

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS)

Supplementary Environmental Statement and Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement

Volume 2 | Community forum area report

CFA25 | Castle Bromwich and Bromford

July 2015

SES and AP2 ES 3.2.1.25



HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS)

Supplementary Environmental Statement and
Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement

Volume 2 | Community forum area report

CFA25 | Castle Bromwich and Bromford

July 2015

SES and AP2 ES 3.2.1.25



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.

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

AECOM

ARUP

ATKINS

CAPITA



ineco



**PARSONS
BRINCKERHOFF**



High Speed Two (HS2) Limited,
One Canada Square,
London
E14 5AB

Details of how to obtain further copies are available from HS2 Ltd.

Telephone: 020 7944 4908

General email enquiries: HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/hs2

Copyright © High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, 2015, except where otherwise stated.

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



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

Contents

Structure of the HS2 Supplementary Environmental Statement and Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement	1
Structure of this report	3
1 Introduction	4
Part 1: Supplementary Environmental Statement	6
2 Summary of changes	6
2.1 New environmental baseline information	6
2.2 Corrections to the main ES	6
2.3 Topics included in the SES assessment	9
3 Assessment of changes	10
3.1 Cultural heritage	10
3.2 Ecology	12
Part 2: Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement	16
4 Summary of amendments	16
5 Assessment of amendments	18
5.1 Additional land required to widen an access track at Park Hall nature reserve (AP2-025-001)	18
6 Combined effects of amendments in this CFA due to changes in traffic flows	21
List of figures	
Figure 1: Locations of amendments in CFA25	17
List of tables	
Table 1: Summary of corrections to the main ES in CFA25	7
Table 2: Summary of amendments in CFA25	16

Structure of the HS2 Supplementary Environmental Statement and Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement

The Supplementary Environmental Statement (SES) and Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement (AP2 ES) comprises:

- non-technical summary (NTS). This provides a summary in non-technical language of the SES (Part 1) and AP2 ES (Part 2) and of any likely significant environmental effects, both beneficial and adverse, which are new or different to those reported in the High Speed Two (HS2) Phase One Environmental Statement (ES) submitted to Parliament in November 2013 in support of the hybrid Bill ('the Bill') for Phase One of HS2 (hereafter referred to as 'the main ES') and, where relevant, the AP ES submitted in September 2014 (hereafter referred to as 'the AP1 ES');
- Volume 1: introduction to the SES and the AP2 ES. This introduces the supplementary environmental information and design changes included within the SES and amendments which have resulted in the need to amend the Bill within the AP2 ES. It also explains any changes to the scope, methodology, assumptions and limitations required for the environmental impact assessment;
- Volume 2: community forum area (CFA) reports and map books. These describe the supplementary environmental information and design changes included within the SES (Part 1), amendments within the AP2 ES (Part 2) and report any new or different likely significant environmental effects arising from these changes in each CFA compared to those reported in the main ES and, where relevant, the AP1 ES. The main local alternatives that have been considered are described, where relevant;
- Volume 3: route-wide effects. This reports new or different likely significant route-wide effects arising from the supplementary environmental information and design changes included within the SES (Part 1) and amendments within the AP2 ES (Part 2) compared to those reported in the main ES and, where relevant, the AP1 ES;
- Volume 4: off-route effects. This reports new or different likely significant off-route effects arising from the amendments within the AP2 ES compared to those reported in the main ES and, where relevant, the AP1 ES;
- Volume 5: appendices and map books. This contains supporting environmental information and associated maps; and

SES and AP2 ES Volume 2 – CFA25, Castle Bromwich and Bromford

- glossary of terms and list of abbreviations. This contains any new or different terms and abbreviations used throughout the SES and AP2 ES compared to those included in the main ES and AP1 ES.

Structure of this report

This volume of the SES and AP2 ES is divided into CFA reports, which are in turn divided into two parts.

Part 1 provides supplementary environmental information relating to additional cultural heritage and ecology data concerning ancient woodlands.

Part 1 of each CFA report includes, where relevant:

- a description of the changes or updates within the CFA that have triggered the need for reassessment;
- an assessment of the environmental effects of the changes for relevant environmental topics considering the:
 - scope, assumptions and limitations of the SES assessment;
 - changes of relevance to the assessment;
 - environmental baseline;
 - effects arising during construction;
 - effects arising from operation; and
 - mitigation and residual effects; and
- a summary of any new or different likely residual significant effects as a result of the changes.

