

A46 Coventry junctions (Walsgrave) Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 National Highways operates, maintains and improves England's motorways and major A-roads, which form the strategic road network (SRN). The A46 Coventry junctions (Walsgrave) scheme ("the scheme") is a critical part of our ongoing investment and will improve journeys between the East and West Midlands, which is important for the local and regional economy.
- 1.2 We are publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) to set out how we will consult with the local community about our proposals to improve Walsgrave junction on the A46. It outlines the details of our statutory consultation including where you can find information, how to respond and how consultation responses will be used in the development of the scheme. This document also provides background to the scheme and how the application to construct it will progress.
- 1.3 This document will be available to view and download via the scheme webpage at <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/A46Coventry> after the launch of the statutory consultation and available to view at deposit locations.
- 1.4 To make sure we approach our consultation in the very best way for the local community, we have consulted with Coventry City Council, Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council, which are the local authorities in the areas in which the scheme is proposed to be built.

2 Development Consent Order application

- 2.1 The scheme is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and therefore we are required to follow the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. This statement is published in fulfilment of Section 47 ("duty to consult local community") of that Act.
- 2.2 Under the Planning Act 2008, we are required to make an application to the Secretary of State for Transport through the Planning Inspectorate for a

Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate the scheme. The Planning Inspectorate will appoint an Examining Authority to examine our application and the Secretary of State for Transport will decide whether the scheme should go ahead based on a recommendation made by the Examining Authority.

- 2.3 Our DCO application for the scheme will be submitted after we have considered the responses to our statutory consultation and further developed the scheme proposals where appropriate.
- 2.4 A key consideration for the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State when assessing our DCO application is the National Networks National Policy Statement (NNNPS). The NNNPS sets out the need for development of road projects on the national network and is the policy that is used to help determine whether permission should be granted to build new major road projects.
- 2.5 When we submit our application, the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State must consider whether our consultation has been adequate. The best time for you to have your say on our plans and to inform our final design is now, by taking part in this consultation.
- 2.6 You can find more information about the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Act 2008 on their National Infrastructure Planning website: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

3 The scheme

- 3.1 In March 2020, the Government's Road Investment Strategy 2: 2020-2025 (RIS2) included a commitment for National Highways to improve the A46 'Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor' between the M5 and the Humber Ports.
- 3.2 The scheme involves the upgrade of one at-grade junction, the Walsgrave junction, to provide relief from traffic congestion and to improve journey times by increasing the capacity on the A46 between the M6 and the M40. This will benefit both the strategic and local traffic needs and support future growth aspirations of Coventry City Council.
- 3.3 The Walsgrave junction is currently an at-grade three-arm roundabout on the A46 Coventry Eastern bypass, situated between the Binley and M6/M69 junctions. The Walsgrave junction provides a connection between the SRN and the local road network via the A46 and B4082 respectively.
- 3.4 We are proposing to improve the junction by providing the following:
 - A grade separated junction approximately 0.8km to the north of the existing roundabout location.
 - Re-alignment of the dual carriageway through the existing junction.
 - A single lane carriageway connecting the new junction to the B4082.
 - Environmental mitigation.
 - Diversion of utilities.

3.5 In addition, any necessary rights and powers will be sought to ensure delivery of the scheme, including permanent and temporary compulsory acquisition.

3.6 The following is a summary of our objectives for the scheme:

Reduce congestion

- Improve the operation and efficiency of the existing transport network associated with Walsgrave junction to increase capacity.

Safety and maintenance

- Maintain the A46 to a safe and serviceable condition, with maintenance being considered during design.

Growth

- Support and facilitate economic growth, generating employment and residential development opportunities.

Environment

- Reduce negative impacts on the wider environment whilst seeking environmental enhancement.

Customer

- Reduce negative impacts on users, local communities and the environment whilst balancing the need of individuals and businesses that use and rely upon the A46.

4 Preliminary Environmental Information

4.1 The scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and therefore we are carrying out an EIA for the scheme. We have published a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which is the first main output of the EIA process.

