

# High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Supplementary Environmental Statement and Additional Provision Environmental Statement

## Volume 5: Technical appendices

Landscape and visual impact assessment (LV-001-000)

High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe)  
Supplementary Environmental Statement and  
Additional Provision Environmental Statement  
Volume 5: Technical appendices  
Landscape and visual impact assessment (LV-001-000)



Department  
for Transport

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited has been tasked by the Department for Transport (DfT) with managing the delivery of a new national high speed rail network. It is a non-departmental public body wholly owned by the DfT.

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited,  
Two Snowhill  
Snow Hill Queensway  
Birmingham B4 6GA

Telephone: 08081 434 434

General email enquiries: [HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

Website: [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2)

A report prepared for High Speed Two (HS2) Limited:

ARUP



High Speed Two (HS2) Limited has actively considered the needs of blind and partially sighted people in accessing this document. The text will be made available in full on the HS2 website. The text may be freely downloaded and translated by individuals or organisations for conversion into other accessible formats. If you have other needs in this regard, please contact High Speed Two (HS2) Limited.

© High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, 2018, except where otherwise stated.

Copyright in the typographical arrangement rests with High Speed Two (HS2) Limited.

This information is licensed under the Open Government Licence v2.0. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2) **OGL** or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or e-mail: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk). Where we have identified any third-party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.



Printed in Great Britain on paper containing at least 75% recycled fibre.

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Fradley to Colton</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Visual assessment	2
2.2	Assessment matrices	5
<b>3</b>	<b>Stone and Swynnerton</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Assessment matrices	6
<b>4</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>8</b>

## List of figures

Figure 1: Winter baseline view	3
Figure 2: Summer baseline view	3

## List of tables

Table 1: Viewpoint 004.02.004 – Visual baseline description	4
Table 2: Viewpoint 004.02.004 – Future baseline description	4
Table 3: Viewpoint 004.02.004 – Visual impact assessment	4
Table 4: Visual assessment matrix summarising the assessment of significance for all of the viewpoints identified as affected by SES corrections or amendments	5
Table 5: Landscape assessment matrix summarising the assessment of significance for all of the LCAs identified as affected by amendments	6
Table 6: Visual assessment matrix summarising the assessment of significance for all of the viewpoints identified as affected by amendments	6



# 1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document is an appendix which forms part of Volume 5 of the Supplementary Environmental Statement (SES) and Additional Provision Environmental Statement (AP ES).
- 1.1.2 This appendix provides an update to the landscape and visual impact assessment presented in the High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Environmental Statement (ES)<sup>1</sup> published in July 2017 (the main ES), as a result of SES changes and amendments, assessed as part of the SES and AP ES. The appendix should be read in conjunction with Volume 5: Appendix LV-001-001 and Appendix LV-001-003 of the main ES.
- 1.1.3 This appendix covers the following community areas (CAs):
- CA1: Fradley to Colton; and
  - CA3: Stone and Swynnerton.
- 1.1.4 Landscape and visual assessment matrices are presented for the Fradley to Colton area and the Stone and Swynnerton area. Maps referred to throughout this landscape and visual appendix are contained in the SES and AP ES Map Series LV-03, LV-04, LV-07 and LV-08 in the Volume 5 Map Book and in the main ES Volume 5 Landscape and Visual Map Book.
- 1.1.5 This appendix describes the baseline for new visual assessment viewpoints additional to those reported in the main ES. No new landscape character areas in addition to those identified in the main ES are affected by the AP revised scheme. Main ES Volume 5: Appendix LV-001-001 and Appendix LV-001-003 provide baseline descriptions for all landscape character areas (LCA) and representative viewpoints relating to the original scheme.

---

<sup>1</sup> HS2 Ltd (2017), *High Speed Rail (West Midlands-Crewe) Environmental Statement*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2a-environmental-statement>.

