

High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe)

Environmental Statement

Volume 5: Technical appendices

CA5: South Cheshire

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

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Volume 5: Technical appendices

CA5: South Cheshire

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Department
for Transport

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1 Introduction

1.1.1 This document is the appendix to the landscape and visual assessment for the South Cheshire community area 5 (CA5), it comprises five Parts:

- a summary of engagement with technical stakeholders (Part 1);
- a landscape character assessment (Part 2);
- a visual assessment with photomontages (Part 3);
- assessment matrices (Part 4); and
- references (Part 5)

1.1.2 This appendix should be read alongside the Volume 2, South Cheshire community area report; maps referred to throughout this appendix are contained in the Volume 5, Landscape and Visual Map Book.

Part 1: Engagement with technical stakeholders

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This section describes engagement that has been undertaken with technical stakeholders in relation to the Landscape and visual assessment for the South Cheshire area.

Table 1: Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder	Comment	Response
Cheshire East Council (CEC) 24 March 2016	CEC requested additional viewpoint/photomontage locations at Hough and Basford, as well as Chorlton and Wychwood Park.	Additional photomontage locations provided and assessed at Chorlton and Wychwood Park. Those at Hough and Basford have been superseded by subsequent scheme alterations.

Part 2: Landscape character assessment

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This section describes the landscape baseline and assesses the effects on landscape, with reference to the Landscape Character Areas (LCA) defined for the South Cheshire area. A summary of the landscape baseline and significant landscape effects is provided in Volume 2, South Cheshire community area report, Section 11. The LCA Maps LV-02-226b to LV-02-231 (Volume 5, Landscape and Visual Map Book), should also be read in conjunction with this section.

2.1.2 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. These are ordered from south to north along the route of the Proposed Scheme;
- description of future baseline conditions, where relevant; and
- assessment of the effects of the Proposed Scheme on the landscape at construction, year 1, year 15 and year 60.

2.2 Approach to the landscape characterisation

2.2.1 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 national¹ and county level^{2,3}. A wide variety of spatially referenced data were also reviewed in developing the landscape characterisation, including Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), Phase 1 Habitat Survey, geological and hydrological data and aerial photography. The national landscape character context is illustrated on Map LV-00-101 (Volume 5, Landscape and Visual Map Book). The county Landscape Character Types (LCT) of relevance to the South Cheshire area are summarised below:

- Lower Farms and Woods: Defined by a low lying, gently rolling topography overlaid by a mix of medieval and post medieval field patterns, a high density of woodlands and areas of mosses and meres resulting from glacial deposits. Settlement is a mix of dispersed farms, nucleated villages and hamlets;
- Ancient Clay Farmlands: A landscape defined by an irregular pattern of hedged fields with ancient hedgerows and oaks, and fragments of former heathland, with a dispersed settlement pattern of small towns.

2.2.2 Descriptions of all the LCA identified within the South Cheshire area are provided overleaf. The LCA are shown on Maps LV-02-226b to LV-02-231 (Volume 5, Landscape and Visual Map Book). A summary description of the LCA most likely to be affected is included in the Volume 2, South Cheshire community area report, Section 11.

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

¹ Natural England (2013-2014), *National Character Area profiles*.

² Staffordshire County Council (1996), *Planning for Landscape Change Supplementary Planning Guidance*, Volume 3

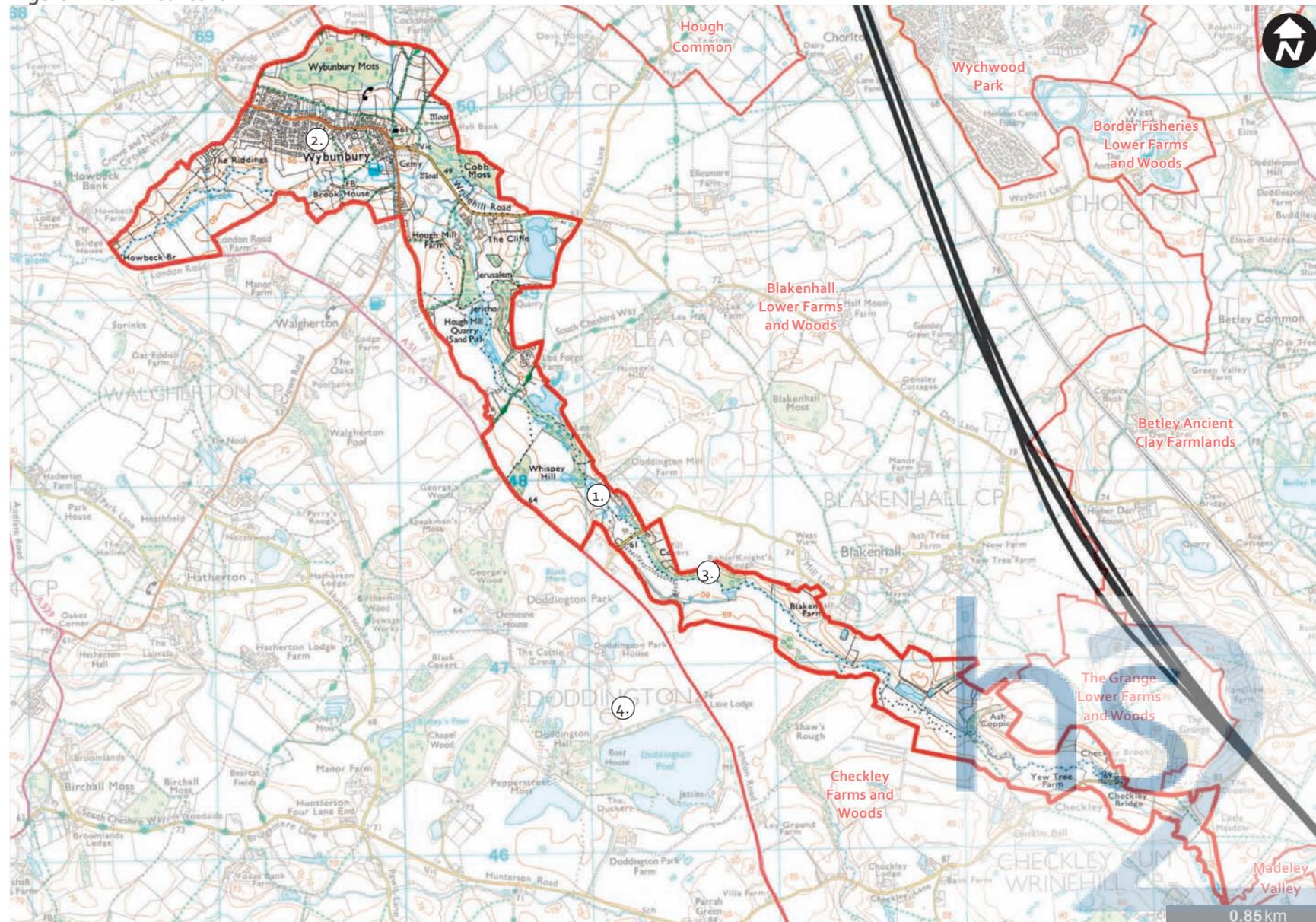
³ Cheshire County Council (2008), *Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment*

Checkley Brook Lower Farms and Woods LCA

Landscape character baseline description

The Checkley Brook Lower Farms and Woods LCA is defined by the narrow meandering wooded valley of Checkley Brook (1) and the village of Wybunbury (2). The course of Checkley Brook runs through an area of hedged pastures, and the tree cover and landform of the valley add interest to the overall scene. Settlement along Checkley Brook is infrequent with a few isolated properties situated along Checkley Lane which crosses the southern end of the valley. The scenery is also influenced by the natural landscape of Robin Knight's Rough Ancient Woodland (3), and to the south by the historic park and garden of the c. 18th century Doddington Hall (4). Vehicular access is limited to Checkley Lane to the south and also local roads, which means much of the valley has a sense of seclusion, remoteness and tranquillity.

Figure 1: LCA in context



Key Plan



Key

- Proposed Scheme
- LCA boundary
- 1. Checkley Brook
- 2. Wybunbury Village
- 3. Robin Knight's Rough
- 4. Doddington Hall

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Principal vegetation



Principal vegetation key



Figure 2: Checkley Brook and Wybunbury Moss NNR



Key value characteristics - Landscape condition and natural landscape: This LCA comprises a wooded stream valley running through traditional pastures with a few isolated farm houses. The traditional landscape pattern is largely intact. Woodland belts connect into the streamside vegetation and the ancient woodland adjoins the western side of the valley. Current and remnant sand and gravel workings, including a number of flooded sites add further interest.

Figure 3: Checkley Brook, from south of Wybunbury



Key value characteristics - Perception of the landscape: Checkley Brook occupies a secluded, remote and tranquil wooded valley which is generally remote from built up areas and has limited public access.

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the proposed scheme

Figure 4: Checkley Brook running through Robin Knight's Rough



Landscape character assessment

Description of overall landscape value: This traditional rural landscape is valued for its natural and unspoilt scenic qualities rather than from the presence of specific designated sites or recreational value. The ancient woodland at Robin Knight's Rough and flooded former sand and gravel extraction sites are valuable features. Some isolated properties are situated along Checkley Lane which crosses the southern end of the valley but these have little influence on the perception of the landscape which is generally secluded, remote and tranquil. To the north of the valley, the landscape opens out to Wybunbury village which has a linear character extending along the B5071 Jack Mills Way. To the north of Wybunbury village, the Wybunbury Moss National Nature Reserve is locally important. Overall the value of the landscape is medium-high.

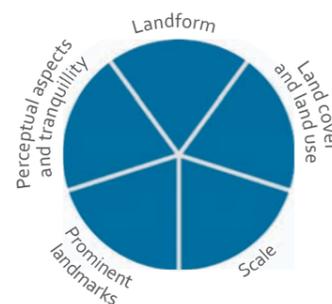
Description of overall landscape susceptibility: Features of this landscape which are vulnerable to large-scale infrastructure development are the rolling landform, narrow meandering stream valley running through small-scale pastures of generally high scenic quality, local settlement and the internationally designated Wybunbury Moss Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar site. Overall the susceptibility of the landscape is medium-high.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: This is a small-scale traditional landscape with well preserved intact natural features, including a lowland raised bog. The area is undisturbed and includes ancient woodland and settlement. There is a strong sense of seclusion, tranquillity and remoteness. Overall the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the Proposed Scheme is medium-high.

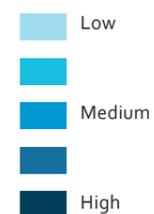
Value



Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: The southern end of the narrow meandering wooded valley of Checkley Brook will be close to construction works associated with the Checkley North embankment and Checkley Lane realignment and overbridge. This will have some slight indirect effects on the perceptual aspects of this scenic, intact and relatively tranquil landscape through noise disturbance, but the magnitude of change will be negligible. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 1: The magnitude of change will be negligible as the only impact will be intermittent noise from distant passing trains. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 15: The magnitude of change will be negligible as the only impact will be intermittent noise from distant passing trains. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

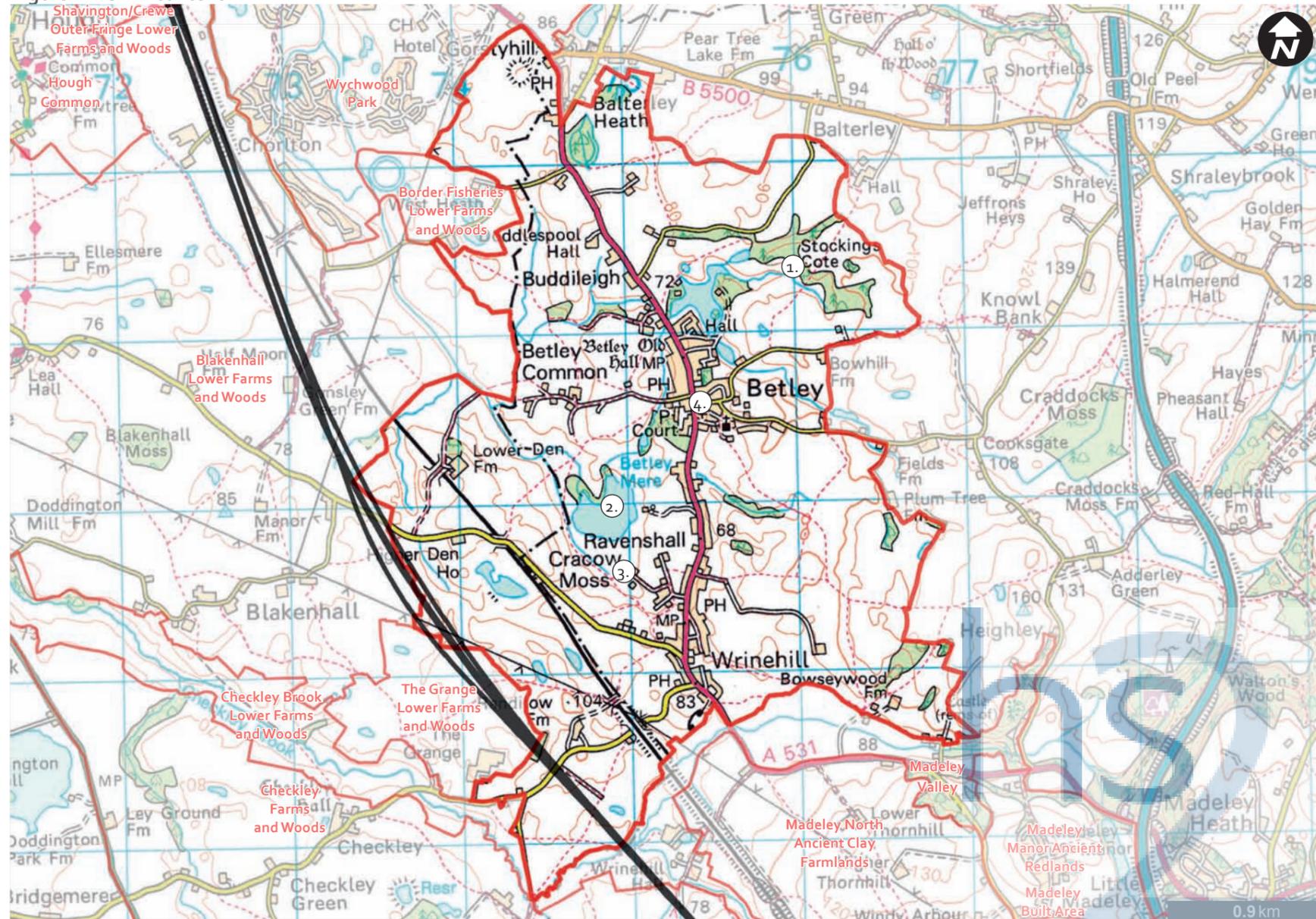
Year 60: The magnitude of change will be negligible as the only impact will be intermittent noise from distant passing trains. Effects will be negligible (non-significant)

Betley Ancient Clay Farmlands LCA

Landscape character baseline description

The Betley Ancient Clay Farmlands LCA is a complex and diverse historic landscape with a rolling landform and largely intact pattern of mainly small-scale pastures and arable fields, including early co-axial fields near Betley Mere. Fields are bounded by robust hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees and sinuous woodland belts, including Stockings Cote (1) and Bowsey Wood Ancient Woodlands. The terrain is varied with hollows and small valleys adding further visual interest and creating secluded and tranquil areas. Meres, ponds and watercourses are common and the landscape is enriched around Betley Mere SSSI (2) and Cracow Moss (3) by lowland bog and other wetland habitats. Settlement is largely concentrated along the A531 Main Road and Church Lane, with a dispersed pattern of individual farmsteads and properties elsewhere. The historic village of Betley (4) with its strong vernacular character, conservation area and listed buildings, is centrally located in the LCA and is enhanced by a network of attractive hedged lanes, tracks and Public Rights of Way (PRoW), as well as by the landscape around Betley Mere. This is a locally important recreational landscape with Betley Mere and Brookside Fisheries and extensive PRoW network.

Figure 1: LCA in context



Key Plan

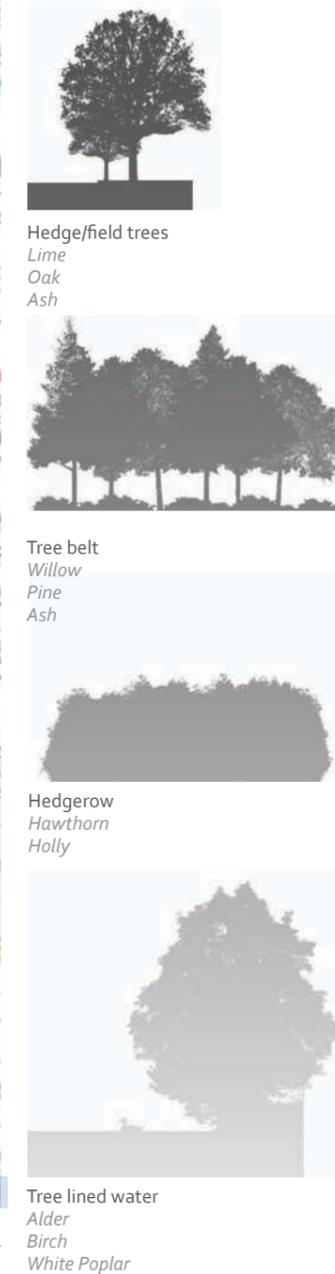


Key

- Proposed Scheme
- LCA boundary
- 1. Stockings Cote Ancient Woodland
- 2. Betley Mere SSSI
- 3. Cracow Moss
- 4. Betley

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Principal vegetation



Principal vegetation key

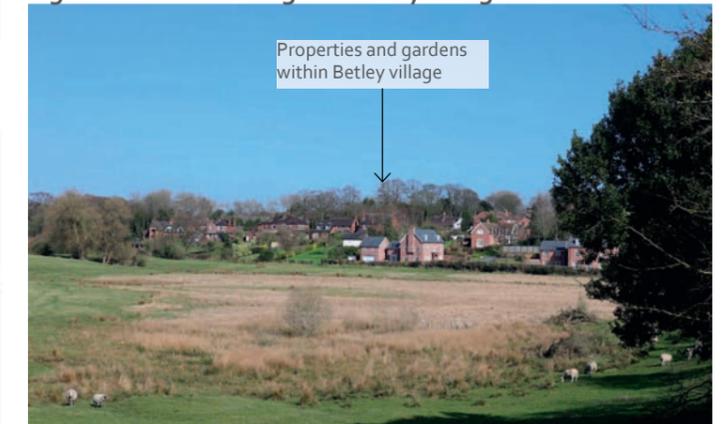


Figure 2: Rolling pastures west of Betley Village



Key value characteristics - Historic landscape: This is a complex small-scale rural landscape of rolling pastures, arable fields and hydrological features with a strong time depth. The field patterns and meandering woodland belts relate to historic ownership boundaries. The historic village of Betley has a number of listed buildings and a conservation area. The high prevalence of mature trees and well stocked gardens within Betley, help integrate the village into the surrounding natural landscape.

Figure 3: Western fringe of Betley Village



Key value characteristics - Perception of the landscape: A scenic landscape with historic built settlements and diverse natural features, which is in parts secluded, remote and tranquil, notably around the wetlands at Betley Mere.

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the proposed scheme

Figure 4: Pastures, Betley Mere and woodland from PRoW south-west of Betley



Prominent landmarks: The Betley Mere SSSI, is a valuable landscape feature, which is highly susceptible to the Proposed Scheme as it is irreplaceable.

Landform: The varied but often rolling landform is susceptible to the Proposed Scheme as it would require more cuttings and embankments which may be difficult to integrate into the current landform.

Land cover and land use: Mature trees and hedgerows are frequent in the landscape and have strong links with the woodland areas. Mature trees are highly susceptible to the Proposed Scheme as their size and maturity means they are irreplaceable in the short to medium term.