4.2 This consultation is supported by a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR as part of the consultation materials. This gives information about the potential environmental effects of the scheme, and the potential measures proposed to avoid, reduce and mitigate those effects. The PEIR has been developed based on initial assessments completed to date. The PEIR and the NTS are available online or to view at the deposit locations listed in Section 11 of this document. An Environmental Statement will be submitted with the DCO application.

4.3 Additional information about the proposed scheme and its associated benefits, including detailed maps/plans, are included in our public consultation brochure and supporting materials. Copies of the brochure will be available during the consultation

period at local deposit locations detailed in this SoCC and on the scheme webpage at: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/A46Coventry>.

5 Consulting the community and previous consultations

- 5.1 We have already carried out one round of non-statutory public consultation from January to February 2022, where we consulted on our proposed options for the scheme design.
- 5.2 Prior to that consultation, we undertook assessments which found that only one of four previously shortlisted options delivered the required improvements at Walsgrave junction.
- 5.3 Consultees were asked for their views on the one remaining route option (Option 11) and whether they had any concerns in relation to the scheme. The feedback received during the consultation showed support for improvements at Walsgrave junction and support for Option 11.
- 5.4 Following this consultation, Option 11 was announced as the preferred route in June 2022. More details, including the results of this consultation and how we decided to progress Option 11 are included in the Staged Overview of Assessment Report (SOAR), the Report on Public Consultation (contained as appendix C of the SOAR) and the preferred route announcement leaflet, available to download from the scheme website.

6 Pre-application statutory consultation - why and when

- 6.1 It is important to us that our consultation will:
 - Enable members of the public, residents, local interest groups and businesses to understand and influence our proposals.
 - Encourage the community to help shape our proposals to maximise local benefits and minimise the potential local impact of the scheme.
 - Enable potential mitigation measures to be considered and, if appropriate, built into the scheme before an application is submitted.
 - Identify ways in which our proposals, without significant costs, can support wider strategic or local objectives.
- 6.2 Your comments will help us achieve these objectives. We will listen to everyone's views and consider your opinions, amending our proposals where appropriate, before submitting the DCO application.
- 6.3 We are now holding a six week consultation, starting on 25 October and ending on 6 December 2023. We are consulting on the following elements of the scheme:
 - Development of the preliminary design since the preferred route announcement.
 - Our assessment of environmental impacts.
 - The traffic benefits of our proposals.
 - Emerging arrangements for the construction stage of the scheme.
 - Opportunities for non-motorised users.

6.4 Working with Coventry City Council, Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council, we have developed a consultation distribution area (Consultation Zone), which shows the properties that will receive consultation information by post. This is shown in Figure 1 below, which also indicates the venues of our consultation events and deposit locations, which are explained later in this document. The Consultation Zone is based on who we think is most likely to be interested or affected by our proposals, but we appreciate that interest is likely to extend to locations outside this area and we look forward to receiving responses from all consultees. We will also carry out supplementary engagement methods, including newspaper adverts and social media, which would extend well beyond the postal distribution area.

6.5 Properties located within the inner purple distribution area will receive consultation brochures and response forms directly in the post. Properties located within the outer pink distribution area will receive an information postcard providing them with details about the statutory consultation.

