



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	A46 Coventry Junction (Walsgrave)
<b>File reference</b>	TR010066
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	26 September 2023
<b>Meeting with</b>	National Highways
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update Meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

## **Summary of key points discussed, and advice given**

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

## **Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) Feedback**

The applicant detailed their SoCC engagement with Coventry City Council (CCC), Rugby Borough Council (RBC) and Warwickshire County Council (WCC) that ran from July to August 2023.

The Applicant discussed CCC's preference of referring to 'protected characteristic groups' instead of 'hard to reach/seldom heard' groups. The Applicant detailed their plans to hold multiple events in Rugby in response to both RBC and WCC's feedback in the SoCC.

The Inspectorate enquired about any protected characteristic groups in the local area surrounding the scheme. The Applicant informed that they have not been made aware of any.

## **Approach to Statutory Consultation**

The Applicant stated that their Statutory Consultation period will run for 6 weeks from 25 October to 6 December 2023, including three consultation events, four pop up events and a webinar.

The Applicant detailed plans of splitting the consultation zone into an 'Inner' and 'Outer' zone. The 'Inner' zone contains approximately 2,000 people who will receive an information brochure while the 'Outer' zone contains approximately 13,000 people who will receive an information postcard.

The Applicant has arranged six deposit locations: three at Local Authority offices and three at local venues close to the scheme.

The Applicant detailed supplementary communications including press releases, social media and briefings to stakeholders.

## **Section (s)42**

The Applicant notified the Inspectorate of s42 consultees: Approximately 95 prescribed bodies, 18 Local Authorities (LAs) and approximately 40 land interests.

## **Section 46 submission**

The Applicant enquired about the Inspectorate's preferred method for submission of the s46 notice. The Inspectorate advised on the best method and both the Inspectorate and the Applicant agreed to arrange a convenient time to test before submission.

## **Revised Draft Order Limits**

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that they have revised the Draft Order Limits, reducing the order limits from approximately 36.7ha to approximately 34.5ha due to scheme refinements. The Applicant considers that the changes would not result in a requirement to change the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that where boundaries have increased, additional environmental assessments have been undertaken and the findings of these will be presented in the Environmental Statement (ES) where necessary. The Applicant stated plans to send revised Draft Order Limits and shapefile to the Inspectorate.

However, on Wednesday 11 Oct 2023, the Applicant has advised that these will be sent as part of the Statutory Consultation documents.

## **Materials, Assets and Waste**

The Applicant recognised that the Inspectorate, within the Scoping Opinion, did not agree that enough information was supplied within the Applicant's Scoping Report regarding 'Materials, Assets and Waste' to scope this topic out of the ES at this stage. The Inspectorate stated that, as per the Scoping Opinion, their main concern in scoping out 'Materials, Assets and Waste' was the reliance on the availability of suitable materials for import and that there is currently insufficient information that the material would be available in the future.

The Applicant discussed their Environment team's plans to scope this out of the ES, by providing further evidence to justify their approach. The Applicant enquired about which consultation bodies would be most appropriate and relevant to discuss the scope of the ES with. The Inspectorate advised discussions with the Environment Agency, regarding permits and exemptions, and the LAs with responsibility for materials and waste management. However, as per the Scoping Opinion, the Inspectorate advised that the Applicant should ensure to consult with all relevant Statutory Consultees.

The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that they would check at Acceptance for any large deviations in the scoping opinion and would look to see evidence of consultation and agreement with statutory consultees.

## **Plans and Scales**

The Applicant enquired about plan scaling and the Inspectorate confirmed that the example shown during the meeting was a standard drawing commonly used. The Inspectorate recommended that the Applicant considers Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures (APFP) Regulation 6 when developing building plans and documents. The Inspectorate enquired about new structures and the Applicant confirmed one new bridge will be constructed.

## **Submission**

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that they aim to submit the DCO application in September 2024. The Inspectorate recommended keeping regular correspondence regarding dates and schedules.

The Applicant enquired about early submission and the Inspectorate advised that the project timeline is decided by the Applicant but they require sufficient notice due to required pre-submission tasks and resource planning.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that they aim for draft documents submission in early May 2024. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant on which documents are often included in draft documents submission and recommended leaving sufficient time after receiving feedback to edit documents prior to submitting them as part of the application.

The Inspectorate enquired about any other developments that would create conflicts for LAs, recommending directing the LAs to the Advice Notes on the National Infrastructure (NI) website to allow them to better understand the process. The Inspectorate recommended that the applicant have discussions with LAs to ensure they have appropriate schemes of delegation in place to allow speed in decision making. The Applicant confirmed they are having fortnightly meetings with CCC, RBC and WCC.

### **Specific decisions/ follow-up required?**

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate requested a flythrough of the project to aid with understanding.
- The Applicant plans to send revised Draft Order Limits and shapefile to the Inspectorate. – (This has now changed, and the Applicant will send as part of the Statutory Consultation).
- The Inspectorate and the Applicant will organise a date for a meeting to update the Inspectorate on their Statutory Consultation feedback.
- The Inspectorate will locate the Inception meeting note and send to the Applicant.