

High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Supplementary Environmental Statement 2 and Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement

Volume 5: Technical appendices

CA3: Stone and Swynnerton

Landscape and visual assessment and photomontages

(LV-001-003)

High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe)

Supplementary Environmental Statement 2 and
Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement

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CA3: Stone and Swynnerton

Landscape and visual assessment and photomontages
(LV-001-003)



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

Website: www.hs2.org.uk

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

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1 Introduction

1.1 Structure of this appendix

- 1.1.1 This document is an appendix to the landscape and visual assessment which forms part of Volume 5 of the Supplementary Environmental Statement 2 (SES2) and Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement (AP2 ES) for the Stone to Swynnerton community area (CA3).
- 1.1.2 This appendix provides details of changes to the landscape and visual assessment since the production of the High Speed Two (HS2) Phase 2a (West Midlands - Crewe) Environmental Statement (ES)¹ published in July 2017 (the main ES), as well as the Supplementary Environmental Statement (SES1) and Additional Provision Environmental Statement (AP1 ES) published in March 2018².
- 1.1.3 This report should be read in conjunction with Volume 5, Appendix LV-001-003, which accompanied the main ES, and Volume 5, Appendix LV-001-000 of the SES1 and AP1 ES.
- 1.1.4 Maps referred to in this appendix are contained in the main ES and the SES2 and AP2 ES Volume 2 and Volume 5: Landscape and Visual Map Books.
- 1.1.5 In order to differentiate between the original proposals assessed as part of the main ES and subsequent changes the following terms are used throughout the SES2 and the AP2 ES to define the scheme as it relates to the HS2 Phase 2a project:
- 'the original scheme' – the Bill scheme submitted to Parliament in July 2017, which was assessed in the main ES;
 - 'the SES1 scheme' – the original scheme with the changes described in the SES1 that are within the existing powers of the Bill, submitted to Parliament in March 2018;
 - 'the AP1 revised scheme' – the SES1 scheme as amended by the Additional Provision 1 (AP1) submitted to Parliament in March 2018;
 - 'the SES2 scheme' – the SES1 scheme with the changes described in the SES2 that are within the existing powers of the Bill; and
 - 'the AP2 revised scheme' – the SES2 scheme as amended by Additional Provision 2 (AP2).

1.2 Methodology, data sources, assumptions and limitations

- 1.2.1 The assessment scope, key assumptions and limitations are as set out in the main ES Environmental Impact Assessment Scope and Methodology Report (SMR) and the SMR Addendum (see main ES Volume 5, Appendices CT-001-001³ and CT-001-002⁴), and the SMR Addendum 2 (see SES2 and AP2 ES Volume 5, Appendix CT-001-000).

1.3 Landscape assessment

Introduction

- 1.3.1 This section is organised as follows:
- information on each LCA within the area including a description of the landscape (with OS maps, photography and sketches to help illustrate character, and patterns of land uses and vegetation of the area), as well as an analysis of the value, susceptibility and sensitivity of each LCA;
 - description of future baseline conditions, where relevant; and
 - assessment of the effects of the AP2 revised scheme on the landscape at construction, year 1, year 15 and year 60.

Approach to the landscape characterisation

- 1.3.2 The LCA have been determined as part of an integrated approach to environmental characterisation in collaboration with other topics including heritage and ecology, with reference to a number of published studies at the national⁵, county level⁶. A wide variety of spatially referenced data were also reviewed in developing the landscape characterisation, including Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), Phase

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

² HS2 Ltd (2018), *High Speed Two (HS2) Phase 2a (West Midlands - Crewe), Supplementary Environmental Statement and Additional Provision Environmental Statement*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2a-supplementary-environmental-statement-and-additional-provision-environmental-statement>

³ HS2 Ltd (2017), *High Speed Two (HS2) Phase 2a (West Midlands - Crewe), Scope and Methodology Report, Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-001*, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627187/E23_EIA_SMR_CT-001-001_WEB.pdf

⁴ HS2 Ltd (2017), *High Speed Two (HS2) Phase 2a (West Midlands - Crewe), Scope and Methodology Report Addendum, Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002*, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627188/E24A_CT-001-002_Part_1_WEB.pdf and https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627189/E24-B_CT-001-002_Part_B_WEB.pdf

⁵ Natural England (2013-2014), *National Character Area profiles*

⁶ Staffordshire County Council (1996), *Planning for Landscape Change Supplementary Planning Guidance, Volume 3*

1 Habitat Survey, geological and hydrological data and aerial photography. The national landscape character context is illustrated on Map LV-00-101 (SES2 and AP2 ES Volume 5: Landscape and Visual Map Book). The county Landscape Character Types (LCT) of relevance to the Stone to Swynnerton area are summarised below:

- Sandstone Hills and Heaths: A series of pronounced sandstone hills and plateaux dissected by minor stream valleys, with significant areas having either original heathland vegetation or coniferous forestry established on heathland. In areas of farmland, stock rearing predominates, set within large regular, hedgerow bounded fields. The landscape is characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern;
- Coalfield Farmlands: Sparsely wooded, undulating landscapes associated with former mining villages. These landscapes once supported acid grasslands and wet heath, with land cover now largely given over to stock rearing and with areas of open cast coal mining and other mineral extraction; and
- Settled Farmlands: Landscapes of undulating lowlands and hills, defined by mixed farming with arable cropping, set within a varied pattern of small to medium sized hedged fields with scattered ancient woodlands.

1.3.3 Where LCA are located across boundaries with other study areas, these are reported in each study area section.

1.4 Visual assessment

Introduction

1.4.1 Effects have been assessed where relevant for construction, operation year 1, year 15 and year 60.

1.4.2 Photographs have been included to represent the view from visual receptors during winter and, where relevant, summer. For some visual receptors no appropriate or accessible location from which to capture representative photographs of the view was available, therefore no photograph has been included and the assessment has been undertaken based on professional judgement.

1.4.3 All photography included within this document has been taken in accordance with the methodology set out within the Technical Note - Approach to photography contained within the Environmental Impact Assessment Scope and Methodology Report (SMR) Addendum (Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002) of the main ES.

1.4.4 Photomontages have also been included for all relevant viewpoints and all photography associated with photomontages is verifiable and has been taken in accordance with the Technical Note - Approach to verifiable photomontages contained within the SMR Addendum, Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002. All verifiable photography includes additional image specification and data information.