Part 2 provides environmental assessment information relating to proposed amendments to the design, which have resulted in the need to alter the powers conferred by the Bill. The following is included where relevant:

- a summary of the proposed amendments within each CFA that have triggered the need for reassessment;
- a description of each amendment;
- an assessment of the environmental effects of each amendment for relevant environmental topics considering the:
 - scope, assumptions and limitations of the AP2 ES assessment;
 - environmental baseline;
 - effects arising during construction;
 - effects arising from operation; and
 - mitigation and residual effects; and
- a summary of any new or different likely residual significant effects as a result of each proposed amendment.

1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Bill for High Speed Rail between London and the West Midlands was submitted to Parliament together with the main ES in November 2013. The AP1 ES, which was submitted in September 2014, contained generally minor amendments to the design of the original scheme (i.e. the scheme submitted in November 2013). The Bill and associated Additional Provisions to the Bill, if enacted by Parliament, will provide the powers to construct, operate and maintain Phase One of HS2.
- 1.1.2 Since the submission of the main ES and AP1 ES, a number of changes or updates to environmental information and scheme design or assumptions have occurred, which may lead to new or different significant effects. These effects, depending on the type of change, are reported in the SES (Part 1) or AP2 ES (Part 2) of this document.
- 1.1.3 The SES contains updated environmental baseline information and scheme information relating to changes that have occurred within the current limits and powers of the Bill, and therefore do not require an Additional Provision to the Bill. This includes:
- additional environmental baseline information;
 - changes to the design or construction assumptions which do not require changes to the Bill; and
 - corrections to the main ES.
- 1.1.4 The changes are described in Part 1 under a series of sub-headings and assessed on a topic by topic basis using the same approach adopted in the main ES.
- 1.1.5 The purpose of the SES is to provide an assessment of any new or different likely significant environmental effects arising from the changes described.
- 1.1.6 The AP2 ES reports the likely significant effects of amendments to the design of the scheme, which require the use of land outside the original limits of the Bill, additional access rights, or other extensions to the powers conferred by the Bill, making it necessary to submit an Additional Provision to the Bill.
- 1.1.7 The amendments assessed within AP2 ES relate to the requirement of additional land to widen an access track.
- 1.1.8 The AP2 ES assesses the amendment for all relevant topics. The purpose of the AP2 ES is to provide an assessment of any new or different likely significant environmental effects arising from the amendment.
- 1.1.9 The standard measures that will be used to mitigate likely significant adverse environmental effects during construction and operation of the scheme are described in the main ES, Volume 1, Section 9 and the draft Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) submitted in support of the Bill. Implementation of these measures has been assumed in this SES and AP2 ES.

1.1.10

It should be noted that, since submission of the Bill, the scheme design has been revised by SES design changes, amendments described in the AP1 ES (AP1 amendments) and amendments described in the AP2 ES (AP2 amendments). In order to differentiate between the original proposals and subsequent changes, the following terms are used:

- 'the original scheme' - the Bill scheme submitted to Parliament in November 2013, which was assessed in the main ES;
- 'the AP1 revised scheme' - the original scheme as amended by the AP1 submitted in September 2014;
- 'the SES scheme' - the original scheme with the design changes described in the SES; and
- 'the AP2 revised scheme' - the original scheme as amended by the SES scheme and AP2.

Part 1: Supplementary Environmental Statement

2 Summary of changes

2.1 New environmental baseline information

Cultural heritage

- 2.1.1 Since submission of the main ES, a further review of historic mapping and other available historic data sources has been carried out to verify the status of two areas of woodland in the Park Hall nature reserve which the Woodland Trust believes to be ancient woodland that is not currently listed on the ancient woodland inventory.
- 2.1.2 A summary of the supplementary cultural heritage information that is relevant to the SES assessment is included within Section 3 under 'Cultural heritage'. This consists solely of details relating to the status of ancient woodland.

