

HS2 Planning Context Report

Prepared For Cherwell District

May 2017

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Preface

Purpose

This Planning Context Report provides an overview of HS2 works that will take place within Cherwell District (the District) and a programme for making requests for approval under Schedule 17 to the High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Act 2017 ("the HS2 Act").

The report has been prepared in fulfilment of the requirements of paragraph 16 (1) (a) of Schedule 17 to the Act, which states:

A planning authority need not consider a request for approval under Part 1 [of Schedule 17 to the Act] unless:

a) the nominated undertaker has deposited with the authority a document setting out its proposed programme with respect to the making of requests under that Part to the authority,

This document accordingly sets out the proposed programme for making requests under Schedule 17 to the HS2 Act. This document also meets the requirement of paragraph 9.2 of the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Planning Memorandum (the "Planning Memorandum"), which states that the '...report is to include an indication of the location of the scheduled and non-scheduled works to which requests for approval are expected to relate.'

Status

This document is deposited for information only. It does not require the approval of the planning authority.

Structure

This document contains five sections:

Section 1: Introduction to HS2

Describes in outline the HS2 project, summarises the planning regime and outlines obligations with respect to mitigation of environmental impacts.

Section 2: HS2 in Cherwell District

Outlines the proposals within the District, and describes the permanent, preparatory and temporary works.

Section 3: Landscape and Restoration

Outlines landscape and restoration works proposed after construction.

Section 4: Programme for Requests for Approval under Schedule 17

Sets out the programme for submission of requests for approval.

Section 5: Planning Context Report Plans – Construction and Operation

Illustrates the location of permanent and temporary works in the District.

Other Relevant Documents

To understand the full background to the HS2 proposals and to the planning regime under which requests for approval are to be made, reference should be made to the following documents:

- The HS₂ Act;
- The HS2 Environmental Statement; and
- The High Speed Rail (London West Midlands) Environmental Minimum Requirements ("the EMRs").

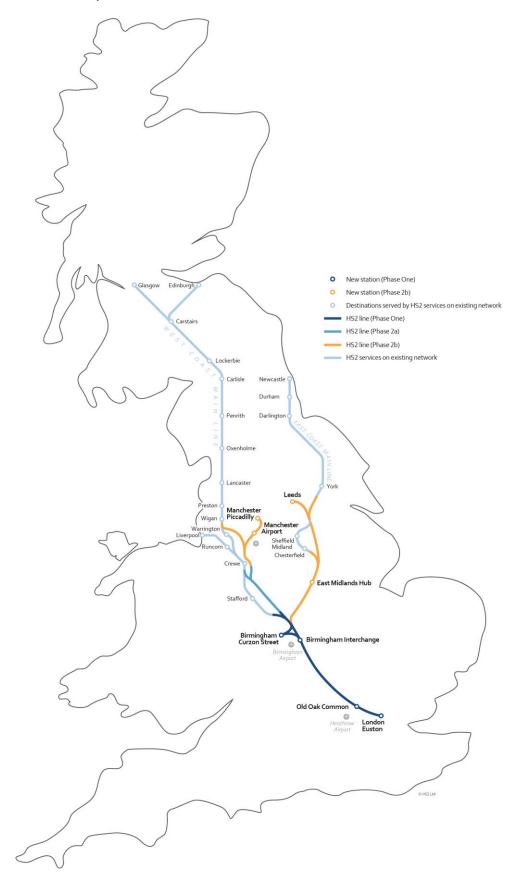
Annex 1 signposts these and other relevant documents.

1 Introduction to HS2

The HS₂ Project

- 1.1 HS2 is the Government's proposal for a new, high speed north-south railway. The proposal is being taken forward in two phases: Phase One will connect London with Birmingham and the West Midlands and Phase Two will extend the route to Manchester, Leeds and beyond.
- 1.2 On 23rd February 2017 Royal Assent was granted for Phase One of HS2, which comprises of a new high speed railway between London and the West Midlands with stations at London Euston, Old Oak Common, Birmingham Interchange, and Birmingham Curzon Street. Figure 1 illustrates the Phase One route between London West Midlands and Phase Two proposals.

Figure 1: HS2 route map



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Control of Environmental Impacts

- 1.3 The environmental impacts of the construction, maintenance and operation of HS2 will be controlled in three ways:
 - Controls within the HS2 Act such as approvals for designs and construction arrangements;
 - Policies, commitments and undertakings entered into outside of the Act, including the EMRs; and
 - Existing legislation, unless expressly or impliedly dis-applied or modified by the Act.
- 1.4 These controls are summarised below.

Environmental Statement

- 1.5 The HS2 Phase One Environmental Statement (ES) was published in November 2013. It has been supplemented by a number of additional volumes as further information has become available, and in light of proposed changes to the project¹.
- 1.6 The ES identifies the likely significant effects that will arise from the construction and operation of HS2 and identifies the range of mitigation measures that could be used to reduce or eliminate these effects. The assessment is based on a number of assumptions about design and construction practices.
- 1.7 As the project is taken forward to detailed design and construction there may be changes to assumed construction methods and design, subject to the requirements of the Act, the EMRs, and any approvals required from consent granting bodies, and in response to the requirements of any relevant Undertakings or Assurances.

Controls in the Act

The Planning Regime

- 1.8 Section 20 to the HS2 Act grants deemed planning permission under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 ("the TCPA") for the works authorised by the HS2 Act. This permission is subject to the requirement that certain approvals need to be obtained from the relevant planning authorities under the planning regime established by Schedule 17 to the Act. The conditions in Schedule 17 are enforceable by the planning authority in accordance with the TCPA.
- 1.9 The principal works authorised by the HS2 Act are described in Schedule 1 (the "scheduled works"). The descriptions in Schedule 1 to the HS2 Act set out the type of work and their location, for example:
 - Work No.1/1 A railway (23.48 kilometres in length) partly in tunnel, commencing at a point 235 metres east of the junction of North Gower Street with Drummond Street passing north-westwards

¹ An Environment Statement has been published with the Additional Provision tabled by the Promoter in September 2014. In addition, Supplementary Environmental Statements and Additional Provision Environmental Statements were published and tabled by the Promoter in July 2015, September 2015, October 2015 and December 2015.

- and terminating beneath a point 80 metres north-west of the bridge carrying Ickenham Road over the Marylebone to Aylesbury Railway. Work No. 1/1 includes shafts at Coburg Street, Mornington Street, Granby terrace, Parkway, Adelaide Road, Alexandra Place, Canterbury Works and Greenpark Way, a station at Old Oak Common and a Crossover Box at Victoria Road.
- 1.10 The scheduled works must be constructed in the locations and to the levels relevant to each scheduled work shown on the deposited plans and sections (the 'Limits of Deviation'). The scheduled works may deviate vertically downwards from the levels shown to any extent, and may deviate upwards up to 3 metres subject to the upper limits defined for certain works such as stations, depots or shafts.
- 1.11 Section 2 to the HS2 Act authorises, within the Act limits, the construction and maintenance of a wide range of other development for the purposes of or in connection with the scheduled works, or otherwise for Phase One purposes. Section 2 also authorises, within the Act limits, the carrying out and maintenance of landscaping and other works to mitigate adverse effects of the construction, maintenance or operation of the works and to carry out and maintain works for the benefit or protection of land affected by the works.
- 1.13 Such ancillary works may be constructed within Act limits as defined on the deposited plans.

 The HS2 Act only grants deemed planning permission for the construction of works which are not scheduled works if they are with the scope of the ES that accompanies the HS2 Act.
- 1.14 Schedule 2 to the Act authorises further works, including surveys and investigation of land, support of buildings, works to trees, discharge of water, and temporary works to certain waterways.
- 1.15 Schedule 17 to the Act defines the detailed planning regime which will apply to the planning authority affected by works to construct and operate HS2.
- 1.16 The planning regime under Schedule 17 is different to that of the TCPA. It differs from the TCPA process in how it defines the matters that require approval and the grounds that the planning authorities can have regard to in determining requests for approval. The grounds for the imposition of conditions and/or the refusal of Schedule 17 submissions are limited in comparison to the TCPA process. This is because the works already have deemed planning permission through the Act and there are other complementary controls imposed through the HS2 Act and EMRs.
- 1.17 Schedule 17 requires the nominated undertaker to submit the following details to planning authorities, for approval or agreement:
 - Plans and specifications of certain works;
 - Matters ancillary to development ("construction arrangements");
 - Road Transport (lorry routes);
 - Bringing into use; and

- Site restoration schemes.
- 1.18 Planning authorities who have given the Secretary of State undertakings, as set out in the Planning Memorandum, with respect to the handling of planning matters under Schedule 17, have become 'qualifying authorities'. The main provisions of the Planning Memorandum are summarised in Section 1.51 below.
- 1.19 The District has become a qualifying authority.
- 1.20 In relation to qualifying authorities, the operations or works for which plans and specifications will be submitted for approval are identified in Table 1.

Table 1: Operations or works requiring approval of plans and specifications

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS											
BUILDING WORKS (paragraph 2 of Schedule 17)	The erection, construction or alteration of any building										
	other than a temporary building.										
OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKS (paragraph 3 of	Road vehicle parks;										
Schedule 17)	Earthworks;										
	Sight, noise or dust screens;										
	Transformers, telecommunication masts or pedestrian										
	accesses to railway lines;										
	Fences or walls, and										
	Lighting equipment.										
WASTE AND SPOIL DISPOSAL AND EXCAVATION	Disposal of waste or spoil.										
(Paragraph 7 of Schedule 17)	Excavations of bulk materials from borrow pits.										

- 1.21 In relation to qualifying authorities, development must be carried out in accordance with matters ancillary to development (construction arrangements) approved by the relevant planning authority (paragraph 4 of Schedule 17).
- 1.22 Schedule 17 enables the Secretary of State to make a class approval for construction arrangements, except in relation to construction camps (paragraph 5 of Schedule 17). A class approval was made by the Secretary of State on 24th March 2017, following consultation with the planning authorities affected, for the following generic construction arrangement matters: handling of re-usable spoil and topsoil; storage sites; site screening; artificial lighting; suppression of dust; road mud control measures. The approval of construction camps is not included in the class approval.
- 1.23 Where lorry movements exceed 24 to/from a construction site, the lorry route must be approved (paragraph 6 of Schedule 17) by the relevant qualifying authority.
- 1.24 The relevant qualifying authority approves a bringing into use request for approval (paragraph 9 of Schedule 17), for most scheduled works, apart from any which are below ground, and maintenance depots. The purpose of bringing into use requests is to ensure that appropriate mitigation has been incorporated, and no such work can be brought into use without such approval.

- 1.25 A site restoration scheme will be submitted for agreement with the relevant planning authority in accordance with paragraph 12 of Schedule 17.
- 1.26 The planning authority must have regard to statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with paragraph 26 of Schedule 17 to the HS2 Act.

Other Consents in the Act

1.27 In addition to the planning regime described above, Schedules 4 and 33 to the HS2 Act contain provisions setting out the protections to be provided for various bodies with statutory responsibilities likely to be affected by the works.

Schedule 4 – Accesses to highways affecting traffic

1.28 To control the impact of constructing new or altering existing accesses onto the local road network, local highway authorities have an approval role. For the opening of an access onto, or the alteration of, a road at a place shown on the deposited plans the works must be carried out in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the highway authority. In addition the local highway authority may require the access to be moved elsewhere within the Act limits where that is reasonably capable of being done. If an access is required at a location other than that shown on the deposited plans, the consent of the highway authority is required, subject to its approval of plans and specifications.