Human influence: There are few detracting features. The WCML lies to the west beyond the boundary of the LCA and electricity pylons, telecommunication masts and occasional wind turbines are visible in distant views. However, these are not dominant and have little effect on susceptibility.

Landscape character assessment

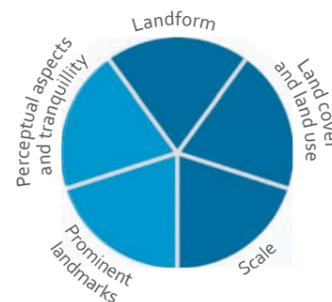
Description of overall landscape value: This is a scenic, intact and complex landscape which provides the setting for the historic village of Betley. Important natural features include Stockings Cote Ancient Woodland, Betley Mere SSSI and Cracow Moss which are accessible via an extensive PRoW network. This is a locally important recreational landscape with Betley Mere, Brookside Fisheries and an extensive PRoW network. Overhead power, wind turbines and telecommunication lines are present but are not dominant features. Overall, given the above, the value of the landscape is medium-high.

Description of overall landscape susceptibility: This is a rolling well-wooded landscape, with a strongly defined pattern of small to medium-scale fields that contribute to areas which are intimate and secluded in character and which are susceptible to loss or erosion from the Proposed Scheme. The many natural features, including Stockings Cote Ancient Woodland, mature trees, ponds and streams as well as Betley Mere SSSI and Cracow Moss, create a diverse landscape, and contribute to the sense of tranquillity. Many of these features are irreplaceable and are therefore susceptible to the Proposed Scheme. There are some electricity pylons, telecommunications masts and individual wind turbines within the wider area, although these do not dominate the character. Overall, given the above, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium-high.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: This complex, distinctive, historic and highly diverse landscape has intact, protected and designated features. Betley village with its conservation area and many listed buildings has a strong historic character. The area is highly valued as a local recreational resource with a good PRoW network. Although there are some localised detracting features, these are not prominent. Overall, given the above, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the Proposed Scheme is medium-high.

Value

Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: The western edge of this large LCA will be directly and indirectly impacted by construction activity associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the Checkley North embankment, HS2 spurs, new section of WCML, embankments and cuttings, realignment of Checkley Lane and Den Lane, Checkley Lane overbridge and Den Lane east and west viaducts (and associated cranes), Blakenhall Southbound spur embankment, landscape bunds, and a borrow pit north of Checkley Lane. The nature and scale of the works will completely alter the local landscape, with removal of trees and hedgerows, loss of the mainly small-scale field pattern and large-scale changes to the local landform. The presence of site construction routes, satellite compounds, construction plant and material stockpiles will further alter the character of the farmland. In the context of the LCA as a whole the magnitude of change will be medium. Effects are moderate adverse (significant).

Year 1: The Proposed Scheme, including the HS2 spurs, skirts the western edge of the large LCA, initially on the Checkley North embankment and Checkley Lane overbridge and then in a series of shallow cuttings. There will be some direct effects, with changes to the landform and vegetation loss near Checkley Lane, north of The Grange and near Den Lane, but these will be very localised. Indirect effects will include intermittent visual and noise disturbance from passing trains. The borrow pit site north of Checkley Lane will be returned to cultivation following reinstatement of the original landform and hedgerow field boundaries, although the reinstated hedgerows will be immature. In the context of the large size of this LCA, most of which will be unaffected, the magnitude of change will be low. Effects are minor adverse (non-significant).

Year 15: As the mitigation planting alongside the different elements of the Proposed Scheme, including the Checkley North embankment and Checkley Lane overbridge, starts to mature, the effects on the landscape will lessen as the new structures and earth formations become more screened and integrated within the landscape. The hedgerows on the former borrow pit site will have matured and the landscape will appear as it was before construction. The magnitude of change will reduce to negligible (non-significant).

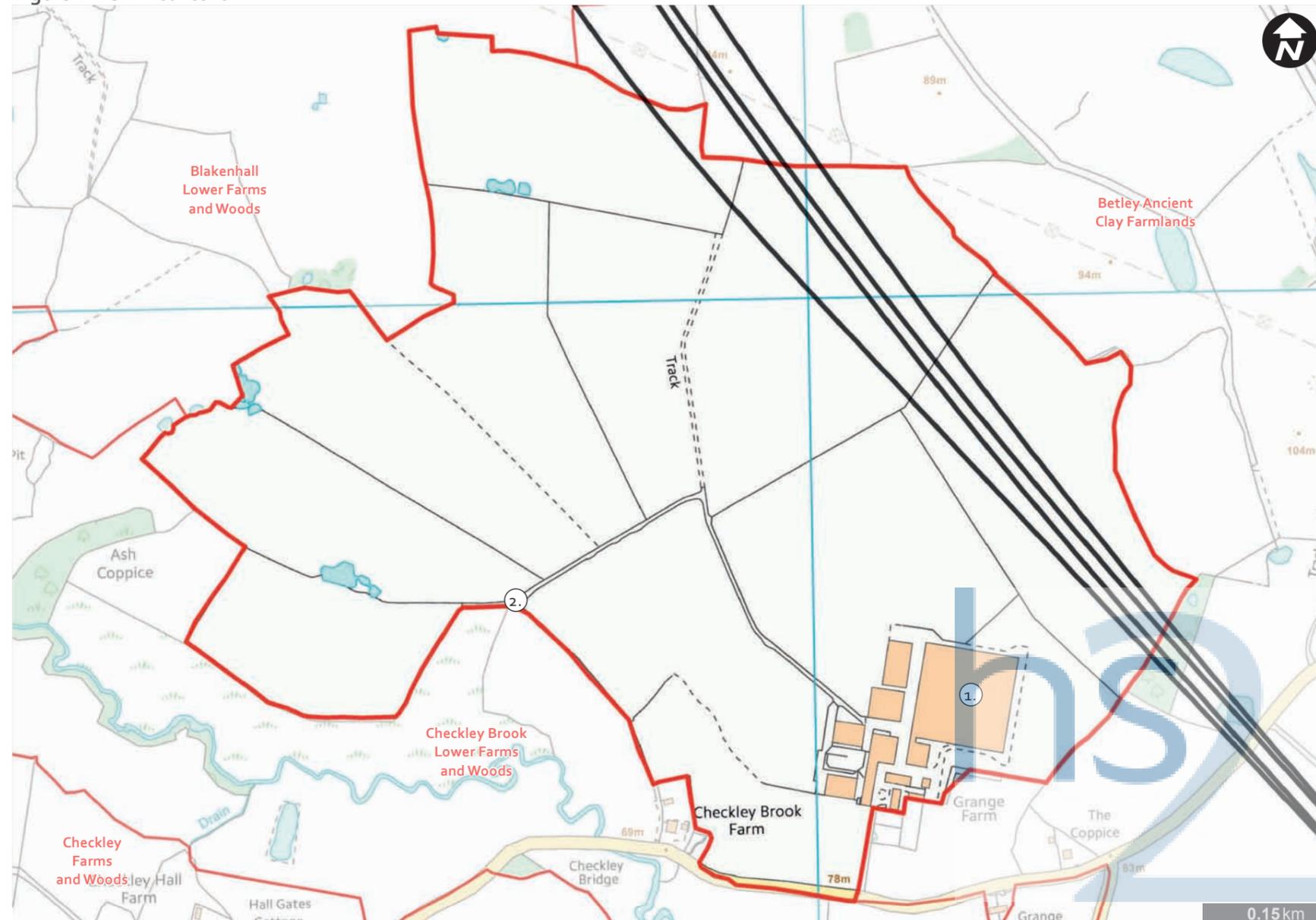
Year 60: The mature landscape mitigation planting will create a new wooded landscape around the Proposed Scheme (including around the Checkley Lane overbridge). Although locally the landscape character will change from farmland to woodland, it will still be rural in context. The magnitude of change will reduce to negligible (non-significant).

The Grange Lower Farms and Woods LCA

Landscape character baseline description

The Grange Lower Farms and Woods LCA is a small LCA, comprising large-scale gently rolling arable farmland, which lacks complexity and has few natural features other than some intermittent hedgerows. Trees are notable by their absence. The Grange Farm complex (1) and its associated large metal sheds are prominent features, as is a pylon line which crosses the LCA. The farmland shows evidence of 20th century agricultural intensification with field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows, although there is some evidence of an earlier co-axial field system in the north-west of the LCA. A sparse network of PRoW (2) crosses the LCA. The landscape has a remote and largely tranquil quality due to the lack of vehicular access and settlement other than Grange Farm.

Figure 1: LCA in context



Key Plan

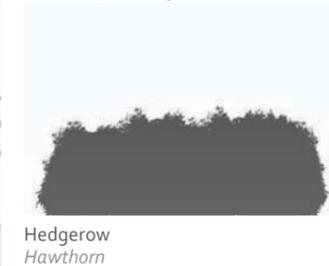


Key

- Proposed Scheme
- LCA boundary
- Grange Farm
- PRoWs Blakenhall FP4 and FP17

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Principal vegetation



Principal vegetation key



Figure 2: Open rolling farmland, north west of The Grange



Key value characteristics - Landscape condition: The value of this landscape is reduced due to modern agricultural practices, which have created an open landscape with little complexity and few traditional landscape features. The absence of trees increases the prominence of the large metal sheds at Grange Farm and the pylon line which crosses the farmland.

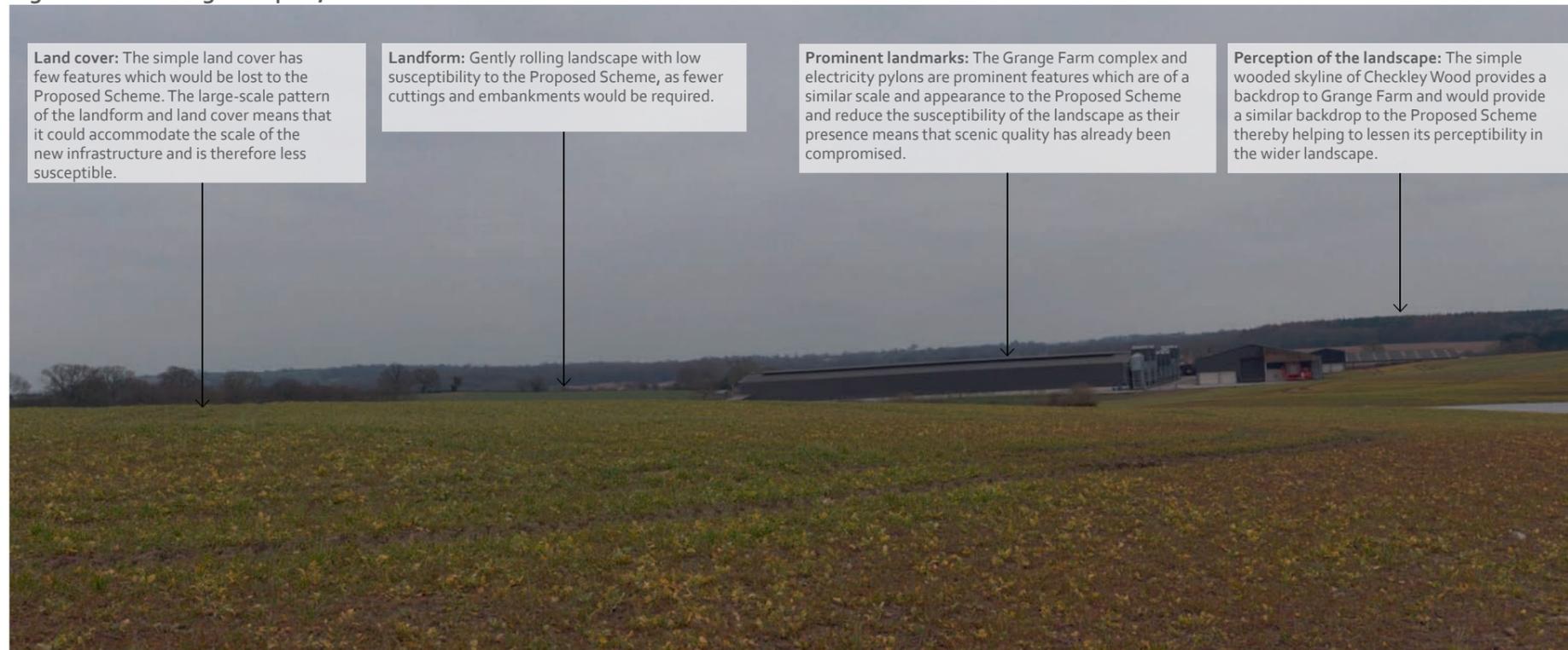
Figure 3: Towards Checkley Lane, north west of The Grange



Key value characteristics - Perception of the landscape: This is a large-scale working landscape of uniform land cover with little visual interest. The absence of roads or settlement, other than Grange Farm, imparts a sense of remoteness and relative tranquillity to the landscape.

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the proposed scheme

Figure 4: The Grange complex, from PRoW to the north west



Land cover: The simple land cover has few features which would be lost to the Proposed Scheme. The large-scale pattern of the landform and land cover means that it could accommodate the scale of the new infrastructure and is therefore less susceptible.

Landform: Gently rolling landscape with low susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme, as fewer cuttings and embankments would be required.

Prominent landmarks: The Grange Farm complex and electricity pylons are prominent features which are of a similar scale and appearance to the Proposed Scheme and reduce the susceptibility of the landscape as their presence means that scenic quality has already been compromised.

Perception of the landscape: The simple wooded skyline of Checkley Wood provides a backdrop to Grange Farm and would provide a similar backdrop to the Proposed Scheme thereby helping to lessen its perceptibility in the wider landscape.

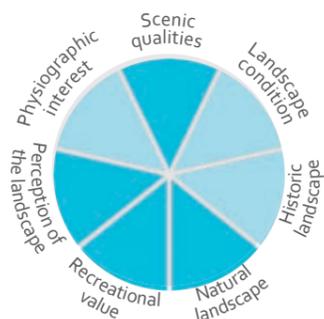
Landscape character assessment

Description of overall landscape value: The value of this landscape is reduced by the effects of 20th century agricultural intensification, which has led to an open landscape with little complexity and few features of landscape value. The large metal sheds of The Grange Farm complex and electricity pylons are prominent and detracting features. The farmland appears to have little historic or recreational value, with the exception of the remnant co-axial fields to the north-west of the LCA. Some PRoWs cross the area and include stiles in the middle of fields where hedgerows and field boundaries have been removed. Overall, given the above, the value of the landscape is low-medium.

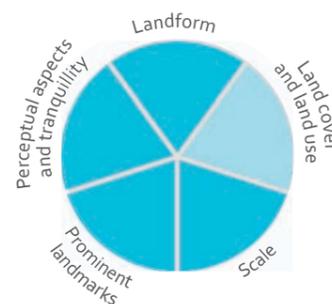
Description of overall landscape susceptibility: The large-scale, uniform land cover and gently rolling landform all have the potential to accommodate change relating to the Proposed Scheme. The most prominent landscape features are the large metal sheds of Grange Farm and pylons, both of which reduce susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme as scenic quality has already been impacted. The perceptual qualities of remoteness and tranquillity are however susceptible to visual and noise disturbance from the Proposed Scheme. Overall, given the above, the susceptibility of the landscape is low-medium.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: Field enlargement and loss of traditional field boundaries due to modern farming practices has created an open and simple landscape with low diversity of land cover or sense of enclosure. The presence of a pylon line and large-scale modern farm buildings further reduces the sensitivity of the landscape. Overall, given the above, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the Proposed Scheme is low-medium.

Value



Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: This LCA will be affected by construction activity associated with the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs and excavation and working of part of the borrow pit north of Checkley Lane. The landscape will also be indirectly affected by construction of the Checkley Lane realignment and Checkley Lane overbridge. Although few trees and hedgerows will have to be removed, the large-scale changes to the local landform and introduction of uncharacteristic features such as material stockpiles will substantially alter the eastern side of this small LCA. Noise and movement associated with the works will introduce disturbance and reduce tranquillity across much of this LCA. Overall the magnitude of change will be high due to the scale and extent of the construction works. Effects are major adverse (significant).

Year 1: The landscape will be directly impacted by the presence of the HS2 spurs and associated shallow embankments and cuttings as they start to diverge from the route of the Proposed Scheme east of Grange Farm. It will also be indirectly impacted by the presence of the Checkley Lane diversion and Checkley Lane overbridge. This is a large scale landscape, which to a degree can absorb the scale of the new infrastructure, particularly since the Proposed Scheme will be in shallow cutting through much of this LCA. Views of the overhead line equipment and intermittent noise disturbance from passing trains will, however, alter the remote and tranquil character of the farmland. New linear belts of scrub and woodland along the west side of the HS2 spur (northbound) and around the Checkley Lane overbridge will in time help to reduce these effects. Overall, the magnitude of change will be medium. Effects are moderate adverse (significant).

Year 15: Due to the maturing of the mitigation planting, the new structures and landform, including the HS2 spur embankments and cuttings, as well as Checkley Lane overbridge embankments, will become more integrated within the landscape by summer of year 15, and the magnitude of change will reduce to low. Effects are minor adverse (non-significant).

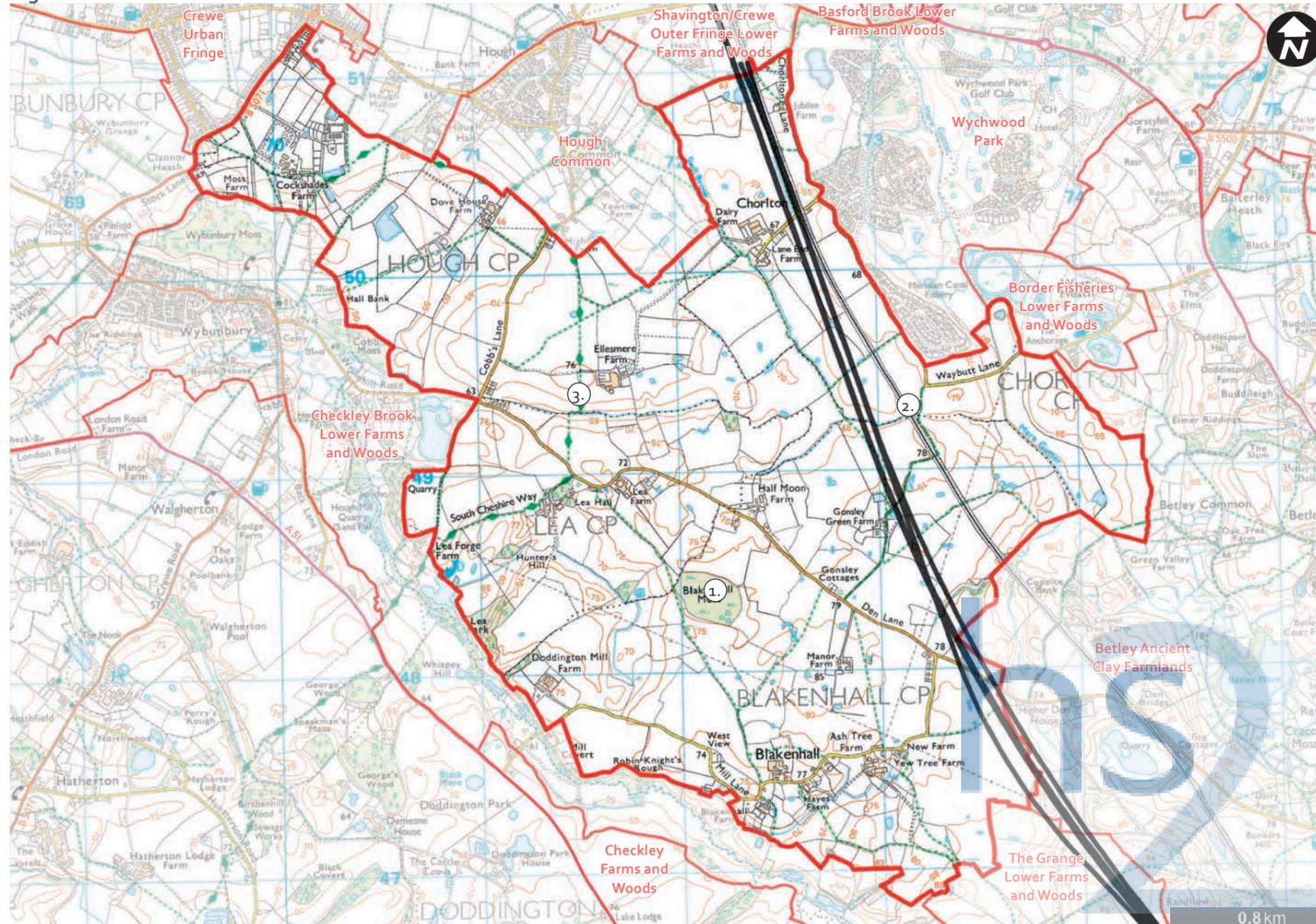
Year 60: By year 60, assuming the continued presence of the mitigation planting, the magnitude of change will remain low. Effects are minor adverse (non-significant).