Ecology

- 2.1.3 Surveys for bats have been undertaken in this area since production of the main ES (September 2013). In addition, a cultural heritage review has been undertaken at two areas of woodland in the Park Hall nature reserve to assist in determining if these areas represent ancient woodland.
- 2.1.4 Details of all survey work and desk-study information gathered since September 2013 which is relevant to this area is provided in Volume 5: SES and AP2 ES Appendix EC-001-004 and Volume 5: map series EC-06. Further detail of supplementary ecological information that is relevant to the SES assessment is included within Section 3 under 'Ecology'. This consists of details relating to the status of ancient woodland.
- 2.1.5 The additional baseline data relating to bats does not generate any new or different significant effects, and therefore is not reported in Section 3.

2.2 Corrections to the main ES

- 2.2.1 Since submission of the Bill, the need for a number of corrections in the contents of the main ES has been identified. Table 1: Summary of corrections to the main ES in CFA25 provides a list of those instances where there has been a need to correct the Volume 2 CFA report for Castle Bromwich and Bromford because of the potential to alter the significant environmental effects reported in the main ES or a factual inaccuracy relating to significant effects has been identified. The table gives the location of the correction in the main ES, the reason for the correction, replicates the text from the main ES, where applicable provides revised text, and identifies whether the correction changes a significant effect reported in the main ES. Where relevant, these corrections have been taken into account in the technical assessments contained within Section 3 of this SES.

Table 1: Summary of corrections to the main ES in CFA25

Reference in the main ES	Reason for correction	Text in the main ES	Revised text	Change to significant effects and mitigation
Ecology Paragraph 7.4.3, Volume 2, CFA 25 of the main ES	Incorrect area of broadleaved semi natural woodland in the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).	Park Hall SINC contains a mosaic of habitat types which includes 4.4ha broadleaved semi-natural woodland, of which approximately 3ha (69%) is ancient woodland and therefore irreplaceable.	Park Hall SINC contains a mosaic of habitat types which includes approximately 5.8ha of broadleaved semi-natural woodland, of which approximately 3ha (52%) is ancient woodland and therefore irreplaceable.	No. The correction only relates to the baseline. There is no change to the permanent adverse effect on the integrity of the site, which is significant at the county/metropolitan level.
Ecology Paragraph 7.4.9, Volume 2, CFA 25 of the main ES	Incorrect area of broadleaved semi-natural woodland lost to the original scheme in the Castle Bromwich and Bromford area.	Earthworks and diversion of the National Grid overhead power line within Park Hall SINC, and extensive groundworks in the floodplain of the River Tame SINC will result in the permanent loss of approximately 0.7ha of ancient woodland and 2.7ha of broadleaved semi-natural woodland of the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) community, <i>W10 Quercus robur-Pteridium aquilinum – Rubus fruticosus</i> woodland. This will result in a permanent adverse effect on the conservation status of this habitat which will be significant at the county/metropolitan level.	Earthworks and diversion of the National Grid overhead power line within Park Hall SINC, and extensive groundworks in the floodplain of the River Tame SINC will result in the permanent loss of approximately 0.7ha of ancient woodland and 3.1ha of broadleaved semi-natural woodland of the NVC community, <i>W10 Quercus robur-Pteridium aquilinum – Rubus fruticosus</i> woodland. This will result in a permanent adverse effect on the conservation status of this habitat which will be significant at the county/metropolitan level.	Yes. The increase in the permanent loss of broadleaved semi-natural woodland results in a different permanent adverse effect on the conservation status of this habitat. However, the effect will remain significant at the county/metropolitan level, as reported in the main ES, Volume 2, CFA25, Section 7.
Ecology Paragraph 7.4.29, Volume 2, CFA	Incorrect area of net gain of semi-natural woodland in this section	Together, these areas of woodland planting will result in a net gain of 0.8ha of broadleaved	Together, these areas of woodland planting will result in a net gain of approximately 0.3ha of broadleaved	No. There is no change to the residual

Reference in the main ES	Reason for correction	Text in the main ES	Revised text	Change to significant effects and mitigation
25 of the main ES	of the proposed scheme (CFA25).	semi-natural woodland within this section of the scheme.	semi-natural woodland within this section of the scheme.	adverse effect on the conservation of status of broadleaved semi-natural woodland reported in the main ES, Volume 2, CFA25, Section 7.

