

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

Volume 5: Technical appendices

CA5: South Cheshire

Landscape and visual assessment and photomontages
(LV-001-005)

High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe)

Supplementary Environmental Statement 2 and
Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement

Volume 5: Technical appendices

CA5: South Cheshire

Landscape and visual assessment and photomontages

(LV-001-005)



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 South Cheshire community area (CA5).
- 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-001-005, 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 Visual assessment

Introduction

- 1.3.1 Effects have been assessed where relevant for construction, operation year 1, year 15 and year 60.
- 1.3.2 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.
- 1.3.3 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.
- 1.3.4 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

- 1.3.5 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 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

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.
- 1.3.6 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 Visual assessment

Introduction

2.1.1 The viewpoints are shown on Maps LV-08-227 to LV-08-229 (SES2 and AP2 ES Volume 5: Landscape and Visual Map Book).

Visual receptors

025.02.013 View north-east from Gonsley Green Farm

027.03.019 View west from farmland east of Casey Lane

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Viewpoint 025.02.013: View north-east from Gonsley Green Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Gonsley Green Farm and recreational receptors using Blakenhall Bridleway 12 and Blakenhall Footpath 7.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 01/03/2016. Time taken: 11:56. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373040.577, 348660.084. Elevation: 78.122 metres AOD.

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 02/09/2016. Time taken: 10:54. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373040.577, 348660.084. Elevation: 78.122 metres AOD.

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



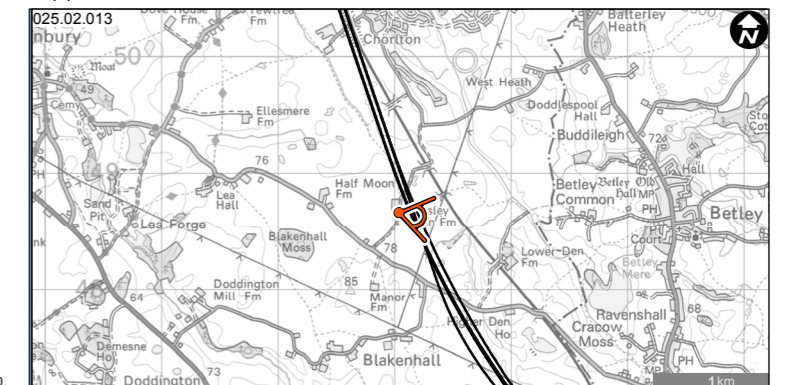
Value of the viewpoint:

This viewpoint is not recognised in any standard designation or literature.

Sensitivity of the receptor:

Residential and recreational receptors with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



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Viewpoint 025.02.013: View north-east from Gonsley Green Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of very gently undulating medium to large-scale arable fields and pastures, bounded by a combination of timber fences and hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees. Copses and small woodlands are often associated with the dispersed farmsteads. Foreground and mid-ground views comprise flat pastures bounded by post and rail fences. Passing trains and the overhead line equipment of the WCML, which runs partly in cutting, are intermittently visible between the trees in the mid-ground of the view and a small overbridge carrying a farm access track across the WCML is just discernible to the left of the photograph. A single wind turbine and electricity pylons are also present in the mid-ground. The distant view and horizon line comprises low rolling hills with a generous covering of trees and woodlands.</p>	<p>As winter, although the vegetation in full leaf partially obscures some mid-ground and background views. The overhead line equipment of the WCML remains present in glimpsed views.</p>

Table 2: Future baseline description

Construction (2020)	Operation (2027)
Not applicable.	There are no committed developments that would change the baseline.