Visual receptors

1.4.5 The number on each viewpoint identifies the viewpoint locations which are shown on maps in the SES2 and AP2 ES Volume 5: Landscape and Visual Map Book. In each case, the middle number (xxx.xx.xxx) identifies the type of receptor represented 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 focussed 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 focussed 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;
5. hotels and healthcare institutions – people staying in hotels or healthcare institutions have periods of time where their attention may be focussed 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.

Night time baseline and assessments have only been indicated where continuous working during construction or additional lighting in operation has the potential to result in significant effects on residential receptors. Further detail is set out within the SMR Addendum of the main ES.

2 Part 1: Supplementary Environmental Statement 2

2.1 Landscape assessment

Introduction

2.1.1 The landscape character areas are shown on Maps LV-02-218 (SES2 and AP2 ES Volume 5: Landscape and Visual Map Book).

Landscape receptors

2.1.2 Yarnfield Settled Farmland LCA

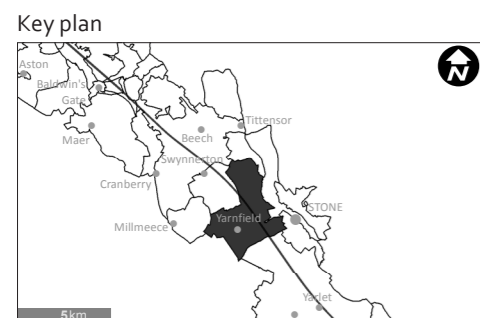
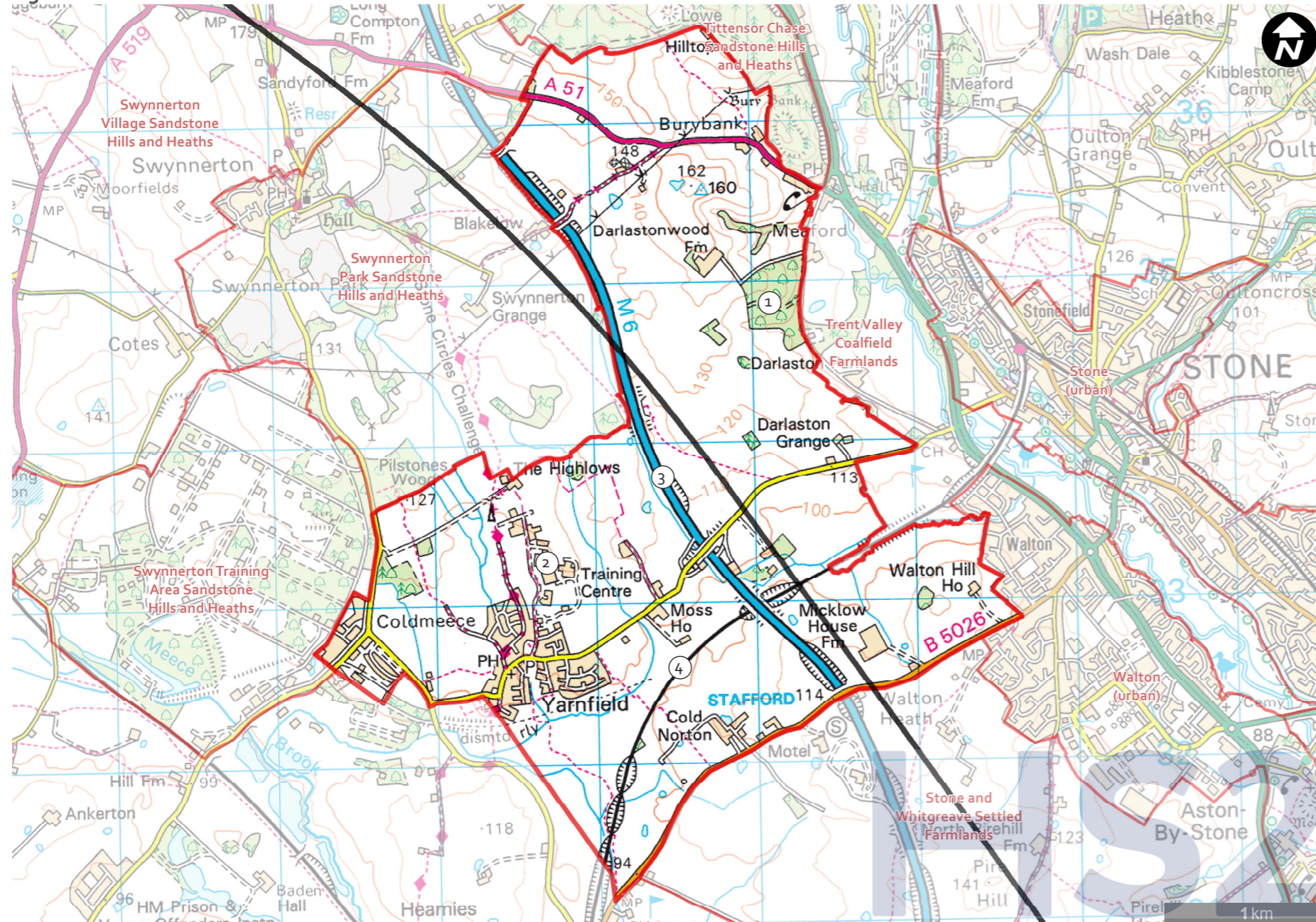
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Yarnfield Settled Farmlands LCA

Landscape character baseline description

This LCA is an undulating rural landscape, which includes the village of Yarnfield. The arable landscape primarily consists of poorly maintained and gappy hedgerow field boundaries with hedgerow trees, surrounding medium sized fields. In contrast the field patterns surrounding the village of Yarnfield are small scale and irregular, contributing to a localised historic character. The area has a few isolated settlements and a number of woodland blocks within the LCA including Darlaston Wood, which forms part of a remnant designed landscape at Darlaston Park. Yarnfield village comprises an historic core, based around the village green. The village has expanded with a series of cul-de-sacs connected by Yarnfield Lane. The Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre is a large complex of accommodation and conference facilities that dominate the northern end of the village. A large, phased housing development is under construction within and adjacent to the conference centre. The M6 corridor, which cuts through the middle of the LCA, is an intrusive, prominent feature, which degrades the landscape character and divides the LCA.