2.3 Topics included in the SES assessment

- 2.3.1 The changes relating to the proposed designation of ancient woodland, as described in Section 3, result in a different significant effect in respect of cultural heritage; and ecology.

3 Assessment of changes

3.1 Cultural heritage

Introduction

3.1.1 This section of the report describes the environmental baseline in relation to cultural heritage that is relevant to the assessment. In addition, it identifies any new or different likely significant cultural heritage environmental effects as a result of the changes introduced in Section 2, compared to the original scheme.

3.1.2 The assessment scope, key assumptions and limitations for the cultural heritage assessment are as set out in Volume 1, the SMR (Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-000/1) and the SMR Addendum (Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-000/2) of the main ES.

Changes of relevance to this assessment

3.1.3 The likely addition of Parkhill Wood and Langley Hill Wood to the ancient woodland inventory is relevant to cultural heritage in this assessment.

Environmental baseline

Existing baseline

3.1.4 The cultural heritage baseline for the assessment takes into account information collected in support of the main ES, which included walk-over survey, geophysical survey, remote-sensing data, and data from national and local registers. A full list of heritage assets is provided in Volume 2, CFA report 25, Section 6 of the main ES. In addition, the baseline has been updated with the results of a further review of historic mapping and other available historic data sources to verify the status of a number of sites which the Woodland Trust believe to be ancient woodland.

3.1.5 A summary of the baseline information relevant to the assessment of new or different effects is provided below. For those assets described in the main ES, further details are provided in the baseline reports, gazetteer of heritage assets, impact assessment tables and survey reports in Volume 5 of the main ES and are shown on maps CH-01 to CH-03.

Designated assets

3.1.6 Parkhall Wood, which comprises two separate lengths of ancient woodland, is located within the Park Hall nature reserve, partially within land required for construction of the scheme.

3.1.7 Two additional areas of woodland within Park Hall nature reserve, Langley Hill Wood and Parkhill Wood, were reported within the main ES as being non-designated assets of 'historic interest'. Taking account of new baseline information, these areas of woodland are likely to be added to the ancient woodland inventory. For the purposes of the assessment they are considered as ancient woodland, therefore increasing the value of these assets from low to high.

Future baseline

Construction (2017)

- 3.1.8 The future baseline for construction in 2017 remains unchanged from that reported in the main ES Volume 2, CFA 25, Section 6.

Operation (2026)

- 3.1.9 The future baseline for operation in 2026 remains unchanged from that reported in the main ES Volume 2, CFA 25, Section 6.

Effects arising during construction

Avoidance and mitigation measures

- 3.1.10 The assessment assumes implementation of the measures set out within the draft CoCP (Volume 5: Appendix CT-003-000 of the main ES), which includes management measures that will be implemented for assets that are to be retained within the land required for the construction of the original scheme as well as a programme for archaeological investigation and recording, prior to construction.

Assessment of impacts and effects

Temporary effects

- 3.1.11 In relation to Parkhill and Langley Hill woods, the main ES does not report any temporary effects.
- 3.1.12 The proposed addition of Langley Hill and Parkhill woods to the ancient woodland inventory will not give rise to a new or different significant effect and will not change the level of significance of the effects reported in the main ES.

Permanent effects

- 3.1.13 In relation to Parkhill and Langley Hill woods, the main ES reports woodland loss which constitutes high adverse impacts and moderate adverse effects. The proposed increase in value of Parkhill and Langley Hill woods, from assets of low to high value, as a result of the proposed designation as ancient woodland, will give rise to a different significant effect. The level of significance of the effects reported in the main ES will change from moderate to major.

Other mitigation measures

- 3.1.14 No mitigation measures additional to those described in the avoidance and mitigation measures have been proposed.

Cumulative effects

- 3.1.15 There are no new or different likely significant cumulative effects for cultural heritage as a result of the additional baseline data acting in combination with any committed development.

Summary of likely residual significant effects

- 3.1.16 The proposed increase in value of Parkhill and Langley Hill woods, from assets of low to high value, as a result of the proposed designation as ancient woodland, will give rise to a different significant effect. The level of significance of the effects reported in the main ES will change from moderate to major.

Effects arising from operation

- 3.1.17 There are no new or different significant operational effects for cultural heritage as a result of the proposed amendment, in comparison with the main ES.

