 42(1)(a) and 56(2)(a) of the 2008 Act.

- 1.2.4. Collectively the Applicant and Historic England are referred to in this SoCG as 'the parties'.

1.3. Terminology

- 1.3.1. In Table 3-1 in Section 3, Issues of this SoCG, the terminology is as follows:

- "Agreed" indicates area(s) of agreement
- "Under Discussion" indicates area(s) of current disagreement where resolution remains possible, and where parties continue discussing the issue(s) to determine whether they can reach agreement by the end of the examination
- "Not Agreed" indicates a final position for area(s) of disagreement where the resolution of the divergent positions will not be possible, and parties agree on this point

- 1.3.2. It can be assumed that any matters not specifically referred to in the Issues section of this SoCG are not of material interest or relevant to Historic England and therefore have not been subject of any discussions between the parties. As such, those matters can be read as agreed, only to the extent that they are either not of material interest or relevance to Historic England.

2. Record of Engagement

2.1.1. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between the Applicant and Historic England in relation to the application is outlined in **Table 2-1** below.

Table 2-1 : Record of Engagement

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
31 May 2023	Email from Applicant to Historic England	The Applicant contacted Historic England to initiate discussions about the Scheme, including potential concerns about the east wall at Hungerley Hall Farm.
6 June 2023	Email from Historic England to Applicant	Historic England clarified their statutory remit and stated that they would defer to Coventry City Council for decisions related to the Grade II listed Hungerley Hall Farm.
6 June 2023	Email from Applicant to Historic England	The Applicant requested confirmation of potential initial concerns.
8 June 2023	Email from Historic England to Applicant	Historic England confirmed their position was still as per their response to the option selection consultation, that the current proposal provided the best solution both for Hungerley Hall Farmhouse and other heritage assets to the east of the Scheme. Historic England's main concern was the potential impact of the Scheme on the setting of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden (RPG) associated with Coombe Abbey and the listed buildings therein. They said that impact on the setting would include any increase in noise, potential further lighting pollution, large scale signage, fencing and the nature of the proposed green elements of the landscaping.
24 October 2023	Letter from Applicant to Historic England	To notify Historic England of the statutory consultation and the Applicant's duty to consult Historic England under Section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008.
24 & 25 April 2024	Emails between Applicant and Historic England	Email exchange re-commencing discussions for the Cultural Heritage chapter of the ES (ES Chapter 6) (APP-028).
18 July 2024	Email from Applicant to Historic England	Update from the Applicant on current status and regarding the results of a site visit to Coombe Abbey with the Coventry City Council conservation officer. Query with regards to boundary mapping of the north-western edge of Coombe Abbey RPG.
22 July 2024	Email from Historic England to Applicant	Historic England request pre-application reference and the Scheme details. Also requested scheme boundary plans to clarify relationship with park boundary.
12 August 2024	Email from Applicant to Historic England	Order Limits shapefile and fence line issued to Historic England to review works on the western and northern boundary of the RPG.
5 September 2024	Email from Historic England to Applicant	Historic England confirmed they were satisfied with the Order Limits along the northern boundary of the RPG,

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
		and were open to discussion about the western boundary. Questions from Historic England related to the scope of works on the western boundary and particularly: • Age of trees to be affected • Potential level changes within the tree root protection areas due to works • Impact on woodland rides • Proposed planting Historic England also raised the issue of recovering all their costs associated with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
18 September 2024	Email from Applicant to Historic England	Information as requested provided to Historic England: Issued Arboriculture report, Tree Protection Plan, bund cross sections, details of planting mix. Excerpts from draft ES Cultural Heritage chapter (Chapter 6) (APP-028) setting out predicted impacts on woodland rides and park boundary.
7 October 2024	Email from Historic England to Applicant	Historic England are broadly in agreement with the potential impacts of the Scheme. Feedback in this correspondence related to: • A query about the types of cedars identified in the Arboricultural Report • Feedback on the potential impacts as a result of the removal of the bund and tree belt west of the RPG • Comments on potential light and noise impacts • A query about whether the proposed woodland mitigation for the Scheme could maintain the existing setting within the open fields These are captured in Table 3.1
12 May 2025	Meeting between Historic England and the Applicant	Meeting to discuss the points raised by Historic England in their Relevant Representations (RR-011) and previous email. Agreement was made that the Applicant would further consult and review landscaping design proposals at detailed design. This is to address their concern regarding the woodland planting and the potential implications on the perception of agricultural land beyond and the lightness filtering through the woodland belt would be lost overtime.
18 July 2025	Meeting between Historic England and the Applicant	Meeting for the Applicant to run through and discuss the latest SoCG. The Applicant clarified that the wording will be added to commitment LV1 of the REAC (APP-110) to address their points in regards to Coombe Abbey Park and will share this with Historic England to get their agreement.
21 July 2025	Email from the Applicant to Historic England	The Applicant emailed Historic England the amended REAC (APP-110) commitment LV1 alongside an amended SoCG for their review.