Blakenhall Lower Farms and Woods LCA

Landscape character baseline description

The Blakenhall Lower Farms and Woods LCA is an area of rural farmland with dispersed farmhouses and small nucleated villages and hamlets set within undulating or gently rolling landform. Small and medium-scale arable fields and pastures are bounded by hedgerows with hedgerow trees. There is also a high prevalence of copses and small woodlands. There are few distinctive natural features, other than a raised lowland bog (woodland) at Blakenhall Moss (1), which is a prominent and valued natural feature. The skyline is mostly defined by woodland and other natural features outside the LCA, with a pylon line and wind turbines also visible. The WCML (2) traverses the eastern edge of the LCA and is generally well integrated into the landscape, although there is some intermittent noise disturbance from passing trains. An extensive network of PRoW in the LCA includes the regionally promoted South Cheshire Way (3).

Figure 1: LCA in context



Key Plan

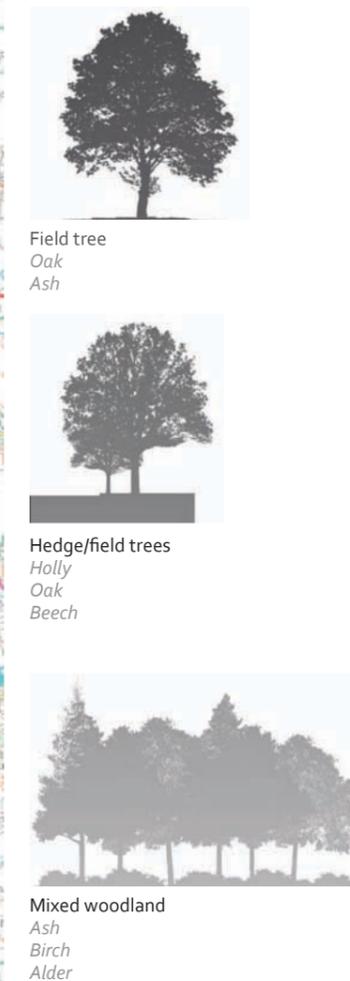


Key

- North
- Proposed Scheme
- LCA boundary
- 1. Blakenhall Moss
- 2. WCML
- 3. South Cheshire Way

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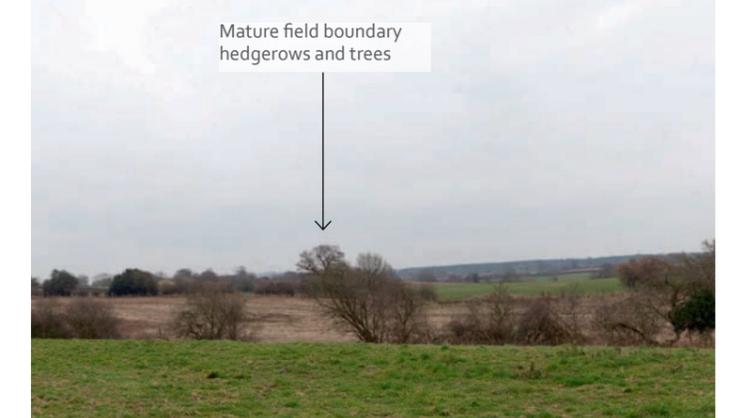
Principal vegetation



Principal vegetation key

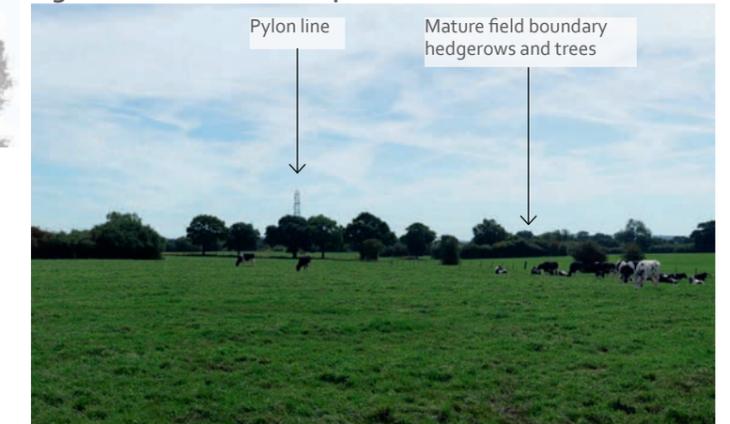


Figure 2: Gently rolling landscape, South Cheshire Way



Key value characteristics - Scenic qualities and recreational value: This is a mostly scenic landscape, defined by often intact field boundary hedgerows, and mature hedgerow and field trees. Due to proximity to Crewe and Nantwich, the area is popular for walking, cycling and horse riding with an extensive PRoW network including the regionally promoted South Cheshire Way.

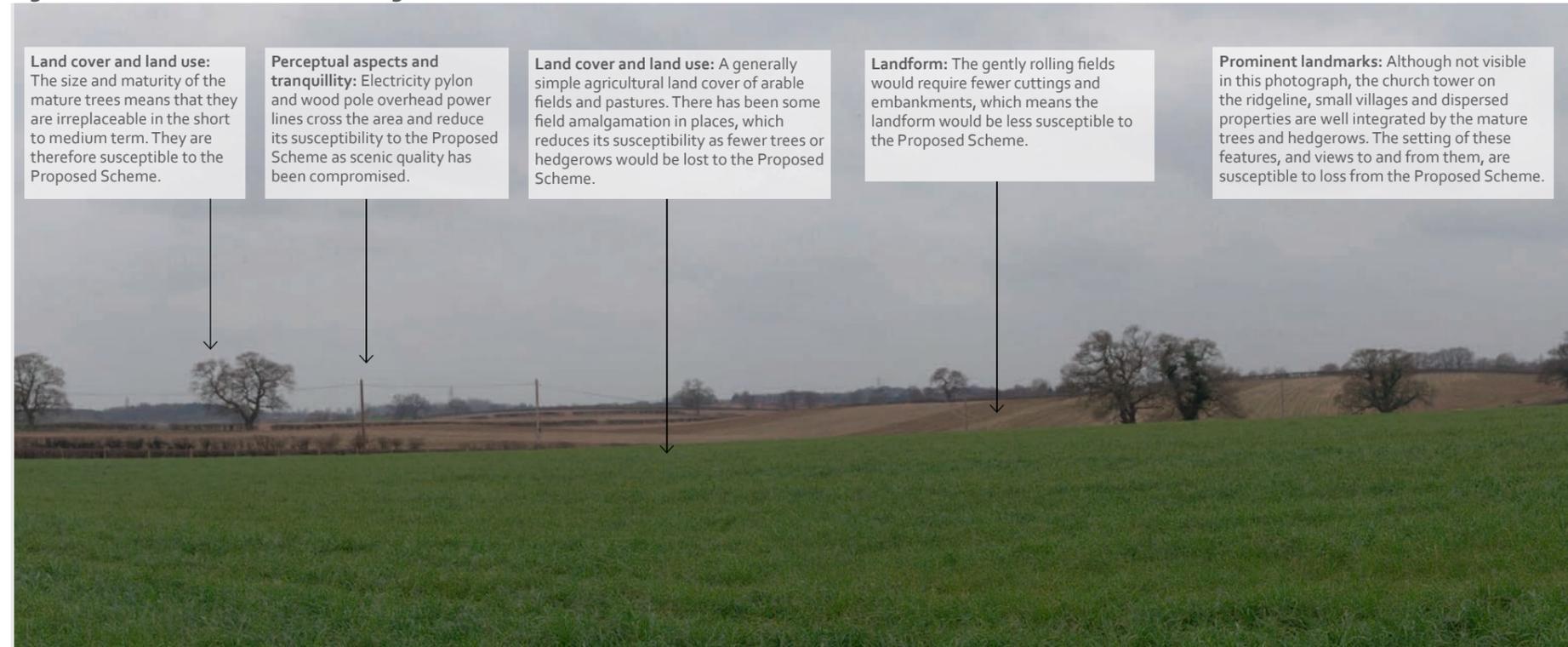
Figure 3: Pastoral landscape east of Blakenhall Moss



Key value characteristics - Perception of the landscape: This is a large LCA, and whilst much of it has a sense of tranquillity and remoteness, other parts are interrupted by road or rail noise from the WCML and views of the associated overhead line equipment.

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the proposed scheme

Figure 4: Swill Brook and mixed rolling farmland east of Ellesmere Farm



Land cover and land use: The size and maturity of the mature trees means that they are irreplaceable in the short to medium term. They are therefore susceptible to the Proposed Scheme.

Perceptual aspects and tranquillity: Electricity pylon and wood pole overhead power lines cross the area and reduce its susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme as scenic quality has been compromised.

Land cover and land use: A generally simple agricultural land cover of arable fields and pastures. There has been some field amalgamation in places, which reduces its susceptibility as fewer trees or hedgerows would be lost to the Proposed Scheme.

Landform: The gently rolling fields would require fewer cuttings and embankments, which means the landform would be less susceptible to the Proposed Scheme.

Prominent landmarks: Although not visible in this photograph, the church tower on the ridgeline, small villages and dispersed properties are well integrated by the mature trees and hedgerows. The setting of these features, and views to and from them, are susceptible to loss from the Proposed Scheme.

Landscape character assessment

Description of overall landscape value: This is a scenic, rural landscape of hedged fields, with hedgerow trees and occasional small woodlands and copses. An extensive network of PRoW, particularly to the north of the LCA, is a valuable recreational resource for cycling, walking and horse riding and the South Cheshire Way passes through the LCA. The woodland and raised lowland bog of Blakenhall Moss is a prominent natural landscape feature. There are a few dispersed listed buildings and intact small-scale field pattern at Blakenhall, but overall this is not a particularly historic landscape. By following the field pattern and running broadly parallel to the course of Swill Brook, the WCML is generally well integrated into the landscape, although there is some intermittent noise disturbance. Other influences include road and skyline views of electricity pylons and wind turbines, which reduce the sense of tranquillity and remoteness across parts of the area. Overall, given the above, the value of the landscape is considered to be medium.

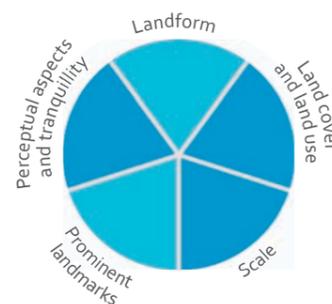
Description of overall landscape susceptibility: There are few distinctive or prominent elements which are susceptible to the Proposed Scheme other than the mature trees and the raised lowland bog at Blakenhall Moss. Traditional land management practices appear to have declined in the late 20th century, with some field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows which has locally reduced scenic quality. Overall, given the above, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: This is a rural landscape which, whilst largely intact, displays some evidence of field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows. The landscape has local recreational value enhanced by proximity to the edge of Crewe and an extensive PRoW network that includes the South Cheshire Way. Overall, given the above, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the Proposed Scheme is medium.

Value



Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: There will be direct impacts associated with construction of the HS2 spurs, new section of WCML, retaining walls, embankments and cuttings, Blakenhall viaduct and Chorlton viaduct (and associated skyline views of cranes), diversion of Chorlton Lane, the South Crewe mid-point auto-transformer station, and modifications to the WCML. The nature and scale of the works will completely alter the rural landscape along the eastern edge of this LCA, which adjoins the residential area of Wychwood Park, through removal of trees and hedgerows, loss of field pattern and large-scale changes to the local landform. The presence of site construction routes, satellite compounds, construction plant and material stockpiles will further alter the character of the rural landscape. Overall the magnitude of change will be high as construction works in this LCA are complex, and will be readily perceptible and prominent within the landscape. Effects are major adverse (significant).

Year 1: This is a large LCA with a pattern and scale of land cover that can absorb the scale of the new infrastructure. As a result the magnitude of change on the landscape of this LCA as a whole will be medium. Close to the Proposed Scheme, however, the effects will be higher, due to the complexity of the new infrastructure and presence of uncharacteristic features such as retaining walls and the Blakenhall and Chorlton viaducts. The Proposed Scheme will locally intensify the effects of the WCML in terms of reduction in tranquillity and scenic quality as they will both run in proximity through the LCA, although the presence of landscape bunds and noise fence barriers will help contain some of the effects. An area of farmland between the WCML and the Proposed Scheme will be encircled by rail infrastructure, which in addition to the reduction in scenic quality, will increase the sense of severance and reduce the perception of tranquillity and seclusion through visual intrusion and intermittent noise disturbance from passing trains. To mitigate this, there will be new scrub and woodland landscape planting and large areas of woodland, wetland and grassland mitigation planting, with a series of ecological mitigation ponds. The slopes of the Blakenhall Northbound spur embankment and Chorlton South embankment will be slackened and partially planted to help integrate them within the wider landform. Overall, the magnitude of change will be medium. Effects are moderate adverse (significant).

Year 15: By the summer of year 15, as the extensive mitigation planting around the HS2/WCML corridor matures the new structures, earthworks and landscape bunds will become more integrated within the landscape and the magnitude of change on the LCA will reduce to low. Effects are minor adverse (non-significant).

Year 60: The mature landscape mitigation planting will create a new wooded landscape around the Proposed Scheme. Although the local landscape character will change from farmland to woodland, it will still be rural in context. The magnitude of change will reduce to negligible. Effects are minor (non-significant).

Border Fisheries Lower Farms and Woods LCA

Landscape character baseline description

The Border Fisheries Lower Farms and Woods LCA is adjacent to the gated residential development at Wychwood Park (1) and is a recreational fishery with an artificial landscape of man-made lakes, associated buildings and car parking, set within a wider rural landscape characterised by large arable fields bounded by gappy hedgerows. The ornamental amenity planting and large circular pond (2) contrast with the surrounding well-treed farmland. General access through the character area is limited. A pylon line (3) crosses the area, and telecommunication masts are also present.

Figure 1: LCA in context



Key Plan



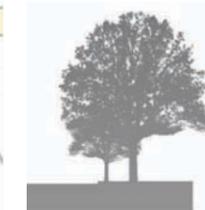
Key

- Proposed Scheme
- LCA boundary
- 1. Wychwood Park
- 2. Meridian Canal Fishery circular fishing pond
- 3. Pylon line

Principal vegetation



Tree lined water
Birch
Alder
Willow



Hedge/field trees
Oak
Privet
Hawthorn

Principal vegetation key



Figure 2: Man-made fishing lake south of Waybutt Lane



Key value characteristics - Recreational: The designed landscape of the fisheries has replaced more naturalistic rural features and it appears as a visual extension to the adjacent Wychwood Park. The fishery is a popular recreational resource. Access through the area is limited to Waybutt Lane and the wider PRoW network which connects into the periphery of the area.

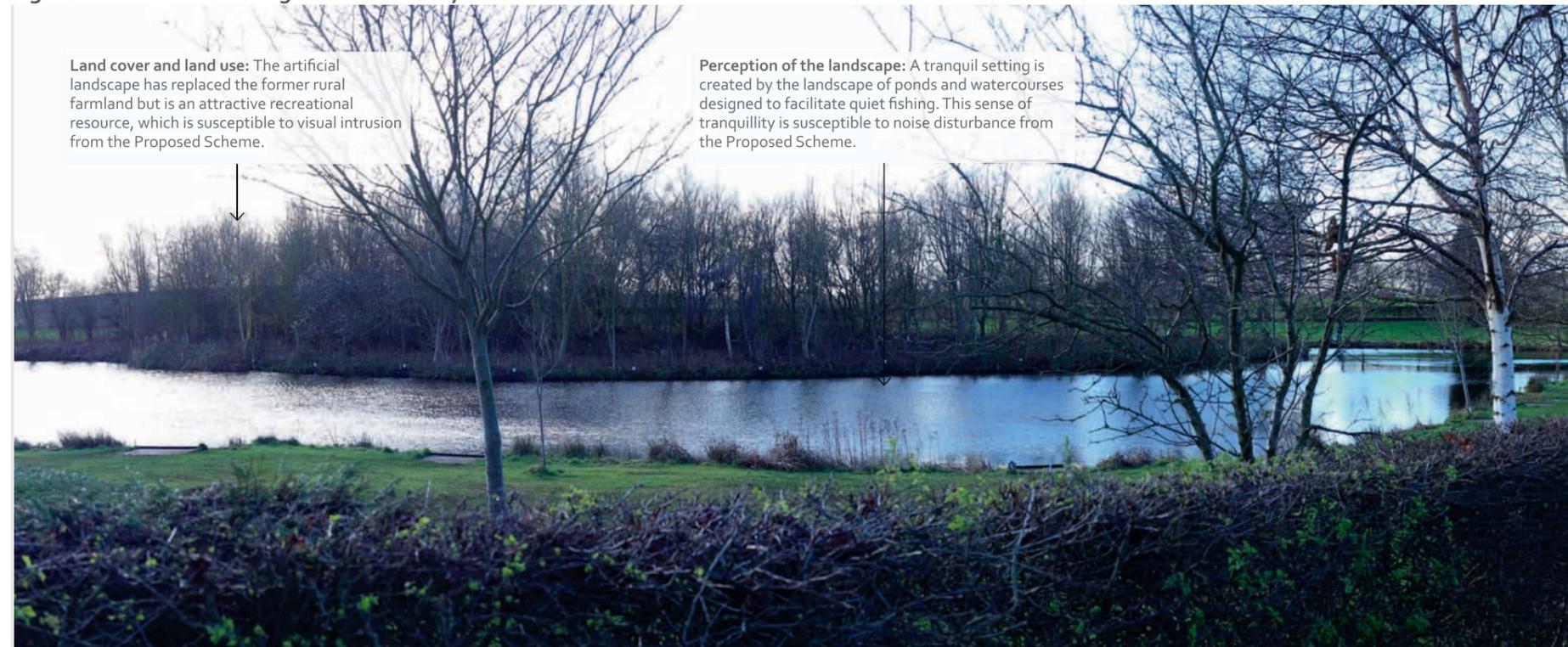
Figure 3: Rolling farmland east of Wychwood Park



Key value characteristics - Landscape condition: Beyond the fishery the surrounding fields show evidence of 20th century agricultural intensification with field enlargement and hedgerow loss.

