

**Communities**

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16<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Dear Sir / Madam

**RE: A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave Scoping) - TR010066**

I humbly apologise for the lateness of this response regarding ecological and landscape matters.

Ecology

The Scoping Report is comprehensive and WCC Ecology is content with the coverage. The County has three comments that the inspector may wish to consider:

- It has been agreed with Natural England that the whole of Warwickshire falls within the Nature Range of great crested newts (GCNs) within England. Therefore, there are very few areas (predominately urban) where it is significantly unlikely to be exclude the presence of GCNs. Therefore, in this location GCNs should not be 'scoped out'. However, it is expected that this species could be covered within reasonable avoidance measures with any Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), or equivalent.
- If the project is not to be completed by November 2025, then WCC would request that a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain is required. This would be consistent with the statement on the government website [\[here\]](#) that states:

*We will incorporate biodiversity net gain (BNG) requirements for all (terrestrial) NSIP projects from November 2025 and develop an approach for marine net gain (MNG). The biodiversity net gain requirement for NSIPs is to achieve at least 10% measurable net gain on all terrestrial and intertidal development, which is to be secured for at least 30 years.*

Warwickshire has a full operational BNG market therefore this objective is deliverable should BNG not be able to be secured through onsite measures.

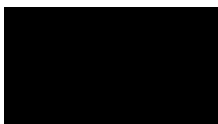
- The referenced Warwickshire Coventry and Solihull Green Infrastructure Strategy has been updated and will shortly be reconsulted upon and subsequently adopted. This updated version should be taken into consideration when preparing the EIA.

Landscape

WCC would recommend that the 1km radius for the study area as referenced in Section 8.2 is extended to take into account all selected viewpoints and additional viewpoints as requested by RBC.

Section 8.6 Description of the likely significant effects - should include the potential landscape and visual impacts arising from the introduction of the three attenuation features and how the proposed planting would tie in with existing vegetation and the wider landscape pattern.

Yours sincerely



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