Schedule 4 – Stopping up, diversion and interference with the highway

1.29 During construction the temporary closure, diversion or interference with highways will be required. In order to address local impacts the Act provides for highway authority input. Where a highway is specified within the Act, the nominated undertaker must consult the highway authority about the exercising of the powers before doing so. Where the powers are to be exercised in relation to a highway not specified within the Act the nominated undertaker must obtain the consent of the highway authority.

Schedule 33 – Highways

- 1.30 Part 1 of Schedule 33 requires the nominated undertaker in exercising the powers in the Act in relation to highways to have regard to the potential disruption of traffic and to seek to minimise such disruption so far as reasonably practicable, and gives highway authorities rights of approval over various matters concerning details of the works affecting highways.
- 1.31 Additional controls are contained in Schedule 4. Where the nominated undertaker constructs a new or alters an existing highway, the construction or alteration must be completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the highway authority, who shall certify that fact in writing to the nominated undertaker.
- 1.32 Where the nominated undertaker constructs or realigns a highway that is constituted or comprises a carriageway, it must be carried out in accordance with plans, sections and specifications approved by the highway authority.

Schedule 33 - Water

- 1.33 The construction of HS2 will have impacts on inland waterways and land drainage, flood defences, water resources and fisheries. In order to address these impacts the Act includes a range of controls for the relevant authorities.
- 1.34 The impacts on inland waterways are addressed in Part 4 of Schedule 33, this gives the Canal and River Trust the power to approve plans and specifications for works affecting waterways for which it is responsible.
- 1.35 Part 5 of Schedule 33 states that before beginning to construct any "specified work" (in the main, those affecting drainage, flood storage and flood defence, the flow or purity of water and conservation of water resources), the nominated undertaker will submit plans, including method statements, for the works to the Environment Agency or local drainage authorities (i.e. lead local flood authorities, or internal drainage boards) for approval. Works will be constructed in accordance with the approved plans.
- 1.36 The Environment Agency or local drainage authorities may, amongst other matters, make conditions requiring the nominated undertaker at its own expense to construct such protective works as are reasonably necessary to safeguard any drainage work against damage or to ensure its efficiency for flood defence purposes is not impaired during the construction of the specified works.
- 1.37 These provisions have effect instead of the normal consenting regime which would apply, for example, under the Land and Drainage Act 1991, or the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010.

Schedule 33 - Other Controls

1.38 Schedule 33 – Protective provisions also include the requirement for consultations and agreements from statutory utilities undertakers.

Schedule 18 – Listed Buildings

- 1.39 The HS₂ Act disapplies the normal controls requiring conservation area consent and listed building consent under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, for the demolition, alteration or extension of listed buildings and unlisted buildings. The disapplication applies to the extent specified in Schedule 18 to the Act.
- 1.40 In recognition of the removal of the requirement for listed building consent, heritage agreements have been entered into between the nominated undertaker, Historic England and relevant local authorities. These agreements require approvals to detailed method statements in relation to the works subject to the disapplication of the normal listed building controls.

Environmental Minimum Requirements

1.41 There are a variety of control mechanisms and mitigation strategies outside of the HS₂ Act. These are captured in the EMRs.

- 1.42 The EMRs are a suite of documents that have been developed in consultation with local authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The nominated undertaker is contractually bound to comply with the controls set out in the EMRs, through the Development Agreement with the Secretary of State.
- 1.43 The controls contained in the EMRs, along with powers contained in the HS2 Act and the Undertakings given by the Secretary of State, will ensure that impacts which have been assessed in the ES will not be exceeded, unless any new impact or impacts in excess of those assessed in the ES:
- results from a change in circumstances which was not likely at the time of the ES2;
- would not be likely to be environmentally significant³;
- results from a change or extension to the project, where that change or extension does not itself require environmental impact assessment (EIA) under either (i) article 4(1) of and paragraph 24 of Annex 1 to the EIA Directive⁴; or (ii) article 4(2) of and paragraph 13 of Annex 2 to the EIA Directive⁵; or
- would be considered as part of a separate consent process (and therefore further EIA if required).
- 1.44 In addition to general principles, the EMRs comprise:
 - a number of specific requirements, including that the nominated undertaker will use reasonable endeavours to adopt mitigation measures that will further reduce any adverse environmental impacts caused by HS2, insofar as these mitigation measures do not add unreasonable costs to the project or unreasonable delays to the construction programme;
 - the undertakings and assurances given to Parliament and petitioners by the Secretary of State during the passage of the High Speed Rail (London West Midlands) Bill (the Bill); and
 - the Code of Construction Practice, Planning Memorandum, Heritage Memorandum, and Environmental Memorandum.

Undertakings and Assurances

1.45 During the passage of the Bill through Parliament, the Secretary of State entered into a range of undertakings and assurances. The HS2 Act Register of Undertakings and Assurances contains all the undertakings and assurances given to petitioners and to Parliament before and during the passage of the Bill. The register forms part of the EMRs and as a result the nominated undertaker is contractually bound to deliver them.

Code of Construction Practice

² i.e. a situation that could not reasonably have been anticipated at the time of the ES.

³ This covers all effects (both positive and adverse) where those effects are simply of no environmental significance.

⁴ 2011 consolidated EIA Directive (2011/92/EU).

⁵ Broadly, this would not allow those changes or extensions to the project which would give rise to adverse environmental effects within the EIA.

- 1.46 The Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) is Annex 1 of the EMRs. It sets out specific details and working practices in relation to site preparation (including site investigation and remediation, where appropriate), demolition, material delivery, excavated material disposal, waste removal and all related engineering and construction activities.
- 1.47 The CoCP sets out the measures that nominated undertaker and contractors are required to implement in order to limit disturbance from construction activities, as far as reasonably practicable:
- General requirements related to community relations, hours of work, pollution incident control and security, etc;
- Agriculture, forestry and soils;
- Air quality;
- Cultural heritage;
- Ecology;
- Ground settlement;
- Land quality;
- Landscape and visual;
- Noise and vibration;
- •Traffic and transport; and
- Water resources and flood risk.
- 1.48 Local Environmental Management Plans (LEMPs) will be prepared for each local authority area.
- 1.49 The LEMPs will include a number of specific measures by topic, as relevant to each local authority area. The LEMPs will build on the general environmental requirements contained in the CoCP and will set out how the project will adapt and deliver the required environmental and community protection measures within each relevant local authority area.
- 1.50 The nominated undertaker and/or its contractors will engage with the local communities, local authorities and other stakeholders in order to develop the LEMPs.

Planning Memorandum

1.51 The Planning Memorandum is Annex 2 of the EMRs. It sets out in detail the responsibilities and requirements in relation to planning matters for those authorities that choose to become qualifying authorities. It also sets out requirements for the nominated undertaker in the implementation of Schedule 17 of the HS2 Act.

Heritage Memorandum

1.52 The Heritage Memorandum is Annex 3 of the EMRs. It provides a framework for the nominated undertaker, Historic England, local authorities and other stakeholders to work together to ensure

that the design and construction of Phase One is carried out with proper regard to the historic environment.

Environmental Memorandum

1.53 The Environmental Memorandum is Annex 4 of the EMRs. It provides a framework for the nominated undertaker and representatives of the National Environment Forum to work together to ensure that the design and construction of the HS2 Phase One is carried out with due regard for environmental considerations.

Planning Forum

- 1.54 The HS2 Phase One Planning Forum was established to help co-ordinate and secure the expeditious implementation of the planning provisions in the Act. The primary objectives and functions of the Planning Forum are:
- To prepare notes on related matters, which will set out standards and practices to be followed by those implementing the planning regime.
- To consider common design items for certain structures associated with the railway (such as bridges, acoustic barriers or retaining walls).
- 1.55 The Planning Forum has a number of sub-groups:
- Highways Subgroup.
- Environmental Health Subgroup;
- Heritage Subgroup; and
- Flood Risk and Drainage Subgroup.

Environmental Management System

- 1.56 As part of the sustainability policy, the nominated undertaker will develop an environmental management system (EMS) in accordance with *BS EN ISO 14001*. The EMS provides the process by which environmental management, both within its organisation and in relation to its operations, is undertaken to ensure the relevant findings of the ES are addressed through the construction phase.
- 1.57 The nominated undertaker will require each of its main contractors to have an EMS certified to BS EN ISO14001. Their EMS will include roles and responsibilities, together with appropriate control measures and monitoring systems to be employed during planning and constructing the works for all relevant topic areas. Where the lead contractor is a joint venture, the EMS will be certified to cover the activities of the joint venture.

Management of Construction Traffic

1.58 The HS2 Routewide Traffic Management Plan (RTMP) describes the principles and objectives for the management of transport, highways and traffic during the delivery of the works. It codifies the discussions held with the highway authorities along the HS2 Phase One route via the Highway

- Subgroup to the Planning Forum and takes into account the best practice used during the delivery of similar large construction projects.
- 1.59 The RTMP document will be supplemented with a series of Local Traffic Management Plans (LTMPs) along the route. LTMPs will set out the full range of local controls, significant works programmes for highways and other appropriate matters.
- 1.60 Regular local Traffic Liaison Group (TLG) meetings have been established with local highway authorities so that matters such as LTMPs and site specific traffic management schemes can be reviewed prior to submission or approval and the implementation of schemes reviewed and other monitoring reported, along with other matters of interest discussed and co-ordinated.

Excavated Material & Waste Management

- 1.61 Measures to reduce potential impacts from waste management are described in section 15 of the CoCP. An integrated design approach has been developed to use excavated material to satisfy the fill material requirements wherever reasonably practicable. This approach will reduce the need for imported materials and reduce the amount of excavated material requiring off-site disposal. This includes reuse of all topsoil and agricultural subsoil as close to the point of excavation as practicable.
- 1.62 All waste generated from the design, construction and operation will be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy. This places waste prevention as the preferred option at the top, followed by reuse, recycling and other recovery, with landfill disposal at the bottom as the last resort. Information Paper E3 provides further detail.

Management of Noise and Vibration

- 1.63 The nominated undertaker will obtain consents under Section 61 to the Control of Pollution Act 1974, which will include noise limits and vibration limits where relevant and site specific management and mitigation requirements for noise and vibration, both on and off site.
- 1.64 In relation to the control of construction noise and vibration, Information E23 provides further detail. Information Papers E20, E21 and E22 provide further detail on operational noise from the railway.
- 1.65 Noise and vibration monitoring will be carried out at different times during the lifetime of the railway. Where noise and vibration performance deviates from expected conditions, actions will be taken as described in Information Paper F4.

Existing Legislation and Other Safeguards

1.66 Unless a piece of existing legislation is expressly or impliedly dis-applied or modified by the HS₂ Act, it will continue to apply. For example, environmental permits in relation to discharges will still be required and the Control of Pollution Act 1974 (COPA) will continue to apply.

Oversite Development

- 1.67 The HS2 Act does not grant approval for any oversite development. Consent for any such development will be applied for and determined through normal planning processes. However, the HS2 Act does authorise works to enable future oversite development, for example the construction of additional foundations or deck structures.
- 1.68 The HS2 Act also puts in place requirements in respect of the environmental assessment of oversite development. It defines the circumstance where the planning application for such development proposed to replace a building demolished or substantially demolished for HS2 must be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment.