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the proposed scheme

Figure 4: Man-made fishing lake south of Wychwood Park



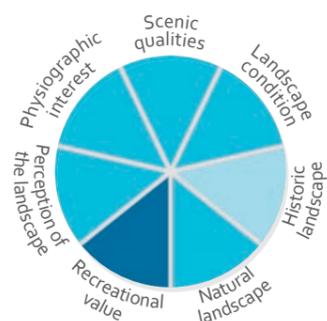
Landscape character assessment

Description of overall landscape value: The designed landscape of the fisheries has replaced more naturalistic rural features and now appears as an extension to the adjacent Wychwood Park. The PRoW network is limited through the area and there is no public access into Wychwood Park to the north. Overall, given the above, the value of the landscape is medium.

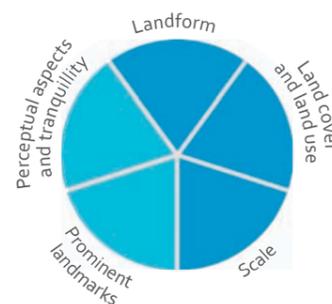
Description of overall landscape susceptibility: The designed landscape of the fisheries is susceptible to loss or erosion from the Proposed Scheme with consequent effects for recreation. The farmland has been affected by 20th century agricultural practices, including field enlargement and loss of hedgerows. This, together with the presence of detracting features such as telecommunications masts and electricity pylons, has led to some loss of scenic quality. The presence of these features means the landscape is less susceptible to the Proposed Scheme due to the pre-existence of large-scale infrastructure. Overall, given the above, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: The artificial landscape of lakes and ornamental planting has replaced the rural farmland, but is a scenic and valued recreational resource. The presence of landscape features, such as telecommunications masts and electricity pylons and the degraded character of the surrounding farmland mean that the overall sensitivity of the landscape is reduced. Overall, given the above, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the Proposed Scheme is medium.

Value



Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: The magnitude of change will be negligible. This is because construction works will be screened by intervening landform and vegetation. Any indirect noise disturbance will be minimal at this distance. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 1: The magnitude of change will be negligible. This is because construction works will be screened by intervening landform and vegetation. Any indirect noise disturbance will be minimal at this distance. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 15: The magnitude of change will be negligible. This is because construction works will be screened by intervening landform and vegetation. Any indirect noise disturbance will be minimal at this distance. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

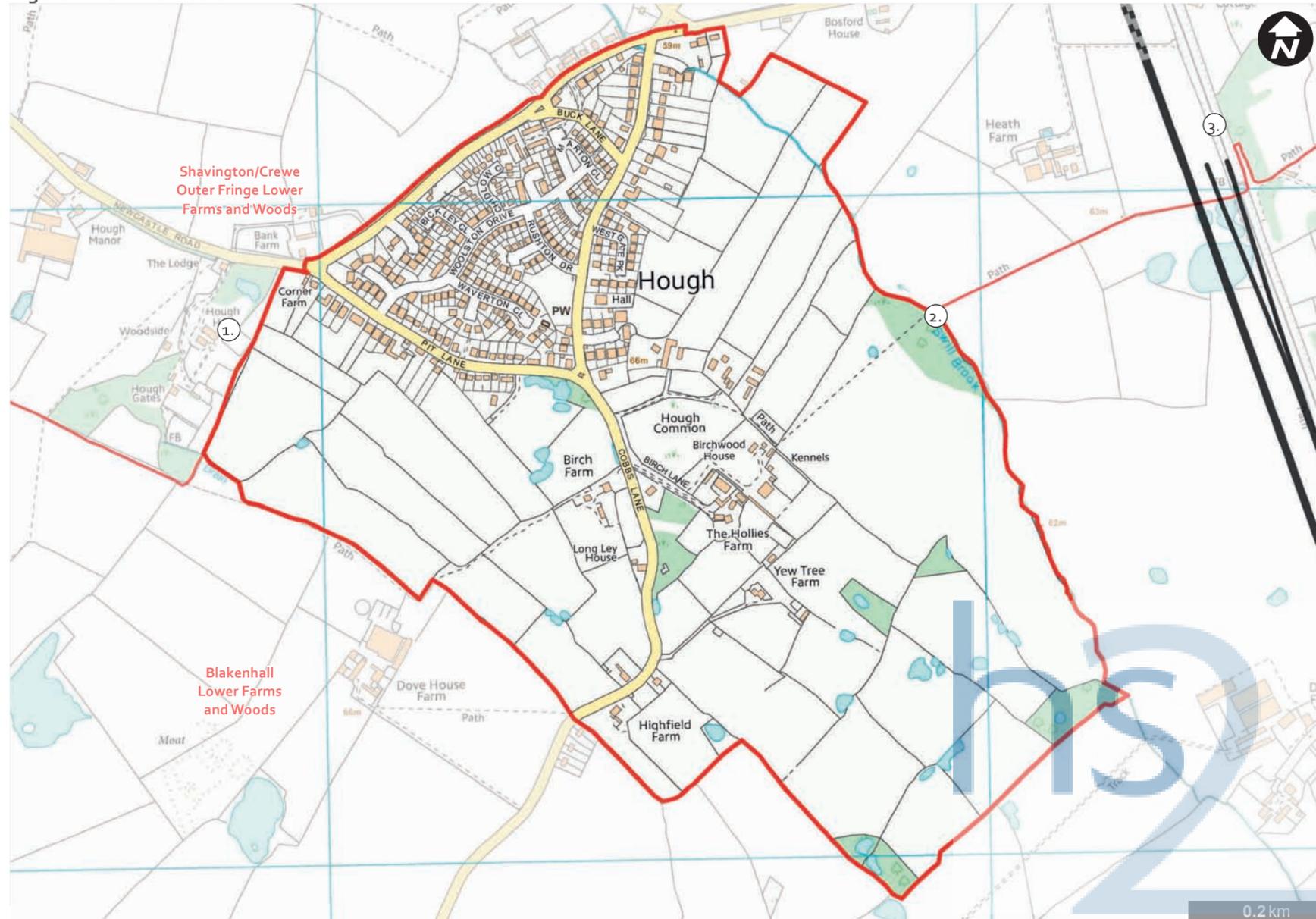
Year 60: The magnitude of change will be negligible. This is because construction works will be screened by intervening landform and vegetation. Any indirect noise disturbance will be minimal at this distance. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Hough Common LCA

Landscape character baseline description

The Hough Common LCA includes the village of Hough, the 17th century Hough Hall (1) and early 18th century Hough Manor. Much of the LCA exhibits a strong pattern of small to medium-scale rectangular pastures of co-axial formation most likely dating from the 17th century. These are bounded by robust hedgerows with a high prevalence of mature field trees and copses. Swill Brook (2) flows along the eastern boundary of the LCA but does not have a strong presence. Small meres and ponds are scattered across the area and there are small woodlands including Cobb's Moss and Hough Gates. South of Hough village lies Hough Common, which is a county site of biological importance. Despite a generally strong and scenic rural character, some parts of the LCA have been affected by the presence of modern agricultural buildings and wood pole overhead power lines. To the east of the LCA, the overhead line equipment of the WCML (3) is a visible but not prominent landscape feature, although passing trains introduce some intermittent noise disturbance along the eastern side of the LCA.

Figure 1: LCA in context



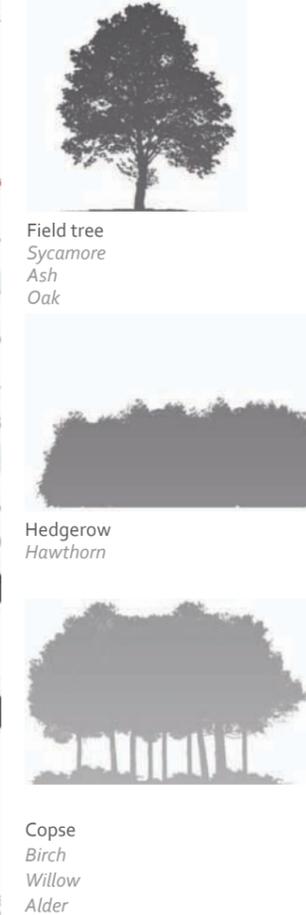
Key Plan



Key

- Proposed Scheme
- LCA boundary
- 1. Hough Hall
- 2. Swill Brook
- 3. WCML

Principal vegetation



Principal vegetation key

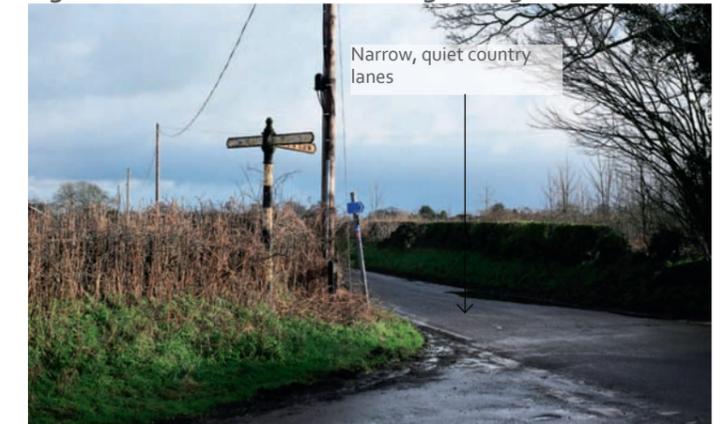


Figure 2: Pastures east of Hough Common



Key value characteristics - Historic landscape: Hough village is not particularly historic, although is associated with nearby Grade II* listed Hough Hall and the Grade II listed Hough Manor. These are detached from the village and contribute little to its character. The surrounding farmland has a largely small to medium-scale field pattern, defined by robust hedgerows and mature trees. Some of the fields display evidence of former ridge and furrow cultivation.

Figure 3: Rural lanes north of Hough Village



Key value characteristics - Perception of the landscape: Away from the village, the area has a secluded and relatively tranquil character with narrow country lanes that appear infrequently used.

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the proposed scheme

Figure 4: Field pattern, hedgerow and hedgerow trees, east of Hough Common



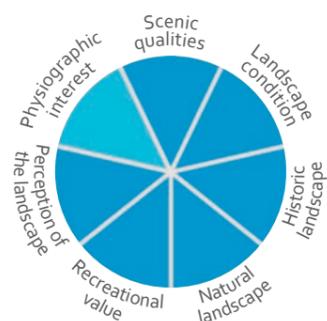
Landscape character assessment

Description of overall landscape value: Hough contains no particularly historic buildings or landscape features, although it has many mature trees which create a scenic setting for the buildings. Outside of the village, Hough Hall is a c. 17th century manor house and Hough Manor is a c. 18th century country house. Both are detached from the village and contribute little to its overall character. The surrounding farmland displays a strong field pattern defined by robust hedgerows and hedgerow trees. A relic ridge and furrow cultivation pattern is discernible in some fields. Some loss of traditional character around the edge of the village is apparent in the post war housing styles. Away from the village the landscape is more secluded, tranquil and scenic. Regional Cycle Route 70, the South Cheshire Way and the Crewe and Nantwich Circular Walk all pass through the LCA. Overall, given the above, the value of the landscape is medium.

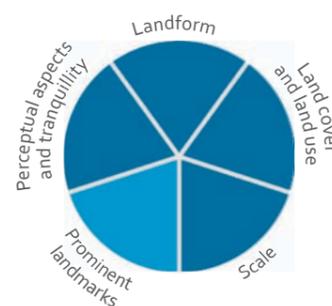
Description of overall landscape susceptibility: Elements which are susceptible to change arising from the Proposed Scheme are the small-scale historic field pattern, the small meres and ponds, Swill Brook, the robust mixed species hedgerows, many mature trees and Hough Common as they are largely irreplaceable. The setting of the Regional Cycle Route 70 and two regionally promoted PRoWs are susceptible to perceptual and noise disturbance from the Proposed Scheme. Overall, given the above, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium-high.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: The historic and rural character of this area is scenic and largely intact, particularly away from the immediate influence of the village. The WCML is nearby and leads to some intermittent noise disturbance along the eastern edge of the LCA. Overall, given the above, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the Proposed Scheme is medium-high.

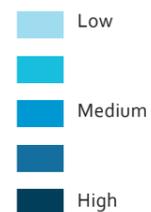
Value



Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: The magnitude of change on the landscape of this LCA will be low and there will be no direct effects from the Proposed Scheme. The scale of the construction works associated with the various elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs and modifications to the WCML, Chorlton Lane diversion and Chorlton Footpath 7 overbridge, will give rise to some indirect noise and perceptual effects along the eastern edge of the LCA. This will locally intensify the effects of the WCML with some additional loss of tranquillity and sense of seclusion. From more western aspects of the LCA, the construction works will not be noticeable, as they will be screened by intervening vegetation along Swill Brook. Effects are minor adverse (non-significant).

Year 1: There will be some slight perceptual and noise disturbance along the eastern edge of the LCA which will intensify the effects of the WCML and give rise to a low magnitude of change. From more western aspects of the LCA, the Proposed Scheme will not be noticeable and there will only be distant intermittent noise from passing trains. This is due to the distance of this LCA from the Proposed Scheme and the screening and filtering of views by vegetation along Swill Brook. Effects are minor adverse (non-significant).

Year 15: The magnitude of change will reduce to negligible due to the additional screening afforded by the maturing mitigation planting. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

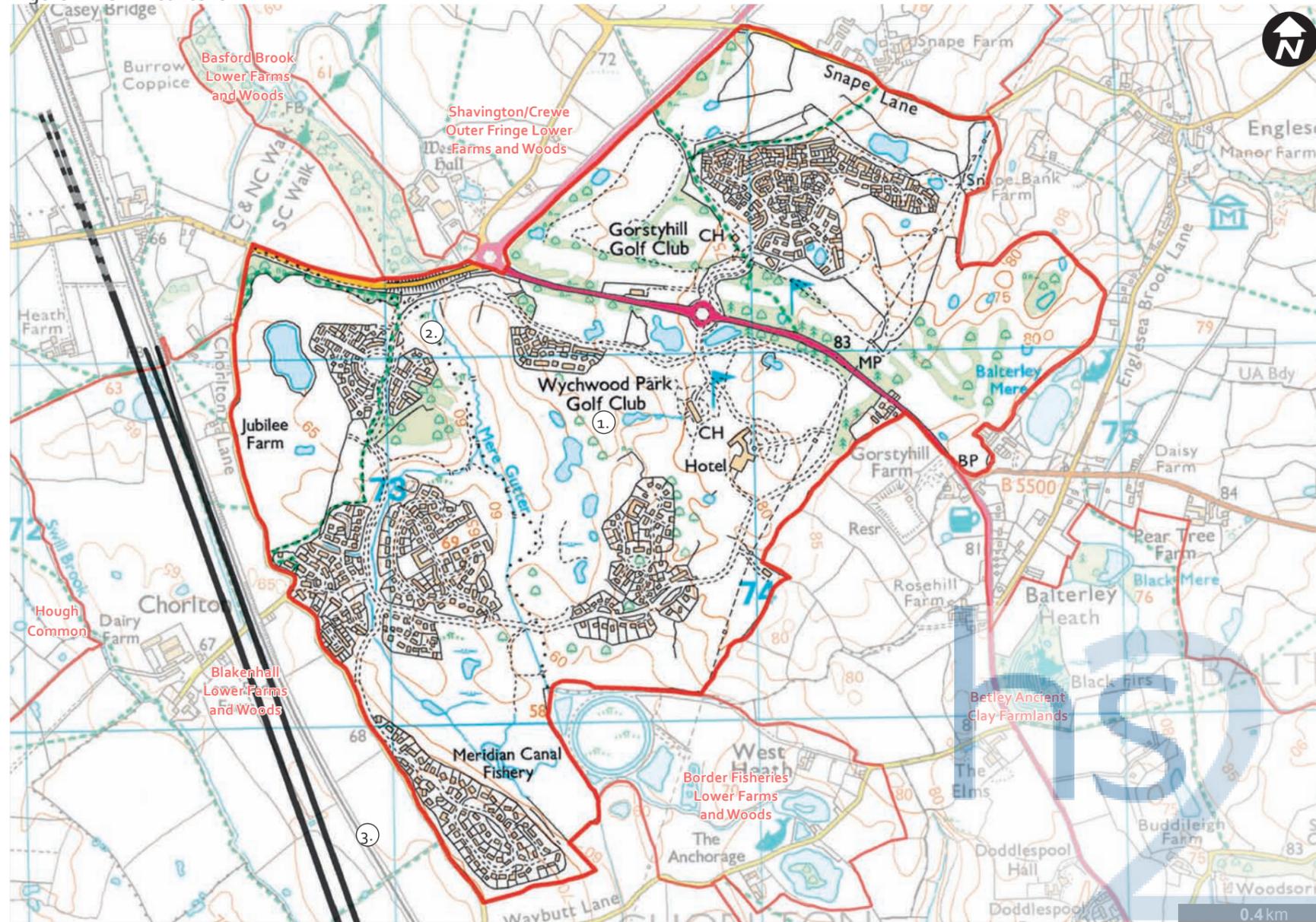
Year 60: Assuming the continued presence of the mitigation planting, the magnitude of change will remain negligible. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Wychwood Park LCA

Landscape character baseline description

The Wychwood Park LCA is a relatively recent (post 1990) gated, country estate development built around the eighteen hole Wychwood Park Golf Course (1). The landform is undulating and slightly elevated above the lower lying farmland to the west, and is enhanced by woodland belts, ponds and streams and managed wildlife areas (2). Properties have landscaped gardens and are set within parkland and the manicured close mown fairways, rough grassland and maturing woodland belts. The amenity planting within the housing areas provides a scenic setting to the estate. Views from the western edge of the housing areas and the golf course look out across the lower lying arable fields and pastures of the Blakenhall Lower Farms and Woods LCA. The WCML (3) and its associated overhead line equipment follows the western edge of Wychwood Park but is not prominent in most views. Electricity pylons and telecommunications masts are frequent skyline features.

Figure 1: LCA in context



Key Plan



Key

- Proposed Scheme
- LCA boundary
- 1. Wychwood Park Golf Club
- 2. An example of a wildlife area, within the residential development
- 3. WCML

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Principal vegetation



Principal vegetation key



Figure 2: Wetland area, footpaths and residential properties



Key value characteristics - Scenic qualities and recreational value: The residential areas are integrated within the maturing landscape of Wychwood Park Golf Club. The golf course features bunkers, lakes and streams and woodland belts, all of which are managed and maintained all year round to create a parkland setting to the estate.

Figure 3: Residential properties and woodland planting



Key value characteristics - Perception of the landscape: A largely country estate landscape that is secluded due to the lack of public access and the enclosure afforded by the extensive landscape planting.

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the proposed scheme

Figure 4: Wychwood Park Golf Course, from PRow east of Jubilee Farm



Landscape character assessment

Description of overall landscape value: The Wychwood Park estate development occupies most of this LCA. The development is modern in appearance and has no known historic elements and few natural features. It is however valued for its residential amenity and golf course. The golf course landscape is still maturing and is a mix of managed fairways, ponds and streams, rough grass and woodland belts. Avenue trees and amenity planting within the housing areas, create a sense of a high quality residential streetscape. Transport and communication infrastructure is evident throughout the area, with the overhead line equipment of the WCML being visible to the west. Overall, given the above, the value of the landscape is medium-high.

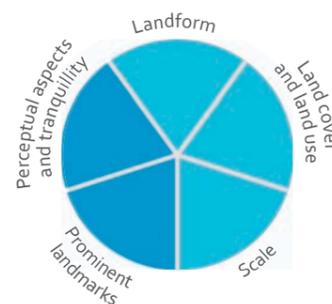
Description of overall landscape susceptibility: The susceptibility of the golf course landscape and associated green space is slightly reduced by the presence of road noise and human activity, but additional noise intrusion and perceptual changes arising from the Proposed Scheme would lessen the tranquility and scenic quality currently experienced. Overall susceptibility is medium-high.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: This is a contained residential and recreational development, which has features and characteristics which are susceptible to loss or erosion. As a residential area it is locally disturbed by human activity and road noise, although the golf course is more tranquil. Overall, given the above, the sensitivity of the LCA to change arising from the Proposed Scheme is medium-high.