Table 3: Visual impact assessment

	Temporary effect during construction	Level of effect
Construction	There is no construction assessment for SES2-005-004.	Not applicable
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	The main ES reported a major adverse significant effect. This was because of the close distance views of newly planted landscape bunds, South Crewe mid-point auto-transformer station and access track. Beyond the landscape bunds, the overhead line equipment and trains on Chorlton South embankment would be visible. The new features in the view, combined with changes to the landform, would intensify the effects of the WCML and change the current rural outlook. The SES2 design change (SES2-005-004) will relocate the Crewe South mid-point auto-transformer station and replace it with an auto-transformer station in a new location approximately 115m further away from Gonsley Green farm. The landscape earthworks proposed in the original scheme will be realigned, with woodland planting added to screen and integrate the auto-transformer station into the surrounding landscape. At year 1, the effect of these changes will be to improve the outlook from Gonsley Green Farm as the new auto-transformer station would be further from the farm than the original South Crewe auto-transformer station. The realigned landscape earthworks will provide screening of the auto-transformer station, which will further improve the outlook from the property at Gonsley Green Farm. The landscape earthworks themselves will be an uncharacteristic foreground feature at year 1 and the upper parts of the Chorlton South embankment, the overhead line equipment and moving trains will remain prominent. The SES2 design change will therefore give rise to a different significant visual effect, however, the level of significance of the effect will remain major adverse significant as reported in the main ES.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	The main ES reported a major adverse significant effect as there is limited intervening vegetation to provide additional screening when in full leaf. The SES2 design change will similarly experience no additional screening. The SES2 design change will therefore give rise to a different significant effect however it will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The main ES reported a moderate adverse significant effect. This was due to the maturing woodland mitigation planting on top of the landscape earthworks providing substantial screening of the operational railway, although the sense of severance and loss of long distance views caused by proximity the wooded embankment would remain. Views would change from relatively open fields to maturing woodland, but would remain rural in context. At year 15, the maturing woodland mitigation planting on top of the landscape earthworks, will provide substantial screening of the auto-transformer station and operational railway, including the upper parts of Chorlton South embankment. The views from the farm will change from relatively open fields to developing woodland but it will remain rural in context. The sense of severance and loss of distant views, caused by the proximity of the wooded embankment, will remain. The SES2 design change will therefore give rise to a different significant visual effect, however it will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The main ES reported a moderate adverse significant effect. Although the Chorlton South embankment and the operational railway would be substantially screened, there would be an ongoing sense of severance and loss of long distance views. Views of the AP2 revised scheme will be filtered by the mature landscape mitigation, but there will be a continued sense of severance and loss of long distance views. The SES2 design change will therefore give rise to a different significant visual effect, however it will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.	Moderate adverse (significant)

Viewpoint 027.03.019: View west from farmland east of Casey Lane

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by recreational receptors using Basford Footpath 3.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 03/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate GPS Co-ordinates ref. 372385.659, 352065.914.

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 23/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate GPS Co-ordinates ref. 372385.659, 352065.914.

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



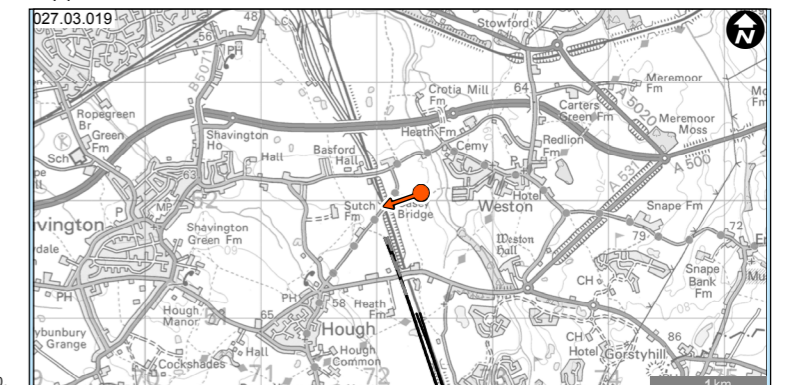
Value of the viewpoint:

This viewpoint is not recognised in any standard designation or literature.

Sensitivity of the receptor:

Recreational receptors with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



Viewpoint 027.03.019: View west from farmland east of Casey Lane

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of flat or gently undulating, medium to large scale arable fields and pastures bounded by hedgerows with only occasional hedgerow trees. There is evidence of field amalgamation and hedgerow loss. The large, relatively featureless, arable field in the foreground rises gently towards the mid-ground horizon where it forms a slight crest in the landform. Beyond this field, there are some distant views of the overhead line equipment of the WCML, Casey Lane overbridge, a wood pole overhead power line and lighting columns on the Basford Hall sidings. A small block of trees next to Casey Lane is a prominent skyline feature.</p>	<p>As winter, although the background trees in full leaf help to screen and filter distant views and create a more visually contained horizon.</p>

