

Date: 13 August 2025
Our ref: 520900
Your ref: TR010066

The Planning Inspectorate
Major Applications & Plans
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN



Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Inspector,

NSIP Reference Name / Code: A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) / TR010066

Natural England's response to the Examining Authority's Additional questions/ clarifications.

Examining Authority's submission deadline 5 with a date of 22 August 2025

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

The SoCG [REP4-022] submitted at deadline 4 unfortunately did not include some alterations we sent to the Applicant on the 22 July 2025. We will continue to work with the Applicant on the SoCG.

For any further advice on this consultation please contact the case officer [REDACTED] and copy to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senior Adviser
Sustainable Development
West Midlands Area Team

Natural England's response to the Examining Authority's (ExA's) Additional questions/ clarifications.

Table A: Natural England's response to Examiner's Additional questions/ clarifications.			
ExA question ref	Question addressed to	Question	Answer
R17.3	Applicant	Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) and other consents and agreements The SoCG between the Applicant and Natural England [REP4-022] indicates the status of the topic under Ref. 1 'Biodiversity - Coombe Pool Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) consent' is under discussion. Natural England, in response to submissions at deadline 3 (under the heading 'Works within Combe Pool SSSI' in [REP4-027]), state that it requires additional information to demonstrate planned works within Coombe Pool SSSI can go ahead without impact to notified features. At this time are you able to provide additional information to Natural England on this issue such that it can be resolved and agreed before the close of the Examination?	<p>Although this is not a question for Natural England, we would like to take this opportunity to clarify that this matter remains under discussion. We have provided advice to the Applicant as follows with regard to assenting works within Combe Pool SSSI:</p> <p>We currently require additional information in order to demonstrate the planned works can go ahead without impact to notified features, and in the absence of certainty regarding methodology we therefore are not able to advise that the project would not require assent once the DCO has been granted.</p> <p>This advice, as the Examining Authority has noted was included in REP4-027. The SoCG has not yet been amended to reflect Natural England's advice on this matter.</p>
R17.8	Applicant Natural England	Soils and best and most versatile agricultural land In the latest iteration of the SoCG with Natural England, the Applicant commits (Ref. 17 in Table 3-1 of [REP4-022]) to provide details regarding the monitoring and reporting of soil reinstatement and its return to agricultural use, which will be included in the Soil Handling Management Plan accompanying the Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan.	Ref 17, should now be agreed in the SoCG. The Applicant provided further information to Natural England in an email dated the 16 May 2025. We welcome this information which included outstanding information to be secured in the Soil Handling Plan. We confirmed in an email dated the 19 May 2025 that our soils specialist had confirmed that the details provided were acceptable. We have confirmed to the Applicant in a meeting on the 23 July 2025 that this matter has been agreed. We therefore consider this matter agreed and that no further information will be required on this matter.

Table A: Natural England's response to Examiner's Additional questions/ clarifications.			
ExA question ref	Question addressed to	Question	Answer
		Explain the aspects currently being worked through on this topic so that a clear position is available in the SoCG.	
R17.9	Applicant Natural England	<p>Water pollution risk The SoCG between the Applicant and Natural England (in Table 3-1 of [REP4-022]) indicates the status of the topic under Ref. 15 'Water pollution risk – risk of silt pollution from bund works and mitigation measures' remains under discussion. Furthermore, Natural England, in response to submissions at deadline 3 [REP4-027], state that no further information has been provided at deadline 3 regarding water quality impacts. The</p> <p>Applicant: Are you able to provide additional information to Natural England on water quality impacts such that it can be resolved and agreed before the close of the Examination? If not, explain why it is not available or unnecessary to do so?</p> <p>The Applicant, Natural England: Explain the aspects currently being worked through on the topic of water pollution risk so that a clear position is available in the SoCG.</p>	<p>We have previously explained to the Applicant through discussions that currently the information available lacks specific detail on methodology of mitigation, especially considering the proximity of the SSSI to the scheme, for Natural England to confidently advise on whether impacts can be ruled out or not.</p> <p>We have provided some further specific details on what information we require to the Applicant in an email on the 6 August 2025. We have asked the Applicant to provide details on what suitable measures would be used to prevent / control run off to prevent sediment, silt and pollution from entering any part of Combe Pool SSSI during construction and essentially during removal and construction of the environmental bund. The Applicant has today (13 August 2025) provided us with a draft note that summarises the methodology for working adjacent to the Combe Pool SSSI, Natural England is currently considering this information.</p>

