

High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Environmental Statement

Volume 5: Appendix EC-015-0MA05

Ecology and biodiversity

MA05: Risleigh to Bamfurlong

Ecological register of local level effects

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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.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This report is an appendix to the ecological assessment.
- 1.1.2 Table 1 provides a summary of the anticipated local/parish level adverse effects on ecological receptors arising from the construction and operation of the HS2 Phase 2b Proposed Scheme in the Risley to Bamfurlong area (MA05).
- 1.1.3 This appendix should be read in conjunction with:
- Volume 2, Community Area (CA) reports;
 - Volume 3, Route-wide effects;
 - Volume 4, Off-route effects; and
 - Volume 5, Appendices.
- 1.1.4 See Volume 5, Appendix EC-001-00001 and the Ecology and Biodiversity Map Book (Map Series EC-01), for ecological designated sites, and Appendices EC-016-00001 to EC-016-00007 and EC-016-00009 for documents to inform Habitats Regulations Assessment screening and Appropriate Assessment.
- 1.1.5 In addition, the baseline data used for the ecological assessment is set out in Background Information and Data (BID) reports¹, (see BID EC-002-00001 to BID EC-013-00001) and the BID Ecology Map Books² (Map Series EC-02 and EC-04 to EC-12) showing habitats and species relevant to the Proposed Scheme. The full list of ecological BID reports is as follows:
- Ecological baseline data – Phase 1 Habitat Survey (BID EC-002-00001);
 - Ecological baseline data – protected and notable flora (BID EC-003-00001);
 - Ecological baseline data – National Vegetation Classification and ancient woodland (BID EC-004-00001);
 - Ecological baseline data – hedgerows (BID EC-005-00001);
 - Ecological baseline data – river habitat, river macrophyte, and ditch surveys (BID EC-006-00001);
 - Ecological baseline data – amphibian and pond and canal surveys (BID EC-007-00001);
 - Ecological baseline data – reptiles (BID EC-008-00001);
 - Ecological baseline data – breeding and wintering birds (BID EC-009-00001);
 - Ecological baseline data – otter and water vole (BID EC-010-00001);

¹ High Speed Two Ltd (2022), High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester), *Background Information and Data*, BID EC-002-00001 to BID EC-013-00001. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-manchester-environmental-statement>.

² High Speed Two Ltd (2022), High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester), *Background information and Data, Ecology Map Book: Map Series EC-02 and EC-04 to EC-12*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-manchester-environmental-statement>.

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- Ecological baseline data – bats (BID EC-011-00001);
- Ecological baseline data – white-clawed crayfish and other invertebrates (BID EC-012-00001); and
- Ecological baseline data – fish (BID EC-013-00001).

1.1.6 Note that baseline data for badger is not made publicly available due to the current and historic persecution of this species (BID EC-14-00001).

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Table 1: Summary of local/parish level adverse effects arising from the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme within MA05

CA	Habitat, species or species group	Receptor/location	Effect arising from construction or from operation	Description of effect prior to 'other mitigation'	Effect addressed by mitigation and/or compensation proposed (Yes / No)
MA05	Woodland	Eighteen woodlands, each less than 1.5ha and none within wildlife site designations.	Construction	Permanent loss of 9.9ha of habitat as a result of construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Yes
MA05	Woodland	Three plantation woodlands, each less than 1.5ha, and none within wildlife site designations and one further plantation woodland 2.1ha in area.	Construction	Permanent loss of 5.5ha of habitat as a result of construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Yes
MA05	Woodland	An unnamed plantation woodland, covering an area of 2.3ha, adjacent to Windy Bank Brook.	Construction	Permanent loss of 0.8ha of habitat as a result of construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Yes
MA05	Grassland	Parcels of species-poor, semi-improved and marshy grassland, collectively, covers an area of 87ha throughout the Risley to Bamfurlong area, within the land required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Construction	Permanent loss of 87ha (100%) of habitat as a result of construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Yes
MA05	Watercourses	Several smaller watercourses, including tributaries of Holcroft Lane Brook and Hey Brook.	Construction	Permanent and temporary loss and degradation of habitat as a result of realignment or culverting of smaller watercourses during construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Yes
MA05	Birds	Breeding bird assemblage at Holcroft Moss to Hole Mill Farm, north of disused peat workings.	Construction	Permanent loss and degradation of habitat used by breeding birds as a result of construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Yes
MA05	Birds	Breeding bird assemblage at Pestfurlong to Culcheth.	Construction	Permanent loss and degradation of habitat used by breeding birds as a result of construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Yes

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CA	Habitat, species or species group	Receptor/location	Effect arising from construction or from operation	Description of effect prior to 'other mitigation'	Effect addressed by mitigation and/or compensation proposed (Yes / No)
MA05	Birds	Wintering bird assemblage at Pestfurlong to Culcheth.	Construction	Permanent loss and degradation of habitat used by wintering birds as a result of construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Yes
MA05	Birds	Breeding bird assemblage at Golborne to Bamfurlong.	Construction	Permanent loss and degradation of habitat used by breeding birds as a result of construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Yes
MA05	Birds	Wintering bird assemblage at Golborne to Bamfurlong.	Construction	Permanent loss and degradation of habitat used by wintering birds as a result of construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Yes
MA05	Birds	Wintering bird assemblage at Windy Bank to A58 Lily Lane.	Construction	Permanent loss and degradation of habitat used by wintering birds as a result of construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Yes
MA05	Amphibians	Populations of other amphibian species, including palmate newt (<i>Lissotriton helveticus</i>), smooth newt (<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>), common toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>) and common frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>), in the Risley to Bamfurlong area.	Construction	Loss and fragmentation of breeding and foraging habitat and dispersal routes from construction activities.	Yes
MA05	Reptiles	Potential small populations of reptiles in the Risley to Bamfurlong area.	Construction	Permanent loss and degradation of small areas of suitable habitat, including field margins, edges of woodland and scrub habitat and isolated small patches of overgrown grassland, as a result of construction of the Proposed Scheme.	Yes
MA05	Fish	Fish assemblage in Carr Brook.	Construction	Temporary loss and degradation of aquatic habitat where the route of the Proposed Scheme crosses watercourses.	Yes

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MA05	Badger	Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>) populations at undisclosed locations in the Risley to Bamfurlong area.	Construction and operation	Permanent loss and degradation of habitat and habitat fragmentation resulting from construction of the Proposed Scheme. Land required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme includes pasture, arable, hedgerow and woodland habitats that form a foraging resource for badger social groups.	Yes

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