Table 2: Future baseline description

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

Table 3: Visual impact assessment

	Temporary effect during construction	Level of effect
<p>Construction</p>	<p>There is no construction assessment for SES2-005-006.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
<p>Operation year 1 Winter</p>	<p>The main ES reported a moderate adverse significant effect. This was due to the introduction of the diverted section of Casey Lane into the open views across rural farmland. Although there would be tree and shrub planting and grassland habitat creation, the new road would be a noticeable and detracting feature. There would also be views of the realigned Newcastle Road in the middle distance. The SES2 design change to locally place surplus excavated material to the east of the Casey Lane diversion (SES2-005-006), will introduce a new permanent earthwork up to 3m high into the gently undulating farmland, which will in itself be an uncharacteristic landform. This will slightly reduce the effect on foreground views compared to the original scheme as it will partially screen the road corridor. The new earthwork will also screen the lower parts of the realigned section of Newcastle Road, although the Newcastle Road overbridge and upper parts of the bridge embankments will remain visible in the middle distance. The amendment will therefore give rise to a different significant effect, however the level of significance of the effect will remain moderate adverse significant as reported in the main ES.</p>	<p>Moderate adverse (significant)</p>
<p>Operation year 1 summer</p>	<p>The main ES reported a moderate adverse significant effect as there is limited intervening vegetation to provide additional screening when in full leaf. The SES2 design change will similarly experience no additional 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.</p>	<p>Moderate adverse (significant)</p>
<p>Operation year 15 summer</p>	<p>The main ES reported a minor adverse non-significant effect. This was because the maturing mitigation planting would achieve some screening and integration of the Casey Lane diversion, and realigned Newcastle Road and Newcastle Road overbridge within the surrounding landscape. The outlook will change from relatively open fields to developing woodland, but it would remain rural in context. The maturing mitigation planting associated with the SES2 design change will similarly screen and filter the diverted section of Casey Lane, realigned section of Newcastle Road and Newcastle Road overbridge within the surrounding landscape. The mitigation planting will achieve some integration of the earthwork into the natural landform. The amendment will therefore not give rise to a different significant effect and will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.</p>	<p>Minor adverse (non-significant)</p>
<p>Operation year 60 summer</p>	<p>The main ES reported a minor adverse non-significant effect. This was because the mature mitigation planting would achieve some screening and integration of the Casey Lane diversion, and realigned Newcastle Road and Newcastle Road overbridge within the surrounding landscape. The outlook will change from relatively open fields to developing woodland, but it would remain rural in context. The mature mitigation planting associated with the SES2 design change will similarly screen and filter the diverted section of Casey Lane, realigned section of Newcastle Road and Newcastle Road overbridge within the surrounding landscape. The mitigation planting will achieve some integration of the earthwork into the natural landform. The amendment will therefore not give rise to a different significant effect and will not change the level of significance of the effect reported in the main ES.</p>	<p>Minor adverse (non-significant)</p>

2.2 Assessment matrices

Visual assessment matrix

2.2.1 Table 1 summarises the assessment of significance for all the representative viewpoints identified in the South Cheshire area potentially affected by SES2 design changes. These are ordered numerically along the route of the AP2 revised scheme. The assessment of significant effects is presented in Volume 2, Section 3. 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 1: Visual assessment matrix summarising the assessment of significance for all of the viewpoints identified as affected by SES2 design changes.

Viewpoints		Construction	Operation year 1 (2027)		Operation year 15 (2042) summer	Operation year 60 (2087) summer
		Winter	Winter	Summer		
025.02.013	View north-east from Gonsley Green Farm	N/A	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse
027.03.019	View west from farmland east of Casey Lane	N/A	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse

3 Part 2: Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement

3.1 Visual assessment

Introduction

3.1.1 The viewpoints are shown on Maps LV-08-227 to LV-08-229 (SES2 and AP2 ES Volume 5: Landscape and Visual Map Book)

Visual receptors

025.02.007 View south-west from WCML overbridge (AP2-005-006)

025.02.007 View south-west from WCML overbridge (AP2-005-008)

Viewpoint 025.02.007: View south-west from WCML overbridge (AP2-005-006)

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Lower Den Farm and recreational receptors using Blakenhall Bridleway 8.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate GPS Co-ordinates ref. 373870.084, 348200.951.

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate GPS Co-ordinates ref. 373870.084, 348200.951.

