

A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Scheme Number: TR010066

Applicant's Responses to the Secretary of State dated 27 November 2025

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**APPLICANT'S RESPONSES TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
DATED 27 November 2025**

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1. This document has been prepared by the Applicant to set out its responses to the questions received from the Secretary of State on the 27 November 2025.
- 1.1.2. The questions and responses to the Secretary of State's questions are detailed in Section 2.

2. Applicant's responses to the Secretary of State dated 27 November 2025

Ref no.	ExA's Questions	Applicant's Response
Air Quality		
1.	It is noted that the Applicant considered the implications of Defra's "Interim Planning Guidance (IPG) on the consideration of the Environment Act PM2.5 targets in planning decisions" in response to a request from the ExA. As the IPG also encourages the consideration of cumulative impacts, the Applicant is invited to provide further information on the implications of the IPG for the cumulative impact of the Proposed Development with other existing and proposed developments.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges that within Defra's Interim Planning Guidance (IPG) (2024), reference is made to the cumulative impact of development on PM_{2.5} levels and/or exposure, as follows:</p> <p><i>"Planning Authorities are encouraged to consider the cumulative impact of development both in developing their Local Plan and when making decisions on a case-by-case basis. Whilst contributions from individual developments may be small, cumulatively they can lead to an increase in regional exposure, and so will have public health impacts and affect progress towards the targets".</i></p> <p>The operational air quality assessment produced within Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 5 Air Quality (APP-027) inherently considers the potential for cumulative air quality impacts as traffic data in both the opening year Do Minimum (without Scheme) and Do Something (with Scheme) scenarios captures cumulative traffic impacts from other local schemes and developments (including A46 Binley). This is explained within Chapter 15 – Combined and Cumulative Effects (APP-037), paragraphs 15.5.9 and 15.5.10, with paragraph 15.5.9 stating "As the traffic model includes future other developments, the assessments of the Scheme's effects within these topics have included cumulative impacts by default and therefore the effects incorporating developments that are included in the traffic model are reported within their ES Chapters". The full list of cumulative developments and schemes that have been incorporated into the traffic model is shown in within the Transport Assessment (APP-134), Figure 4-3 and Table 4-3.</p> <p>Therefore, the Applicant's response to the Rule 9 letter (PD1-016) considers the potential cumulative impact of the Scheme and other</p>

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		<p>developments on both PM_{2.5} levels and associated exposure. Specifically, paragraphs 6.1.2 to Paragraph 6.1.6, Appendix A of PD1-016 are pertinent for the operational phase of the Scheme, with paragraph 6.1.6 concluding that “...all impacts from the Proposed Scheme are considered negligible and not significant”. On the above basis, this statement remains applicable when considering cumulative impacts within the context of the IPG.</p> <p>With regards to the construction phase, there are no other construction sites within the vicinity of the A46 Scheme that are due to be active at the same time as the Scheme's construction phase is due to take place (i.e. there is no potential for cumulative impact at the time of writing). This includes consideration of the A46 Binley junction construction, which has been completed before the Scheme's construction commences. Therefore, the conclusions reached with respect to the construction phase remain unchanged, as per paragraph 5.1.3 of the Applicant's response to the Rule 9 letter PD1-016 – with the provision of appropriate mitigation measures (detailed within the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan (EMP)) (APP-019), there will be no material impact on PM_{2.5} levels and no material change to population exposure during construction.</p>
Biodiversity		
2.	<p>It is noted that the significance of construction noise impacts on the Coombe Pool Site of Special Scientific Interest remained a matter of disagreement between the Applicant and Natural England. It is also noted that Natural England suggested alternative measures it considered could ameliorate the construction impact. The Applicant is invited to share their views on the appropriateness and feasibility of the specific measures suggested by Natural England.</p>	<p>The Applicant has reviewed the suggested measures proposed by Natural England in their Summary statements from parties regarding matters that they have previously raised during the examination and that have not been resolved to their satisfaction (REP6-027). The suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <i>to reduce any existing disturbance in other areas of the SSSI</i> ii) <i>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.</i> <p>The Applicant has proposed appropriate mitigation in order to reduce the disturbance on the SSSI during construction through the use of a temporary noise barrier during construction and the commitment to</p>

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		<p>Ornithological Specialist (OS) monitoring, through the inclusion of the REAC (REP4-012), compliance with which is secured through Requirement 4 of the draft DCO (REP6-018). The proposed mitigation outlined below alongside the provision of a temporary noise barrier during construction results in a slight adverse (not significant) effect, as detailed in Table 8-24 of ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) (REP3-012).</p> <p>The OS monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the Ornithological method statement secured through Commitment BD10 of the REAC (REP4-012). The Ornithological method statement will provide full details of the monitoring and mitigation that will be adhered to during construction, including the conditions for when works should cease.</p> <p>The Ornithological method statement will ensure the following measures are undertaken during construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That an OS conducts monthly site visits during construction where the SSSI would experience exceedances of baseline noise levels >3dB during works in sensitive periods, including winter (October-February) and breeding seasons (March-August). • Toolbox talks will be provided to onsite teams, offering advice or guidance when works cause disturbances and need to be stopped. • 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 (as detailed in ES Appendix 18.16 Assessment of Noise Impacts on Ecological Features (REP3-028)) • A cold works policy will halt all activities during severe weather as per JNCC guidance (2025), triggered when half of England's weather stations record temperatures below +1°C (air) and -2°C (grass) for 7 consecutive days; works will resume after 48 hours without freezing conditions, monitored by OS using Met Office and JNCC data.

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		<p>Disturbance events and conditions requiring work stoppage will be recorded, as detailed in paragraphs 8.10.17 to 8.10.20 of ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) (REP3-012).</p> <p>Therefore, in response to suggestion (i) the Applicant has demonstrated that the residual effects on the qualifying features of the SSSI are not significant with the implementation of detailed monitoring and mitigation, as detailed in Table 8-24 of ES Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) (REP3-012) and outlined above.</p> <p>Natural England's measure (ii) to create a refuge zone would not be feasible as the creation of a refuge zone in another area of the SSSI would require land outside of order limits and likely lead to disturbance and new environmental effects in other areas of the SSSI, which has not been previously assessed as part of the Environmental Statement. In any event, the Applicant has demonstrated no likely significant effects on the SSSI and has provided effective and proportionate mitigation in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy outlined in DMRB LA104 and in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidance.</p>
Protective Provisions		
3.	<p>It is understood that protective provision agreements with National Grid Telecoms Limited (NGT) and National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc (NGED) were outstanding at the end of the Examination. The Applicant, NGT and NGED are requested to provide an update on the status of these agreements, including providing any preferred wording.</p>	<p>The agreement between the Applicant and NGT is settled but has not been executed. The agreement between the Applicant and NGED is largely settled, however there is one point in contention that the parties are endeavoring to resolve as soon as possible.</p> <p>The parties do not intend for the contents of the agreements to be in the public domain, save to say that their purpose is to provide some specific measures in order to protect the interests of NGT/NGED as regards this scheme.</p> <p>We will advise the Secretary of State as soon as the agreements have been completed (which we expect to be in very short order) and in good time, or otherwise provide a timely update or updates, noting that the Secretary of State has until 7 February 2026 to determine the application.</p>