



**A46 Coventry Junctions Upgrade
Walsgrave Junction**

Approach to Public Consultation

Introduction

At National Highways we believe in a connected country and our network makes these connections happen. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways – engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and, most importantly, safe.

In the Midlands, we are investing in ways to increase capacity, improve connections and make sure journeys are as reliable as possible.

The A46 Coventry Junctions Upgrade is a critical part of this investment, upgrading a key link between the East and West Midlands, which is great news for the local and regional economy.

We will be asking for your views on our proposed option to upgrade the A46 Walsgrave junction and want to share with you how we will do this. We have produced this document which outlines our approach to consultation, including the different ways we'll collect feedback. It also provides details about how you can take part and how your feedback will be used to influence our options.

We will develop our approach in partnership with Coventry City Council, Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council to ensure our consultation is as effective and inclusive as possible.

The scheme

As part of the Government's Road Investment Strategy, National Highways is improving the A46 Binley and Walsgrave junctions, known as the A46 Coventry Junctions Upgrade. The A46 is a strategic link between the East and West Midlands, connecting Coventry and Warwickshire to the motorway network.

The Binley and Walsgrave upgrades are being delivered in a phased approach, with permission granted for the Binley scheme in June 2020 and construction on site since March 2020.

We've been working to develop a viable option for the Walsgrave junction, which meets the needs of road users and the community whilst providing value for money. This included reviewing and discounting a number of potential shortlisted options.

We are now looking to present this option while we are still at an early stage of design to get feedback from the local community, interested parties and road users. Information about the scheme, including what we are consulting on, will be included in our public consultation brochure.

Environmental information

We are preparing an Environmental Assessment Report. This will assess the potential environmental impacts of our proposed scheme. The following range of environmental topics are being assessed:

- Air Quality
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape and Visual
- Biodiversity
- Geology and Soils
- Materials Assets and Waste
- Noise and Vibration
- Population and Health
- Road Drainage and the Water Environment
- Climate
- Assessment of Cumulative Effects

We will identify measures to reduce negative environmental impacts, where possible, and will include these in our consultations as the scheme is developed. We will undertake further surveys and assessments at future detailed design stages to understand the potential impacts at the appropriate level of detail, based on statutory requirements and national guidance. A decision on whether a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment is required will be taken once we have completed more work on the design for our preferred option.

Approach to public consultation

This document outlines the details of our upcoming consultation process, including where you can find information and how to respond. This document will be available to view and download via the scheme webpage after the launch of the consultation and paper copies will be available on request. Contact details to request information or documents from us can be found at the end of this document.

Why and when will we consult?

Public consultation is an important part of the delivery of this scheme and provides people with a real opportunity to influence our proposals. It also allows us the opportunity to help people fully understand the scheme and resolve concerns.

This isn't the only time we'll be consulting about this scheme. We'll undertake further consultation once we have more detail about our proposals.

Your comments will help us better understand the local area and any potential impacts our scheme may have on road users and the local community. We will listen to everyone's views and consider your opinions as we develop our preferred option for the scheme.

We plan to hold our consultation on a proposed option for the scheme across a five-week period starting on Tuesday 11 January 2022. The consultation will close at

11:59pm on Monday 14 February 2022.

Who will we consult?

We have developed a consultation target area for the distribution of our consultation materials. This is based on who we think will be interested in or affected by our proposals and includes approximately 10,000 homes and businesses. We'll let people living and working in this area know about our consultation by sending out a postcard at the launch of the consultation.

We are also working with Coventry City Council, Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council to identify groups who are traditionally hard to reach, to ensure that we reach all those who could be affected by our proposals.

Anyone who is interested in this scheme is welcome to take part. We welcome all views and will take them into account to help shape and improve our scheme design.

Consultation target area



How will we consult?

From Tuesday 11 January 2022, all consultation materials and a link to the online feedback form will be posted on our scheme webpage at:

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/west-midlands/a46-coventry-junctions-upgrade/>

Due to the recent changes in Government coronavirus guidance, public information events will be held online through Microsoft Teams, instead of holding in person events. The dates and times for these events are listed below:

- Thursday 20 January from 6pm to 8pm
- Wednesday 26 January from 12pm to 2pm
- Saturday 29 January from 11am to 1pm

The meeting invitation links will be posted on our scheme webpage before each event.

For those who are unable to access the online consultation we'll be offering a call back service to speak to one of the project team members who will answer questions about the scheme. To do this, please call our contact centre on 0300 123 5000 and let them know when you're available to receive a call back from one of the team. Printed and alternative copies of the consultation materials will also be made available on request.

We'll use the following methods to promote our public consultation:

Method	Detail
Scheme webpage	A full summary of the scheme and electronic versions of all consultation materials will be available at: https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/west-midlands/a46-coventry-junctions-upgrade/
Information postcard	We'll send postcards to around 10,000 addresses within the consultation target area to provide details of the scheme webpage and consultation events. The postcards will also include our contact details for people to ask questions or request printed copies of materials.
Social media	National Highways' social media channels (including Twitter and Facebook) will be used to advertise the consultation.
Media	A written communication directed at members of the news media will be distributed by our Press Office to local news and media outlets on key dates throughout the consultation.
Partner communication channels	We will work with partners, such as local authorities, to promote the consultation through existing, established communication channels.
Information posters	Posters with details of the consultation will be displayed in public locations that are open and accessible. They will include a QR code to help people quickly access the webpage and consultation response form via their smartphone.
Mobile Exhibition Centre	Our mobile exhibition centre will be used to advertise the consultation in public locations near to the scheme during the consultation.

VIP briefing events	We'll invite VIP stakeholders to attend a presentation ahead of the launch of the consultation period to brief them on the scheme and upcoming events. This is likely to be held remotely.
---------------------	--

How can people respond to the consultation?

Responses to the consultation can be submitted in the following ways:

- Online - Complete the online consultation response online at: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/west-midlands/a46-coventry-junctions-upgrade/> (this link can also be accessed by scanning the QR code on our posters using a smartphone)
- Post - Complete a paper copy of the consultation response form and return it to: FREEPOST A46 WALSGRAVE

The deadline for responding to the consultation is 11:59pm on Monday 14 February 2022.

What will happen to the consultation responses?

All responses received during the consultation will be recorded and analysed. The detailed analysis will allow us to understand the issues and concerns raised by all our stakeholders and how these can be addressed. Where it is possible to do so, we will use your feedback to help influence the scheme design or to help identify ways to address concerns about the impacts of the scheme.

We'll summarise our findings in a public consultation report which will explain our analysis and how it influenced our proposals. We'll make the consultation report available to download from the scheme webpage.

The consultation report and detailed area research such as environmental surveys and traffic assessments will help us develop our preferred option, also known as our preferred route.

Next steps

The steps leading to our Preferred Route Announcement (PRA) are shown below:

Step	Description
1	Public consultation on our viable option for the junction. Following the close of the consultation, we will collate and analyse responses.
2	The consultation report will be published digitally after the consultation has closed and made available on our webpage. Printed copies will be available upon request. We'll consider the feedback raised during the consultation and, where possible, make amends to the scheme design.
3	The preferred option to be taken forward to the next stage of design development will be announced.
4	Public consultation on our preferred option. We'll share more detail about our proposals at this stage to collect your views.

For more information visit our scheme webpage to sign up for email alerts whenever the webpage is updated: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/west-midlands/a46-coventry-junctions-upgrade/>

If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact our Customer Contact Centre by calling 0300 123 5000 or email the project team on A46CoventryJcns@highwaysengland.co.uk