

# Report on Teams meeting held on 19 April 2023 with Jamie Sands and Janet Lascelles of SWECO UK Ltd

## Sheila Cooper

The LAF were invited to attend to discuss the A46/Walsgrave Junction Upgrade proposals specifically Walking, Cycling and Horse-Riding opportunities.

Wendy Bannerman attended for the British Horse Society and Alain Foote as Footpath Sec. Rugby Ramblers. I attended, on behalf of the LAF, with background advice from John Hall and Vaughan Owen.

Janet Lascelles provided an overview including news of investigations being undertaken to establish if PRow provision can be incorporated even though **no** Walking, Cycling or Horse-Riding provision is currently proposed.

The only bridleway is to the north of the proposed scheme. Wendy Bannerman BHS was keen to prioritise circular equestrian routes which enhance rider experiences. An extension to the existing route would be welcomed. Any additional provision to be multi-user and future proofed for horse-riders with all new routes linked into existing public rights of way.

The area round the proposed junction is not blessed with recreational public rights of way so we were all keen **no** losses should result from the scheme. The creation of multi-use PRow's would, therefore, be welcomed with enhancement of the River Sowe Path Network and additional access into Coombe Country Park specifically mentioned.

Alain Foote and I agreed the construction of a dedicated link into the University Hospital was long overdue. It, therefore, seemed sensible for Coventry CC to take advantage of the proposed scheme to invest in the construction of a dedicated access road which would help mitigate unwelcome and increasing traffic issues in the wider area. It would also prevent costly future highway disruption. The existing hospital access route is an increasing nightmare with the

proposed longer link from the upgraded A46 junction likely to negatively impact existing and ongoing traffic issues and pollution.

Jamie Sands agreed to bring forward our suggestion, for an early provision of a dedicated hospital access road, to the attention of Coventry City Council during his meetings with them.

The East Leeds Orbital Route (<https://www.elor.uk>) was discussed by the meeting as a positive example of what can be achieved. It incorporates 7 miles of multi-user PRoW provision along its length with walking and cycling on one side and equestrian on the other.

In conclusion it was proposed the A46/Walsgrave Junction Upgrade should try to emulate the excellent Public Rights of Way provision of the East Leeds Scheme.

Jamie and Janet provided an indicative timescale of the A46 Scheme:

Autumn 2023: Statutory Consultation

Autumn 2024: Submit Development Consent Order (DCO) Application

Spring 2015: Start of DCO examination

Autumn 2026: Start of Works

Summer 2028: Open to the Public.

Jamie finally promised to ensure all future plans would include easily seen Public Right of Way in context with the scheme.

I sent an email of thanks to Jamie and Janet on behalf of the WCS LAF confirming we look forward to working with them as the scheme progresses. I also asked to be kept updated so we can fulfill our Statutory Advisory Role, on all PRoW, Highways and Conservation matters moving forward.