3.2 Ecology

Introduction

- 3.2.1 This section of the report describes the environmental baseline in relation to ecology that is relevant to the assessment. It then identifies any new or different likely significant environmental effects as a result of the changes introduced in Section 2, compared to the original scheme. Consideration is given to the potential for impacts on species, habitats and sites designated on the basis of their importance for nature conservation.

Scope, assumptions and limitations

- 3.2.2 The assessment scope for ecology is as set out in Volume 1 of the SES and AP2 ES. The key assumptions and limitations, and the methodology for determining significance of effects are as set out in Volume 1, the SMR (Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-000/01) and the SMR Addendum (Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-000/02) of the main ES.
- 3.2.3 To address any limitations in data, a precautionary baseline has been considered according to the guidance reported in the main ES, Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-000/2. This constitutes a 'reasonable worst case' basis for the subsequent assessment. The precautionary approach to the assessment that has been adopted identifies the likely significant ecological effects of the SES scheme.

Changes of relevance to this assessment

- 3.2.4 The only change which is relevant to the ecology assessment is the updated baseline information relating to Parkhill Wood and Langley Hill Wood (both of which are within Park Hall nature reserve), indicating that these areas of woodland are likely to be of ancient origin and are likely to be added to the ancient woodland inventory.

Environmental baseline

Existing baseline

- 3.2.5 The ecological baseline for the assessment takes into account baseline information collected in support of the main ES, Volume 2, CFA Report 25, Section 7, which included field survey data, aerial photography and relevant existing information gathered from national organisations and from regional and local sources.

- 3.2.6 A summary of the baseline information relevant to the assessment is provided below. The assessment also takes into account the review of historic mapping and other available historic data sources which have been carried out to verify the status of two areas of woodland in the Park Hall nature reserve.

Designated sites

- 3.2.7 Park Hall Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) is designated as a SINC for its broadleaved semi-natural woodland (including Parkhall Wood, which is listed on the ancient woodland inventory), scrub, marshy grassland, swamp vegetation and water bodies, as well as the plants and aquatic invertebrates, amphibians and birds these habitats support. It is reported in the main ES as being of county/metropolitan value.
- 3.2.8 Two additional areas within Park Hall SINC, Parkhill Wood and Langley Hill Wood, were previously reported within the main ES as showing some of the characteristics of ancient woodland. Review of historic data sources confirms that these are likely to be of ancient origin and added to the ancient woodland inventory. For the purposes of the SES assessment they are therefore considered as ancient woodland. This results in an increase in the area of ancient woodland within Park Hall SINC from 3ha to 5.8ha.

Habitats

- 3.2.9 Broadleaved semi-natural woodland occurs in three areas of Park Hall SINC, Parkhall Wood, Parkhill Wood and Langley Hill Wood. The broadleaved semi-natural woodland is in good ecological condition and was reported in the main ES as being of county/metropolitan value. As described above, the review of historic data sources has confirmed that an additional 2.8ha of this woodland is likely to be of ancient origin. However, this does not alter the valuation reported in the main ES.

Protected and/or notable species

- 3.2.10 There has been no change to the baseline information relating to species receptors as set out in Volume 2, CFA25 of the main ES.

Future baseline

Construction (2017)

- 3.2.11 The future baseline for construction in 2017 remains unchanged from that reported in the main ES Volume 2, CFA 25, Section 7.

Operation (2026)

- 3.2.12 The future baseline for operation in 2026 remains unchanged from that reported in the main ES Volume 2, CFA 25, Section 7.

Effects arising during construction

Avoidance and mitigation measures

- 3.2.13 The assessment assumes implementation of the measures set out within the draft CoCP (Volume 5: Appendix CT-003-000 of the main ES), which includes translocation of protected species where appropriate.

Assessment of impacts and effects

Designated sites

- 3.2.14 The main ES reported a significant adverse effect on the functional integrity of Park Hall SINC, owing to the loss and fragmentation of ancient woodland, broadleaved semi-natural woodland as well as those other habitat types for which the site is designated, which is significant at the county/metropolitan level.
- 3.2.15 The likely addition of Parkhill Wood and Langley Hill Wood to the Ancient Woodland Inventory will result in a different significant effect on the functional integrity of Park Hall SINC but will not change the level of significance of the effect on this designated site reported in the main ES.