Figure 1: LCA in context



- Key
- AP2 revised scheme
 - LCA boundary
 - ① Darlaston Wood
 - ② Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre
 - ③ M6
 - ④ Norton Bridge to Stone railway

Principal vegetation



Hedgerow
Hawthorn, blackthorn



Field tree
English oak



Mixed woodland
Common beech, English oak, pine, field maple

Principal vegetation key



Figure 2: View of undulating rural landscape



Key value characteristics - Scenic qualities and perception of the landscape

The LCA consists of a moderately scenic rural landscape with undulating landform and isolated settlements. This, allied with woodland blocks such as at Darlaston Wood create a perception of tranquillity, although this is partly eroded by the presence of infrastructure, including the M6, pylon and railway lines.

Figure 3: Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre



Key value characteristics - Landscape condition

The intactness of the landscape has been locally reduced due to discordant development such as the Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre, and infrastructure elements including the M6, pylons and railway lines.

Yarnfield Settled Farmlands LCA

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the AP2 revised scheme

Figure 4: View from Chebsey Footpath 7

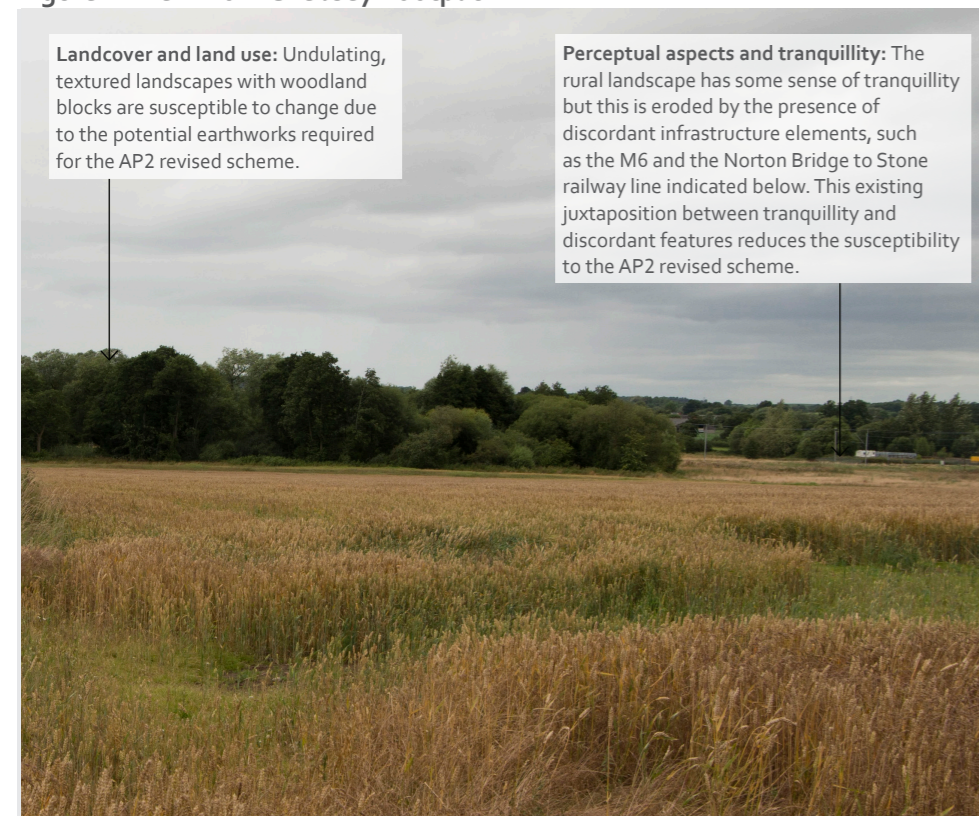


Figure 5: Stone Dominoes football ground



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: There is no construction assessment for SES2-003-002.

Year 1: The main ES reported a moderate adverse significant effect due to the presence of viaducts, embankments, overbridges and new overhead power lines, all of which would be incongruous features, which would impose on the rural skyline. As a result, scenic quality would be reduced and the open rural landscape would be severed. The SES2 design change (SES2-003-002) will partially screen and achieve some integration of the Stone IMB-R into the surrounding farmland, thereby slightly reducing its prominence as a landscape feature and consequent effect on the landscape character of the Yarnfield Settled Farmland LCA. However, there will still be very noticeable effects on the landscape character of this LCA from the presence of the operational railway. The SES2 design change will therefore give rise to a different significant landscape effect, however this will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.

Effects are moderate adverse (significant).

Year 15: The main ES reported a moderate adverse significant effect due to the presence of viaducts, embankments, overbridges and new overhead power lines. These uncharacteristic features would impose on the rural skyline, reduce scenic quality and sever the open rural landscape. The maturing woodland mitigation planting associated with the SES2 design change will be located on the new landscape earthwork (in the original scheme it was located in areas of grassland and woodland habitat creation). As it matures, this planting will provide better integration of the operational railway by reducing its prominence. However, the scale of the changes within this LCA will still result in a substantial change to landscape character. The SES2 design change will therefore give rise to a different significant landscape effect, however this will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.

Effects are moderate adverse (significant).

Year 60: The main ES reported a minor adverse non-significant effect. This was because the mature woodland mitigation planting would integrate and screen the operational railway within the surrounding landscape. The SES2 design change and its associated mature woodland mitigation planting will achieve greater integration of the operational railway within the surrounding landscape than the original scheme. The SES2 design change will therefore give rise to a different significant landscape effect, however this will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.

Effects are minor adverse (non-significant).

Landscape character assessment

Description of overall landscape value: There is a sense of scenic quality, rural character and perception of tranquillity due to the woodland blocks and undulating landform. The physiographic characteristics formed by the underlying drift geology and tributary streams to the Meece Brook and Trent valley contribute to these qualities. This is however affected by incongruous infrastructure elements including the M6, Norton Bridge to Stone Railway line and electricity pylons, which reduces the landscape intactness and quality. Discordant urban development associated with Yarnfield including the Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre reduces the value of the natural landscape and scenic qualities. There is high recreational value due to the network of public rights of way, notably the Stone Circle Challenge allied with organised sport facilities such as the Stone Dominoes football ground. Overall the value of the LCA is medium.