Value



Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: Most of this LCA will be unaffected by the construction activity associated with the Proposed Scheme and the magnitude of change will be negligible. Along the western edge of the LCA the magnitude of change will be higher due to the indirect effects of construction activity associated with the various elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs, embankments and cuttings, diversion of Chorlton Lane, new section of WCML and planted landscape bunds. This will affect the experiential aspects of the residential area through perceptual and noise disturbance. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 1: Most of this LCA will be unaffected by the operational legacy of the Proposed Scheme and the magnitude of change will be negligible. Along the western edge of the LCA the nearby presence of the Proposed Scheme will slightly intensify the noise and perceptual disturbance currently arising from the WCML and the magnitude of change will be higher. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 15: As the planting on the landscape bunds matures, the noise and particularly the perceptual effects on the landscape will lessen. The magnitude of change will remain negligible. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

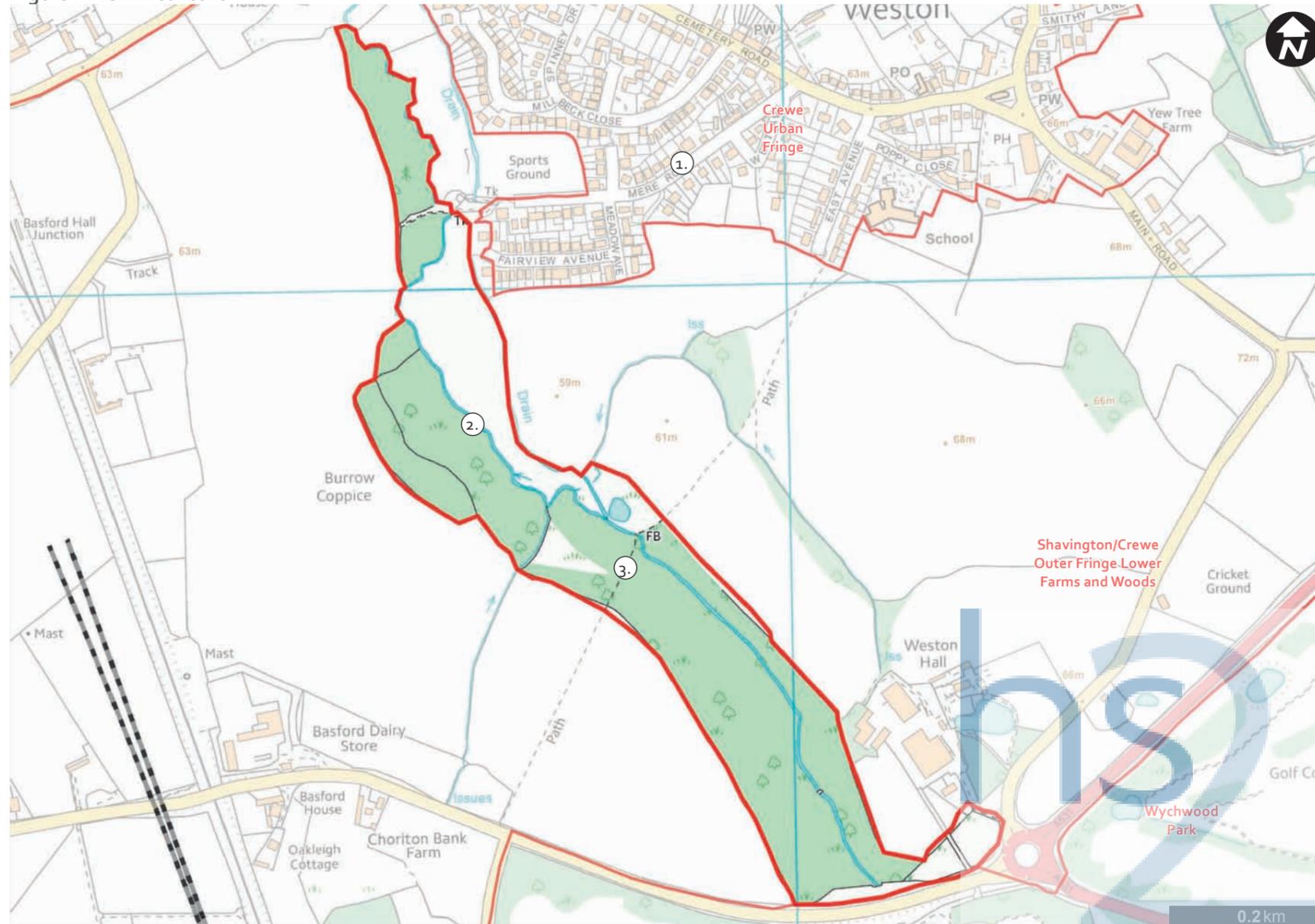
Year 60: The magnitude of change will remain negligible. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Basford Brook Lower Farms and Woods LCA

Landscape character baseline description

The Basford Brook Lower Farms and Woods LCA is located to the west and south of Weston village (1). The LCA is defined by the narrow, meandering, tree lined course of the Basford Brook (2). The well-wooded landscape along the course of the brook is characterised by varied riparian habitats, a diverse mix of tree species and a strong naturalistic character. A PRoW network including the South Cheshire Way (3) connects the valley with Weston to the east and Hough to the south-west. The riparian woodland is secluded, remote and tranquil in character and is a valuable naturalistic resource for the villages of Weston and Wychwood Park. The woodland is being managed, with new planting and upgrades to the PRoW network.

Figure 1: LCA in context



Key Plan



Key

- Proposed Scheme
- LCA boundary
- Weston village
- Basford Brook
- South Cheshire Way

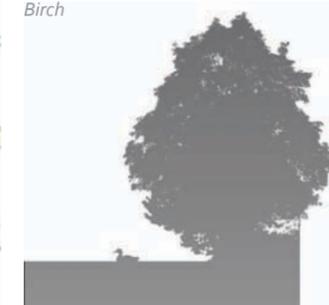
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Principal vegetation



Broadleaved plantation

- Poplar
- Pine
- Birch



Tree lined water

- Willow
- Alder
- Birch

Principal vegetation key



Figure 2: Woodland and Basford Brook west of Weston



Key value characteristics - Landscape condition and natural landscape: Secluded wooded valley with a rich diversity of woodland and wetland habitats. The network of PRoW, which includes the regionally promoted South Cheshire Way is actively managed and served by new boardwalks and bridges.

Figure 3: Riparian woodland south of Weston



Key value characteristics - Perception of landscape: A diverse, secluded, remote and tranquil area created by the narrow course of Basford Brook, a mosaic of wetland habitats and extensive woodland cover.

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the proposed scheme

Figure 4: Woodland and riparian habitat, from PRoW south of Weston



Landscape character assessment

Description of overall landscape value: This is a largely small-scale, secluded and attractive landscape with diverse mature landscape features and varied habitats. The narrow wooded valley and marshy valley floor have local amenity and habitat value. The South Cheshire Way is a regionally promoted walking route, which passes through the southern part of the wood. There are few detractors and the seclusion, tranquillity and remoteness afforded by the valley is a valuable local asset close to Chorlton and Weston. Overall, given the above, the value of the landscape is medium-high.

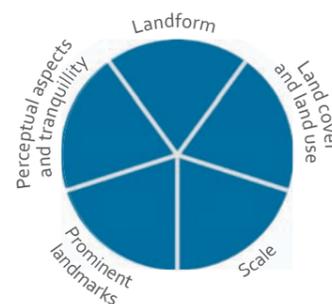
Description of overall landscape susceptibility: The valley is a distinctive natural feature that contrasts with the open agricultural landscape surrounding it. The intimate scale of the valley, its diverse natural features, and sense of seclusion and tranquillity are susceptible to physical, noise and perceptual disturbance from the Proposed Scheme, whilst the wetland habitats are vulnerable to changes to the drainage regime. Overall, given the above, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium-high.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: This is a diverse and secluded landscape that contrasts with the adjacent rural fringe farmland in terms of its physiographic and experiential characteristics. There is a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness, particularly in the woodland to the south of Weston village. As such the wood is an important local amenity resource due to its natural, scenic and recreational features. Overall, given the above, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the Proposed Scheme is medium-high.

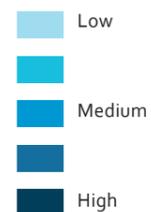
Value



Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: The magnitude of change will be low. Construction works associated with the various elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs, new section of the WCML, the Crewe South portal, cuttings and embankments, A531 Newcastle Road realignment and new Newcastle Road overbridge, and diversion of Casey Lane will introduce some noise disturbance into the landscape. Due, however, to the distance and the screening afforded by the woodland, these works will not be particularly intrusive. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 1: The magnitude of change will be negligible due to the screening effects of the woodland within the LCA and linear tree belts along field boundaries in the farmland to the east of the WCML. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 15: The magnitude of change will be negligible due to the screening effects of the woodland within the LCA and linear tree belts along field boundaries in the farmland to the east of the WCML. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

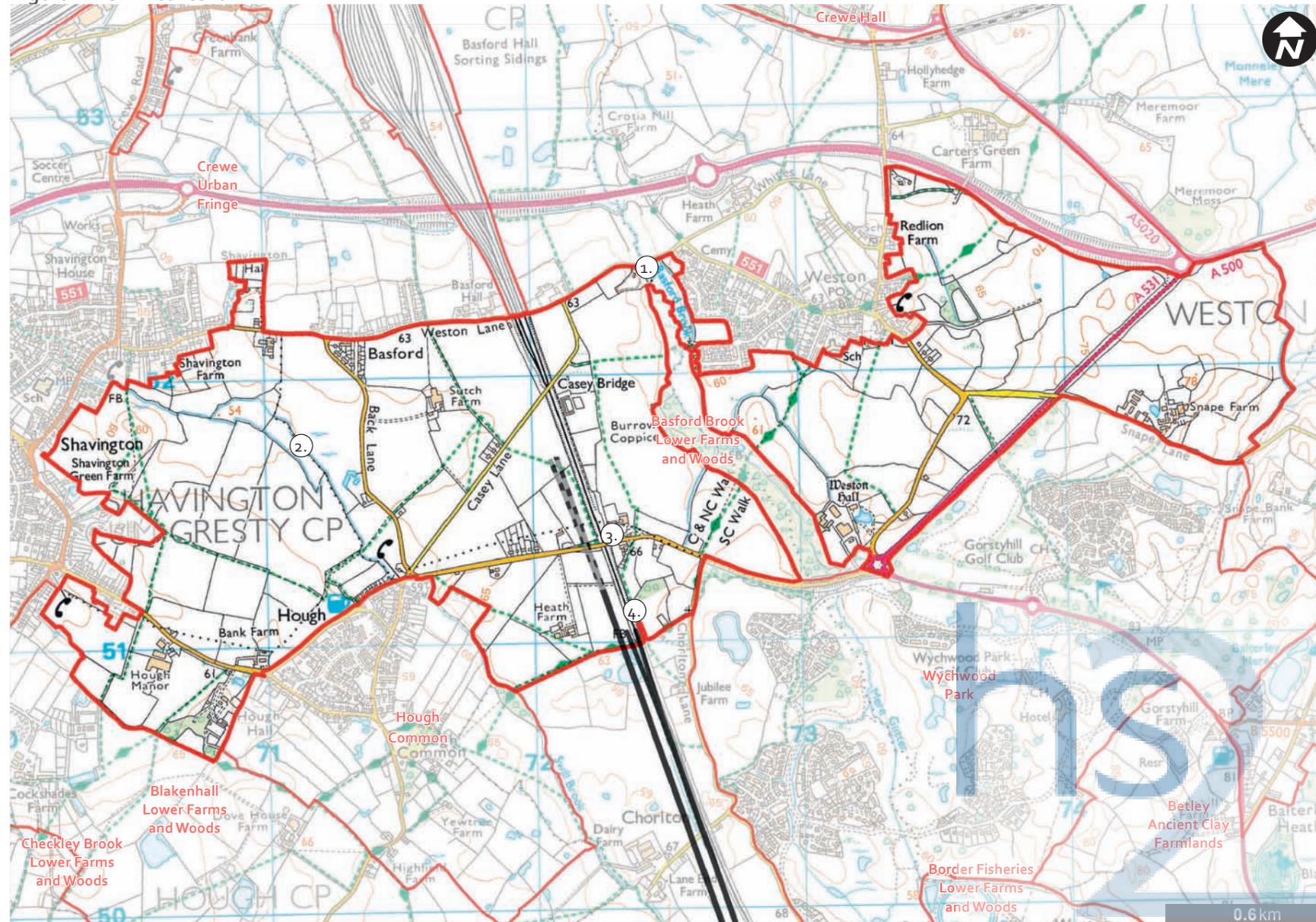
Year 60: The magnitude of change will be negligible due to the screening effects of the woodland within the LCA and linear tree belts along field boundaries in the farmland to the east of the WCML. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Shavington / Crewe Outer Fringe Lower Farms and Woods LCA

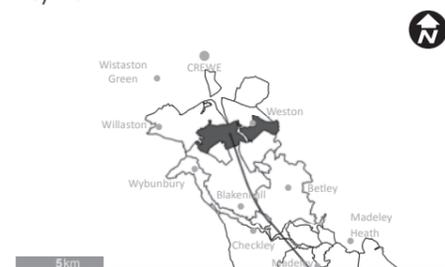
Landscape character baseline description

The Shavington/ Crewe Outer Fringe Lower Farms and Woods LCA comprises flat or gently undulating, mainly medium to large-scale arable fields and pastures with a dispersed settlement pattern. The farmland shows some evidence of remnant co-axial field systems near Basford Brook (1), but is starting to degrade due to 20th century agricultural intensification and proximity to infrastructure and settlement. Field amalgamation and hedgerow loss is evident in places. Woodland cover is typically confined to small dispersed woodland or linear tree belts associated with the small watercourses such as Swill Brook (2). Individual/small groups of trees are more prevalent close to the settlements of Shavington, Hough and Weston. Areas of higher scenic value and remoteness are found close to the Basford Brook Lower Farms and Woods LCA and along Weston Lane and Whites Lane, east of the WCML around Cemetery Road. Occasional Grade II listed buildings, including Shavington Lodge and Grade II listed Basford Bridge Cottage (3), are dispersed throughout the area. Settlements occupy prominent skyline positions alongside woodland belts and trees. Electricity pylons and the WCML (4) are also present and there are glimpsed views of traffic on the A500 Shavington Bypass.

Figure 1: LCA in context



Key Plan



Key

- Proposed Scheme
- LCA boundary
- 1. Basford Brook
- 2. Swill Brook
- 3. Basford Cottage
- 4. WCML

Principal vegetation



Hedgerow
Hawthorn



Hedge/field trees
Oak
Alder
Sycamore



Tree lined avenues
Oak

Principal vegetation key



Figure 2: Arable fields from PRoW off Casey Lane



Key value characteristics - Recreational value: This area is popular for low key recreation. An extensive PRoW network connects the area, including Regional Cycle Route 70, National Cycle Route 551 and the regionally promoted South Cheshire Way, which follows the southern edge of the LCA.

Figure 3: Pastures north of Dairy House



Key value characteristics - Perception of the landscape: Whilst much of the landscape is not particularly scenic or tranquil, there are some more intact areas close to the villages of Shavington, Hough and Weston.

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the proposed scheme

Figure 4: Mixed farmland from Back Lane south of Basford village



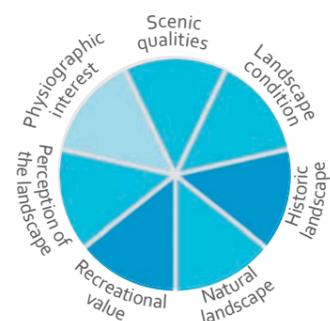
Landscape character assessment

Description of overall landscape value: Parts of this LCA (mainly around the settlements) display a small-scale remnant enclosure pattern but much of the traditional field pattern has been eroded through 20th century agricultural intensification with field amalgamation, hedgerow and tree loss. Occasional dispersed listed buildings include Shavington Lodge and Basford Bridge Cottage. In places suburban house styles appear incongruous within their rural setting. Electricity pylons are locally prominent and the overhead line equipment of the WCML is visible but not particularly intrusive as it tends to merge into the wider view. Regional Cycle Route 70 follows Casey Lane and National Cycle Route 551 follows Basford Lane. The South Cheshire Way follows the southern edge of the LCA. Overall, given the above, the value of the landscape is low-medium.

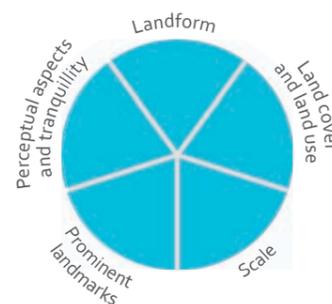
Description of overall landscape susceptibility: The medium to large-scale farmland is not particularly susceptible to the Proposed Scheme as it already includes the WCML and views of the A500 Shavington Bypass. Electricity pylons are prominent in many views. The flat or gently undulating landform will not require major new landforms to accommodate the Proposed Scheme, which may be difficult to integrate within the wider landscape. This reduces its susceptibility. Overall, given the above, the susceptibility of the landscape is low-medium.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: The farmland appears to be in decline due to changes in traditional farming practices, the influence of transport infrastructure, including the WCML, and encroachment of modern housing development. Other than the mature trees and areas of relic historic field pattern, none of the key landscape features are particularly susceptible to the Proposed Scheme. Overall, given the above, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the Proposed Scheme is low-medium.

Value



Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: This large LCA is bisected by the Proposed Scheme. The magnitude of change will be high as the landscape will be directly impacted by construction of the various elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs, Crewe South cutting, Crewe South portal, Newcastle Road realignment and new Newcastle Road overbridge, diversion of Casey Lane and modifications to the WCML. The presence of two satellite compounds, two railway system compounds, material stockpiles and movement of construction vehicles will also introduce disturbance into the rural landscape. Although relatively few trees and hedgerows will have to be removed, around the new Newcastle Road overbridge, there will be considerable alterations to the existing relatively flat landform to build the road embankments. Effects are major adverse (significant).

Year 1: The magnitude of change will be medium due to the presence of the elements of the Proposed Scheme listed above. The Newcastle Road overbridge will be a locally prominent landscape feature, which will change the character of the landscape in terms of both landform and pattern of land cover, with severance of the historic hedgerow field pattern and interruption of landscape scale. The Casey Lane diversion will have a similar but less marked impact on the character of the landscape east of the WCML near Basford Brook. The intactness and scenic quality of the farmland has already been affected by views of new settlement and electricity pylons as well as by 20th century agricultural intensification. The scale and prominence of the new infrastructure will intensify these effects in terms of further reduction in scenic quality and tranquillity, and increased perception of severance. Effects are moderate adverse (significant).

Year 15: The effects of the Proposed Scheme will lessen as the extensive maturing mitigation planting including around the Crewe South portal and Crewe south cutting, along the diverted section of Casey Lane, on the landscape bund and around the Newcastle Road overbridge starts to create an area of developing woodland. The road embankments will become more integrated within the landscape with the maturing of this planting and the magnitude of change will reduce to low. Effects are minor adverse (non-significant).

