

High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester)

Supplementary Environmental Statement 1 and Additional Provision 1 Environmental Statement

Volume 5: Appendix EC-015-00000

Ecology and biodiversity

Ecological register of local level effects

MA01: Hough to Walley's Green

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

MA03: Pickmere to Agden and Hulseheath

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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 Structure of this appendix

- 1.1.1 This report is an appendix to the ecological and biodiversity assessment which forms part of Volume 5 of the Supplementary Environmental Statement 1 (SES1) and Additional Provision 1 Environmental Statement (AP1 ES). This report covers the following community areas (CA):
- Hough to Walley's Green (MA01);
 - Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam (MA02); and
 - Pickmere to Agden and Hulseheath (MA03).
- 1.1.2 The Broomedge to Glazebrook area (MA04) and the Risley to Bamfurlong area (MA05) are not covered by this report because local level effects reported in the main ES from construction and operation activities in these areas are removed as a result of the removal of the HS2 West Coast Main Line (WCML) connection (SES1-004-001).
- 1.1.3 This report is structured into two parts: Part 1 – SES1 and Part 2 – AP1 ES.
- 1.1.4 Part 1 of this appendix provides details of new or different local/parish level adverse effects in the SES1 since the production of the High Speed Two (HS2) High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Environmental Statement (ES) published in 2022¹ (the main ES).
- 1.1.5 Part 2 identifies local/parish level adverse effects which were not reported in the main ES that are of relevance to the assessment of the AP1 revised scheme.
- 1.1.6 Supplementary environmental information considered within this appendix includes baseline ecological survey data not reported in the main ES, which is contained in the following SES1 and AP1 ES Background Information and Data (BID) ecological baseline data reports²:
- Ecological baseline data – National Vegetation Classification and ancient woodland (BID EC-004-00000 SES1 and AP1 ES);
 - Ecological baseline data – amphibians (BID EC-007-00000 SES1 and AP1 ES);
 - Ecological baseline data – bats (BID EC-011-00000 SES1 and AP1 ES); and

¹ High Speed Two Ltd (2022), High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester), *Environmental Statement*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase2b-crewe-manchester-environmental-statement>.

² High Speed Two Ltd (2022), High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester), *Background Information and Data accompanying Supplementary Environmental Statement 1 and Additional Provision 1 Environmental Statement*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-manchester-supplementary-environmental-statement-1-and-additional-provision-1-environmental-statement>.

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- Ecological baseline data – other (BID EC-017-00000 SES1 and AP1 ES), containing data relating to habitats, hedgerows, birds, ponds and canals, river habitat, otter and water vole.

1.1.7 Maps relevant to this report are contained in the Background Information and Data, Ecology Map Book: Map Series EC-02 (Phase 1 habitat survey), EC-04 (Amphibians), EC-05 (Bat roosts), EC-06 (Bat activity), EC-08 (Breeding birds), EC-10 (Phase 2 habitat survey), EC-11 and EC-12 (Other protected and notable species) that accompanies the SES1 and AP1 ES.

1.1.8 This report should be read in conjunction with the main ES Ecology registers of local effects Volume 5, Appendix: EC-015 reports.

1.1.9 In order to differentiate between the original scheme and the subsequent changes, the following terms are used:

- ‘the original scheme’ – the Bill scheme submitted to Parliament in January 2022, which was assessed in the main ES;
- ‘the SES1 scheme’ – the original scheme with the changes described in SES1 that are within the existing powers of the Bill; and
- ‘the AP1 revised scheme’ – the original scheme as amended by the SES1 changes and AP1 amendments.

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Part 1: Supplementary Environmental Statement 1

Table 1: Summary of new or different local/parish level adverse effects identified through additional surveys

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)
MA02	Bats	Bat assemblage associated with habitats between Broken Cross and Lostock Gralam	Construction	The main ES reported a local/parish level effect from the permanent loss and fragmentation of foraging/commuting habitat as a result of construction of the original scheme. Further survey has identified occasional roosts used by common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) and <i>Myotis</i> sp. within the land required for construction of the original scheme. This is a different impact to that reported in the main ES, but does not change the scale of the impact which remains significant at the local/parish level.	Yes
MA03	Birds	Breeding bird assemblage between Bentleyhurst Farm and Chapel Lane	Construction	Additional breeding bird surveys between Bentleyhurst Farm and Chapel Lane recorded a total of 50 species, including 19 notable species, within and adjacent to the land required for the construction of the original scheme. Breeding territories of 18 species were recorded of which four are notable, with four Red List species. There will be permanent loss and degradation of habitat used by breeding birds as a result of construction of the SES1 scheme, which is significant at the local/parish level. This is a new impact, not previously reported.	Yes
MA03	Birds	Breeding bird assemblage between Chapel Lane and Agden Bridge Farm	Construction	Additional breeding bird surveys between Chapel Lane and Agden Bridge Farm recorded a total of 36 species, including 12 notable species, within and adjacent to the land required for the construction of the original scheme. Breeding territories of 14 species were recorded of which one is notable, with one Red List species. There will be permanent loss and degradation of habitat used by breeding birds as a result of construction of the SES1 scheme, which is significant at the local/parish level. This is a new impact, not previously reported.	Yes

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Part 2: Additional Provision 1 Environmental Statement

Table 2: Summary of additional local/parish level adverse effects arising from the construction/operation of the AP1 revised scheme

CA	AP amendment	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)
MA02	AP-002-009	Habitat: semi-improved grassland	Species-poor semi-improved grassland occurs alongside the A54 Middlewich Road and Chester Road. This grassland contributes to a wider resource of species-poor semi-improved grassland across the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area that is of local/parish value.	Construction	The main ES reported the permanent loss of 91.4ha of semi-improved grassland resulting from construction activities. The AP1 revised scheme will result in further loss alongside the A54 Middlewich Road and Chester Road. This is a different impact to that reported in the main ES, but does not change the scale of the impact which remains significant at the local/parish level.	Yes
MA02	AP-002-004	Habitat: semi-improved grassland	Species-poor semi-improved grassland occurs to the west of the Shropshire Union Canal (Middlewich Branch), north of Clive Green Lane, partially within land required for the amendment. This grassland contributes to a wider resource of species-poor semi-improved grassland across the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area that is of local/parish value.	Construction	The main ES reported the permanent loss of 91.4ha semi-improved grassland resulting from construction activities. The AP1 revised scheme will result in further loss to the west of the Shropshire Union Canal (Middlewich Branch) north of Clive Green Lane. This is a different impact to that reported in the main ES, but does not change the scale of the impact which remains significant at the local/parish level.	Yes

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MA02	AP-002-012	Species group: 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 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area.	Construction	The main ES reported the permanent loss and fragmentation of breeding/foraging habitat and dispersal routes resulting from construction activities. The amendment will result in the loss of one additional pond and associated terrestrial habitat, in addition to pond loss already reported. This is a different impact to that reported in the main ES but does not change the scale of the impact which remains significant at the local/parish level.	Yes

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