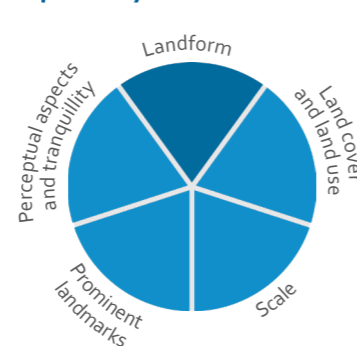
Description of overall landscape susceptibility: The landscape characteristics which are susceptibility to change include the undulating landform, medium scale fields, moderate degree of land cover and sense of tranquillity. However the landscapes susceptibility to change is reduced by the existing presence of incongruous infrastructure elements and some discordant urban development such as Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre. Overall the susceptibility of the LCA is therefore medium.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: Due to the scenic quality created by the medium scale landscape pattern, undulating topography and the sense of tranquillity being partially eroded by incongruous infrastructure elements and discordant urban development, this LCA has a medium sensitivity to change.

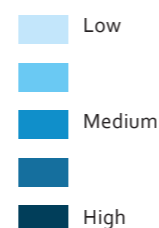
Value



Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key



2.2 Assessment matrices

Landscape assessment matrix

2.2.1 Table 1 summarises the assessment of significance for the LCA identified in the Stone to Swynnerton area potentially affected by SES2 design changes. The assessment of significant effects is presented in Volume 2, Section 3.

Table 1: Landscape assessment matrix summarising the assessment of significance for all of the LCAs identified as affected by SES2 design changes.

Landscape character area	Construction	Operation year 1 (2027)	Operation year 15 (2042)	Operation year 60 (2087)
Yarnfield Settled Farmland	N/A	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse

3 Part 2: Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement

3.1 Landscape assessment

Introduction

3.1.1 The landscape character areas are shown on Maps LV-02-218 to LV-02-220 (SES2 and AP2 ES Volume 5: Landscape and Visual Map Book).

Landscape receptors

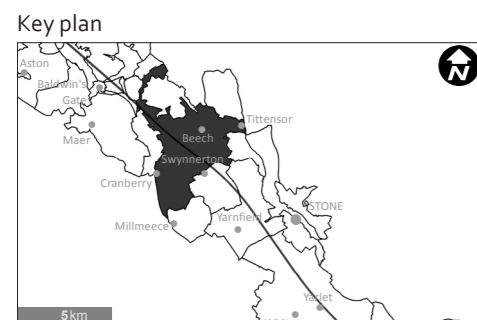
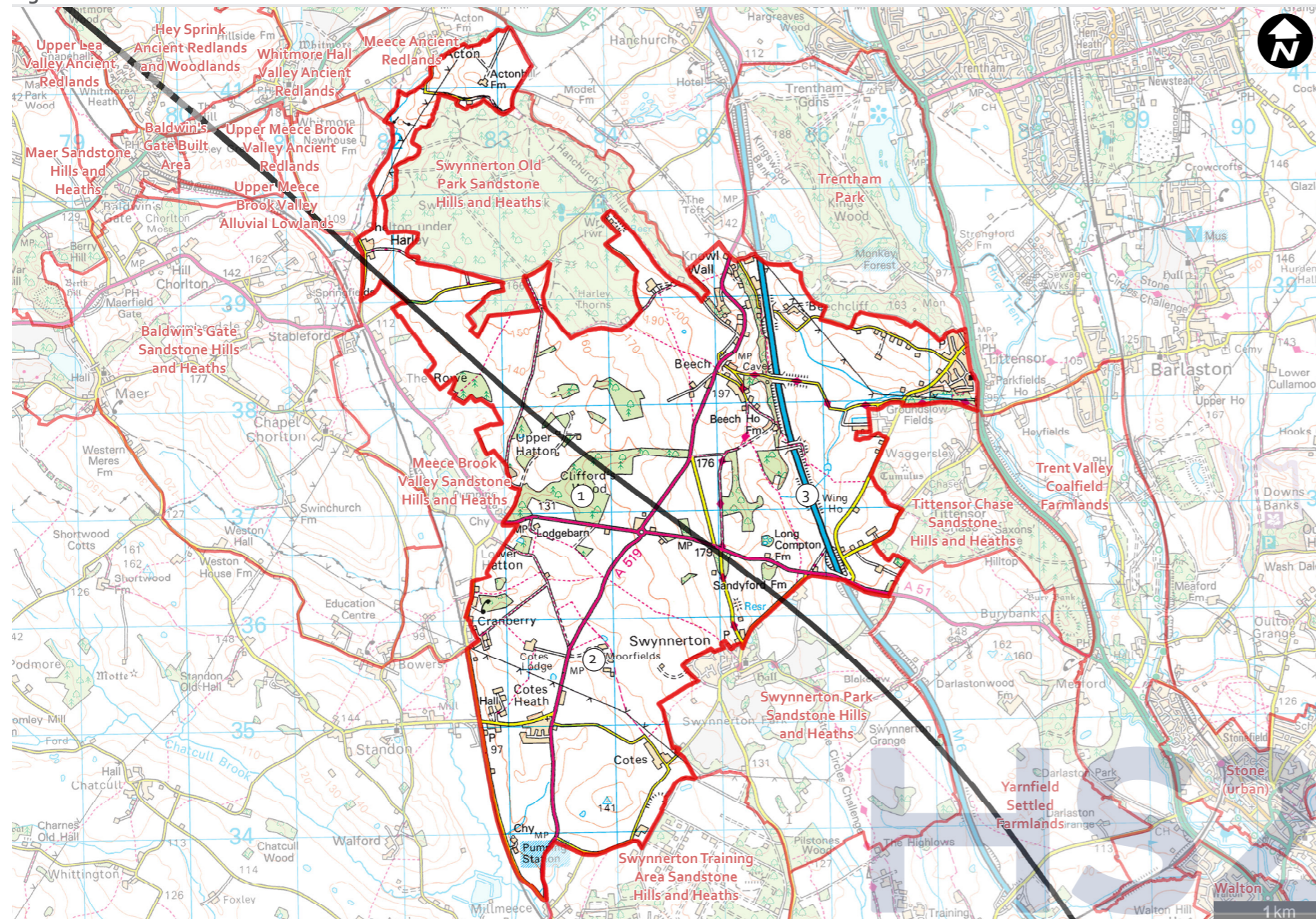
3.1.2 Swynnerton Village Sandstone Hills and Heaths LCA.

Swynnerton Village Sandstone Hills and Heaths LCA

Landscape character baseline description

This LCA is a gently undulating farmed landscape with a primarily rectilinear parliamentary field pattern. Originally of medieval date and overlaid with 18th and 19th century field boundaries, it is interspersed with woodland blocks including Clifford's Wood and a number of historic ponds. There is also an area of small scale irregular fields assarted from historic woodland to the north of Clifford's Wood. With the exception of the villages of Cranberry, Beech and the edge of Tittensor, settlement is dispersed and comprises occasional cottages and the small Moorfields industrial estate. The character area is crossed by an extensive network of PRoW including the Stone Circles Challenge, long distance route, which often follow historic field boundaries.