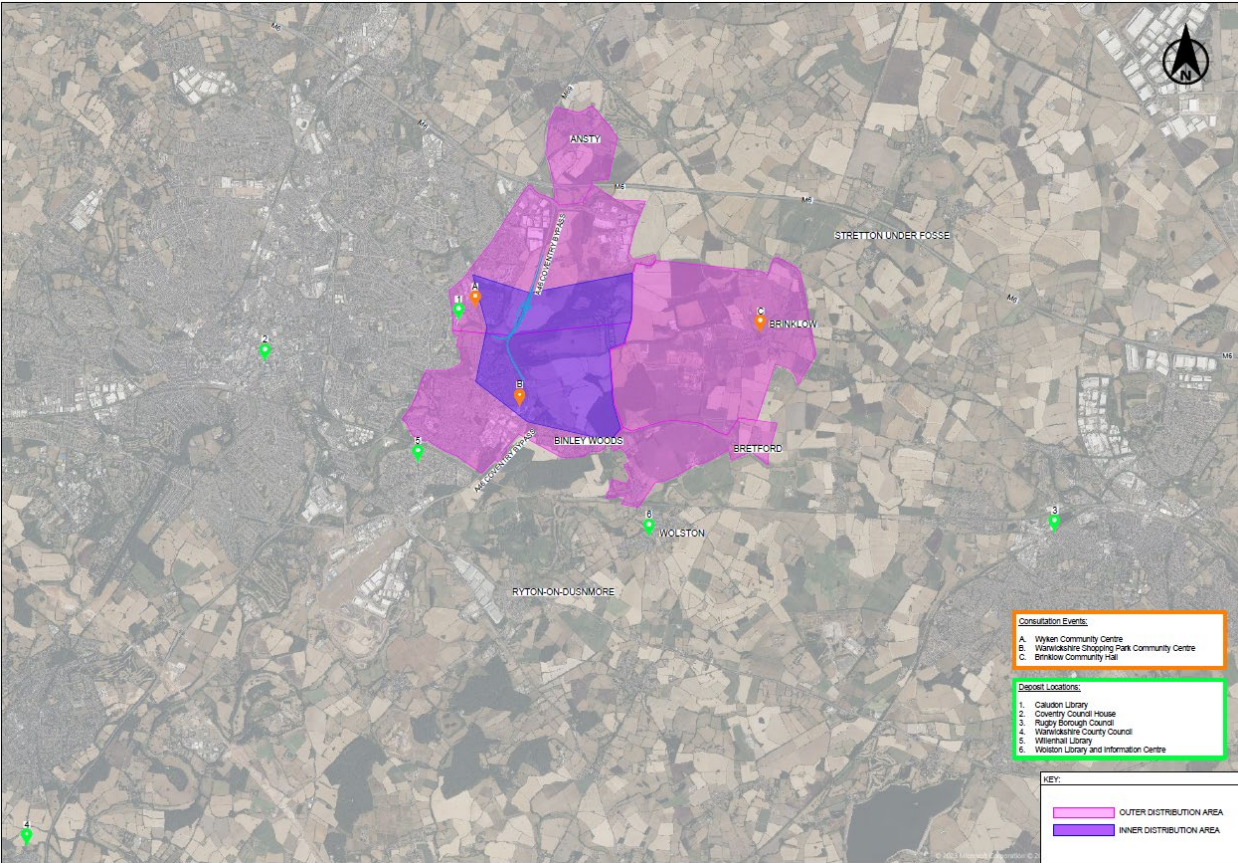


Figure 1: Consultation Zone – Consultation distribution for posted information

7 Who can take part?

7.1 Anyone who is interested in this scheme is welcome to take part in the consultation. We welcome all views and will take them into account to help shape the scheme before we submit our final design at DCO submission.

8 How will we consult?

8.1 The table below shows the methods we will use to promote and carry out the statutory consultation.

Method	Detail
Consultation brochure	<p>The brochure will contain details of the scheme, including a summary of the preliminary environmental information and updates to the preliminary scheme design. It will also include details of consultation events and methods available for submitting consultation responses. We will deliver this to those living within the inner area of the Consultation Zone shown in Section 6 of the SoCC.</p> <p>Copies of the consultation brochure will be available at the deposit locations set out in section 11 and at consultation events set out in section 12 of this document. Hard copies of the brochure can also be sent on request to consultees, as described in 10.2.</p>
Consultation response form	<p>The consultation response form will contain both open and closed questions relating to the scheme and allows consultees to provide feedback in a simple, structured format. Printed copies of the response form will be available at the deposit locations set out in section 11 and at consultation events set out in section 12 of this document. Hard copies of the response form can also be sent on request to consultees, as described in 10.2.</p> <p>An online version of the response form will be available through the scheme webpage.</p>
Consultation events	<p>We will hold a mixture of pre-advertised consultation events at local venues and ‘pop-up’ events (using a National Highways engagement van, where suitable) where members of the team will be available to answer questions about the proposals. Please see section 12 of this document for further information about the events.</p>
Public online webinar	<p>We will hold an online webinar where we will present information about the scheme and the statutory consultation as well as a live question and answer session. Information about this event will be publicised on the scheme webpage.</p>
Scheme webpage	<p>The scheme webpage will provide information about the scheme as well as electronic versions of all consultation materials: https://nationalhighways.co.uk/A46Coventry.</p>