Habitats

- 3.2.16 The main ES reported a permanent loss of 0.7ha of ancient woodland and 2.7ha of broadleaved semi-natural woodland within Park Hall SINC (corrected to 3.1ha in Table 1). This would result in a permanent adverse effect on the conservation status of this habitat which would be significant at the county/metropolitan level.
- 3.2.17 The likely change in status of the two areas of woodland will result in 5.8ha (100%) of the woodland within Park Hall SINC being classified as ancient and therefore irreplaceable. This would give rise to a different significant effect to that which is reported in the main ES, however the effect would remain significant at the county/metropolitan level.

Protected and/or notable species

- 3.2.18 There is no change to the baseline information relating to species receptors as set out in Volume 2, CFA25 of the main ES. There will be no new or different significant effects on protected species.

Cumulative effects

- 3.2.19 There are no new or different likely significant cumulative effects for ecology as a result of the additional baseline data acting in combination with any committed development.

Other mitigation measures

- 3.2.20 To compensate for the increased loss of ancient woodland, soils from Parkhill Wood and Langley Hill Wood will be translocated to areas within the existing limits of the Bill. This would include the existing area of horse paddocks which lie adjacent to Park Hall SINC and the B4118 Birmingham Road, where 3.1ha of native broadleaved woodland planting will be undertaken as detailed in the main ES.

Summary of likely residual significant effects

- 3.2.21 The addition of 2.8ha of woodland at Parkhill Wood and Langley Hill Wood to the ancient woodland inventory will result in a different adverse residual effect that remains significant at the county/metropolitan level.

Effects arising from operation

- 3.2.22 There are no new or different significant operational effects for ecology as a result of the proposed amendment in comparison with the main ES.

Part 2: Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement

4 Summary of amendments

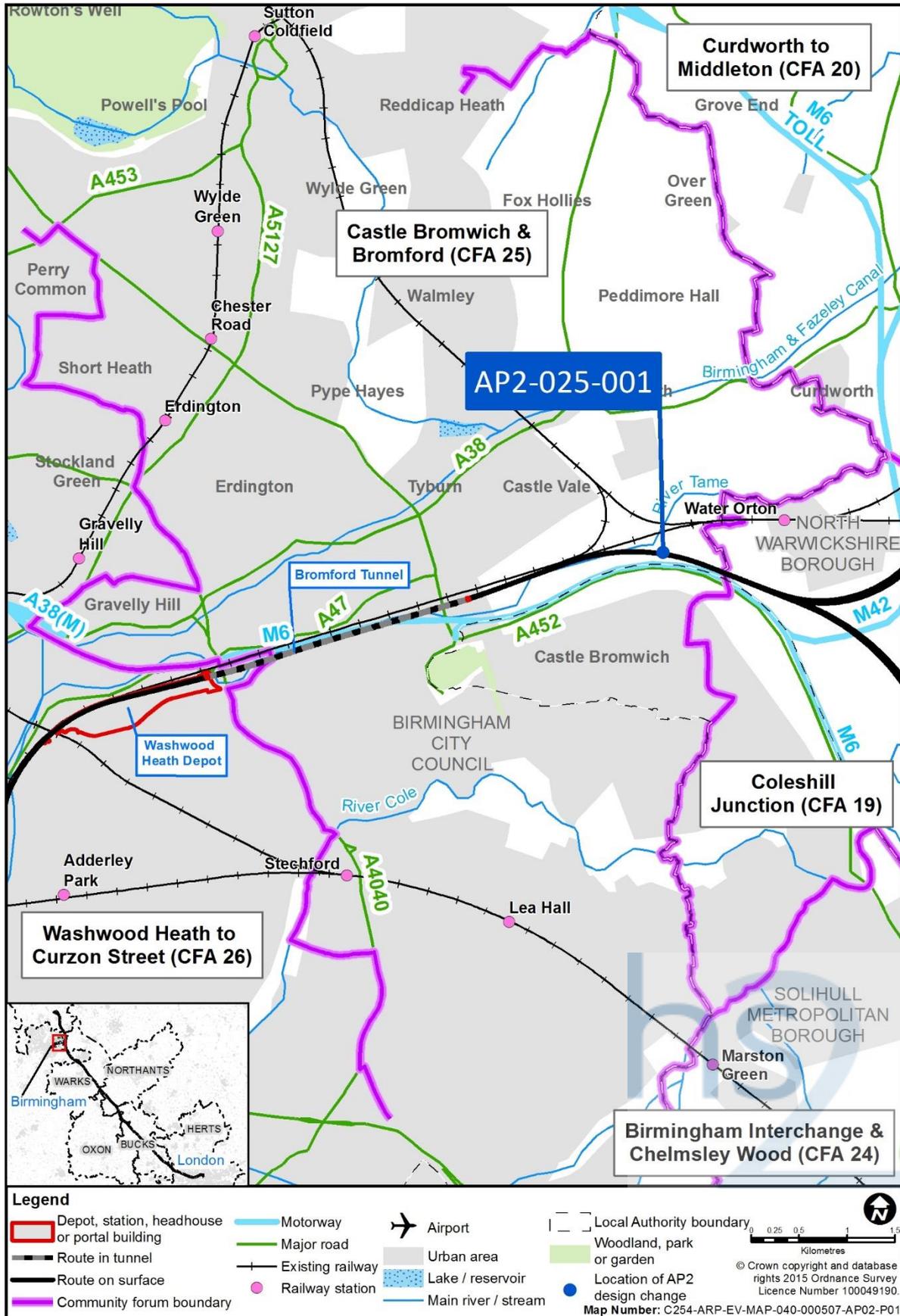
4.1.1 Table 2 provides a summary of the amendments in the Castle Bromwich and Bromford CFA (CFA 25) and Figure 1 shows the locations.