Figure 1: LCA in context



- Key
- AP2 revised Scheme
 - LCA boundary
 - ① Clifford's Wood
 - ② Moorfields industrial estate
 - ③ M6
 -

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Principal vegetation



Broadleaved woodland
Maple, English oak, sycamore, lime



Parkland
English oak, lime



Hedgerow
Hawthorn, blackthorn



Field tree
English oak, field maple

Principal vegetation key



Figure 2: Clifford's Wood



Key value characteristics - Scenic qualities and landscape condition: The undulating farmed landscape with a variety of landcover including shelter belts of mixed woodland create an LCA with a clear sense of scenic quality and good landscape condition.

Figure 3: The M6



Key value characteristics - Perception of the landscape: The high value associated with the scenic quality, perception of the landscape and variety in land cover is partly reduced by the presence of the M6. This element of modern infrastructure locally reduces the perception of remoteness and tranquillity.

Swynnerton Village Sandstone Hills and Heaths LCA

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the AP2 revised scheme

Figure 4: View of rural landscape with woodland blocks from Bottom Lane



Landscape character assessment

Description of overall landscape value: A gently undulating farmed landscape with remnants of historic, irregular small-scale fields and variety in land cover and land use, including mixed woodland shelter belts such as Clifford's Wood. There is some recreational value with the network of PRoW including the Stone Circles Challenge long distance path. However the perception of landscape quality is lowered by the presence of the M6, which reduces the sense of remoteness and tranquillity of the LCA. Given the above, the overall landscape value is medium.

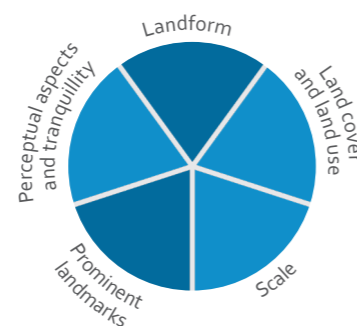
Description of overall landscape susceptibility: The relatively complex landform, land cover and small-medium scale landscape are susceptible to change from the AP2 revised scheme. This is reinforced by the prominent and distinctive landmarks of scarp top woodlands within the LCA and adjacent character areas, which could be affected by the AP2 revised scheme. Generally the LCA has some sense of tranquillity and remoteness, however the presence of the M6 adds a sense of modern human influence through large scale infrastructure, which degrades the perceptual aspects of the LCA. Therefore the overall landscape susceptibility is medium.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: Due to the scenic, rural character, complex land form and land use pattern being locally degraded by the presence of the M6, this LCA has a medium sensitivity to change.

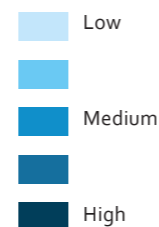
Value



Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: The main ES reported a major adverse significant effect due to construction activity associated with Hatton embankment, overbridges, underbridges, and cuttings such as Swynnerton North, Hatton South and Hatton North. This activity and the associated compounds, earthworks, presence of equipment, haulage routes and the presence of stock piles would add to the severance currently experienced due to the presence of the M6 and impose on the rural skyline. The original scheme would also sever some of the most sensitive features within the LCA including Clifford's Wood and the small scale irregular fields assarted from woodland north of Clifford's Wood. The combined effects of construction will substantially alter the character of the landscape. The amendment to provide a water treatment facility at the Severn Trent Water (STW) Mill Meece borehole facility (AP2-003-013) will introduce construction into an area unaffected by the original scheme. The construction activity will substantially alter the scenic quality of the landscape to the rear of the existing Mill Meece Pumping Station, and will include removal of a mature tree belt. This amendment will therefore give rise to a different significant landscape effect on Swynnerton Village Sandstone Hills and Heaths LCA, however it will not change the level of significance of effect reported in the main ES.

Year 1: The main ES reported a moderate adverse significant effect due to the presence of embankments, overbridges, underbridges, cuttings and road alterations, noise fence barriers and elevated overhead line equipment. These would reduce scenic quality, although Swynnerton Estate Central green underbridge and green overbridges at Swynnerton Estate North and Swynnerton Footpath 15 would partially mitigate the impact of landscape severance. The amendment (AP2-003-013) will slightly increase the effects on the landscape character of the LCA as it is in an area which was unaffected by the original scheme. There will be permanent loss of a 130m section of mature tree belt. The introduction of a new built structure into the open farmland will add to the extent of built development in this locality. The amendment will therefore give rise to a different landscape effect, however this will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.

Year 15: The main ES reported a moderate adverse significant effect due to the severance and the size and prominence of the scheme elements listed above and despite the establishment of mitigation planting. The maturing hedgerow and woodland mitigation planting associated with the amendment will achieve some screening and integration of the amendment within the surrounding landscape, but the remaining scheme elements listed above will remain very noticeable. The amendment will not result in a new or different significant effect and will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.

Year 60: The main ES reported a moderate adverse significant effect due to the severance despite mitigation planting reaching maturity. The maturing hedgerow and woodland mitigation planting associated with the amendment will achieve some screening and integration of the amendment within the surrounding landscape, but the remaining scheme elements listed above will remain very noticeable. The amendment will not result in a new or different significant effect and will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.

3.2 Assessment matrices

Landscape assessment matrix

3.2.1 Table 2 summarises the assessment of significance for the LCA identified in the Stone to Swynnerton area potentially affected by AP2 amendments. The assessment of significant effects is presented in Volume 2, Section 5.

Table 2: Landscape assessment matrix summarising the assessment of significance for all of the LCAs identified as affected by AP2 amendments

Landscape character area	Construction	Operation year 1 (2027)	Operation year 15 (2042)	Operation year 60 (2087)
Swynnerton Village Sandstone Hills and Heaths	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse

3.3 Visual assessment

Introduction

3.3.1 The viewpoints are shown on Maps LV-03-215b to LV-03-222a and LV-04-219 to LV-04-222a (SES2 and AP2 ES Volume 2: Landscape and Visual Map Book), and LV-07-215b to LV-07-222a and LV-08-215b to LV-08-222a (SES2 and AP2 ES Volume 5: Landscape and Visual Map Book).