Method	Detail
Council and community / area forum briefings	<p>Where possible, we'll speak when invited to local council forums and community/area forums affected or in the vicinity of our scheme. Please contact the project team via the following email address if you would like to invite us to attend any meetings. Email: A46CoventryJcns@nationalhighways.co.uk.</p>
Stakeholder briefings	<p>Where possible we'll attend meetings of local community groups affected by the proposals when invited. Please contact the project team via the following email address if you would like to invite us to attend any meetings. Email: A46CoventryJcns@nationalhighways.co.uk.</p>
Community engagement	<p>We will follow our public sector equality duty to make sure that we understand and respond to the needs, as part of this consultation, of our diverse range of customers and communities impacted by our scheme, so that our practices and the services we deliver are appropriate, accessible and contribute to social inclusion and wellbeing.</p> <p>To ensure our consultation is inclusive to a wide audience, the materials will be prepared to be accessible and clear. Additionally, we will ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the contact telephone number and email address for the scheme are prominent on all published material, enabling individuals to contact the team with questions and requests. • the consultation brochure and response form can be made available in alternative forms on request, including large print and languages other than English. • information about the consultation is sent directly to addresses within the primary consultation zone. • identified representatives of community groups will be contacted directly with details about the consultation. <p>We have sought to ensure that venues are accessible and can be reached by public as well as private transport. For anyone with specific additional requirements in relation to consultation events, please email: A46CoventryJcns@nationalhighways.co.uk or call 0300 123 5000.</p>
Deposit locations	<p>The consultation documents will also be available to view free of charge for the duration of the consultation at the locations set out in Section 11 of this document.</p>

Method	Detail
Statutory notices	<p>Statutory notices to publicise the proposed DCO application and the SoCC will be issued in the following newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 47 notice – twice in local circulating newspapers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coventry Observer ○ Rugby Observer • Section 48 notice – once in The Times and London Gazette and twice in local circulating newspapers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coventry Observer ○ Rugby Observer
Press releases	We will issue press releases at the launch and prior to the consultation closing with details of how the community and road users can get involved.
Social media	The public consultation will be advertised using social media channels, including X (formerly known as Twitter) (@HighwaysWMIDS) and Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/HighwaysWMids).
Information posters	Information posters with details about the consultation will be displayed at public locations.

8.2 Any activity that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control (such as severe weather conditions) will, where possible, be substituted with similar activities. We will take reasonable steps to notify the public of these changes through promotion via social media and website updates, issuing a press release to local media, and other measures.

9 How to respond to the consultation:

9.1 A consultation response form has been produced to help you provide comments on the scheme design. Responses can be submitted using one of the following methods during the consultation period:

- completing the online response form available via the scheme webpage at the following address: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/A46Coventry>.
- attending a consultation event where you can meet the project team and complete a paper response form.
- picking up a paper response form at one of our deposit locations (see Section 11 of this document) or send a letter via freepost to: **Freepost A46 WALSGRAVE SCHEME**.
- alternatively, you can email your comments to: A46CoventryJcns@nationalhighways.co.uk.

9.2 All responses must be submitted by 23:59 on Wednesday 6 December 2023.

10 Statutory consultation information and materials

10.1 The following materials have been produced as part of the consultation:

- Consultation brochure and response form
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Non-technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR
- Mapbook containing General Arrangements, Plan and Profile drawings and Land Use drawings of the scheme
- Section 47 Notice and Section 48 Notice
- Fly-through video

10.2 Printed copies of our consultation brochure and response form will be available, free of charge, at the deposit locations and consultation events listed in sections 11 and 12 of this document throughout the consultation period. Other consultation documents can also be supplied, but there will be a charge of up to £500 to cover the cost of printing and postage. Please contact National Highways by emailing us at A46CoventryJcns@nationalhighways.co.uk or calling 0300 123 5000.

11 Deposit locations

11.1 We plan to make printed copies of consultation materials available for inspection in public places, such as libraries. These places are known as ‘deposit locations’ and the addresses and opening times of ours, which are correct at the time of the publication of this document, are provided in the table below.