Safety and Security

- 1.69 HS2 will create a railway designed, built and operated with world-class health, safety and security standards. All HS2 infrastructure will be designed in accordance with appropriate standards and policies for public safety. The following are some key design principles that will be applied:
- Adoption of hostile vehicle mitigation and blast resilient glazing and facades where appropriate;
- Application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles across all of the HS2 network but with particular emphasis on all publicly accessible spaces;
- Selection of vandal-resistant materials and designs;
- Appropriate use of surveillance systems and lighting;
- Integration of natural way-finding into designs to configure spaces that are easy to navigate and use of signage that is clean and unambiguous.

2 HS2 Route Description in Cherwell District

Introduction

- The HS2 route in the District will cover approximately 1.5km over two sections and comprises the following:
 - i. The route enters the District from Aylesbury Vale District to the east. HS2 crosses over the Padbury Brook and extends via a series of viaducts and embankments for approximately 250m before exiting the District and returning to Aylesbury Vale District.
 - ii. The route re-enters the District east of Newton Purcell and continues in alignment with the Great Central Main Line (GCML) for approximately 5km via Mixbury before exiting the District west of Westbury and returning to Aylesbury Vale District.
- 2.2 As the project is taken forward to detailed design and construction there may be changes to assumed construction methods and design, subject to the requirements of the Act, the EMRs, and any approvals required from consent granting bodies, and in response to the requirements of any relevant Undertakings or Assurances.
- 2.3 The following section describes the permanent, preparatory and temporary works in the District.

Permanent Works

Godington East Viaduct to Godington West Viaduct

- 2.4 The route enters the District north east of the village of Godington. At this point the railway will cross the Padbury Brook on the Godington East viaduct and proceed for approximately 25m. This viaduct is approximately 5.5m above existing ground level and will feature a protection barrier adjacent to the railway on either side.
- 2.5 Then the railway will travel on the Godington West embankment for approximately 25om. This embankment contains landscape planting on both sides.
- 2.6 The railway will leave the District and return to Aylesbury Vale District on the Godington West viaduct which will also feature a protection barrier adjacent to the railway on either side and a modified absorption noise fence barrier on the eastern side.
- 2.7 In addition, works also comprise upgrading (including drainage and fencing) and widening of bridleways CHW/24 and 225/4 which will serve Moat Farm, located south-west of the route as well as two replacement floodplain storage areas located each side of the railway.

2.8 This section within the District includes the retention and enhancement of existing vegetation along the former GCML corridor to provide visual screening.

Barton to Mixbury Cutting

- 2.9 The route re-enters the District east of Newton Purcell in cutting which will be approximately 4km in length and up to 10m deep crossing under the realigned footpath BHA/2 overbridge in alignment with the former GCML.
- 2.10 The cutting will include landscape earthworks on the eastern and westerns side of the cutting from the start of the cutting to between 250m-300m south-east of the A4421 Buckingham Road.
- 2.11 At the point the landscape earthworks cease, approximately 300m south-east of the A4421 Buckingham Road, noise fence barriers approximately 400m long and 3m high will feature on the western side of the railway.
- 2.12 The A4421 Buckingham Road will be realigned over the railway via an overbridge, approximately 8m above existing ground-level. In addition, footpath BHA/2 will also be realigned over the railway, approximately 9m above existing ground-level.
- 2.13 Two balancing ponds for highway drainage with associates access tracks will be located either side of the railway immediately south of the A4421 Buckingham Road. The balancing pond east of the railway will also feature landscape planting and additional hedgerow planting on both sides of the entrance to its associated access road.
- 2.14 Further landscape earthworks will feature on the western of the cutting from the A4421 Buckingham Road to Bridleway 213/7.
- 2.15 Two replacement floodplain storage areas located either side of the railway and north of the A4421 Buckingham Road. In addition, a land drainage area will be located north of the A4421 Buckingham Road on the western side of the railway, adjacent to the landscape earthworks.
- 2.16 Bridleway 213/7 will be realigned via an overbridge at existing ground-level and bridleway 213/4 will be realigned via an overbridge approximately 6m above existing ground-level. The 213/4 overbridge will also serve as accommodation track. Ecological mitigation areas will be located on the western side of the railway between the realigned bridleways.
- 2.17 On the western side of the railway, a replacement access will serve Widmore Farm from the A421 London Road and run parallel to the railway. Similarly, on the eastern side of the railway, a replacement private access will serve Warren Farm from the A421 London Road and will also run parallel to the railway.

- 2.18 The A421 London Road will be realigned via an overbridge over the railway approximately 2m above existing ground level.
- 2.19 Noise fence barriers approximately 3m high will feature on the eastern side of the railway from the A421 London Road for approximately 600m.
- 2.20 Footpath 303/7 will be realigned along the eastern side of the railway and across the Featherbed Lane overbridge. The existing overhead electricity line will also be diverted through the deck of the bridge.
- 2.21 The existing dismantled railway cutting, located on the western side of the railway will be infilled, from immediately south of Featherbed Lane over a distance of approximately 200m.

Mixbury embankment and cutting

- 2.22 The route continues on the Mixbury embankment approximately 250m in length and up to 8m high, followed by a cutting approximately 500m long and up to 8m deep.
- 2.23 Works include two areas of woodlands planting, located either side of the railway, comprising a total area of 2.9ha.
- 2.24 A balancing pond and associated access track, located east of the railway and north of Footpath 213/1.
- 2.25 A replacement floodplain storage area to the west of the railway followed by an overbridge which is a realignment of Bridleways 303/4 and 303/2 over the railway, approximately 3m above existing ground level.
- 2.26 In addition, a balancing pond access track located west of the railway will serve two balancing ponds located in the Westbury viaduct and embankments to the south of the River Great Ouse.

Westbury viaduct and embankments

- 2.27 The route continues on the Westbury viaduct approximately 300m in length and up to 12m high, followed by a cutting, approximately 500m in length and up to 11m high and additional embankment called Grovehill embankment approximately 150m in length and up to 10m high.
- 2.28 Works include landscape earthworks on either side of the railway from just north-west of Bridleway 303/4 up to just north of the dismantled railway on the eastern side and up to just southeast of the River Great Ouse on the western side.
- 2.29 A land drainage area and balancing pond along with their associated access tracks will be located west of the railway followed by a replacement floodplain storage area immediately south of the River Great Ouse.

- 2.30 An area of scattered planting located east of the railway, adjacent to the District's boundary just north of the River Great Ouse.
- 2.31 The Westbury viaduct located west of Westbury, will carry the railway over the River Great Ouse approximately 10m-12m above existing ground level.
- 2.32 Noise fence barriers will extend along the east side of the railway past Westbury for approximately 750m. The barrier will be up to 2m high except across the viaduct where it will be approximately 1.4m high on each side of the tracks. The barrier will be modified along the east side to act as an absorptive noise fence barrier. Bridleway 303/5 will be realigned under this viaduct.
- 2.33 The railway leaves Cherwell District in the Westbury Viaduct when it crosses the River Great Ouse which marks the District's boundary. The route proceeds into the Turweston cutting which is located within the Aylesbury Vale District.

Preparatory and Temporary Works

- 2.34 Building and preparing the railway for operation will comprise the following general stages:
 - advance works, including: site investigations; site surveys; preliminary mitigation works;
 preliminary enabling works;
 - diverting utilities;
 - civil engineering works, including: establishment of construction compounds;
 - site preparation and enabling works including demolition, site clearance; main earthworks and structural works;
 - railway installation works, including: infrastructure installation; connections to utilities; and changes to the existing rail network;
 - site restoration; and
 - system testing and commissioning.

Primary Utility Works

2.35 Numerous utility will need to be diverted for the works, the principal works and diversions in this area include:

- Temporary diversion of 132kV Western Power overhead electricity line across Featherbed Lane with permanent reinstatement underground along its original alignment; and
- Permanent new Western Power line connecting electricity power to Tibbetts Farm express feeder auto-transformer station.
- 2.36 In addition to these diversions there are other smaller overhead power lines and British

 Telecom line diversions. Many of the other utilities will be diverted under the new HS2 railway
 at determined locations or incorporated into new railway overbridges which are due to be built.

Worksites and Compounds

- 2.37 Engineering works will take place along the entire length of the route, and within land adjacent to the railway. This will comprise two broad types of activity:
 - civil engineering works, such as earthworks and erection of bridges and viaducts; and/or
 - railway installation works, such as laying ballast or slabs and tracks, and/or installing power supply and communications features.
- 2.38 Construction will be subdivided into sections, each of which will be managed from compounds. The compounds will act as the main interface between the construction work sites and the public highway, as well as performing certain other functions. Compounds will either be main compounds or satellite compounds, which are generally smaller. Some compounds will be used for civil engineering works and others for railway installation works, and in some cases for both.
- 2.39 The principal activity to be carried out from each of the compounds located in the District are shown in the table below:

Table 2: Construction compounds and activities

Compound	Principal Activities									
A4421 Buckingham Road overbridge satellite	Both compounds will be used for civil engineering									
compound – operation for approximately three	works, working together on key works between									
years and three months, commencing in 2017	the Newton Purcell and Mixbury section of the									
A421 London Road overbridge satellite	railway.									
compound - operational for approximately one										
year and six months, commencing in 2018)										
Featherbed Lane overbridge satellite compound	This compound will be used for civil engineering									
– in place for approximately five years and three	and rail installations works between the Mixbury									
months commencing in 2017	and Westbury section of the railway. On									
	completion of the civil engineering works, the									
	compound will reduce in size to form the Tibbetts									

Farm express feeder auto-transformer station
satellite compound.

Roadheads and Material Stockpile Areas

2.40 Roadheads will be used for the storage, loading and unloading of bulk earthworks material which is moved to and from the site on public highways. Roadheads will be operational for the duration of the civil engineering works. There are none proposed In the District.

Demolitions

- 2.41 The buildings and structures in the District that will need to be demolished are listed below:
 - Two rail overbridges located across the A4421 Buckingham Road
 - Station House and associated outbuilding
 - Commercial outbuilding associated with Widmore Farm
 - One rail overbridge located across the A421 London Road
 - Two commercial outbuildings associated with Warren Farm
 - Two commercial buildings associated with the paddock at Oaks Farm
 - Two Western Power pylons, located adjacent and just off Featherbed Lane
 - Western Power pylon located along the dismantled railway near Mossy Corner Lane

Archaeology

- 2.58 HS2 Ltd has sought to design the railway and to approach the task of construction in ways that reduce the impact on archaeological remains, as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 2.59 In accordance with the requirements of Heritage Memorandum and Code of Construction Practice, the nominated undertaker will develop an integrated investigation programme to deliver all archaeological works identified in the ES and as developed during the detailed design process. The programme will set out the key stages of investigation, for example:
 - detailed desk-based assessment (where appropriate to inform location specific mitigation);
 - field evaluation (where appropriate to inform location specific mitigation); and
 - location specific mitigation (for example preservation in situ or archaeological excavation).

2.60 The investigation programme will be developed in light of, and in conjunction with, the overall construction programme and will be reviewed and updated, as necessary. The programme will aim to undertake as much of the work as possible in advance of any construction activities.

Geotechnical Investigations

2.61 Geological investigations and intrusive site investigations (involving boreholes and trial pits) will be undertaken where necessary, to inform the detailed design.