Table 2: Summary of amendments in CFA25

Name of amendment	Description of the original scheme or AP1 revised scheme	Description of the AP2 revised scheme
Additional land required to widen an access track at Park Hall nature reserve. (AP2-025-001)	Realignment of an existing access track, from the B4118 Birmingham Road into the Park Hall nature reserve and provision of a new access track.	Upgrade of an existing section of track, not included in the original scheme, to a minimum of 3.5m wide, with passing bays and 1.5m verges. Approximately 320m ² of additional land is required permanently to facilitate the widening.

SES and AP2 ES Volume 2 – CFA25, Castle Bromwich and Bromford

Figure 1: Locations of amendments in CFA25



5 Assessment of amendments

5.1 Additional land required to widen an access track at Park Hall nature reserve (AP2-025-001)

- 5.1.1 The Bill provides for the realignment of an existing access track from the B4118 Birmingham Road into the Park Hall nature reserve, located between the proposed Water Orton cutting and the M6 motorway, and the provision of a new access track. The new access track would pass under the proposed River Tame viaduct and provide access to a proposed balancing pond adjacent to Park Hall Wood embankment. The realigned existing track and the new track would be widened to a minimum width of 3.5m and include passing bays, spaced approximately 200m apart. The access track would be used as a haul route during construction, and following construction, would provide access to the nature reserve, in the same way the existing track does, and for maintenance of the proposed balancing pond (see grid references D6 to F6 on map CT-05/06-135b in the main ES Volume 2, CFA 25 Map Book).
- 5.1.2 Since submission of the Bill, it has been decided to widen an additional section of the existing track, not included in the original scheme, to a minimum of 3.5m wide, with passing bays and 1.5m verges (see grid references D6 on map CT-05-135b in SES and AP2 ES CFA 25 Map Book). There will be no change in existing ground level associated with the upgrade to the access track. Approximately 320m² of additional land, comprising scrub habitat, is required permanently to facilitate the widening of the access track which is outside the original limits of the Bill, hence the need for this amendment. This section of the access track will also be used as a haul route during construction and retained following construction to provide access to the nature reserve and for maintenance of the proposed balancing pond. The duration of construction will be similar to that reported in the main ES.
- 5.1.3 The upgrade to the existing section of the access track is not considered to make changes that require a reassessment of the effects or proposed mitigation as set out in the main ES with respect to agriculture, forestry and soils; air quality; cultural heritage; community; land quality; landscape and visual impact assessment; socio-economics; sound, noise and vibration; traffic and transport; and water resources and flood risk assessment. However, there were changes where reassessment was considered to be relevant in respect of ecology.