Visual receptors

014.04.006	View west from A34 Road
015.02.009	View north-west from Walton Heath Farm
017.02.021	View west along the A51 Stone Road near Long Compton Farm
019.02.013	View north-west from A519 Newcastle Road

Viewpoint 014.04.006: View west from A34 Stone Road

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residents at Newhouse Farm, and transport receptors along Stone Road.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 17/02/2016. Camera: Pentax K30, 62mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate GPS Co-ordinates ref. 391286.922, 330015.130.

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 30/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 100D, 55mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate GPS Co-ordinates ref. 391286.922, 330015.130.

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



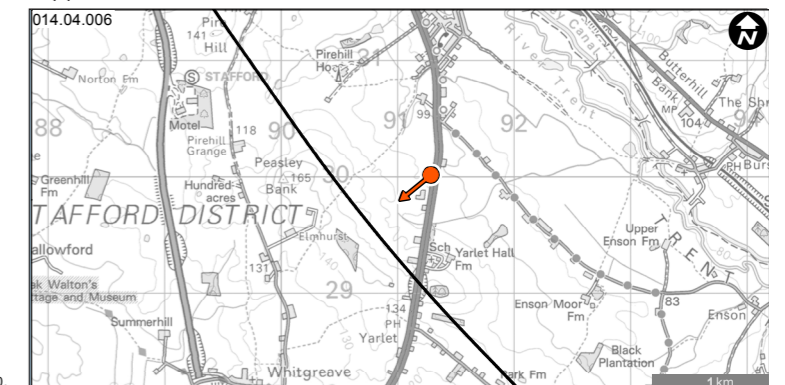
Value of the viewpoint:

This viewpoint is not recognised in any designation or literature.

Sensitivity of the receptor:

Residential receptors with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



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Viewpoint 014.04.006: View west from A34 Stone Road

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>The viewpoint is located in an area of medium-scale, pasture fields with hedgerows, hedgerow trees and wooded areas.</p> <p>The visual foreground consists of medium/large-scale pasture fields with well maintained hedgerow and post and wire field boundaries. The 2 lane carriageway of the A34 Stone Road is prominent within the view.</p> <p>The fields slope gently to the mid-ground and the view, which features The Bungalow and Newhouse Farm, is partially screened by dense hedgerows and hedgerow trees.</p> <p>The background consists of a dense mature wooded ridge on the horizon including New Plantation.</p>	<p>During the summer, the visual baseline remains similar to that as seen during winter, although views of the A34 Stone Road are more filtered by summer growth of intervening vegetation.</p>

Table 2: Future baseline description

Construction (2020)	Operation (2027)
<p>There are no committed developments which would change the baseline.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

Table 3: Visual impact assessment

	Temporary effect during construction	Level of effect
Construction	<p>The main ES reported a moderate adverse significant effect. This was due to construction activity associated with Yarlet central cutting, Stone Rural Footpath 28 accommodation overbridge and Yarlet embankment, which would be visible in middle distance views. This activity and the presence of material stockpiles would noticeably change the existing rural views and interrupt the undeveloped rural skyline. However these views will be partially filtered by intervening vegetation, which will slightly lessen their overall effect. The amendment to provide a revised high pressure National Grid Gas Transmission Line diversion under Yarlet central cutting and a new temporary utility compound (AP2-003-001) will increase the construction activity in this location. The effects of this will, however, be minimal when seen alongside the wider construction effects in this area, which will be extensive. The amendment will therefore not give rise to a new or different significant effect and will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	There is no operational text for AP2-003-001.	Not applicable
Operation year 1 Summer	There is no operational text for AP2-003-001.	Not applicable
Operation year 15 Summer	There is no operational text for AP2-003-001.	Not applicable
Operation year 60 Summer	There is no operational text for AP2-003-001.	Not applicable

Viewpoint 015.02.009: View south-west from Walton Heath Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residents at Walton Heath Farm.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/03/2016. Time taken: 14:50. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 389064.689, 332249.742. Elevation: 116.249 metres AOD.

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 24/08/2016. Time taken: 14:43. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 389064.689, 332249.742. Elevation: 116.249 metres AOD.

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



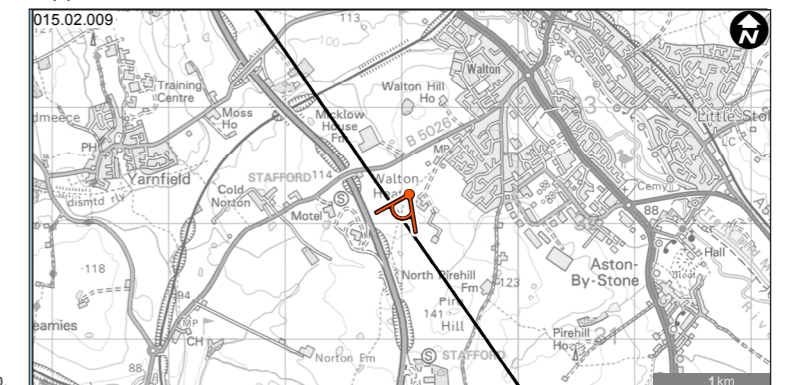
Value of the viewpoint:

This viewpoint is not recognised in any designation or literature.

Sensitivity of the receptor:

Residential receptors with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



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Viewpoint 015.02.009: View south-west from Walton Heath Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
View south-west from Stone Rural Footpath 32, which passes closet to Walton Heath Farm. The foreground consists of medium-scale pasture fields across a flat landscape, with managed hedgerow field boundaries, hedgerow trees and field trees. The mid-ground view incorporates the M6 and associated North Stafford motorway service area, which is partially visible though the planted shelter belts. Out of view to the north-east, the B5026 Eccleshall Road is located before the localised high point Walton Hill, which can be seen above intervening vegetation. Long distance background views are restricted by the landform falling away and the shelter belts associated with Stafford motorway service area. The horizon is broken by individual trees and a single wind turbine. To the north-west there is little other built development in the view with the exception of Micklow House Farm and Micklow Bungalow. To the north, there are limited views of the settlement edge of Walton, where the landform falls out of view. Distant views of a wooded skyline are visible to the north-west where the landform rises.	As winter, but the trees and hedgerows in full leaf obscure mid-ground and background views. In the mid-ground the dense summer growth of mature vegetation, including mature hedgerows and field trees further screen views of the M6. The background views remain similar to that seen during winter.