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



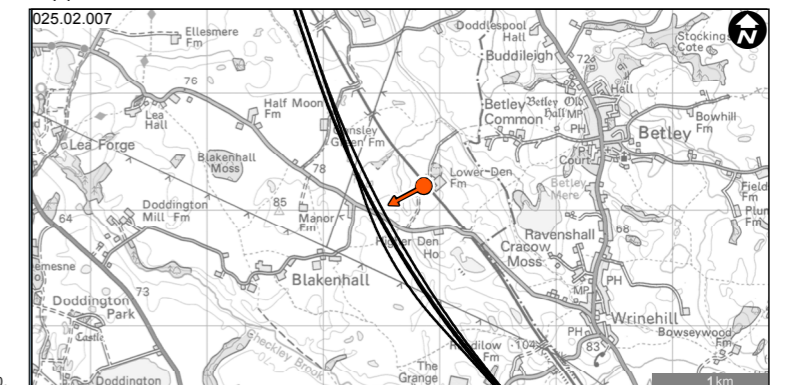
Value of the viewpoint:

This viewpoint is not recognised in any standard designation or literature.

Sensitivity of the receptor:

Residential receptors with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



Viewpoint 025.02.007: View south-west from WCML overbridge (AP2-005-006)

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
This viewpoint is located in an area of gently rolling pastures which show evidence of field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows, but retains a number of former field boundary trees. The WCML infrastructure and tall brick-built overbridge forms the foreground view with trees and dense undergrowth on the rail embankments. Beyond the WCML, rolling pastures continue into the mid-ground view with Higher Den Farm visible beyond the pastures to the left. The background has a continuation of rolling farmland with mature trees. A single wind turbine and a electricity pylon line can be seen on the skyline.	As winter, although the vegetation in full leaf partially obscures the view.

Table 2: Future baseline description

Construction (2020)	Operation (2027)
No change anticipated.	No change anticipated.

Table 3: Visual impact assessment

	Temporary effect during construction	Level of effect
Construction	The main ES reported a major adverse significant effect due to the presence of Blakenhall cutting satellite compound, material stockpiles, construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles which would result in new prominent, incongruous features in close distance views. Users of the footpath would have close distance views of construction activity associated with the modifications to the WCML and construction of the realigned section of Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge. The existing overbridge (on which this viewpoint is located) would be demolished. The amendment to provide a new access to Lower Den Farm and relocate Den Lane Welfare satellite compound (AP2-005-006) will introduce new construction activity to the east of the view, requiring additional land. The Den Lane Welfare satellite compound will be moved further to the south-east with works located parallel to the existing WCML rail corridor. The additional construction activity will slightly increase the effects experienced by the residents of Lower Den Farm and users of Blakenhall Bridleway 8. The amendment will therefore give rise to a different significant effect, however the level of significance of the effect will remain major adverse significant as reported in the main ES.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	The main ES reported a moderate adverse significant effect. Residents and users of the footpath would have close distance views of the realigned section of Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge and associated bridge embankments. The presence of Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge would interrupt and foreshorten views across open arable fields. Existing vegetation along the WCML would mostly screen views of Den Lane East viaduct to the south. The amendment to provide a new access to Lower Den Farm and relocate Den Lane Welfare satellite compound (AP2-005-006) will introduce a 3.5m wide access track to the east of the view. This would run parallel to the WCML and extend from the immediate foreground to the middle distance view. The relocation of the Den Lane Welfare satellite compound only relates to temporary construction works and will not change the view at year 1 of operation. The new access track will slightly increase the visual effect of the original scheme. This is because the track is a small element which will be viewed in the wider context of the operational railway. The amendment will therefore give rise to a different significant effect, however the level of significance of the effect will remain moderate adverse significant as reported in the main ES.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	The main ES reported a minor adverse non-significant effect due to the filtering of views of Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge from vegetation in full leaf in the foreground. Views of the amendment will be similarly filtered by existing intervening vegetation. 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.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The main ES reported a minor adverse non-significant effect. Maturing mitigation planting around the lower embankment slopes of the Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge would help screen and filter views of the overbridge and integrate the ridge and its embankments within the surrounding landscape. The amendment will be similarly filtered in the view by existing intervening vegetation and maturing landscape mitigation along both sides of the access track, which will help integrate the access track into the landscape. The amendment will therefore not give rise to a different significant visual effect, and will not change the level of significance of the effects reported in the main ES.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The main ES reported a minor adverse non-significant effect. Mature mitigation planting would further screen and integrate the Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge within the view. The amendment will be similarly filtered in the view by existing intervening vegetation and mature landscape mitigation will help further integrate the amendment into the wider landscape context. The amendment will therefore not give rise to a different significant visual effect, and will not change the level of significance of the effects reported in the main ES.	Minor adverse (non-significant)