## 2 Fradley to Colton

### 2.1 Visual assessment

#### Introduction

- 2.1.1 This section describes the visual assessment of the viewpoint 004.02.004 (view south-west from Woodhouse Farm) which was omitted from the main ES. The viewpoint is shown on SES and AP ES Volume 5: Maps LV-03-205, LV-04-205, LV-07-205 and LV-08-205. For this viewpoint, the first part of the baseline description relates to the view during the winter and the second part relates to the summer view.
- 2.1.2 Effects have been assessed where relevant for construction, operation year 1, year 15 and year 60. A summary of all significant visual effects is given in the SES and AP ES Volume 2: Fradley to Colton community area (CA1), Section 3.
- 2.1.3 Photographs have been included to represent the view from visual receptors during winter and, where relevant, summer.
- 2.1.4 All photography included within this document has been taken in accordance with the methodology set out within the Technical Note - Approach to verifiable photomontages contained within the Environmental Impact Assessment Scope and Methodology Report (SMR) Addendum (see main ES Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002)<sup>2</sup>.

#### Visual receptors

- 2.1.5 The number of the viewpoint identifies the viewpoint location which is shown on SES and AP ES Volume 5: Maps LV-03-205, LV-04-205, LV-07-205 and LV-08-205. The middle number (xxx.xx.xxx) identifies that the receptor type is residential as described below:
1. protected views – these relate to those viewpoints, panoramas and viewing corridors that have been designated by local authorities, county councils or other relevant stakeholders. Protected views have a high sensitivity to change;
  2. residential views – these have a high sensitivity to change, as attention is often focused on the landscape surrounding the property, rather than on another focused activity (as will be the case in predominantly employment or industrial areas);
  3. recreational views – these receptors generally have a high sensitivity to change, as attention is focused on enjoyment of the landscape. Tourists engaged in activities whereby attention is focused on the surrounding landscape also have a high sensitivity to change;
  4. transport views – travel through an area is often the means by which the greatest number of people view the landscape. Because of the glimpsed nature of the view from trains or vehicles, people travelling through an area on main roads have a low sensitivity to change, while those on scenic routes have a medium sensitivity. People travelling through urban areas have a low sensitivity to change although in residential areas this increases to medium sensitivity;
  5. hotels and healthcare institutions – people staying in hotels or healthcare institutions have periods of time where their attention may be focused on the landscape, whilst at other times attention is more likely to be focused on other activities. Based on the level of interaction with the surrounding landscape, these receptors have a medium sensitivity to change; and
  6. employment – people at work and within educational institutions (other than residential educational facilities) are the least sensitive receptors, as their attention is likely to be focused on their work activity. These receptors have a low sensitivity to change.

<sup>2</sup> HS2 Ltd (2017), High Speed Two (HS2) Phase 2a (West Midlands - Crewe), *Scope and Methodology Report Addendum, Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002*. [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/627189/E24-B\\_CT-001-002\\_Part\\_B\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627189/E24-B_CT-001-002_Part_B_WEB.pdf)

# Viewpoint 004.02.004: View south-west from Woodhouse Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Woodhouse Farm.

## Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 02/03/2016. Camera: Pentax K-30, 62mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 408957.376,318775.845

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



## Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 11/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 100D, 55mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 408957.376,318775.845

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



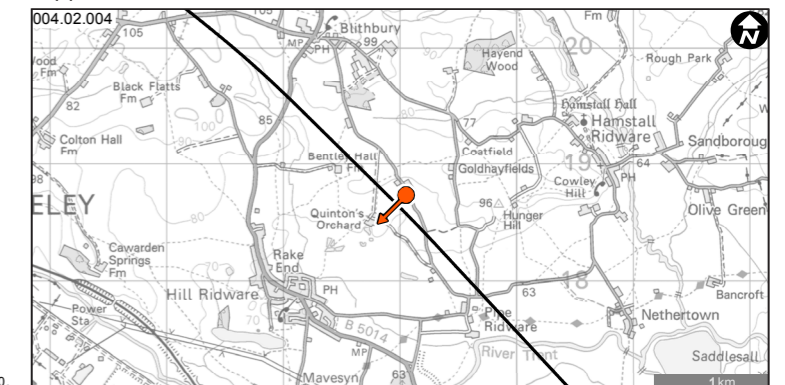
### Value of the viewpoint:

This viewpoint is not recognised in any designation or literature.