3 Landscape and Restoration

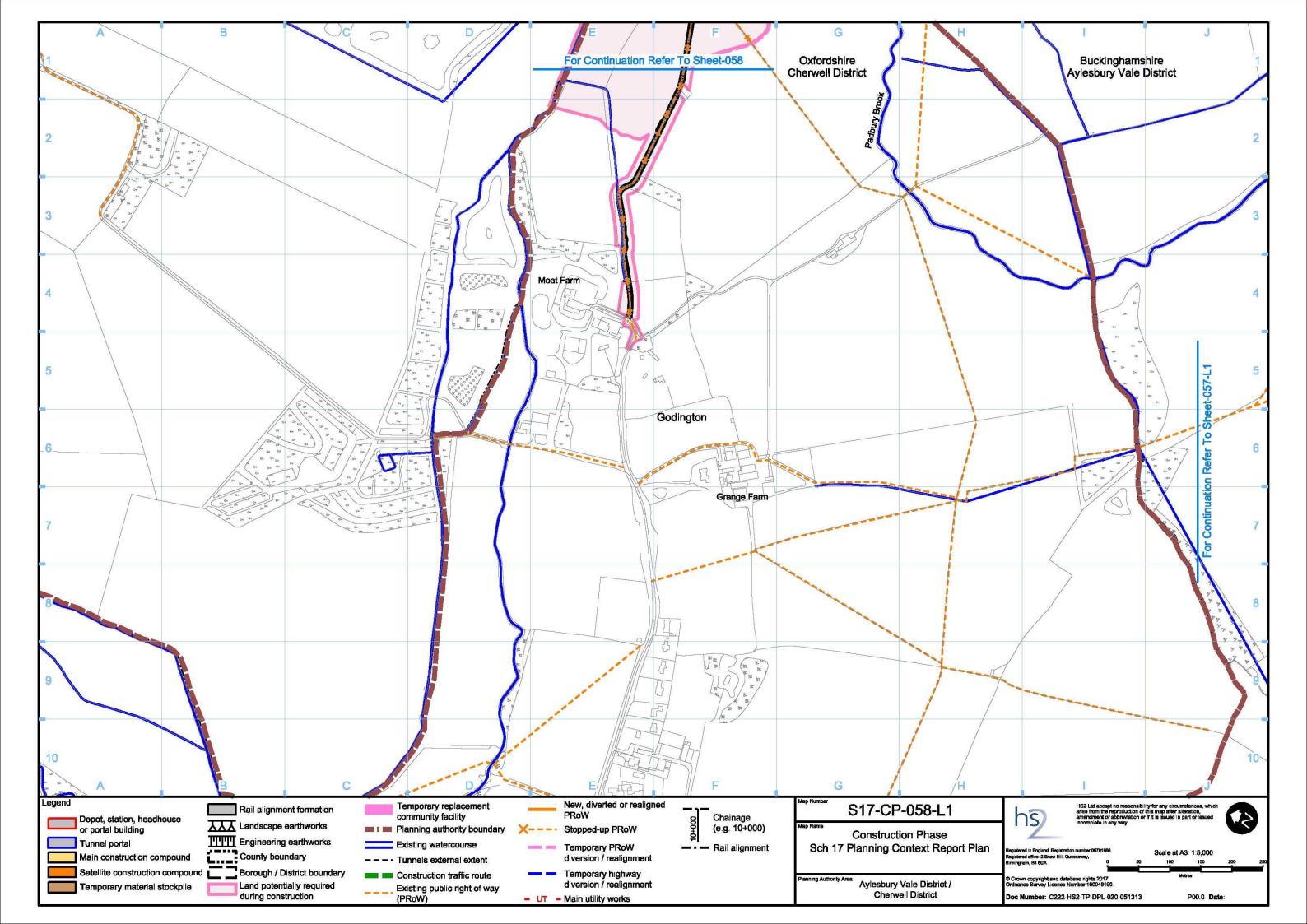
- 3.1 Different landscape types will be incorporated into HS2 works at various stages of the project. Some early landscape works may be proposed for example new planting to compensate for the loss of prior habitat or to help integrate HS2 into the surrounding landscape. Planting and landscape techniques will be used for different purposes for example to visually screen the railway, new structures or to reduce railway noise. Where possible, screen planting will be incorporated into the design along new embankments or cuttings in order to provide a combination of landscape integration, visual screening, and or ecological habitat connectivity.
- 3.2 New areas of woodland will be created along the route. This includes woodland to compensate for the loss of habitat and new planting to help integrate HS2 into the surrounding landscape.

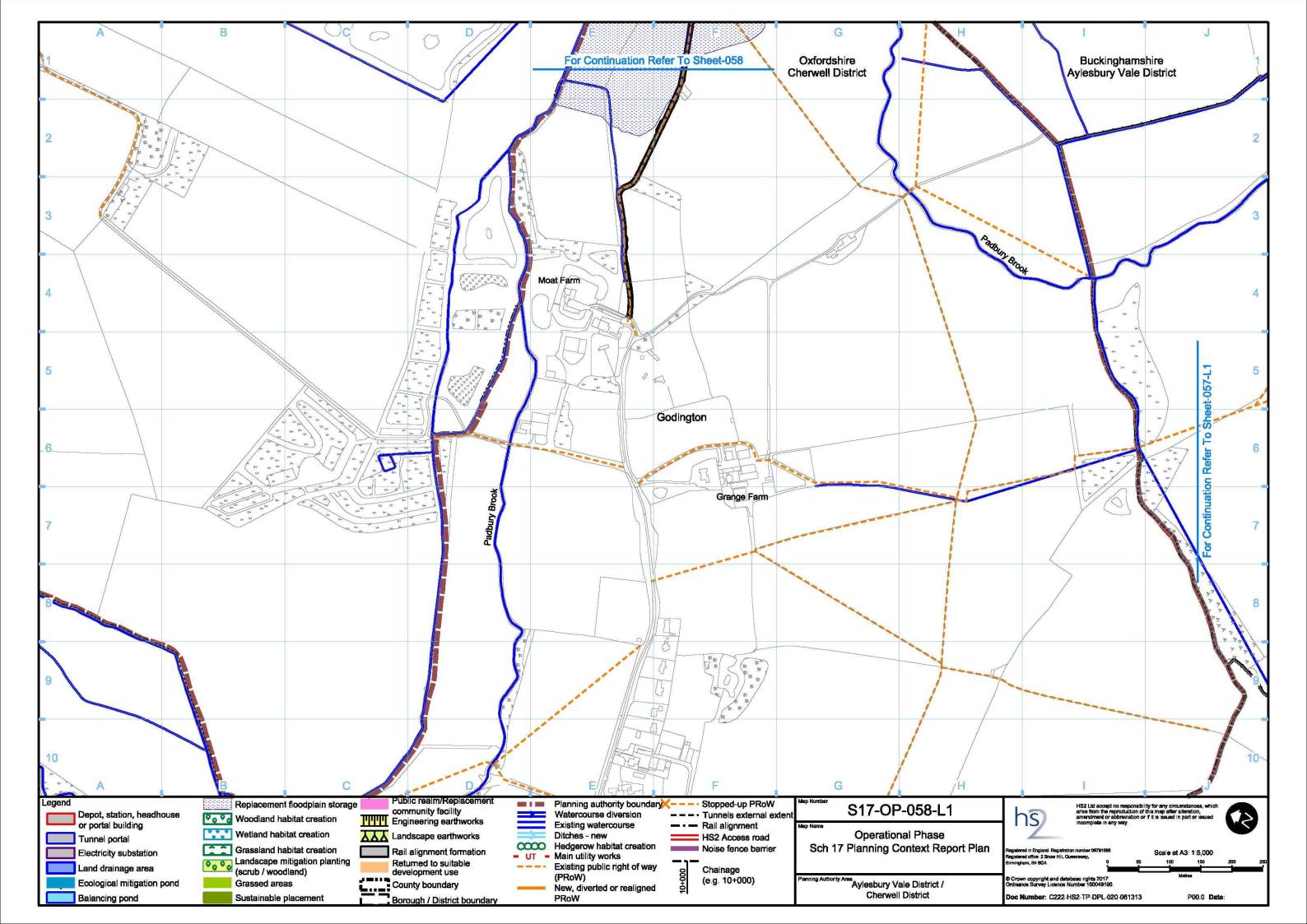
 Certain areas of grassland will be created specifically to compensate for habitat loss resulting from the scheme.
- 3.3 Upon completion of construction works, land that is not required for operation of the railway will be restored. At this early stage of the design of the project, the presumption is that land would be restored as far as possible to its pre-existing condition. This will include reinstatement of field boundaries and hedgerows where possible. Hedgerows will be used to replace existing hedgerows removed during construction, to mitigate the impacts on wildlife or to create new visual screens. Any new planting, grassland and habitat creation will be maintained to ensure they become established and are properly maintained.

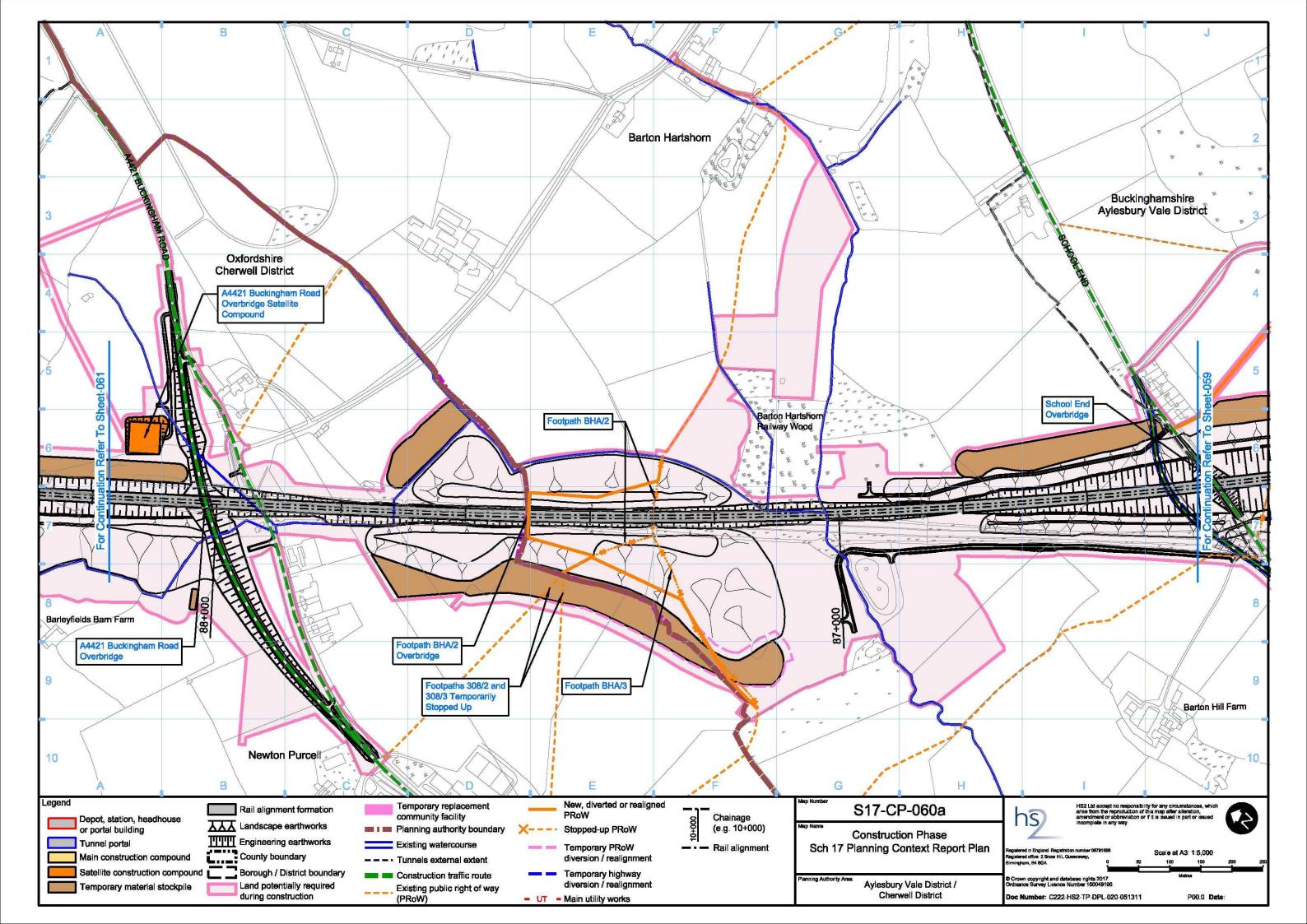
4 Schedule 17 Requests for Approval – Programme

