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Dear Richard,

A46 – Regulation 16 Pre-examination Consultation on Cossington Neighbourhood Plan

National Highways welcomes the opportunity to provide our comments on the Regulation 16 pre-examination consultation for Cossington Neighbourhood Plan (NP) which covers the plan period from 2021 to 2037.

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth. In relation to this consultation, our principal interest is safeguarding the operation of the A5 in the area.

We understand that a Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in conformity with the relevant national and local policies. We note that this is acknowledged within the document and that it has been prepared in accordance with the Charnwood Local Plan. This NP has acknowledged that the Charnwood Borough Council is currently working on the new Local Plan, which should set out the overall development strategy for the Borough for the period 2021 to 2037. This new Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37 has been submitted to Government and has entered the examination phase.

Cossington is identified in the current Local Plan hierarchy as one of the fourteen “other settlements” where opportunities for development would be responded to positively within a defined settlement boundary. We note that the Cossington Parish Council has requested a housing requirement figure for the parish, and the supply of 124 dwellings (plus a 5% buffer as suggested by the Borough Council post-Adoption) over the period has been acknowledged. A site is also allocated for residential development (for up to twelve dwellings) within the settlement boundary.

We note that the NP does not include any schemes to the SRN.

Considering the limited level of growth proposed across the NP area, we do not anticipate significant impacts of the proposals on our SRN's operation.

In line with the above, we have no further comments to provide and trust that the above is useful in the progression of the Cossington Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Sammantha Rose

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