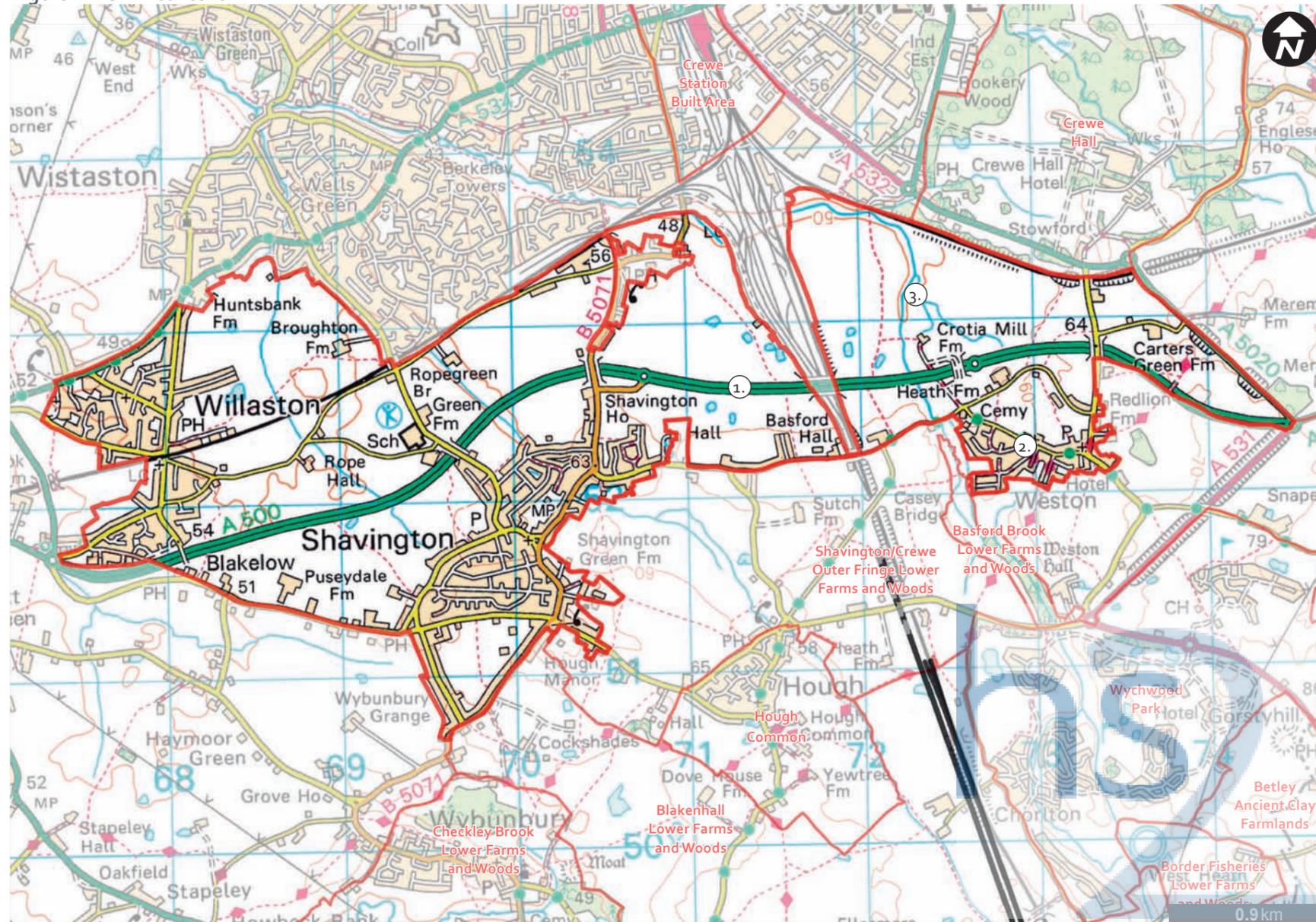
Year 60: The local landscape character will have changed from open farmland to mature woodland, which will screen and filter views of the Proposed Scheme and help to integrate the Newcastle Road overbridge within the wider rural scene. The magnitude of change will therefore reduce to negligible (non-significant).

Crewe Urban Fringe LCA

Landscape character baseline description

The Crewe Urban Fringe LCA is influenced by proximity to the southern edge of Crewe. The traditional mixed farmland which displays some evidence of historic field patterns, is being eroded by 20th century agricultural intensification, encroachment of modern housing development into the countryside and the presence of road and rail infrastructure, including the A500 Shavington Bypass (1), B5071 Jack Mills Way, A5020 David Whitby Way, the WCML and Basford Hall sidings, all of which bisect the LCA. North of the A500 Shavington Bypass, the farmland is being lost to development and associated infrastructure being constructed within the Basford East and West development sites. South of the A500 Shavington Bypass, the LCA includes the villages of Weston (2), Willaston and Shavington. The farmland here is more intact, particularly around these villages and there is a good PRoW network and cycleway provision. Swill Brook, Basford Brook (3) and other unnamed watercourses run through the area, and there are several small meres and ponds. Shavington Hall is a 19th century Grade II listed building on the boundary of the character area but has little visual influence on the surrounding landscape.

Figure 1: LCA in context



Key Plan



Key

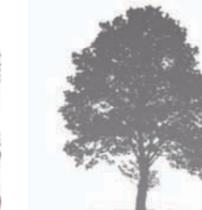
- Proposed Scheme
- LCA boundary
- 1. A500 Shavington Bypass
- 2. Weston
- 3. Basford Brook

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Principal vegetation



Hedge/field trees
Sycamore
Willow
Hawthorn



Field tree
Oak
Ash



Copse
Alder
Willow

Principal vegetation key



Figure 2: PRoW north of Weston village



Key value characteristics - Historic landscape and recreational value: Historic features include the village of Weston which has a conservation area and cluster of listed buildings. Other listed buildings are infrequently dispersed throughout the area. There is a good network of PRoW and cycleways connect the area with new/upgraded facilities near Crewe.

Figure 3: Pastures and woodland south-east of Willaston



Key value characteristics - Perception of the landscape: Whilst there are some areas of intact, secluded and tranquil farmland, notably to the west of the WCML, these are infrequent and are being eroded by encroaching urbanising elements such as the large-scale development proposed for the Basford East and West development sites.

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the proposed scheme

Figure 4: Road infrastructure, balancing pond and new planting along B5071 Jack Mills Way



Landscape character assessment

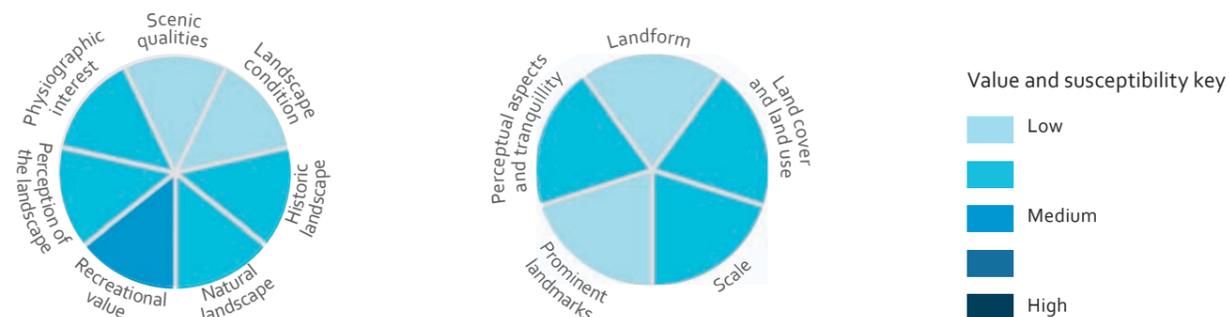
Description of overall landscape value: The scenic value of the landscape is reduced by the presence of settlement and transport infrastructure. Areas of more intact farmland with a historic, small-scale enclosure pattern are found west of the WCML, although hedgerows and mature trees are being lost to development particularly north of the A500 Shavington Bypass, where there is new road infrastructure related to future development proposals. Historic features include Weston village with its conservation area, and the Grade II listed Shavington Hall. Natural features include Swill Brook, Basford Brook and other unnamed watercourses, meres and ponds. The area has recreational value with sports clubs and a good PRoW network, including National Cycle Route 551. Overall, given the above, the value of the landscape is low-medium.

Description of overall landscape susceptibility: Some features are irreplaceable or cannot be replaced in the short to medium term and are more susceptible to change, such as the remnant historic field patterns, mature trees, and some scattered historic buildings. Much of this LCA, however, comprises flat or gently undulating medium-scale fields with patchy hedgerows which have been eroded by 20th century farming practices, transport infrastructure and urban fringe land uses and are consequently less susceptible to the Proposed Scheme. Overall, given the above, the susceptibility of the landscape is low.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: The character of the landscape is influenced by proximity to Crewe. Modern housing development (including recently built houses within the Basford West development area), the WCML, A500 Shavington Bypass, and other transport infrastructure and settlement are found alongside more traditional landscape features and historic villages such as Weston or listed buildings such as Shavington Hall. The physical features of the landscape combined with these urban influences mean that the overall sensitivity is low-medium.

Value

Susceptibility



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: The magnitude of change across the wider LCA will be negligible as the construction works are not extensive and will include the Crewe South Crossovers satellite compound and temporary access road east of the WCML. These will be in an area which is already affected by rail infrastructure and will have little effect on the character of this LCA. West of the WCML the temporary presence of the workers accommodation site, Basford Cutting main compound, the batching plant and transfer node will be located in the area of small-scale hedged fields between Weston Lane and the A500 Shavington Bypass. This will lead to some very slight impacts on local landscape character, including the loss of intact hedgerows and mature trees. Effects are minor adverse (non-significant).

Year 1: The magnitude of change will be negligible as the only development will be minor modifications to the WCML, which will not affect the character of the landscape. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 15: The magnitude of change will be negligible as the only development will be minor modifications to the WCML, which will not affect the character of the landscape. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

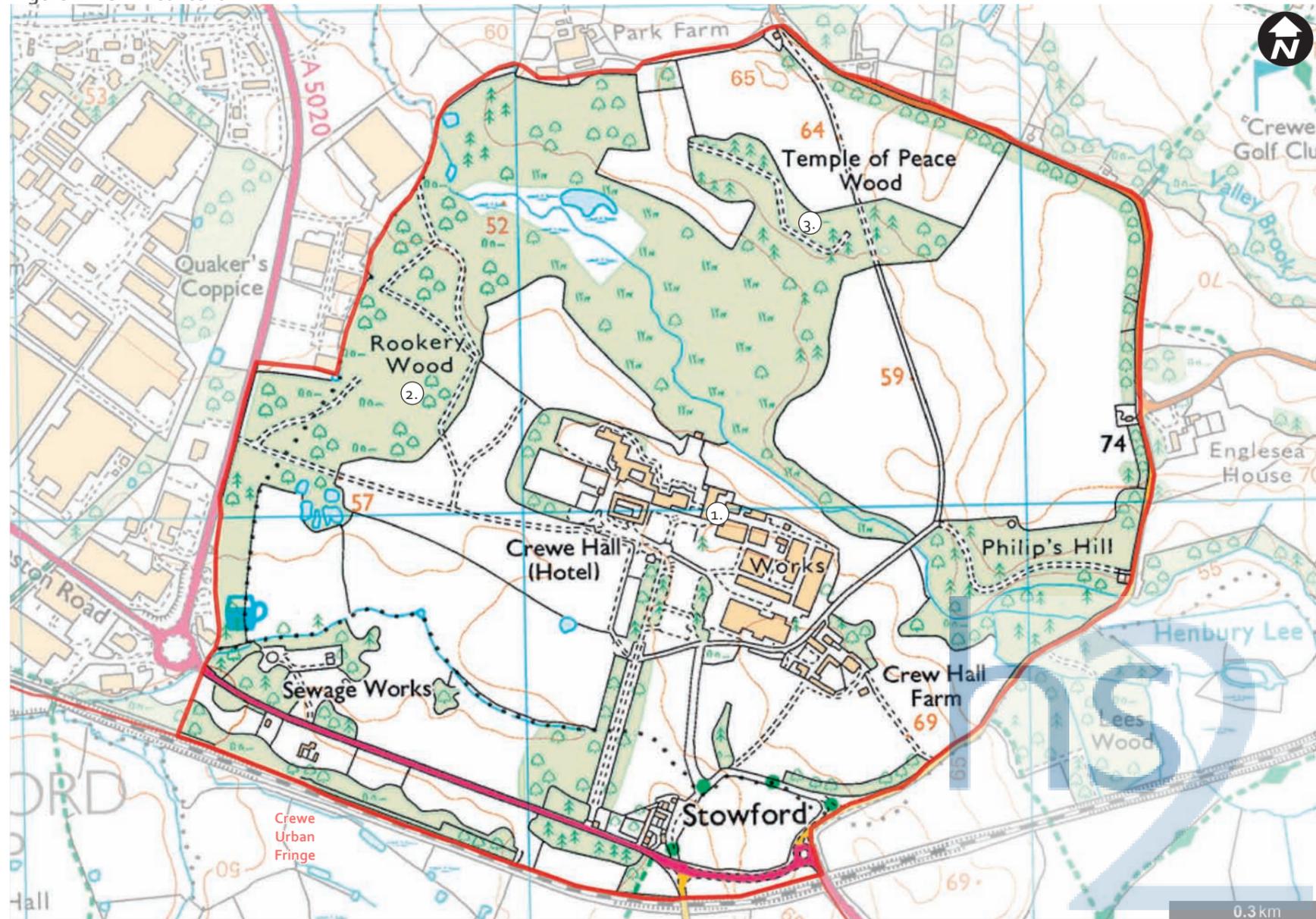
Year 60: The magnitude of change will be negligible as the only development will be minor modifications to the WCML, which will not affect the character of the landscape. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Crewe Hall LCA

Landscape character baseline description

Crewe Hall LCA covers the land and associated features of the Grade II Registered Historic Park and Garden and Grade I listed Crewe Hall (1). The 18th century parkland grounds, designed in part by Lancelot Brown and Humphry Repton, include terraces, gates and statues. Despite loss of many historic features including the lake and formal gardens around the mansion, this is a scenic, well-maintained landscape which provides the setting for a Grade I listed Jacobean mansion and associated buildings. Much of the parkland is now covered with mixed woodland, including Rookery Wood (2) and the Temple of Peace Wood (3). The mansion is now managed as a hotel, spa and conference centre with extensive recreational facilities and amenities. Crewe urban area to the north and west of the LCA and the urban fringe farmland to the south, are largely screened by the robust woodland shelterbelts which form the perimeter of the park. PRoWs extend around the park but the hall and surrounding estate is private.

Figure 1: LCA in context



Key Plan



Key

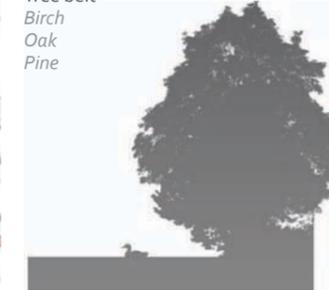
- Proposed Scheme
- LCA boundary
- 1. Crewe Hall
- 2. Rookery Wood
- 3. Temple of Peace Wood

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Principal vegetation



Tree belt
Birch
Oak
Pine



Parkland
Cedar
Beech
Oak



Tree lined avenues
Hornbeam

Principal vegetation key



Figure 2: Crewe Hall frontage, from the southern approach



Key value characteristics - Scenic quality and historic landscape: Crewe Hall is a Grade II Registered Historic Park and Garden which is managed as a spa. The gardens and surrounding parkland are scenic and provide the setting for a Grade I listed Jacobean mansion. Crewe Hall has a clear sense of historic character as a picturesque park.

Figure 3: Pastures and Rookery Wood



Key value characteristics - Perception of the landscape: A strongly historic parkland landscape with the Crewe Hall, associated buildings and woodland. Strong woodland belts screen views of the nearby settlement and impart a sense of tranquillity and enclosure to the park which is located within the urban fringe of Crewe.

Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the proposed scheme

Figure 4: Holly Hedge Farm and surrounding woodland along southern fringes of Crewe Hall estate



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: The magnitude of change will be negligible as the construction works north of the A500 Shavington Bypass are not extensive and comprise the presence of the Crewe South Crossovers compound and associated access road east of the WCML. The temporary presence of these features will not affect the character of the LCA. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 1: The magnitude of change will be negligible as the only development will be minor modifications to the WCML which will not affect the character of the landscape. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 15: The magnitude of change will be negligible as the only development will be minor modifications to the WCML which will not affect the character of the landscape. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 60: The magnitude of change will be negligible as the only development will be minor modifications to the WCML which will not affect the character of the landscape. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Landscape character assessment

Description of overall landscape value: This landscape includes the historic, highly scenic grounds of Crewe Hall, a Grade I listed Jacobean mansion and associated buildings. The wood pasture, parkland and well wooded grounds of the hall are a Grade II listed Registered Historic Park and Garden. Consequently, this is an attractive and historic landscape. Overall, given the above, the value of the landscape is medium-high.

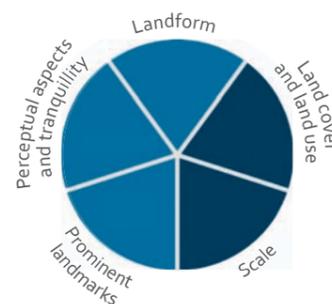
Description of overall landscape susceptibility: Many of the natural and historic features of this secluded and tranquil landscape are irreplaceable or replaceable only in the long term and are therefore susceptible to the Proposed Scheme. These include the enclosed and intimate scale of the landscape, the woodland and mature trees, ornamental gardens, historic buildings, parkland structures including terraces, gates and statues and as well as the experiential qualities of tranquillity and seclusion. Overall, given the above, the susceptibility of the landscape is high.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: This highly valued, historic, scenic and tranquil historic landscape has many susceptible landscape features. In 2009, English Heritage placed Crewe Hall on the Heritage at Risk Register. This is because the historic character of the gardens and park is highly vulnerable to new development. Overall, given the above, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the Proposed Scheme is high.