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- 2.1.2. It is agreed that this is an accurate record of key meetings and other forms of consultation and engagement undertaken between (1) the Applicant and (2) Historic England in relation to issues addressed in this SoCG.

3. Issues

3.1. Issues agreed, not agreed or under discussion

- 3.1.1. **Table 3-1** below details the issues which have been agreed, not agreed or are under discussion between (1) the Applicant and (2) Historic England.
- 3.1.2. At Examination Deadline 1 there are 3 matters in total, all of which are agreed.

Table 3-1: Issues

Ref	Issue	Doc Ref	Historic England's Position	The Applicant's Position	Status	Date
Cultural Heritage						
1	Cultural Heritage – Hungerley Hall Farm	ES Chapter 6 (Cultural Heritage) (APP-028)	Historic England have deferred consultation about Hungerley Hall Farm to Coventry City Council.	The Applicant is consulting with Coventry City Council about matters pertaining to the Grade II listed Hungerley Hall Farmhouse.	Agreed	12 May 2025
2	Cultural Heritage – Archaeology	ES Chapter 6 (Cultural Heritage) (APP-028)	Historic England have deferred consultation about archaeology to the local authority's expert advisor on archaeological planning matters (at Coventry City Council).	The Applicant has engaged with Coventry City Council and Rugby Borough Council about matters pertaining to archaeology.	Agreed	12 May 2025
3	Cultural Heritage – Grade II* RPG associated with Coombe Abbey and the listed buildings therein.	ES Chapter 6 (Cultural Heritage) (APP-028)	Historic England should be consulted on matters relating to the setting of the Grade II* RPG associated with Coombe Abbey and the listed buildings therein. Historic England has queries about several aspects of the proposed development that could impact the historic environment and its setting. These points include:	The Applicant has engaged with Historic England about matters pertaining to the setting of the Grade II* RPG associated with Coombe Abbey and the listed buildings therein. The Applicant confirms they have agreed with Historic England to amend commitment LV1 of the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) (APP-110) to review the landscaping around Coombe Abbey Park	Agreed	12 May 2025

Ref	Issue	Doc Ref	Historic England's Position	The Applicant's Position	Status	Date
			- The removal of the bund and the tree belt west of the park boundary. - The raising of tree crowns and the road shifting closer to the park boundary. Such changes are likely to result in increased exposure to light and noise, especially affecting the historic rides and paths within the park. Furthermore, the risk of windthrow, which could affect the existing parkland trees, remains undetermined. Additionally, the proposal for woodland planting in the north-western agricultural field would alter the perception of the agricultural land beyond, and the natural light filtering through the woodland belt would diminish over time. Historic England have been in discussion with the Applicant on the current proposals and agree to have further constructive engagement and resolve these points at detailed design. Whilst supporting the habitat of the SSSI, the detailed design of woodland planting in the selection of species, planting area, and layout, should be guided by several key considerations for the historic landscape: Enhancing the experience as one moves along the historic carriageway and conserving the experience of the ride and those views across the gently rising open	during detailed design to consider the points raised by Historic England.		

Ref	Issue	Doc Ref	Historic England's Position	The Applicant's Position	Status	Date
			fields to the Walsgrave Hill top tree clump. Incorporating opportunities to reinstate and reinforce lost historic boundaries as part of the landscape strategy. Supporting Biodiversity Net Gain whilst drawing on the historic landscape such as a transition from dense woodland nearest to the road to areas of smaller woodland edge species or scrub and pasture grassland.			