### Sensitivity of the receptor:

Occupiers of residential properties are considered to have a high susceptibility and high sensitivity to change (as described in section 2.1.5).

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)





# Viewpoint 004.02.004: View south-west from Woodhouse Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of gently rolling medium to large-scale arable fields typically bounded by hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees. Foreground and mid-ground views comprise an open arable field bounded by a combination of gappy hedgerows and fences. Some large buildings at Quintons Orchard Farm can be seen within the mature trees on the mid-ground horizon. These trees also partially screen distant views of the low wooded hills within Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the cooling towers and stacks of Rugeley Power Station</p>	<p>As winter, although the vegetation in full leaf partially obscures more mid-ground and background views. The wooded hills of Cannock Chase AONB and the cooling towers of Rugeley Power Station remain visible.</p>

Table 2: Future baseline description

Construction (2020)	Operation (2027)
<p>There are no committed developments which would change the baseline.</p>	<p>There are no committed developments which would change the baseline.</p>

Table 3: Visual impact assessment

	Temporary effect during construction	Level of effect
<b>Construction</b>	<p>Residents will have foreground views of construction activity associated with the Pipe Ridware embankment, Mavesyn Ridware Footpath 38 accommodation overbridge, Blithbury South cutting and Pipe Lane diversion. These works and the presence of construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will introduce prominent and incongruous features into the view. These will appear incongruous with the rolling farmland landscape and will reduce scenic quality. The scale and proximity of the works in this location will completely alter the existing rural outlook from the ground and upper floors of the farm. Long distance views of Cannock Chase AONB will be interrupted. There is no intervening vegetation to provide any screening and as a result there will be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
<b>Operation year 1 Winter</b>	<p>Residents will have close range views of the Pipe Ridware embankment and Mavesyn Ridware Footpath 38 accommodation overbridge. The new features in the view, combined with severance of the field pattern, alterations to the landform and loss of existing hedgerows will change the current rural outlook across gently rolling arable fields and interrupt distant views of Cannock Chase AONB. Views across the open farmland will be foreshortened. The magnitude of visual change will therefore be high with major adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
<b>Operation year 1 Summer</b>	<p>This is an open view with little foreground vegetation to provide screening or filtering of views during the summer months. The magnitude of visual change will therefore remain high with major adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
<b>Operation year 15 Summer</b>	<p>By the summer of year 15, the Pipe Ridware embankment and Mavesyn Ridware Footpath 38 accommodation overbridge will become less apparent as the maturing hedgerow and hedgerow trees will help to integrate the Proposed Scheme into the wider landscape context. This planting will also partially screen views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains. The magnitude of visual change will therefore reduce to medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
<b>Operation year 60 Summer</b>	<p>By year 60, the Pipe Ridware embankment, Mavesyn Ridware Footpath 38 accommodation overbridge will be less noticeable as the mitigation planting matures, but the overhead line equipment and passing trains will still be visible and there will be an ongoing sense of severance and loss of longer views. The magnitude of visual change will therefore remain medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)

## 2.2 Assessment matrices

### Visual assessment matrix

2.2.1 Table 4 summarises the assessment of significance for the new visual assessment viewpoint introduced in Section 2.1. The assessment of significant effects is presented in SES and AP ES Volume 2, Fradley to Colton area (CA1), Section 3. Further night time assessment has been scoped out as the level of significance for this viewpoint was not considered significant.