Ecology

Scope, assumptions and limitations

- 5.1.4 The assessment scope for ecology is as set out in Volume 1 of the SES and AP2 ES. The key assumptions and limitations, and the methodology for determining significance of effects are as set out in Volume 1, the SMR (Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-000/01) and the SMR Addendum (Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-000/02) of the main ES.

Existing baseline

- 5.1.5 The ecological baseline of the land required for the amendment has been based on field data collated for the main ES.

- 5.1.6 A summary of the baseline information relevant to the assessment of the amendment is provided below. This takes account of any relevant new or updated baseline information provided in Volume 5 EC-002-004. For those receptors described in the main ES, further details are provided in Volume 2, CFA25, Section 7 and in Volume 5, including maps EC-01 to EC-12.

Designated sites

- 5.1.7 Park Hall SINC is designated for its broadleaved semi-natural woodland (including Parkhall Wood, which is listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory), scrub, marshy grassland, swamp vegetation and water bodies, as well as the plants and aquatic invertebrates, amphibians and birds these habitats support. It is of county/metropolitan value. As reported in the SES, for the purposes of the assessment additional areas within Park Hall SINC, Parkhill Wood and Langley Hill Wood, are considered as ancient. This will result in an increase in the area of ancient woodland within Park Hall SINC from 3ha to 5.8ha, however, it does not alter the value of the receptor.

Habitats

- 5.1.8 Broadleaved semi-natural woodland (including 5.8ha of ancient woodland) occurs in three areas of Park Hall SINC, Parkhall Wood, Parkhill Wood and Langley Hill Wood. The broadleaved semi-natural woodland is in good ecological condition and is of county/metropolitan value.
- 5.1.9 Scrub habitat occurs within the SINC, including the area permanently required for the amendment. The scrub habitat is of local/parish value.

Protected and/or notable species

- 5.1.10 There has been no change to the baseline information relating to species receptors as set out in Volume 2, CFA25 of the main ES.

Effects arising during construction

Avoidance and mitigation measures

- 5.1.11 The assessment assumes implementation of the measures set out within the draft CoCP (Volume 5: Appendix CT-003-000 of the main ES), which includes translocation of protected species where appropriate.

Designated sites

- 5.1.12 The SES reports a significant adverse effect on the functional integrity of Park Hall SINC, owing to the loss and fragmentation of ancient woodland, broadleaved semi-natural woodland as well as those other habitat types for which the site is designated, which is significant at the county/metropolitan level.
- 5.1.13 The proposed widening of the access track will not result in a new or a different significant effect as the additional 320m² of habitat loss is small in extent and would affect only scrub habitat, which is a common habitat type in both the local and national context.

Habitats

- 5.1.14 The amendment to the existing section of the access track will result in an additional loss of 320m² scrub to that reported in the main ES. There will be no additional loss of broadleaved semi-natural or ancient woodland.
- 5.1.15 The proposed widening of the access track will 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.

Protected and/or Notable Species

- 5.1.16 It is unlikely that the widening of the access track will result in any other new or different species at more than the local/parish level.

Cumulative effects

- 5.1.17 There are no new or different likely cumulative effects for ecology as a result of the proposed amendment acting in combination with another amendment in AP2.

Mitigation and residual effects

Other mitigation measures

- 5.1.18 As part of the mitigation measures in this area the main ES makes provision for 3.1ha of broadleaved woodland to be created within an area which lies adjacent to Park Hall SINC and the B4118 Birmingham Road. No additional mitigation measures (i.e. in addition to those identified in the main ES and SES) are required.

Summary of likely residual effects

- 5.1.19 The proposed widening of the access track at Park Hall nature reserve will not give rise to a different significant effect on the Park Hall SINC and will not change the significance of the effects which is reported as being at the county/metropolitan level in the main ES.

Effects arising from operation

- 5.1.20 The proposed widening of the access track will not give rise to a new or different significant effect on ecological receptors during operation and will not change the level of significance of the effects reported in the main ES.

6 Combined effects of amendments in this CFA due to changes in traffic flows

- 6.1.1 All of the effects of the changes proposed in this CFA have been described above and there are no further combined effects to report.

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited

One Canada Square
London E14 5AB

T 020 7944 4908

E hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

X31