

Date: 09 September 2025  
Our ref: 522925  
Your ref: TR010066



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## **BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Inspector,

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

**Natural England's Summary Statement to the Examining Authority regarding matters that they have previously raised during the examination and that have not been resolved to their satisfaction.**

**Examining Authority's submission deadline 6 with a date of 09 September 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.

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

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Senior Adviser  
Sustainable Development  
West Midlands Area Team

## **Summary statement regarding matters that Natural England have previously raised during the examination and that have not been resolved to our satisfaction.**

Natural England has worked with the Applicant to resolve the remaining issues; however two issues remain:

### **1.) SSSI assent / consent**

Natural England does not agree with the disapplication of its powers under Sections 28E and H of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 and therefore advise that the wording in the DCO article 52 is revised accordingly.

### **2.) Combe Pool SSSI: noise disturbance**

#### ***Construction disturbance impacts***

Natural England has worked closely with the Applicant to resolve this matter. Although we welcome the additional information which has been provided, we advise that there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the impact on Combe Pool SSSI during construction will not be significant as follows:

During construction absolute noise change will be above 3dB and up to 9.2dB for parts of the Combe Pool SSSI even with the proposed temporary 2m high noise mitigation barrier in place. Noise from construction will affect 9.41ha of the lake plus non-lake parts of Combe Pool SSSI. (For context the total area of the SSSI is 50.97 ha. Combe Pool is 35 ha.) Taking into account the baseline noise levels, the noise change and the area affected, we advise that the impact will be significant.

The Applicant has proposed monthly monitoring during the construction phase. Monitoring is not mitigation and does not serve to mitigate an impact pathway. A residual impact therefore remains. In order to resolve this matter we suggest an alternative measure to ameliorate the construction impact should be considered, this could be i) to reduce any existing disturbance in other areas of the SSSI ii) create a refuge zone with no access (if practicable) so that overall levels of disturbance at the site were reduced which could mitigate for the periods of high noise levels during construction.

#### ***Operational disturbance impacts***

Natural England advised at D4 ([REP4-027](#)) that the proposal should include the provision of a permanent noise barrier to mitigate for residual operational noise impacts on breeding and wintering birds.

We note the Applicant's response at D5 ([REP5-020](#)) providing the reasons this permanent noise barrier is not possible. In addition, Natural England is in agreement with the applicant's conclusion that operational impacts do not appear to be significant for this impact pathway.