Deposit Location	Opening times	
Caludon Castle School and Community Library, Axholme Road, Wyken, Coventry, CV2 5BD	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday	2pm – 6pm 2pm – 6pm Closed 2pm – 6pm 2pm – 6pm 10am – 4pm Closed
Coventry Council House, Earl Street, Coventry, CV1 5RR	Monday to Friday Saturday Sunday	9am – 5pm Closed Closed
Rugby Borough Council, Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby, CV21 2RR	Monday to Friday Saturday Sunday	9am – 5pm Closed Closed
Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL	Monday to Friday Saturday Sunday	8am – 6.30pm 9am – 1pm Closed
Willenhall Library, Hagard Community Space, Remembrance Road, Coventry, CV3 3DG	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday	10am – 7pm 10am – 7pm Closed 10am – 7pm 10am – 7pm 9am – 4pm Closed

Deposit Location	Opening times	
Wolston Library and Information Centre, Warwick Road, Wolston, Coventry, CV8 3GX	Monday	2.30pm to 5pm
	Tuesday	2.30pm to 5pm
	Wednesday	2.30pm to 5pm
	Thursday	10.30am to 1pm
	Friday	10.30am to 1pm
	Saturday	10.30am to 1pm
	Sunday	Closed

11.2 The following documents will be made available for inspection at the deposit locations:

- Public consultation brochure and response form
- Mapbook containing General Arrangements, Plan and Profile drawings and Land Use drawings of the scheme
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report and Non-Technical Summary
- Section 48 Notice
- Statement of Community Consultation (this document)
- Development Consent Order leaflet

11.3 All of the consultation materials available at deposit locations will also be accessible throughout the consultation period on the scheme webpage.

12 Consultation events

12.1 We will hold a series of Public Consultation Events at the venues set out in the table below. At each event it will be possible to speak with members of the project team, inspect consultation materials, and learn more about our proposals.

12.2 Any changes to the consultation events will be communicated on the scheme webpage.

12.3 In addition to these events, we are also planning to hold additional 'pop up' events. The dates and times of these events will be published on the scheme webpage.

Location	Date	Time
Wyken Community Centre, Ennerdale Lane, Coventry, CV2 5PY	Saturday 4 November 2023	10am to 2pm
Warwickshire Shopping Park Community Centre, 1c Kynner Way, Binley, Coventry, CV3 2SB	Friday 17 November 2023	2pm to 8pm
Brinklow Community Hall, 43 Broad St, Brinklow, Rugby CV23 0LS	Thursday 30 November 2023	2pm to 8pm

13 Next steps

- 13.1 We'll record and carefully consider all responses received during the consultation, and these will be taken into account in finalising our DCO application before we submit it to the Planning Inspectorate.
- 13.2 We'll summarise our findings in the Consultation Report which forms part of our DCO application.
- 13.3 If we consider that further information is required after this consultation, we may undertake further engagement with stakeholders to address specific matters.

The Planning Inspectorate will determine whether our consultation has been adequate and decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination.

- 13.4 For more information visit our scheme webpage where you can also sign up for email alerts whenever the webpage is updated. If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact the project team directly by calling 0300 123 5000 or emailing A46CoventryJcns@nationalhighways.co.uk.

14 Your data, your rights

- 14.1 On 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became law. The law requires National Highways to explain to you – consultees, stakeholders and customers – how your personal data will be used and stored. National Highways adheres to the government's consultation principles as well as the Planning Act 2008, and may collect personal data to help shape development of highways schemes. Personal data collected by the project team will be processed and retained by National Highways and its appointed contractors until the scheme is complete. Under the terms of GDPR, you have the following rights:

- Right of access to the data (Subject Access Request)
- Right for the rectification of errors
- Right to erasure of personal data – this is not an absolute right under the legislation
- Right to restrict processing or to object to processing
- Right to data portability

- 14.2 If, at any point, National Highways plans to process the personal data we hold for a purpose other than that for which it was originally collected, we will tell you what that other purpose is. We will do this prior to any further processing taking place and we will include any relevant additional information, including your right to object to that further processing.
- 14.3 You have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioners Office.
- 14.4 If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact: DataProtectionAdvice@nationalhighways.co.uk.