Viewpoint 025.02.007: View south-west from WCML overbridge (AP2-005-008)

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Lower Den Farm and recreational receptors using Blakenhall Bridleway 8.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate GPS Co-ordinates ref. 373870.084, 348200.951.

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate GPS Co-ordinates ref. 373870.084, 348200.951.

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



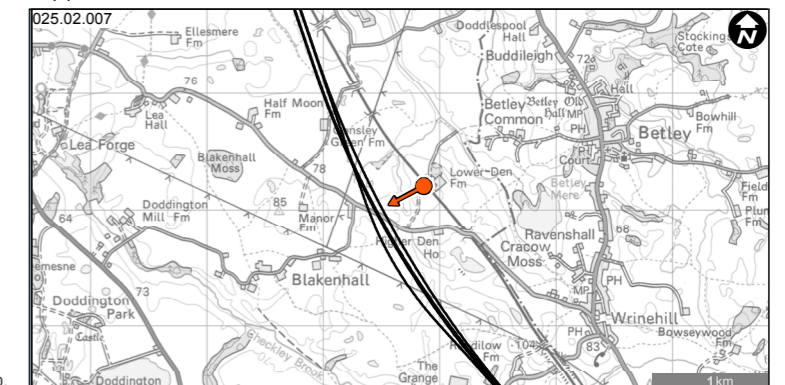
Value of the viewpoint:

This viewpoint is not recognised in any standard designation or literature.

Sensitivity of the receptor:

Residential receptors with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



Viewpoint 025.02.007: View south-west from WCML overbridge (AP2-005-008)

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of gently rolling pastures which show evidence of field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows, but retains a number of former field boundary trees. The WCML infrastructure and tall brick-built overbridge forms the foreground view with trees and dense undergrowth on the rail embankments. Beyond the WCML, rolling pastures continue into the mid-ground view with Higher Den Farm visible beyond the pastures to the left. The background has a continuation of rolling farmland with mature trees. A single wind turbine and a electricity pylon line can be seen on the skyline.</p>	<p>As winter, although the vegetation in full leaf partially obscures the view.</p>

Table 2: Future baseline description

Construction (2020)	Operation (2027)
<p>There are no committed developments that 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 major adverse significant effect due to the presence of Blakenhall cutting satellite compound, material stockpiles, construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles which would result in new prominent, incongruous features in close distance views. Users of the footpath would have close distance views of construction activity associated with the modifications to the WCML and construction of the realigned section of Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge. The existing overbridge (on which this viewpoint is located) would be demolished. The amendment to relocate material stockpiles at Lower Den Farm and reorientate Blakenhall cutting satellite compound (AP2-005-008) will introduce new construction activity into the view. However, the effect of this will be minimal when seen alongside the wider construction activity in this area, which will be extensive. 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.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	<p>There is no operational assessment for AP2-005-008.</p>	Not applicable
Operation year 1 Summer	<p>There is no operational assessment for AP2-005-008.</p>	Not applicable
Operation year 15 Summer	<p>There is no operational assessment for AP2-005-008.</p>	Not applicable
Operation year 60 Summer	<p>There is no operational assessment for AP2-005-008.</p>	Not applicable

3.2 Assessment matrices

Visual assessment matrix

3.2.1 Table 2 summarises the assessment of significance for all the representative viewpoints identified in the South Cheshire area potentially affected by AP2 amendments. 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 2: 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		
025.02.007	View south-west from WCML overbridge (AP2-005-006)	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
025.02.007	View south-west from WCML overbridge (AP2-005-008)	Major adverse	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

References

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

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HS2 Ltd (2017), *High Speed Two (HS2) Phase 2a (West Midlands - Crewe), Environmental Statement, Scope and Methodology Report Addendum, Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002*. Available online at: 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.

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>.