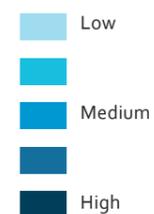
Value



Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key

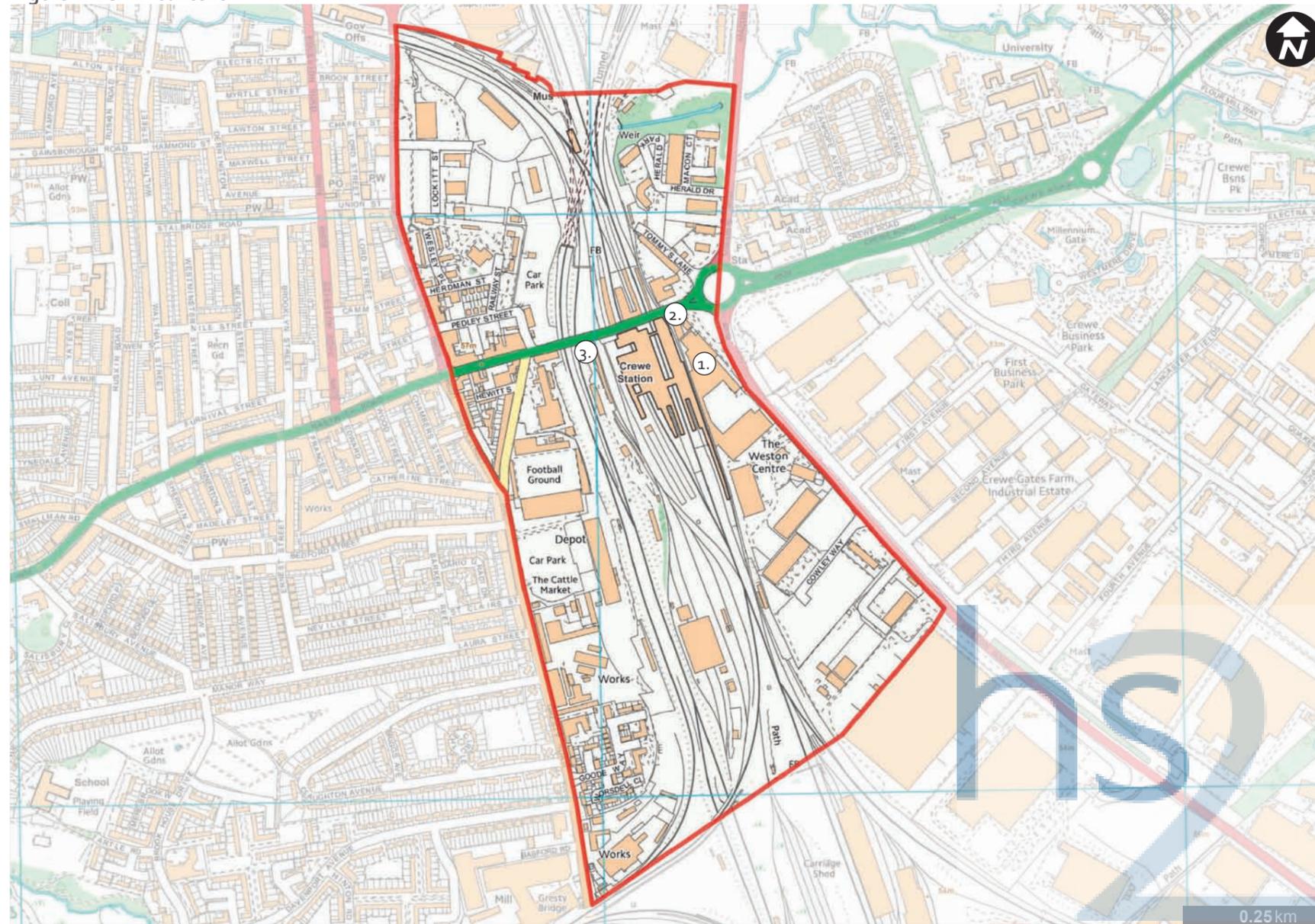


Crewe Station Built Area LCA

Landscape character baseline description

The Crewe Station Built Area LCA has a patchy and uneven urban form because of its history and the influence of the railway. The selection of Crewe by the Grand Junction Railway as the location for its locomotive works and junction station, saw Crewe transformed in the 19th century from a cluster of dispersed farmhouses and cottages set in country lanes around Crewe Hall to one of the most important railway towns in the country. The town was laid out as a grid but this has been distorted by the development of shopping centres, leisure facilities, business and industrial parks and other modern schemes. Crewe station (1) lies less than a mile from Crewe town centre. The area immediately around it comprises relatively poor quality urban space, dominated by road and rail infrastructure, employment uses and vacant or underutilised buildings. Crewe Alexandra Football Club's Alexandra Stadium (2) is a prominent landmark on the western edge of the LCA.

Figure 1: LCA in context



Key Plan



Key

-  Proposed Scheme
-  LCA boundary
-  1. Crewe Station
-  2. Crewe Alexandra Football Club's Alexandra Stadium
-  3. Crewe Arms Hotel

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Principal vegetation



Street trees
Birch
Lime

Figure 2: Crewe Station from parking area off Weston Road



Key value characteristics - Scenic quality and historic landscape: The 1867 Grade II listed buildings which form part of Crewe station were constructed when the original station was rebuilt to the south of Nantwich Road. The cream and terracotta brick-built buildings consist of two linear station buildings on separate platforms and two screen walls, one to the east and the other to the west of the station.

Figure 3: Crewe Arms Hotel from north of Crewe Station



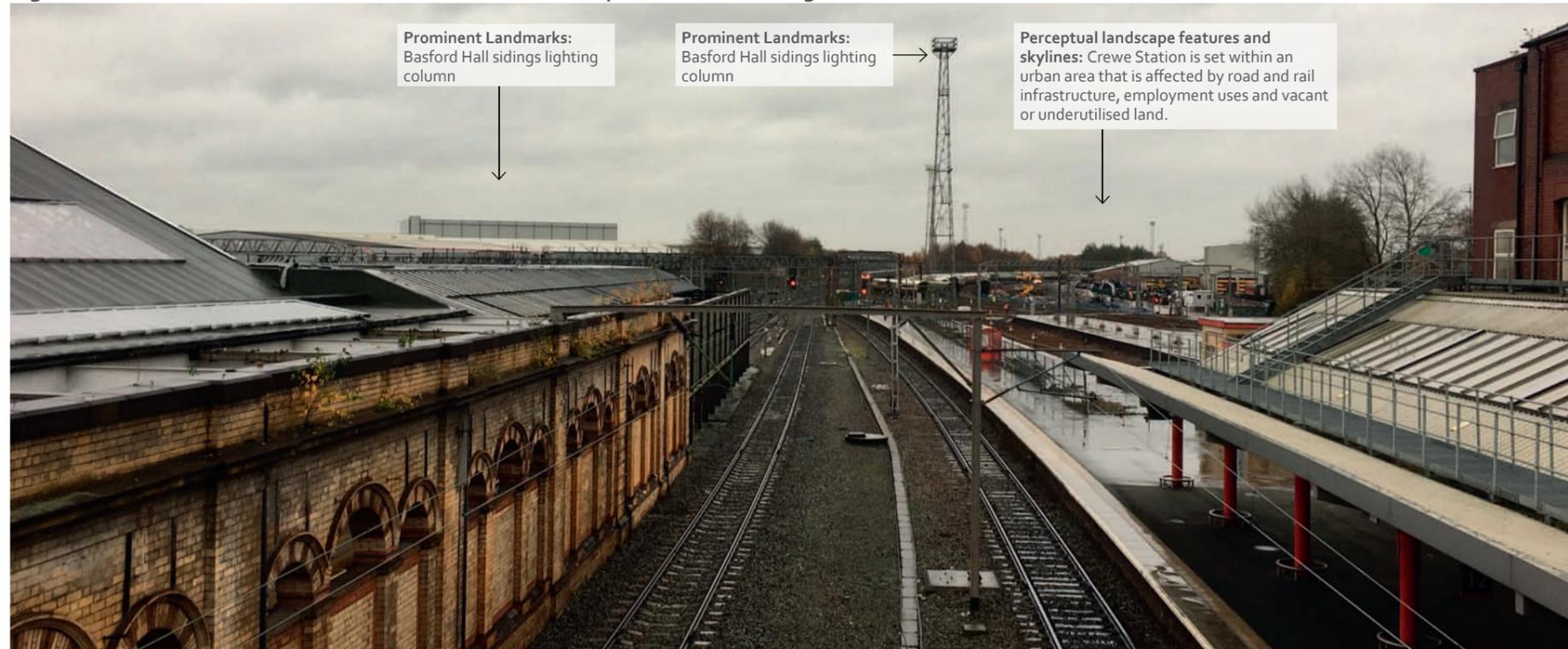
Key value characteristics - Perception of the landscape: Built in 1880, the Crewe Arms Hotel (3) on Nantwich Road was one of Britain's first railway hotels with its doors opening up onto the platform. It is a local landmark and one of the few buildings of merit near the station.

Principal vegetation key



Key susceptibility characteristics in relation to the proposed scheme

Figure 4: Crewe Station and WCML rail infrastructure from pedestrian overbridge



Landscape character assessment

Description of overall landscape value: The original Grade II listed Crewe Station buildings have had their setting degraded as the station has expanded in piecemeal around these structures. Similarly the area around the station comprises relatively poor quality urban space, dominated by road and rail infrastructure and vacant or underutilised buildings. The only buildings of historic merit are the highly detailed brick built 9th century Crewe Arms Hotel and the Royal Hotel on Nantwich Road. Neither of these buildings is listed but they are recognised as being of local heritage interest by Cheshire East Council. Overall, given the above, the value of the landscape is low.

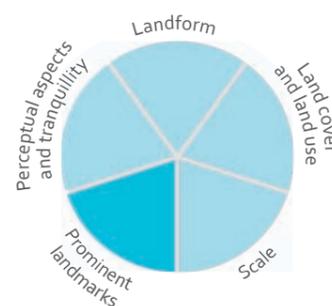
Description of overall landscape susceptibility: The Grade II listed station buildings and locally listed hotels are irreplaceable and therefore highly susceptible to change arising from the Proposed Scheme. The remainder of the station complex and surrounding townscape, lacks coherence or positive sense of place and therefore is less susceptible to the Proposed Scheme. Overall, given the above, the susceptibility of the landscape is low.

Description of overall landscape sensitivity: The station complex and surrounding area is heavily influenced by road and rail infrastructure and poor quality urban land uses. With the exception of the Grade II listed station buildings, the Crewe Arms Hotel and the Royal Hotel there are few buildings of architectural merit. The overall sensitivity is low.

Value



Susceptibility



Value and susceptibility key



Magnitude of change and level of effect

Construction: The magnitude of change will be low as the construction works will all take place within the curtilage of the existing station. The works comprise a new platform, lowering of existing rail tracks, construction of retaining walls and two new footbridges. The works will be managed from the large Motorail terminal railway systems satellite compound located within the station area and a smaller Alexandra Stadium railway systems satellite compound situated near the football stadium. The construction works and presence of satellite compounds, construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles, will add to the movement and disturbance already experienced in and around the station but will not affect the characteristics of the LCA. Effects are minor adverse (non-significant).

Year 1: The magnitude of change will be negligible as the only noticeable development will be the addition of a new platform, two retaining walls and two new footbridges, none of which are uncharacteristic features in the urban landscape of this LCA. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 15: The magnitude of change will be negligible, as the only development will be the modifications to the station described above, which will not affect the character of the urban landscape of this LCA. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

Year 60: The magnitude of change will be negligible, as the only development will be the modifications to the station described above, which will not affect the character of the urban landscape of this LCA. Effects are negligible (non-significant).

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Part 3: Visual assessment

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Descriptions of the identified viewpoints are provided in this section. The viewpoints are shown on Maps LV-07-226b to LV-07-231 and LV-08-226b to LV-08-231 (Volume 5, Landscape and Visual Map Book). For each viewpoint, the first part of the baseline description relates to the view during the winter and the second part relates to the summer view. Where relevant the third part relates to the view at night time and the fourth part to the future baseline.
- 3.1.2 Effects have been assessed where relevant for construction, operation year 1, year 15 and year 60. A summary of all significant visual effects is given in the Volume 2, South Cheshire community area report, Section 11.
- 3.1.3 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.
- 3.1.4 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 Scope and Methodology Report (SMR) Addendum, Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002.
- 3.1.5 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 (SMR), Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002. All verifiable photography includes additional image specification and data information.

3.2 Visual receptors

- 3.2.1 The number on each viewpoint identifies the viewpoint locations which are shown on Maps LV-07-226b to LV-07-231 and LV-08-226b to LV-08-231 (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.
- 3.2.2 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 Technical Note - Approach to night time assessment contained within the SMR Addendum, Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002.

Viewpoint 024.02.016: View east from farmland near Checkley New Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Checkley Wood New Farm and recreational receptors using the Checkley cum Wrinehill Footpath 7.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 374308.526, 345541.898

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 374308.526, 345541.898

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)



Viewpoint 024.02.016: View east from farmland near Checkley New Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of large flat arable fields with few hedgerows or hedgerow trees. Checkley Wood New Farm is prominent within the open landscape. In the middle distance is the dense riparian vegetation, which marks the course of the meandering Checkley Brook. There are filtered views through this woodland of distant arable fields and pastures, with a generous amount of tree cover and occasional dispersed farmsteads including large buildings of The Grange. The skyline is screened by intervening vegetation and landform. Wood pole overhead lines and telegraph poles are noticeable features in the open landscape.</p>	<p>As winter, although the vegetation in full leaf along Checkley Brook partially obscures some background views.</p>

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	Residents and footpath users will have distant filtered views of construction activity associated with the Checkley Brook viaduct, Checkley North embankment, Checkley Lane realignment and Checkley Lane overbridge and associated earthworks, together with the Checkley Brook viaduct satellite compound, material stockpiles, construction equipment, and movement of construction vehicles. The tops of static tower cranes used for construction of the viaduct may also be visible. This construction activity will be glimpsed through the woodland along Checkley Brook. Residential receptors at Checkley Wood New Farm may have some upper floor views of the works between the trees. Recreational receptors on the Checkley cum Wrinehill Footpath 7 will have similar views. The magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects as the works will be largely screened and filtered by the intervening landform and vegetation.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and footpath users will have distant filtered views of the Proposed Scheme as it crosses the valley of Checkley Brook valley on the Checkley Brook viaduct and Checkley North embankment. The magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects due to the distance of this viewpoint from the various elements of the Proposed Scheme and the screening and filtering of views by vegetation along Checkley Brook.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	Views of the Proposed Scheme will be further screened and filtered by the woodland along Checkley Brook being in full leaf. The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant). This is also due to the only view of the Proposed Scheme likely to be from the upper floors of Checkley New Farm, from where the works will largely blend into the background view.	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The overhead line equipment and passing trains will be visible from the upper floors of Checkley Wood New Farm, but ground floor views will be masked and filtered by the intervening vegetation. The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The overhead line equipment and passing trains will be visible from the upper floors of Checkley Wood New Farm, but ground floor views will be masked and filtered by the intervening vegetation. The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 024.03.001: View north-east from farmland north of Checkley Brook

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors using Checkley cum Wrinehill Footpath 8.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 15/03/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 374690.607, 346069.225

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 01/09/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 374690.607, 346069.225

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



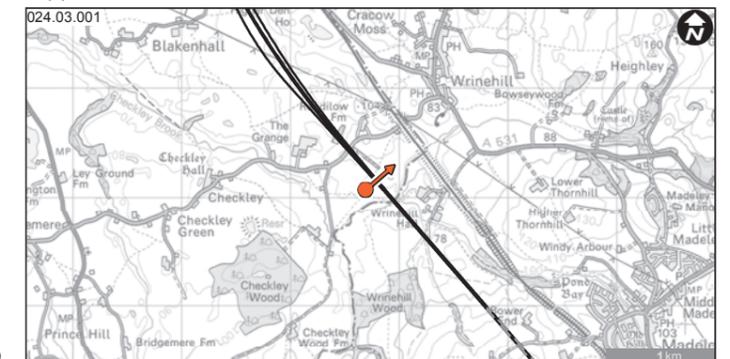
Value of the viewpoint:

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 024.03.001: View north-east from farmland north of Checkley Brook

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
This viewpoint is located in an area of gently rolling, large-scale arable fields bounded by hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees. Views beyond the foreground and mid-ground fields are largely restricted due to the rising landform, although distant fields, with hedgerows and trees are seen to the right of the view.	As winter, although the vegetation in full leaf partially obscures some background views.

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	Users of the footpath will have close range views of the construction activity associated with the Checkley North embankment and Checkley Brook viaduct, the Checkley Lane realignment, the Checkley Lane overbridge and associated earthworks. The presence of the Checkley Lane West satellite compound, construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will also impact on views. The works associated with Checkley Brook viaduct will be prominent and static tower cranes for construction of the viaduct will be visible on the skyline. Views across gently rolling open farmland will be replaced by a major construction site with extensive earth formation and movement of materials, as well as alterations to the local landform. A large material stockpile will also be located adjacent to the viewpoint. Due to the scale and proximity of the construction activity, there will be a high magnitude of visual change and major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Users of the footpath will have close range views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Checkley North embankment. The embankment slopes will be slackened but will still dominate most of the field of view and create an incongruous new skyline feature. Combined with the loss of existing landscape features, including some trees and hedgerows, the current rural outlook across large undulating pastures will be completely altered. There will therefore be a high magnitude of visual change and major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	As this is an open view with little intervening vegetation, the magnitude of visual change will remain high with major adverse (significant) effects due to the presence of the Checkley North embankment and Checkley Brook viaduct.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The Checkley North embankment and Checkley Brook viaduct will become less noticeable in the view by year 15, as the mitigation planting on the lower slopes of the Checkley North embankment matures and helps to both filter views and integrate the new landform within its wider visual context. As a result, the magnitude of visual change will reduce to medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	By year 60, the mitigation planting will be established and the Checkley North embankment and Checkley Brook viaduct will be better integrated within its visual context. Due to the scale and prominence of the Checkley North embankment within the view, however, the magnitude of change will remain medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)

Viewpoint 024.02.019: View east from farmland east of Turncocks Lane

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Little Meadow and recreational receptors using Checkley cum Wrinehill Footpath 4.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 25/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 374470.442, 346022.642

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 374470.442, 346022.642

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 024.02.019: View east from farmland east of Turncocks Lane

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of large gently rolling arable fields on the side of the River Lea valley. A belt of linear riparian woodland follows the meandering course of Checkley Brook along the valley floor. The open field in the foreground slopes down to the River Lea in the mid-ground, with gently rolling farmland, trees, copses and woodlands visible in the distance. Woodland covers a ridgeline to the south-east. Electricity pylons can be seen in the distance but are not prominent and there are some occasional glimpsed views of the overhead line equipment of the WCML in the distance.</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 and passing trains remain present in the view but are less noticeable.</p>

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	Residents and users of the footpath will have close range views of construction activity associated with the Checkley Brook viaduct and Checkley North embankment, the Checkley Lane realignment and Checkley Lane overbridge and associated earthworks. The presence of the Checkley Lane West satellite compound and Checkley North embankment satellite compound will also impact on views. Works associated with Checkley Brook viaduct including skyline views of static tower cranes will also be visible. These works and the presence of construction equipment, material stockpiles, and movement of construction vehicles will result in new features that form prominent, incongruous elements in the current views across the rolling well-wooded farmland, interrupting the characteristic hedgerow field boundaries. Due to the proximity and scale of the works in this location there will be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and users of the footpath will have close to medium range views of upper parts of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Checkley North embankment and Checkley Brook viaduct. The embankment slopes will be slackened but will still be prominent and will foreshorten views across the rolling fields. There will also be views of the Checkley Lane overbridge and associated road embankments. Some of the longer views, however, will be screened by the intervening landform. For these reasons, there will be a medium magnitude of visual change with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	As this is an open view, with little intervening vegetation, the magnitude of visual change will remain medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects due to the presence of the Checkley North embankment and Checkley Brook viaduct.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The Checkley viaduct and Checkley North embankment will become less apparent within the view by year 15 as the mitigation planting along the lower slopes of the Checkley North embankment matures and helps to both filter views and integrate the new landform within the wider visual context. The magnitude of visual change will therefore reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The Checkley North embankment will be substantially screened by the mature mitigation planting, but the River Lea viaduct will remain visible. The magnitude of visual change will therefore remain low with minor adverse (non-significant) rather than reduce to negligible.	Minor adverse (non-significant)

Viewpoint 024.02.017: View south-west from farmland near Bowsey Wood close to the A531 Main Road

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors along the A531 Main Road at Wrinehill and recreational receptors using Betley Footpath 1.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 375560.682, 346844.399

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

It was not possible to capture summer photography at this viewpoint due to programme/land access constraints.