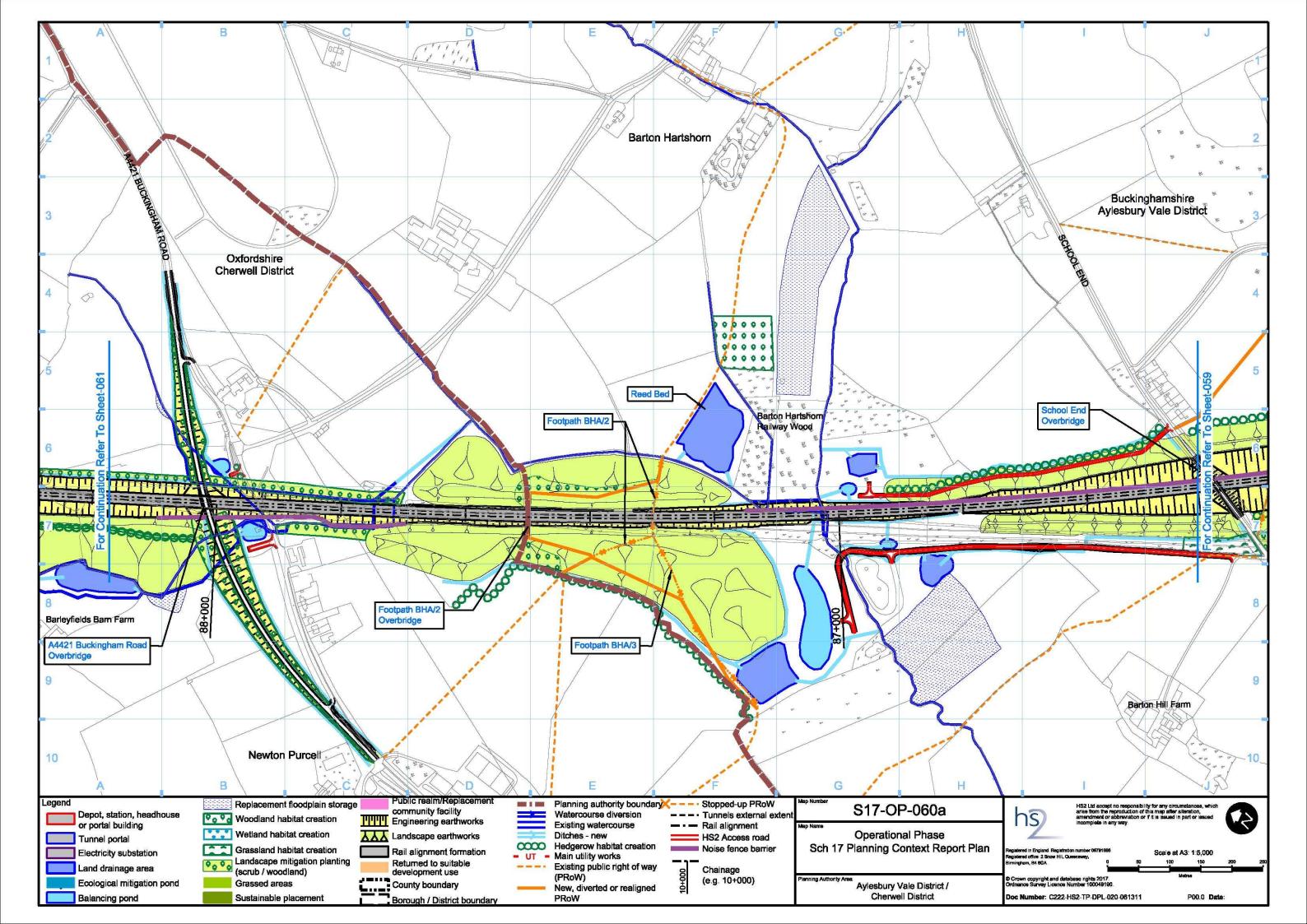
Request for Approval	2017 quarters				-						2019 quarters				2020 quarters					arters		20:	22 qu	arters	5	2	2023 q	uartei	rs	2024 quarters				2025 quarters				2026 quarters				
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Plans and Specifications																				•																				·		
Ecological mitigation																																										
Godington East and West Viaducts																																										
Barton to Mixbury Cutting																																										
Mixbury embankment and cutting																																										
Westbury viaduct and embankments																																										
Bringing into Use	•			•	•	•		•			•	•		•	•				•		•	,	•	•		1		•	•		1	•	•	•	•	•			•			
Lorry Routes	•			•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•				•		•	,	•	•				•	•		1	•	•	•	•	•			•	1		
Construction Arrangen	nents	;					ı	1		1	1			l l				<u> </u>		ı			1			<u> </u>		ı				ı					ı		I	II.		
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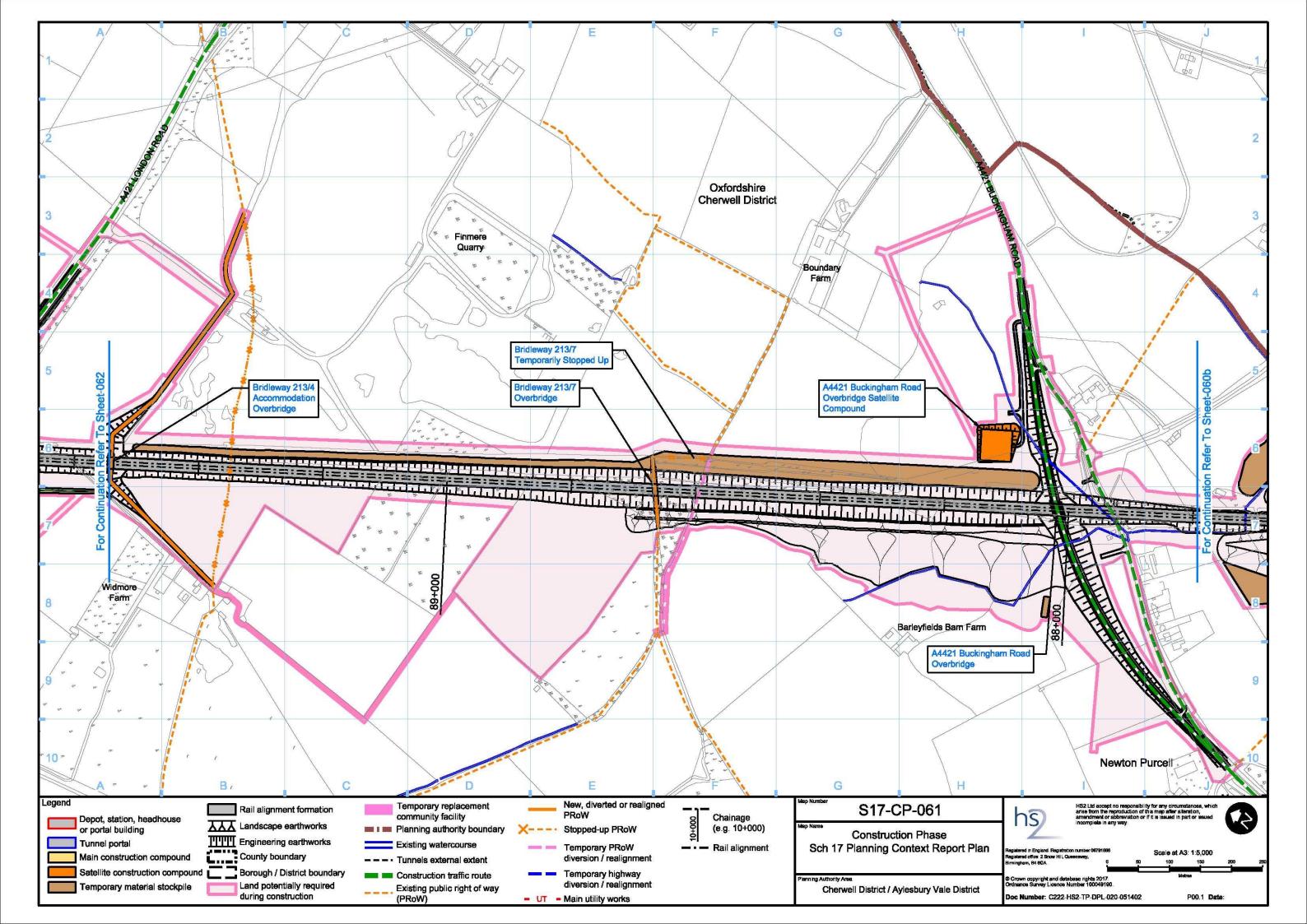
5 Planning Context Report Plans – Construction and Operation