Table 2: Future baseline description

Construction (2020)	Operation (2027)
Not applicable	It is assumed that the construction of up to 81 dwellings (18/28191/REM) at Walton Hill, West of Longhope Drive, Stone, Staffordshire would be complete and will introduce new visual receptors, but as these will experience a similar view to these views from residences along Coombe Park Road they have been considered as part of this assessment.

Table 3: Visual impact assessment

	Temporary effect during construction	Level of effect
Construction	There is no construction text for AP2-003-006.	Not applicable

	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	The main ES reported a moderate adverse significant effect due to residents of properties at Micklow House Farm and Micklow Bungalow having close and middle distance views of the top of Yarlet North cutting, B5026 Eccleshall Road overbridge and overhead line equipment. Views would be partially screened and filtered by intervening vegetation. The amendment to realign the B5026 Eccleshall Road and associated field access (AP2-003-006) will result in residents having close and middle distance south-westerly views towards the realigned B5026 Eccleshall Road and B5026 Eccleshall Road overbridge. Due to the screening and filtering of the view by intervening vegetation, only a small part of the view will be affected, Yarlet North cutting will be unobtrusive. The amendment will therefore give rise to a different significant effect, however, this will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	The main ES reported no change to the year 1 winter assessment as there is little intervening vegetation to provide additional summer screening. The amendment will experience a similar lack of summer screening. The amendment will therefore not give rise to a new or different significant effect and will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The main ES reported a minor adverse non-significant effect as the maturing woodland and hedgerow mitigation planting would partially screen views and achieve greater integration of Yarlet North cutting and the B5026 Eccleshall Road overbridge within the surrounding landscape. The realigned B5026 Eccleshall Road will similarly become less apparent in the view by year 15, as the maturing mitigation planting achieves some screening and integration of the realigned B5026 Eccleshall Road into the surrounding landscape. The amendment will therefore reduce the minor adverse non-significant effect reported in the main ES to negligible.	Negligible
Operation year 60 Summer	The main ES reported a negligible effect as the mature woodland and hedgerow mitigation planting would further screen and integrate the realigned B5026 Eccleshall Road and B5026 Eccleshall Road overbridge within the landscape. By year 60, the amendment will be similarly screened and integrated by the mature mitigation planting. The amendment will therefore not give rise to any new or different significant effect and will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.	Negligible

Viewpoint 017.02.021: View west along the A51 Stone Road near Long Compton Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Long Compton Farm and road users on A51 Stone Road.

Winter view (baseline)

It has not been possible to capture winter photography.

Figure 1: Winter baseline view

Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/102018. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate GPS Co-ordinates ref. 385648, 336416.

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



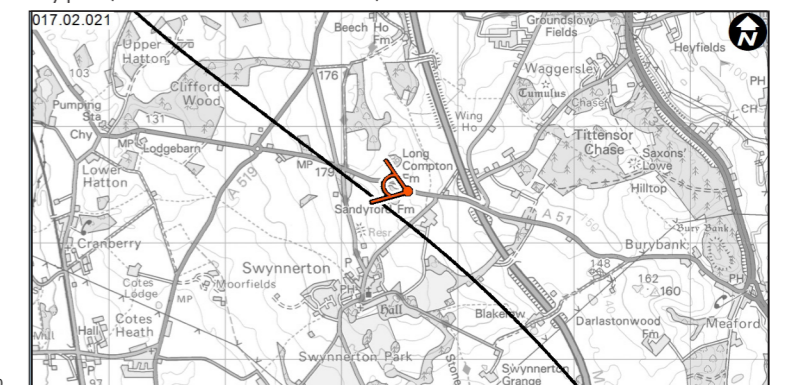
Value of the viewpoint:

This viewpoint is not recognised in any designation or literature.

Sensitivity of the receptor:

Residential receptors with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



Viewpoint 017.02.021: View west along the A51 Stone Road near Long Compton Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located on the A51 Stone Road near Long Compton Farm in an area of large undulating fields bounded by hedgerows with few hedgerow trees. Blocks of woodland and plantation are a common feature with Closepit Plantation to the left of the view and the woodland blocks of Calloway Pit, The Stretters and The Greathills on the higher landform to the right where they form a partially wooded skyline beyond the roadside hedgerows. The foreground comprises A51 Stone Road with its grass verge and hedgerow boundary. Long Compton Farm is visible to the north of the A51 Stone Road where it is partially screened by mature roadside trees. Views from the property at Long Compton Farm comprise the hedgerow which bounds the A51 Stone Road and the rolling fields with hedgerows and woodland copses which are visible beyond.</p>	<p>As winter, but views are more screened by vegetation in full leaf.</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
Construction	<p>This new viewpoint is located in an area that was unaffected by the original scheme.</p> <p>The amendment to provide a roundabout at the junction of the A51 Stone Road/Tittensor Road diversion junction (AP2-003-012) also includes a new balancing pond and access track to Long Compton Farm. Works to increase the vertical height of the A51 Stone Road by 3.5m and construct a 145m long retaining wall up to 3.2m high to accommodate the changes to the vertical alignment of the road adjacent to Long Compton Farm will be particularly prominent, and will require removal of vegetation both along the roadside and within the front garden of Long Compton Farm. There will be extensive earth movement and movement of surplus excavated material. Construction of the balancing pond and access track will change the rural aspect to the south of the farm. Construction activity will dominate views and together with the presence of construction equipment and movement of material will substantially change the current rural outlook. The amendment will therefore give rise to a high magnitude of change and a new major adverse significant effect, not reported in the main ES.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	<p>The amendment to provide a roundabout at the junction of the A51 Stone Road/Tittensor Road diversion junction (AP2-003-012) will substantially change the view from Long Compton Farm and the A51 Stone Road. Occupants of the farm and road users will have foreground views across and along the elevated section of road. The loss of roadside vegetation and introduction of the retaining wall will foreshorten more distant rural views and reduce the quality of the view to the front of the farm. The new access to the farm, balancing pond and associated access track will be prominent features to the north of the road as mitigation planting including new roadside hedgerows will not yet be established. The amendment will therefore give rise to a high magnitude of change and a new major adverse significant effect, not reported in the main ES.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	<p>The effect in summer will be similar to winter as mitigation planting will not yet be established and views will still be affected by the loss of roadside vegetation and introduction of the elevated section of road and long retaining wall in close proximity to the viewpoint. The amendment will therefore give rise to a high magnitude of change and a new major adverse significant effect, not reported in the main ES.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	<p>The maturing mitigation planting along the road corridor will partially screen and achieve some integration of the balancing pond and new access to Long Compton Farm into the surrounding landscape. However, residents at Long Compton Farm will continue to have views of the elevated section of the A51 Stone Road and retaining wall. The amendment will therefore give rise to a high magnitude of change and a new major adverse significant effect, not reported in the main ES.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	<p>The mature mitigation planting along the road corridor will partially screen and achieve some integration of the balancing pond and new access to Long Compton Farm into the surrounding landscape. However, residents at Long Compton Farm will continue to have views of the elevated section of the A51 Stone Road and retaining wall. The amendment will therefore give rise to a high magnitude of change and a new major adverse significant effect, not reported in the main ES.</p>	Major adverse (significant)

Viewpoint 019.02.013: View north-west from A519 Newcastle Road

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residences along the A519 Newcastle Road.