Table 4: Visual assessment matrix summarising the assessment of significance for all of the viewpoints identified as affected by SES corrections or amendments

Viewpoints		Construction	Operation year 1 (2027)		Operation year 15 (2042) summer	Operation year 60 (2087) summer
		Winter	Winter	Summer		
004.02.004	View south-west from Woodhouse Farm	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse

## 3 Stone and Swynnerton

### 3.1 Assessment matrices

#### Landscape assessment matrix

3.1.1 Table 5 summarises the assessment of significance for all of the LCA identified in the Stone and Swynnerton community area (CA3) potentially affected by amendments. These are ordered from south to north along the route of the AP revised scheme. The assessment of significant effects is presented in SES and AP ES Volume 2: Stone and Swynnerton area (CA3), Section 5.

Table 5: Landscape assessment matrix summarising the assessment of significance for all of the LCAs identified as affected by amendments

Landscape character area	Construction	Operation year 1 (2027)	Operation year 15 (2042)	Operation year 60 (2087)
Yarnfield Settled Farmlands	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse
Swynnerton Park Sandstone Hills and Heaths	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse
Meece Brook Valley Sandstone Hills and Heaths	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse

#### Visual assessment matrix

3.1.2 Table 6 summarises the assessment of significance for all the representative viewpoints identified in the Stone and Swynnerton area (CA3) potentially affected by amendments. These are ordered from south to north along the route of the AP revised scheme. The assessment of significant effects is presented in SES and AP ES Volume 2: Stone and Swynnerton area (CA3), Section 5. Further night time assessment has been scoped out as the level of significance for each viewpoint was reviewed and not considered to change as a result of the amendments.

Table 6: Visual assessment matrix summarising the assessment of significance for all of the viewpoints identified as affected by amendments

Viewpoints		Construction	Operation year 1 (2027)		Operation year 15 (2042) summer	Operation year 60 (2087) summer
		Winter	Winter	Summer		
015.04.011	View east from Eccleshall Road, adjacent to Stafford North Services	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
015.03.012	View north-east from Chebsey Footpath 7	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse
016.02.002	View north-west from Darlaston Grange, Yarnfield Lane	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse
016.03.012	View east from Swynnerton Footpath 42	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
016.02.013	View east from Beech House Stud, Moss Hall Lane	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse
016.02.014	View north-east from Moss Lane/ Yarnfield Lane	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
016.03.008	View north-east from Swynnerton Footpath 38	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse
017.02.004	View south-west from Swynnerton Footpath 27 at Blakelow	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse
017.02.003	View east from Grange Cottages on Hall Lane	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse
017.02.005	View south-west from Stone Rural Footpath 34 at The Marlings	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse

SES and AP ES Volume 5 - Appendix LV-001-000

Viewpoints		Construction	Operation year 1 (2027)		Operation year 15 (2042) summer	Operation year 60 (2087) summer
		Winter	Winter	Summer		
017.04.007	View south-west from A51 Stone Road lay-by	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse
017.03.001	View north-east from Swynnerton Footpath 37	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse
017.03.014	View north-east from Hall Lane, Stone Circles Challenge	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Negligible
017.02.011	View west from properties at Cumberstone Wood Farm	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
017.03.012	View south-west from Swynnerton Footpath 49	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse
017.03.016	View north-east from track towards Lodge Covert Cottages	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse
017.02.017	View north-east from Main Street	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
017.02.010	View south-west from properties on Chase Lane	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse
017.02.013	View south-west from Sandyford Cottage, A51 Stone Road	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse
019.04.009	View north-east from Dog Lane	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse
019.04.011	View north-east from Bent Lane	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
019.03.010	View east from Chapel and Hill Chorlton Footpath 12	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
019.04.006	View west from Public Access Route junction on Dog Lane	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse
019.03.007	View south-west from Public Access Route off Dog Lane	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

## 4 References

HS2 Ltd (2017), *High Speed Rail (West Midlands-Crewe) Environmental Statement*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2a-environmental-statement>.

HS2 Ltd (2017), High Speed Two (HS2) Phase 2a (West Midlands - Crewe), *Scope and Methodology Report Addendum, Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002*. Available online at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/627189/E24-B\\_CT-001-002\\_Part\\_B\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627189/E24-B_CT-001-002_Part_B_WEB.pdf)