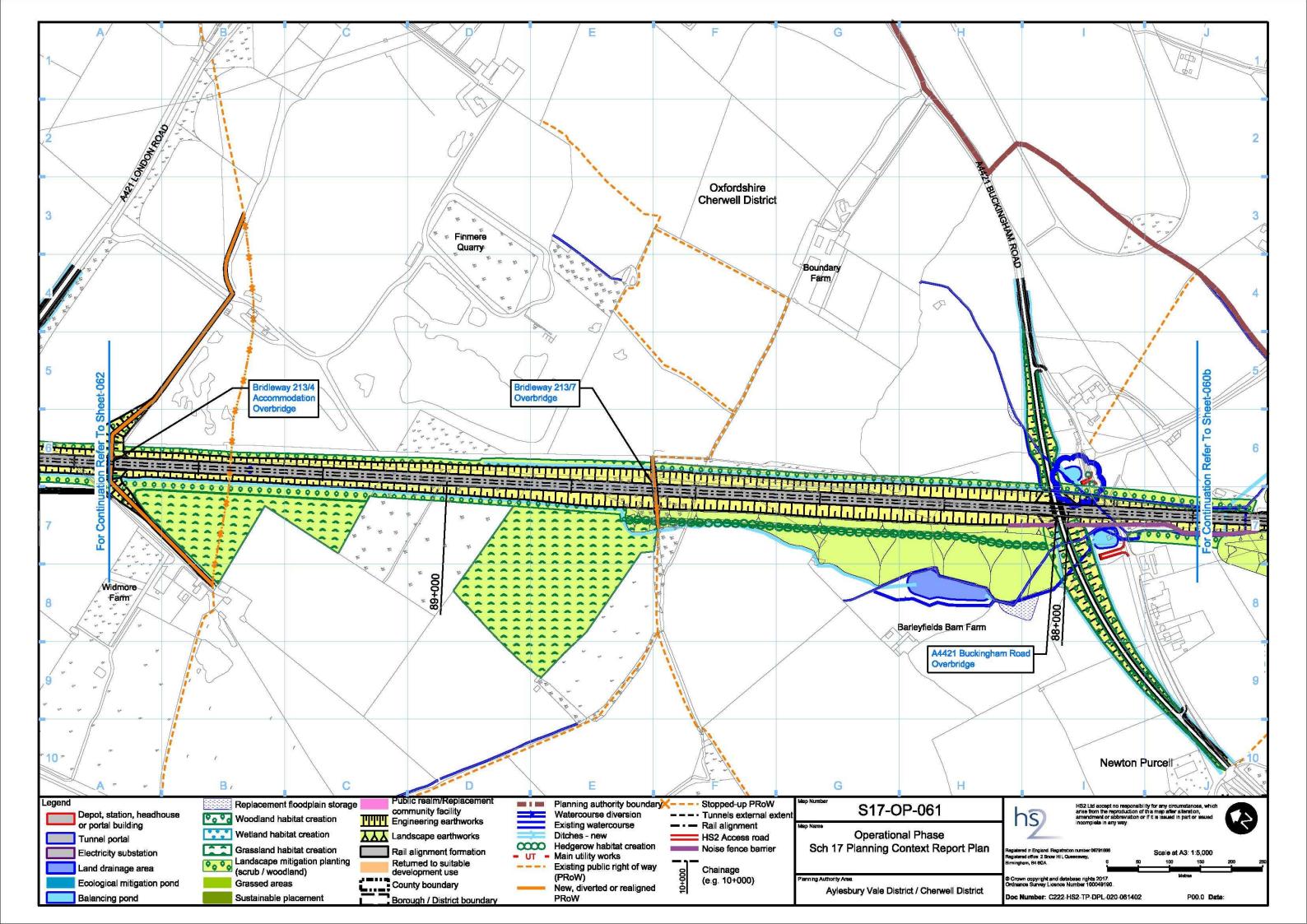


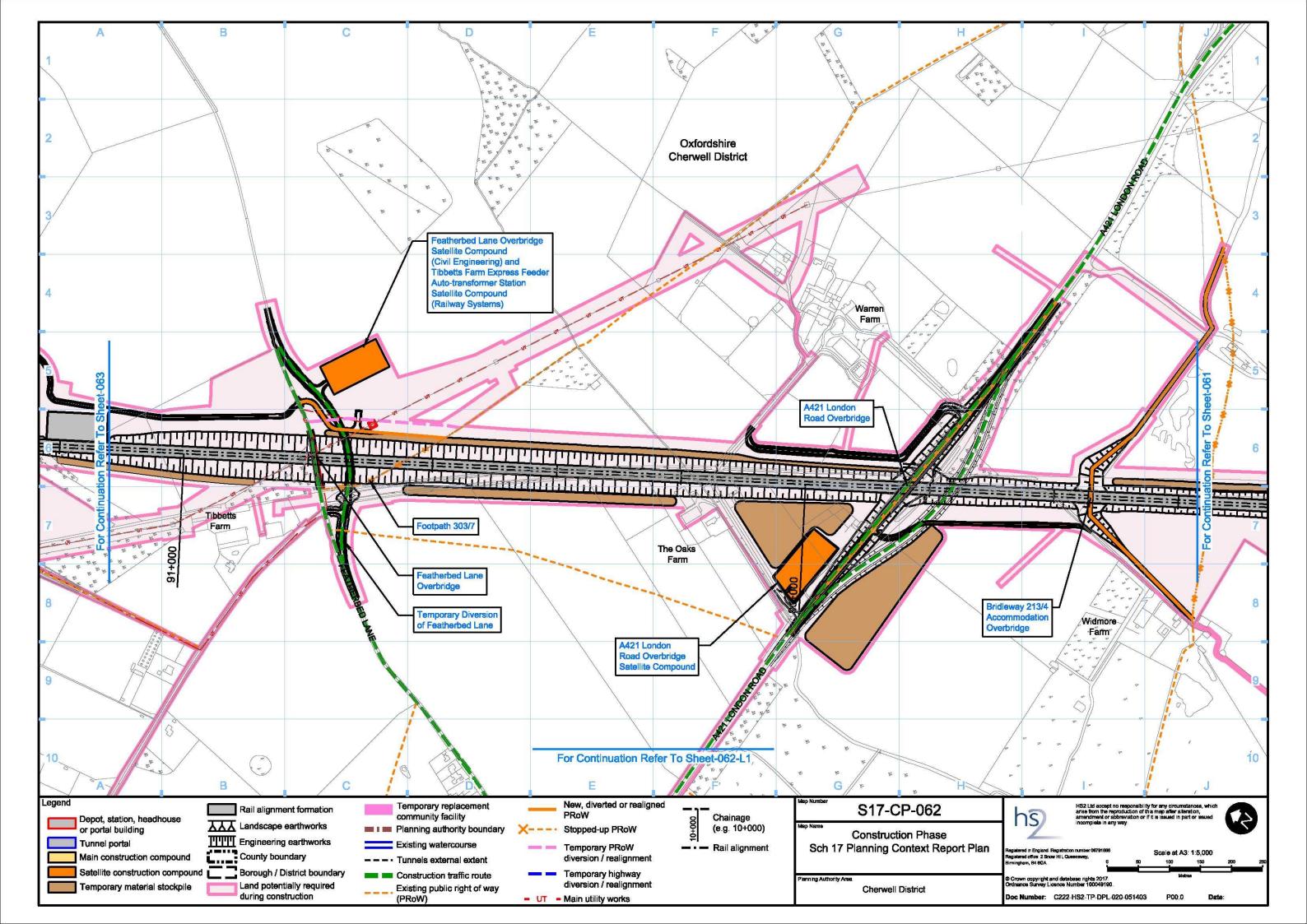


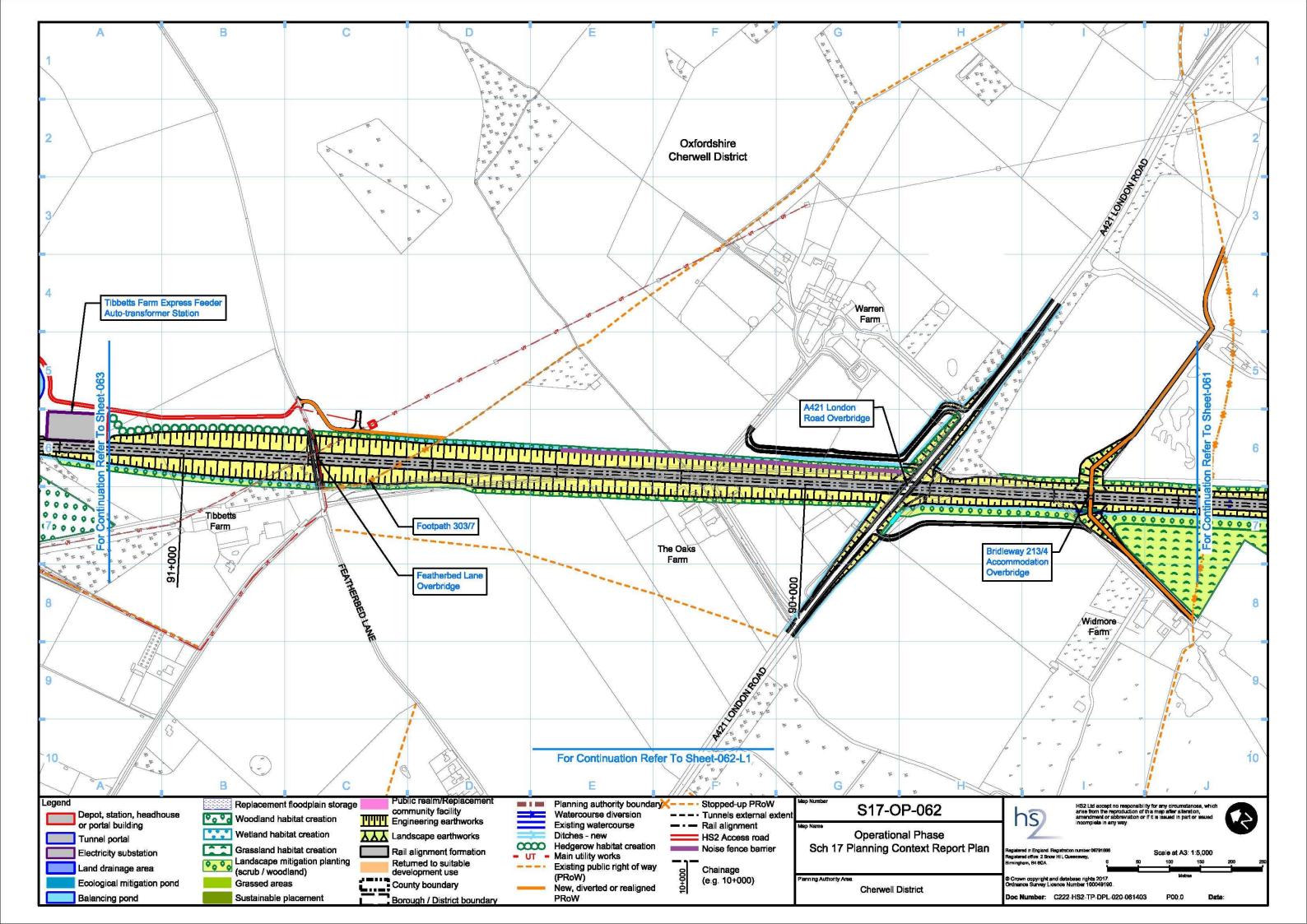


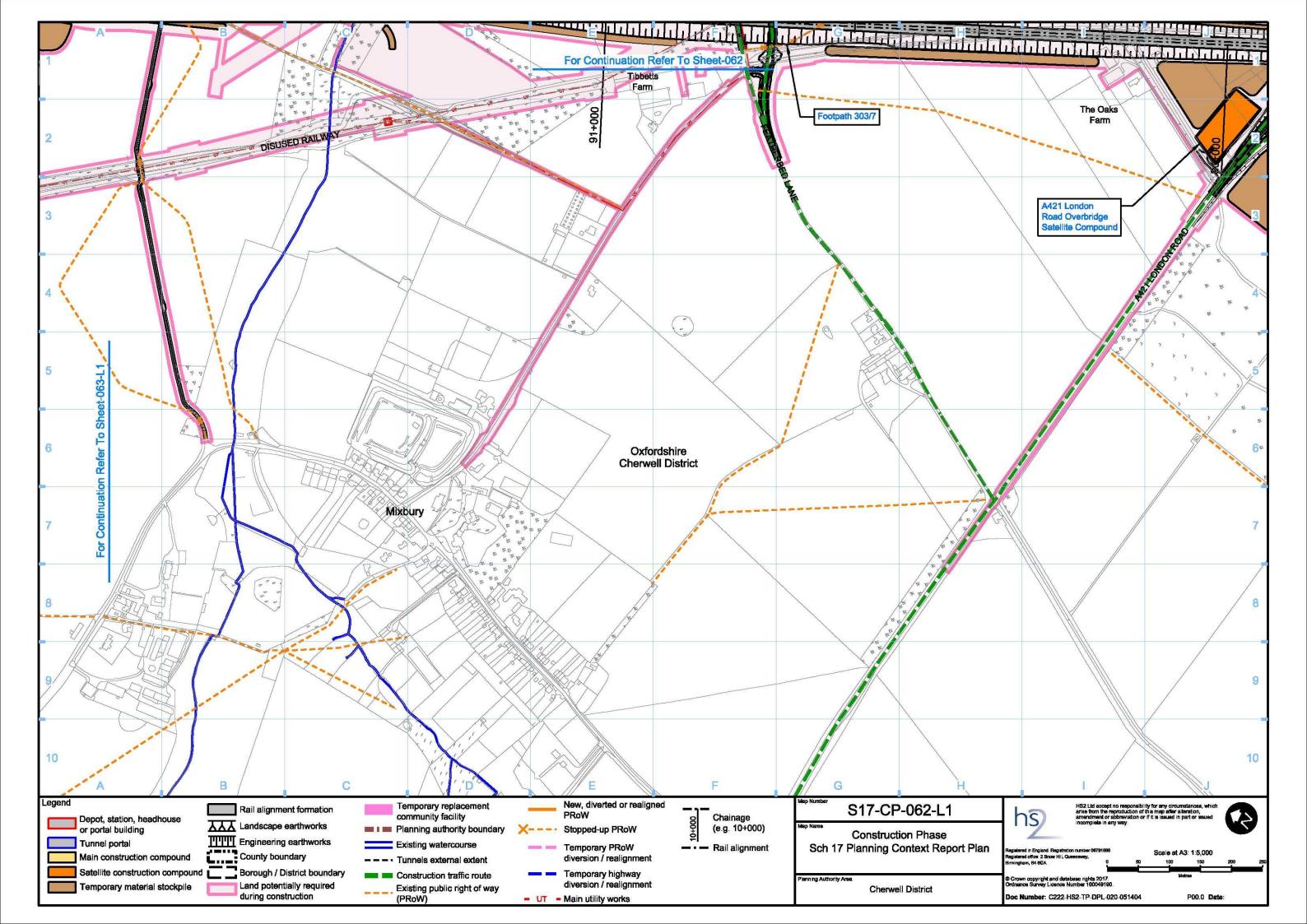


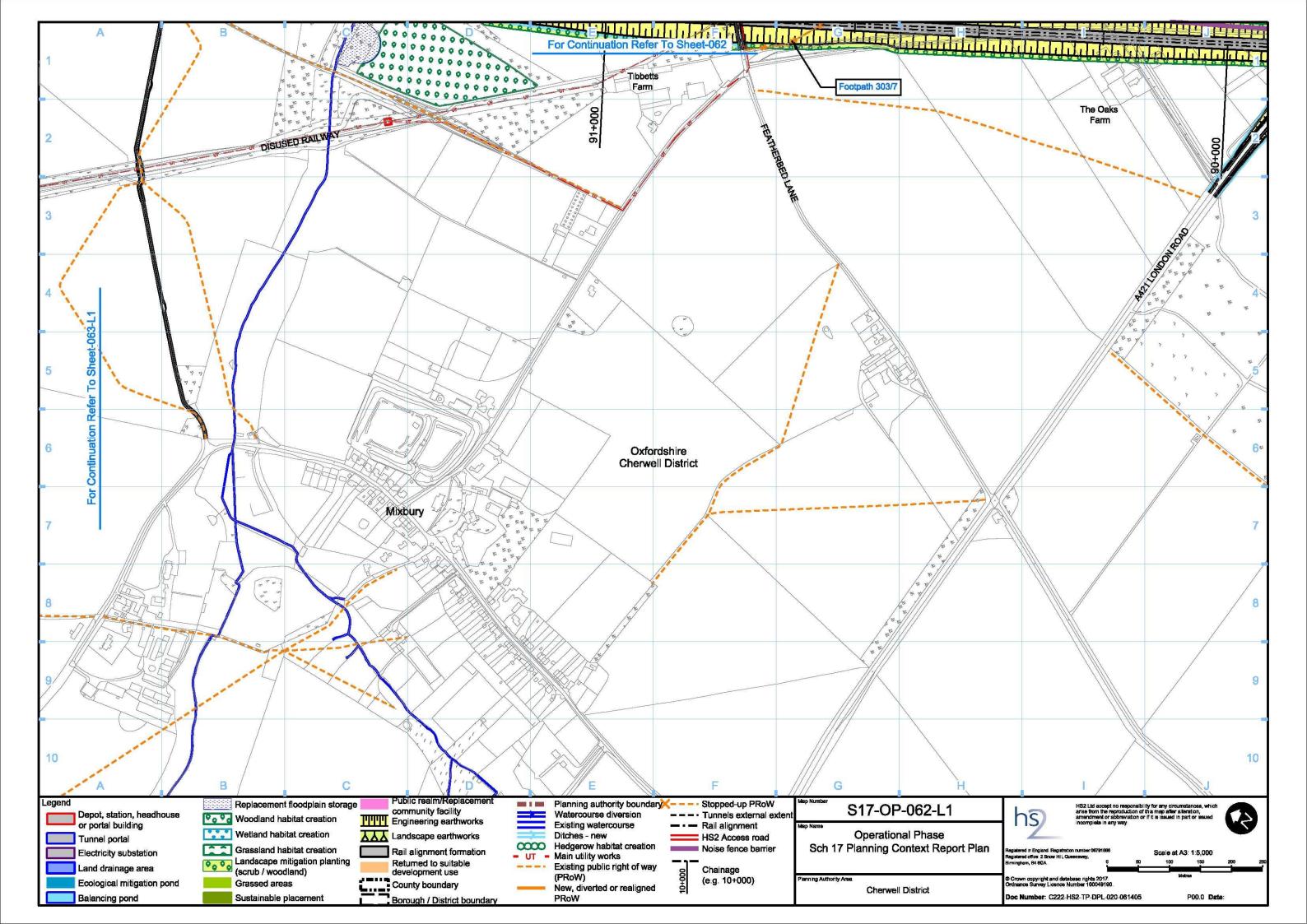


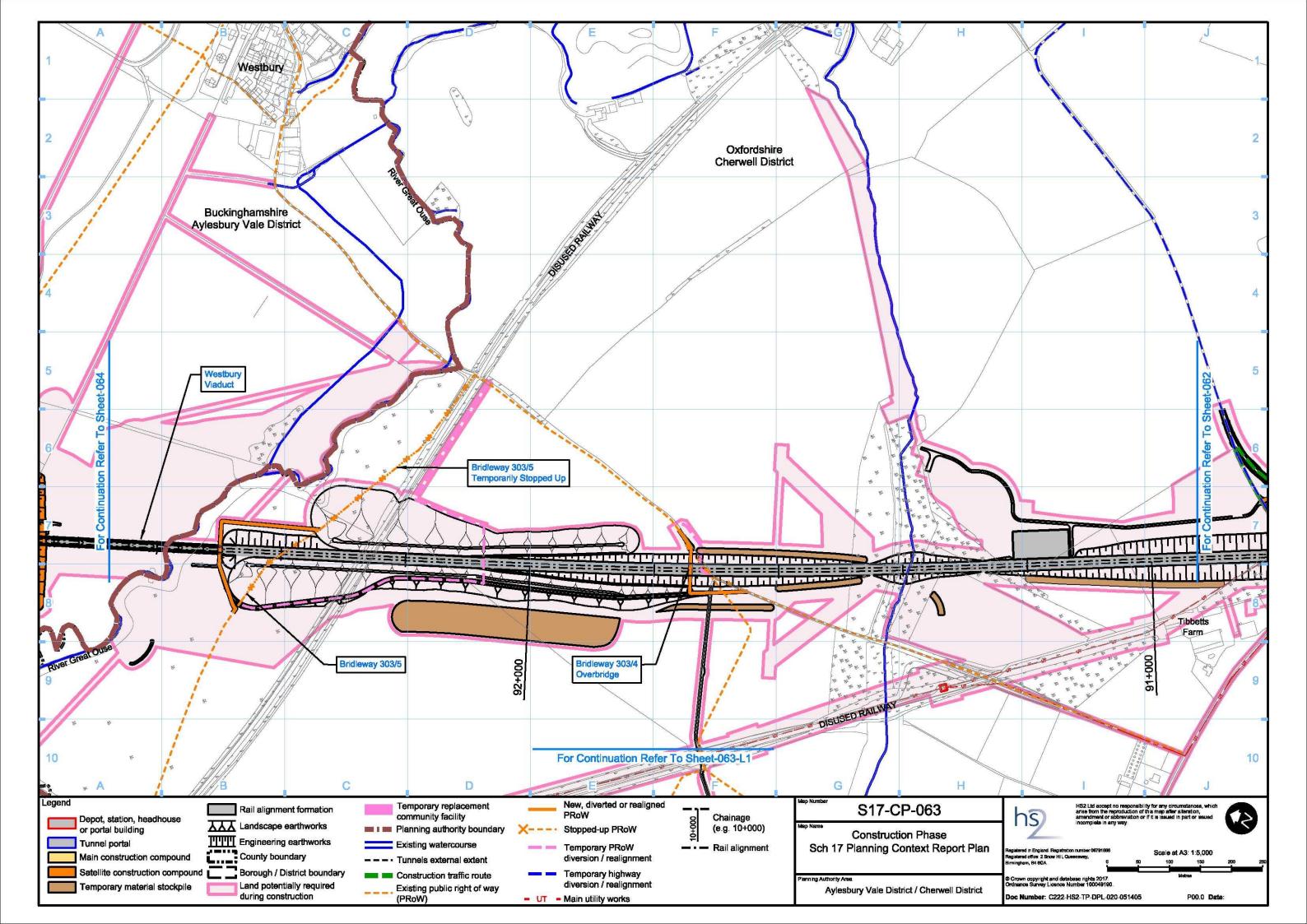


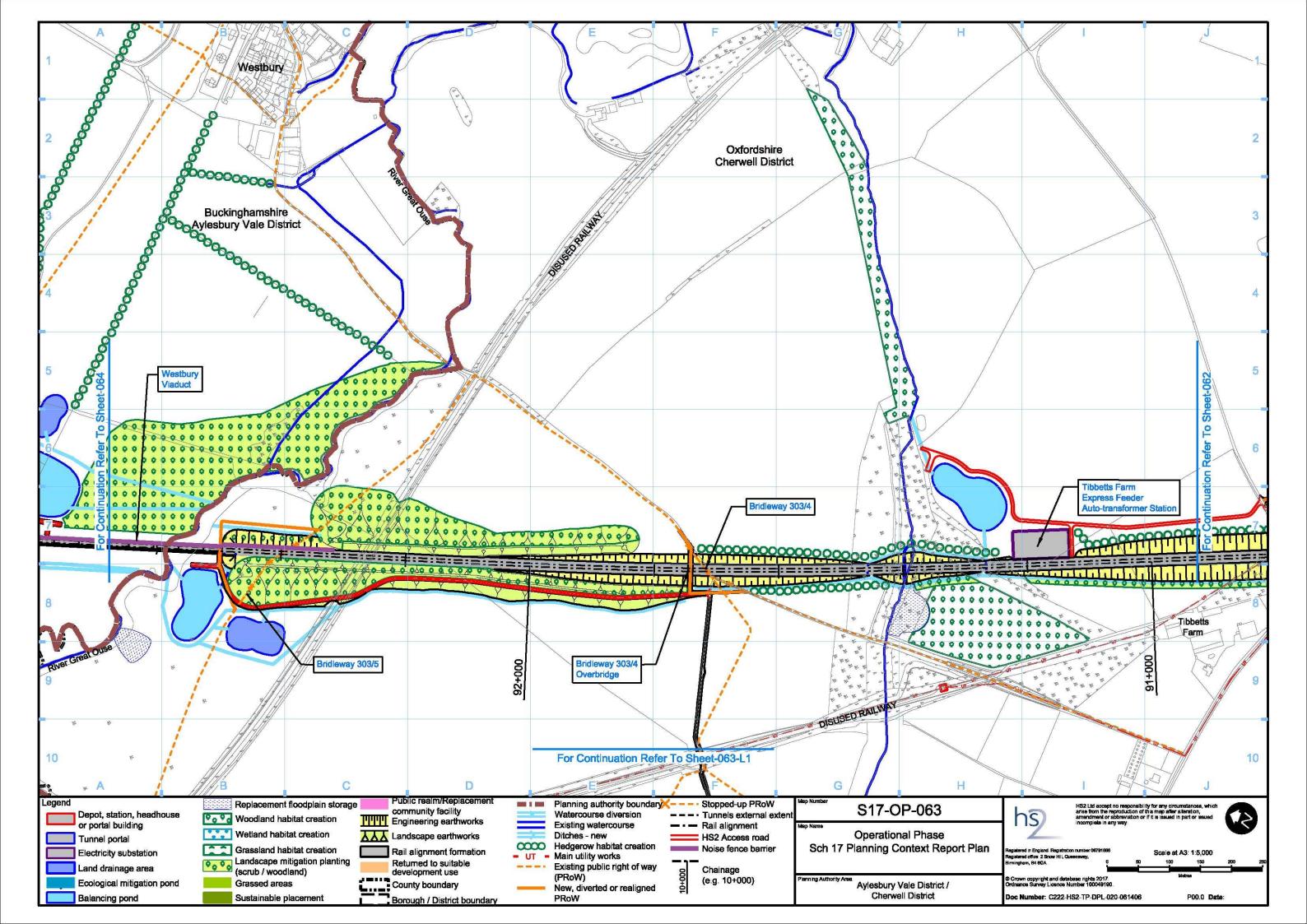


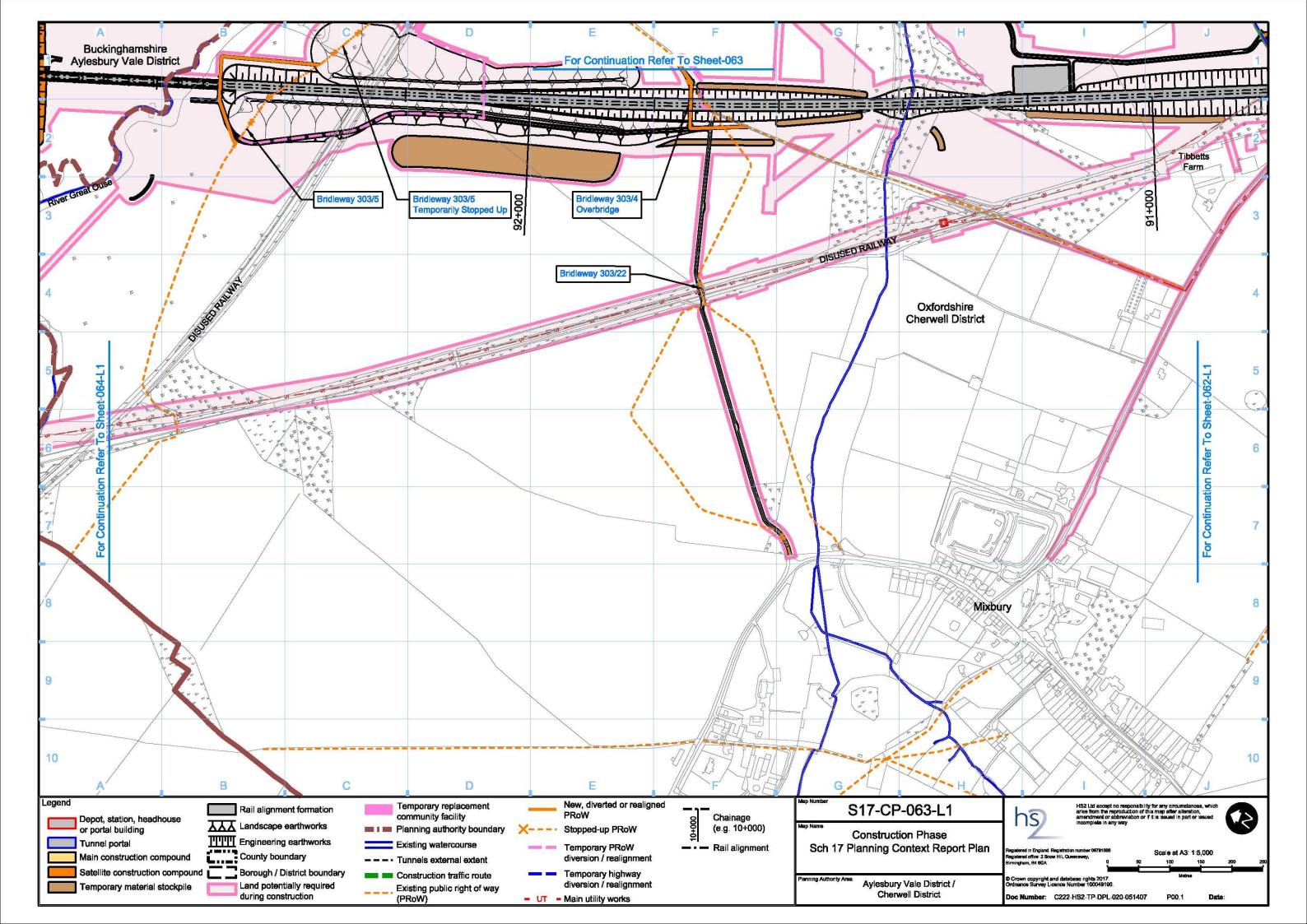


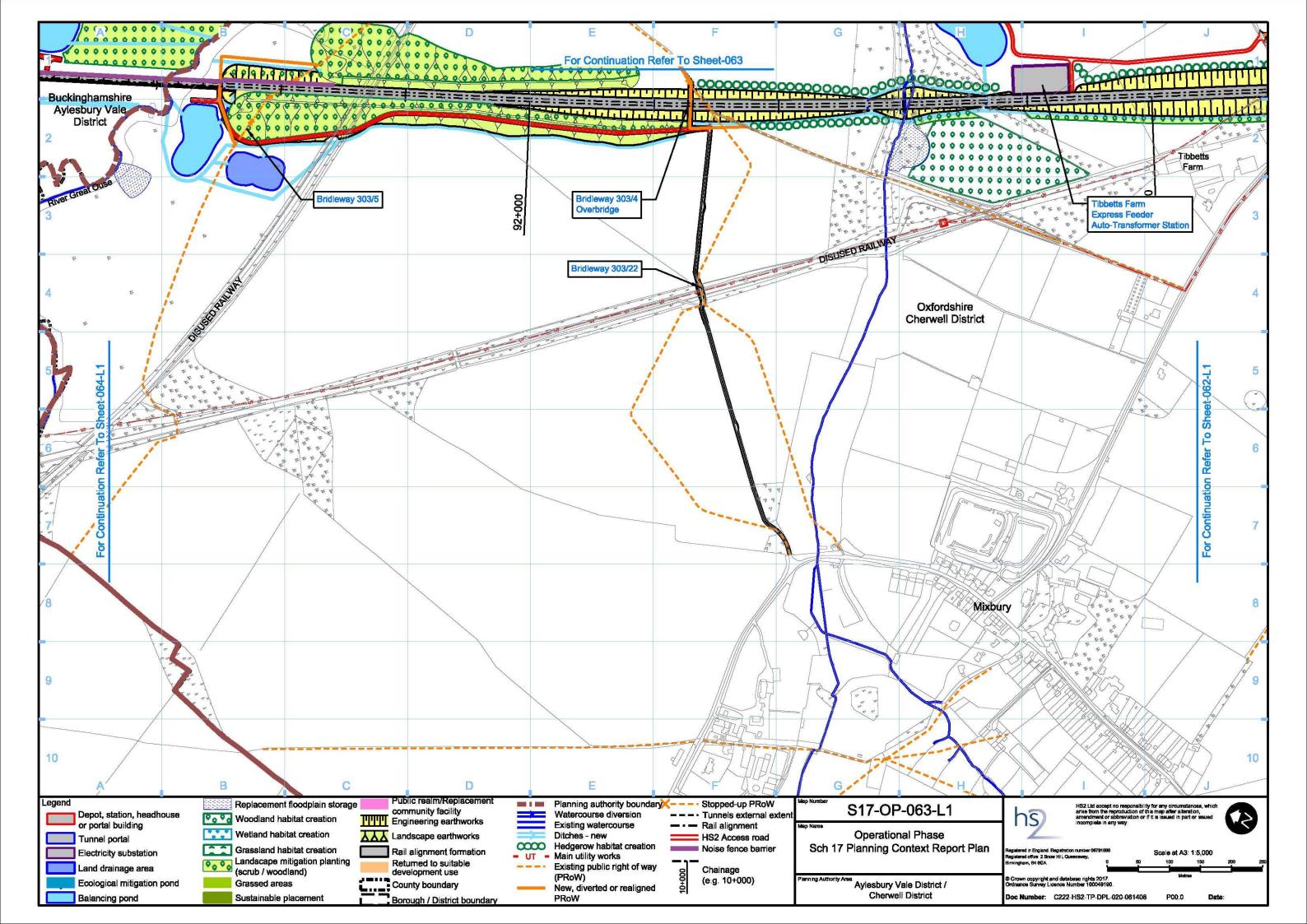












Annex 1 - Signposting

Document	Link										
High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/7/contents/enacted										
Schedule 17 Fee Regulations	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/223/contents/made										
Schedule 17 Appeal Regulations	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/227/contents/made										
High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Environmental Minimum Requirements	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-minimum-requirements										
	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill-register-of-undertakings-and-assurances										
Schedule 17 Statutory Guidance	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-rail-london-to-west-midlands-act-2017-schedule-17-statutory-guidance										
Phase One Information Papers	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill#information-papers										
Phase One – Planning Forum Notes	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-forum-notes										
Phase One Environmental Statement	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-one-environmental-statement-documents										
	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/additional-provision-september-2014										
	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/supplementary-environmental-statement-and-additional-provision-2-july-2015										
	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/supplementary-environmental-statement-2-and-additional-provision-3-september-2015										
	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/supplementary-environmental-statement-3-and-additional-provision-4-october-2015										
	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/supplementary-environmental-statement-4-and-additional-provision-5-december-2015										