Winter view (baseline)

It has not been possible to capture winter photography.

Figure 1: Winter baseline view

Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 21/08/2018. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate GPS Co-ordinates ref. 385066, 341921.

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



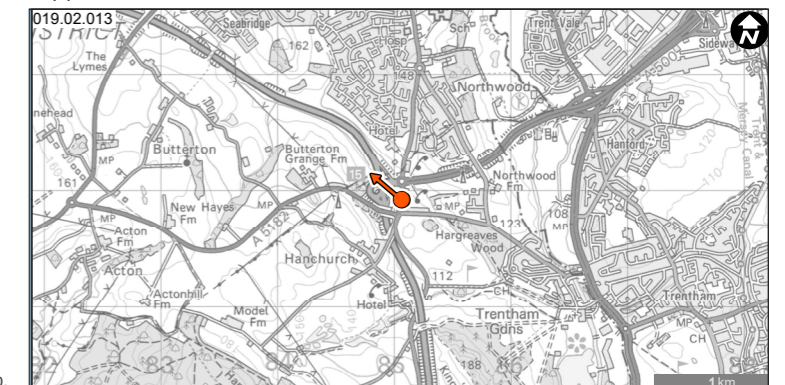
Value of the viewpoint:

This viewpoint is not recognised in any designation or literature.

Sensitivity of the receptor:

Residential receptors with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



Viewpoint 019.02.013: View north-west from A519 Newcastle Road

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located close to junction 15 on the M6 in an area of rural fringe farmland near Westbury Park and Hanford. The view is focussed on the busy A519 Newcastle Road as it approaches a roundabout with trees which connects the M6. The western side of the road is bounded by a wooded embankment which screens most views of the haulage yard and movement of HGVs beyond. To the east of the road a grass verge and pavement is backed by the front gardens of semi-detached properties. Street lighting, road signs and movement of traffic add to the visual clutter within the view.</p>	<p>As winter, but views of the haulage yard and movement of HGVs are more obscured by trees in full leaf.</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
Construction	<p>This is a new viewpoint is located in an area that was unaffected by the original scheme and was not assessed in the main ES.</p> <p>Residents along the eastern side of the A519 Newcastle Road and road users will have immediate foreground views of construction activity associated with the road widening and modifications to the A519 Newcastle Road (AP2-003-017). Prior to installation of the noise barrier, removal of the linear mature woodland to the west of the road will temporarily open up views of the haulage yard and movement of HGVs. This, together with the construction activity, including the presence of construction equipment and movement of materials will substantially change the outlook from the properties on the opposite side of the A519 Newcastle Road. Views of a mature tree belt will be replaced by prominent and incongruous construction elements. The amendment will therefore give rise to a high magnitude of change and a new major adverse significant effect, not reported in the main ES.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	<p>Occupants of properties along the eastern side of the A519 Newcastle Road will have immediate foreground views across the road towards the area formerly occupied by the linear mature woodland (AP2-003-017). New woodland mitigation planting will be visible in front of a noise barrier to a similar height as the existing planted bund. This will screen the lower parts of the haulage yard, including HGV movements, but will in itself be an uncharacteristic and prominent feature. The amendment will therefore give rise to a medium magnitude of change and a new moderate adverse significant effect, not reported in the main ES.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	<p>There is no vegetation to provide additional summer screening and the noise barrier will remain a prominent and uncharacteristic feature. The amendment will therefore give rise to a medium magnitude of change and a new moderate adverse significant effect, not reported in the main ES.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	<p>The maturing mitigation planting along the western side of the A519 Newcastle Road will partially screen the noise barrier and the outlook from the viewpoint will be one of developing woodland. The amendment will therefore give rise to a low magnitude of change and a new minor adverse non-significant effect, not reported in the main ES.</p>	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	<p>The mature mitigation planting along the western side of the A519 Newcastle Road will further screen the noise barrier and the outlook from the viewpoint will be one of a woodland belt. The amendment will therefore give rise to a low magnitude of change and a new minor adverse non-significant effect, not reported in the main ES.</p>	Minor adverse (non-significant)

3.4 Assessment matrices

Visual assessment matrix

3.4.1 Table 3 summarises the assessment of significance for all the representative viewpoints identified in the Stone to Swynnerton area potentially affected by AP2 amendments, as well as for the new visual assessment viewpoint introduced in Section 2.1. These are ordered from south to north along the route of the AP2 revised scheme. The assessment of significant effects is presented in Volume 2, Section 5. The night-time assessment has only been undertaken for residential, hotel and healthcare receptors with a view of proposed continuous lighting during either construction or operation. In most cases, in urban areas, additional lighting is not considered to give rise to significant effects due to the widespread presence of street lighting, lightspill from adjacent buildings and skyglow. Where there is no direct foreground visibility of additional lighting, no further assessment has been undertaken.

Table 3: Visual assessment matrix summarising the assessment of significance for all of the viewpoints identified as affected by AP2 amendments.

Viewpoints		Construction	Operation year 1 (2027)		Operation year 15 (2042) summer	Operation year 60 (2087) summer
		Winter	Winter	Summer		
014.04.006	View west from A34 Road	Moderate adverse	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
015.02.009	View north-west from Walton Heath Farm	N/A	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Negligible	Negligible
017.02.021	View west along the A51 Stone Road near Long Compton Farm	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse
019.02.013	View north-west from A519 Newcastle Road	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse

References

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HS2 Ltd (2018), *High Speed Two (HS2) Phase 2a (West Midlands - Crewe), Supplementary Environmental Statement and Additional Provision Environmental Statement*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2a-supplementary-environmental-statement-and-additional-provision-environmental-statement>.

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