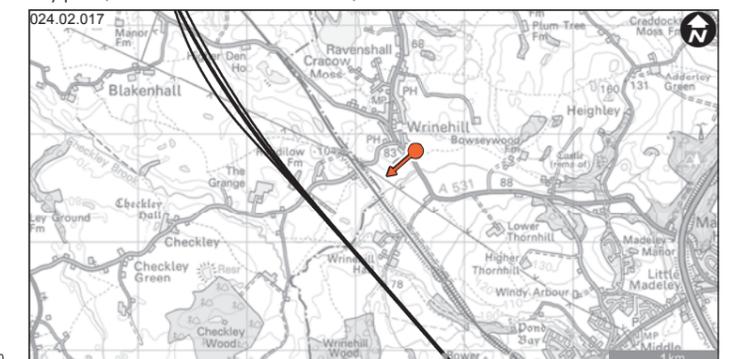
Value of the viewpoint:

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)



Viewpoint 024.02.017: View south-west from farmland near Bowsey Wood close to the A531 Main Road

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of farmland on the southern edge of Wrinehill village. This farmland comprises undulating arable fields bounded by hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees. The foreground comprises a large arable field and the rear gardens of properties on the edge of Wrinehill. In the mid-ground the A531 Main Road is bounded by hedgerows with mature trees. Beyond are gently rolling pastures bounded by hedgerows with mature trees. Electricity pylons and the overhead line equipment of the WCML are visible in the mid-ground. Low wooded hills and a second pylon line are visible on the skyline.</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 and remains present in the view but are less noticeable.</p>

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	Residents and footpath users will have distant views of construction activity associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the Checkley Lane realignment, Checkley Lane overbridge, and associated earthworks. These works and the presence of the Checkley North Embankment satellite compound, material stockpiles, construction equipment, and movement of construction vehicles will be new incongruous features in the rural landscape. Due to the distance of the works and the presence of intervening vegetation, the works will largely blend into the background of gently rolling and well treed farmland. Residential receptors on the edge of Wrinehill will have some upper floor views of the construction activity, although these will be further screened and filtered by garden boundary trees. The magnitude of visual change will therefore be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and footpath users will have distant, glimpsed views of the overhead line equipment and the Checkley Lane overbridge, although these views will be mainly experienced from the upper floors of properties. Due to the distance of the Checkley Lane overbridge and the presence of intervening vegetation, the magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	The generous tree and hedgerow cover in the mid-ground of the view means that in summer the overhead line equipment and the Checkley Lane overbridge will be largely screened from the view. The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will therefore reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The Checkley Lane overbridge and overhead line equipment will become less noticeable in the view by year 15, as the maturing mitigation planting on the lower slopes of the embankment helps to both filter views and integrate the new landform within the wider visual context. The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the overhead line equipment and the Checkley Lane overbridge within the view. The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

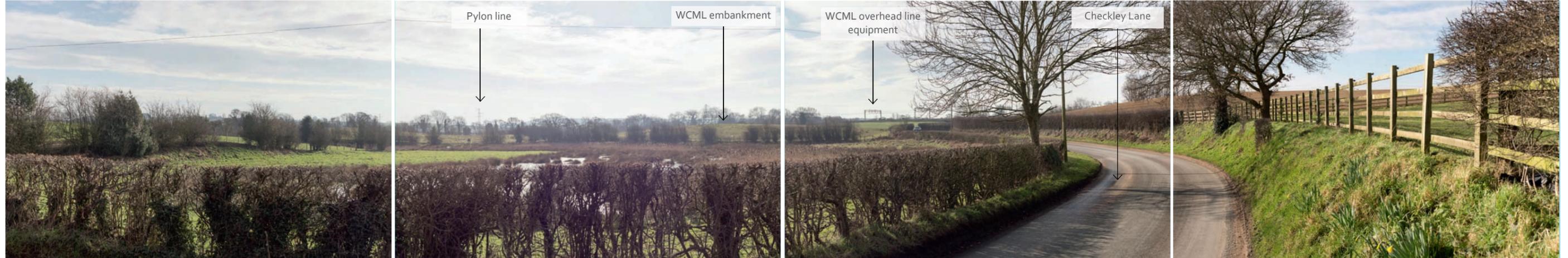
Viewpoint 024.02.004: View south-west from Checkley Lane near Maltkiln Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors and transport receptors near the junction of Checkley Lane with the A531 Main Road.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 375230.078, 346897.055

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 375230.078, 346897.055

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 024.02.004: View south-west from Checkley Lane near Maltkiln Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
This viewpoint is located on Checkley Lane, which winds through undulating arable fields, bounded by hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees. In the foreground Checkley Lane is bounded by mature roadside hedgerows with a low embankment on one side. Beyond the hedgerow is an area of damp marshy grassland. In the mid-ground is an overgrown hedgerow, undulating landform and the WCML on embankment, with the overhead line equipment visible above the intervening vegetation. The WCML obscures more distant views, although distant ridgelines and woodlands are visible to the south above the foreground hedgerows and rail embankments. Distant electricity pylons are seen on the skyline above these background elements.	As winter, although the foreground vegetation in full leaf obscures much of the mid-ground and background views. The overhead line equipment of the WCML is barely visible.

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	Residents and transport receptors will have distant views of construction activity associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the Checkley Lane realignment and Checkley Lane overbridge beyond and above the WCML embankment. Residential receptors on the edge of Wrinehill will have some upper floor views of the works although these will be further screened and filtered by garden boundary trees. Due to the distance and localised screening of views by the WCML, the magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects as the works will blend into the background view.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and transport receptors will have distant views of the Checkley Lane overbridge and overhead line equipment, although these views will mainly be experienced from the upper floors of properties. Due to the distance and localised screening of views by the WCML, the magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects as these elements of the Proposed Scheme will blend into the background view.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	Distant views of the Proposed Scheme will be more screened and filtered by intervening trees in full leaf. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will therefore reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The Checkley Lane overbridge and overhead line equipment will become less apparent in the view by year 15 as the mitigation planting matures and helps to both screen and filter views and integrate the new features within the wider visual context. Incremental growth of existing vegetation along the foot of the WCML embankment will also help integrate the infrastructure into the background view. The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will therefore remain negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the Checkley Lane overbridge and overhead line equipment within the view. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will therefore remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 024.02.010: View north-east from Checkley Lane and Turncocks Lane

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors near the junction of Checkley Lane and Turncocks Lane, recreational receptors on Checkley cum Wrinehill Footpaths 4 and 16 and transport receptors.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 374355.836, 346297.704

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 374355.836, 346297.704

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)



Viewpoint 024.02.010: View north-east from Checkley Lane and Turncocks Lane

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
This viewpoint is located in an area of gently undulating large-scale arable fields and pastures bounded by hedgerows with hedgerow trees. The meandering course of Checkley Brook is marked by a linear belt of riparian vegetation. The foreground view comprises a gappy but managed roadside hedgerow with mature hedgerow trees bounding large arable fields which rise away from the viewpoint to the mid-ground skyline. This localised landform largely contains most distant views, although occasional field boundary trees are just visible beyond the crest of landform in the background view. The skyline and long distance views are screened by intervening landform and vegetation.	As winter, although the foreground vegetation in full leaf obscures much of the mid-ground and background views.

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	Residents and users of the footpaths and lanes will have foreground views of construction activity associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs, Checkley North embankment, the Checkley Lane realignment, and Checkley Lane overbridge and associated earthworks, as well as the presence of the Checkley Lane West satellite compound and the Checkley North embankment satellite compound. These works, and the presence of construction equipment, material stockpiles and movement of construction vehicles will result in new features that form prominent, incongruous elements in the current views across the rolling well-wooded farmland, interrupting the characteristic hedgerow field boundaries and small blocks of woodland. Due to the proximity and scale of the works in this location, the construction work will introduce a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and users of the footpaths and lanes will have close to medium range views of upper parts of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Checkley North embankment. The embankment slopes will be slackened but will still be prominent and will foreshorten views across the rolling fields. There will also be views of the Checkley Lane overbridge and associated road embankments. Additionally, residents at the bungalow on Checkley Lane close to the viewpoint will have close range views of the Checkley Lane diversion. Existing hedgerows and trees present in the view will be removed. Some of the longer views, however, will be screened by the intervening landform. The magnitude of visual change will therefore be medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	As most of the foreground vegetation will have been removed, there will be no additional screening or filtering of views. The magnitude of visual change will therefore remain medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	At year 15, the maturing roadside mitigation planting and extensive planting around the Checkley North embankment and Checkley Lane overbridge will help to filter views and integrate the new features within the wider visual context. For this reason the magnitude of visual change will reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the Checkley North embankment and Checkley Lane overbridge within the view. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 024.02.008: View south-west from Checkley Lane near Randilow Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Randilow Farm and transport receptors using Checkley Lane.

Winter view (baseline)

It was not possible to capture winter photography at this viewpoint due to programme / land access constraints.

Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 01/09/2016. Time taken: 10:19. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 374666.676, 346562.489. Elevation: 96.693 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 receptors with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



Viewpoint 024.02.008: View south-west from Checkley Lane near Randilow Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located between an area of large-scale open arable fields to the south of Checkley Lane, and an area of medium-scale pastures and a high tree cover to the north of the lane. The foreground view comprises intermittent managed roadside hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees, bounding a large arable field to the south and a medium scale pasture to the north. The hedgerows and trees combined with the gently rolling landform, contain most mid-range views, although The Grange farm and outbuildings is just visible between the vegetation. Background views comprise rolling pastures with a high prevalence of hedgerows and hedgerow trees.</p>	<p>As winter, although the foreground vegetation in full leaf obscures much of the mid-ground and background views.</p>

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	<p>Residents and lane users will have close range southerly views of construction activity associated with the Checkley Lane realignment and Checkley Lane overbridge and medium range westerly views of construction of the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the, HS2 spurs and associated earthworks, although these views will be partially screened and filtered by intervening trees. The Checkley North embankment satellite compound will also be visible in the mid-ground to the south. These works, associated earthworks, material stockpiles and the presence of construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will result in incongruous new features in the rural views. Together with the loss of mature vegetation alongside Checkley Lane, these elements will introduce a medium magnitude of visual change with moderate adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	<p>Residents and lane users will have close range views of passing vehicles on the Checkley Lane overbridge and mid-range views of the overhead line equipment on the Checkley North embankment. The realigned section of Checkley Lane will lie further from the viewpoint than at present, but the outlook, particularly to the south, will be quite different to that presently experienced, with a new road passing through what is currently an open arable field. For these reasons there will be a medium magnitude of visual change with moderate adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	<p>As most of the foreground vegetation will have been removed, there will be no additional screening or filtering of views. The magnitude of visual change will therefore remain medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	<p>The Checkley Lane overbridge will become less apparent in the view by year 15, as the mitigation planting around the Checkley Lane overbridge matures and helps screen views and integrate the overbridge and the realigned section of Checkley Lane within the wider visual context. The extensive mitigation planting around the realigned section of Checkley Lane will also help to screen and filter medium range views towards the realigned section of Checkley Lane and Checkley Lane overbridge to the south and Checkley North embankment to the west. The outlook will change from one of relatively open fields to one of mature woodland, but it will still be rural in context. The magnitude of visual change will therefore reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.</p> <p>The view of the Proposed Scheme from viewpoint 024.02.008 during year 15 operation (summer) is illustrated on the photomontage shown in figure LV-01.660 (Volume 2, South Cheshire area Map Book).</p>	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	<p>The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the Checkley Lane overbridge and Checkley North embankment within the view and the magnitude of visual change will therefore reduce to negligible (non-significant).</p>	Minor adverse (non-significant)

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Viewpoint 024.02.008: View south-west from Checkley Lane near Randilow Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Randilow Farm and transport receptors using Checkley Lane.

Current Baseline - Summer View

Date taken: 01/09/2016. Time taken: 10:19. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 374666.676, 346562.489. Elevation: 96.693 Metres AOD.



Summer Verifiable Photomontage - Operation Year 15 (2042)

Date taken: 01/09/2016. Time taken: 10:19. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 374666.676, 346562.489. Elevation: 96.693 Metres AOD.



The viewpoint has been taken approximately 167 metres away from the Proposed Scheme. Viewpoint location shown on Map LV-08-226b. The intervening landscape mitigation planting along Checkley Lane screens views of the Checkley Lane Overbridge, Checkley North Embankment and Blackenhall Southbound Spur Cutting. For full details of the visual assessment at viewpoint 024.02.008 refer to Volume 5: Appendix LV-001-003, Part 3.

This verifiable photomontage provides an illustration of how the Proposed Scheme may look in 2042 (15 years after opening) to help inform the visual impact assessment. The design of the LV-01-660 Proposed Scheme may be subject to design development in response to consultation. Development of detail design after Hybrid Bill submission will not result in any significant adverse change in the environmental effects reported in the assessment. Where new planting is proposed, it has been shown as semi-mature trees which have put on 15 years of growth to illustrate how the Proposed Scheme will further integrate into the landscape over time.

At this scale the images do not lend themselves to direct comparison out in the field. Therefore, for viewing in the field, it is recommended that each image from the panoramic photomontage is printed individually, onto an A3 landscape sheet for a viewing distance of 500mm. For further details on the selection of photomontage locations, verifiable methodology and presentation refer to the Landscape and visual assessment Technical Note - Approach to verifiable photomontages (SMR Addendum Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002).

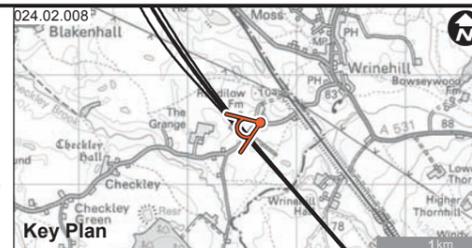


Figure Number	LV-01-660
Figure Name	Verifiable Photomontage Operation Year 15 (2042) - Summer Viewpoint 024.02.008
Community Area 5: South Cheshire	

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Doc Number: C861-ARP-EV-MAP-000-101660-P01

Date: 12/06/17

Viewpoint 024.02.009: View north-east from farmland north of Checkley Lane

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Checkley Brook Farm and recreational receptors using Blakenhall Footpath 4.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 373794.678, 346434.312

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 373794.678, 346434.312

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)



Viewpoint 024.02.009: View north-east from farmland north of Checkley Lane

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located between the smaller scale pastoral landscape of Checkley Brook to the west and an area of large open arable fields to the east. A large, gently rolling arable field bounded by managed hedgerows in the foreground of the view slopes down towards Checkley Brook Farm in the mid-ground. The Grange Farm complex and a wood pole overhead powerline are prominent in what is otherwise a fairly featureless view. In the background, tree belts, copses and individual mature hedgerow trees extend across the view. The tops of a distant electricity pylon line are visible above the crest of the landform. The tree covered hills around Acton are distantly visible between the intervening vegetation and landform.</p>	<p>As winter, although the foreground vegetation in full leaf obscures most of the mid-ground and background views.</p>

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	<p>Residents and users of the footpath will have medium range to distant views of the construction activity associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs, the realigned Checkley Lane and Checkley Lane overbridge and associated earthworks. These works, and the presence of construction equipment, material stockpiles and movement of construction vehicles will form incongruous features within the view. The presence of some linear material stockpiles will be a further uncharacteristic feature of the view but will serve to screen some of the construction works. Residential receptors at Checkley Brook Farm will have some distant views of the works, particularly from their upper floor windows. Recreational receptors on the Blakenhall Footpath 4, which is slightly more elevated than Checkley Brook Farm, will have more extensive views of the works, although these will be partially obstructed and filtered by the gently rolling landform, scattered field and hedgerow trees and by the Grange Farm complex. Although the construction activity in this area is extensive, only a small part of the view will be affected which reduces the magnitude of visual change to medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	<p>Residents and users of the footpath will have medium range to distant views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on low embankment or at grade. There will also be views of passing vehicles on the realigned Checkley Lane and Checkley Lane overbridge. The magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects partly due to the intervening distance, but also because the works will largely blend into the background view and only part of the view will be affected.</p>	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	<p>The foreground hedgerow in full leaf will obscure mid ground and distant views. Where longer views are afforded in gaps between the hedgerow, views of the elements of the Proposed Scheme described above will remain largely unchanged from the winter situation as there is little vegetation to provide additional summer screening. As a result the magnitude of visual change will remain low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.</p>	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	<p>Views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains will be partially obscured and filtered by the maturing mitigation planting, which will also assist in integrating the Checkley Lane overbridge into its wider visual context of large scale arable fields. For these reasons the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).</p>	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	<p>The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the overhead line equipment, passing trains and the Checkley Lane overbridge within the view. For these reasons the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).</p>	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 024.02.011: View north-east from farmland near The Grange

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at The Grange and recreational receptors using Blakenhall Footpath 17.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 24/03/2016. Time taken: 13:02. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373793.234, 346715.035. Elevation: 86.727 Metres AOD.

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

It was not possible to capture summer photography at this viewpoint due to programme/land access constraints.

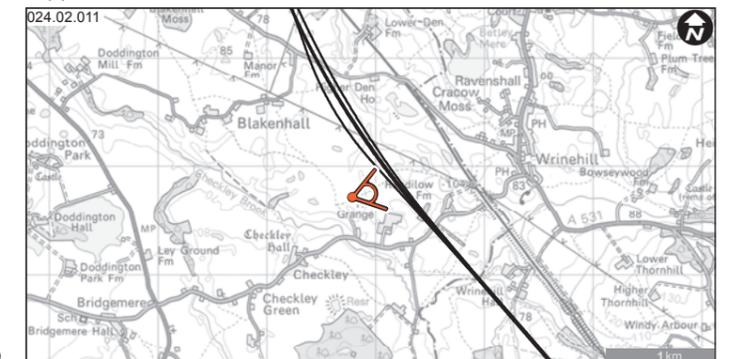
Value of the viewpoint:

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)



Viewpoint 024.02.011: View north-east from farmland near The Grange

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of large scale arable farmland, which lacks complexity, and has few natural features other than some managed hedgerows. Trees are notable by their absence. Foreground and mid-ground views comprise gently rolling arable fields in which the large farm complex at The Grange is a prominent feature and Randilow Farm more distantly visible. Electricity pylons and two wind turbines are skyline features. The distant horizon comprises the elevated farmland at Acton with its generous covering of woodland, copses and tree belts.</p>	<p>As winter, because this is an open landscape, although hedgerows in full leaf may provide some additional screening or filtering of low level views.</p>

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	Residents and users of the footpath will have medium range views of construction activity associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs and associated earthworks. These works, and the presence of construction equipment, materials stockpiles and movement of construction vehicles will result in new incongruous features in the view, although views from The Grange will be partially screened by intervening farm sheds. Recreational receptors on the Blakenhall Footpath 17, which is slightly more elevated than The Grange, will have more extensive views of the works. Overall, the construction activity in this location will introduce a medium magnitude of visual change with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and footpath users will have medium range views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains in shallow cutting or at grade. There are few trees or hedgerows to provide screening or filtering of views. Due to the intervening distance, the screening effect of intervening landform and the fact that only part of the view will be affected, the magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects. The view of the Proposed Scheme from viewpoint 024.02.011 during year 1 operation (summer) is illustrated on the photomontage shown in figure LV-01-559 (Volume 2, South Cheshire area Map Book).	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	The magnitude of visual change will remain low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects as there is little intervening vegetation other than the hedgerows to help screen or filter views.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	By the summer of year 15, the maturing mitigation planting will help to screen and filter views and integrate the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs within the wider visual context. For these reasons the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs within the view. For these reasons the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

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Viewpoint 024.02.011: View north-east from farmland near The Grange

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at The Grange and recreational receptors using Blakenhall Footpath 17.

Current Baseline - Winter View

Date taken: 24/03/2016. Time time: 13:02. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373793.234, 346715.035. Elevation: 86.727 Metres AOD.



Winter Verifiable Photomontage - Operation Year 1 (2027)

Date taken: 24/03/2016. Time time: 13:02. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373793.234, 346715.035. Elevation: 86.727 Metres AOD.



NOTE: Exact pylon design has not been shown at this stage. Exact appearance of pylons may vary following detailed design and retained existing buildings shown as indicative white massing were masked by vegetation in the original photography.

The viewpoint has been taken approximately 390 metres away from the Proposed Scheme. Viewpoint location shown on Map LV-08-226b.

For full details of the visual assessment at viewpoint 024.02.011 refer to Volume 5: Appendix LV-001-003, Part 3.

This verifiable photomontage provides an illustration of how the Proposed Scheme may look in 2027 (opening year) to help inform the visual impact assessment. The design of the LV-01-559 Proposed Scheme may be subject to design development in response to consultation. Development of detail design after Hybrid Bill submission will not result in any significant adverse change in the environmental effects reported in the assessment. Where new planting is proposed, it has been shown as immature plants which would mature over time to further integrate the Proposed Scheme into the landscape.

At this scale the images do not lend themselves to direct comparison out in the field. Therefore, for viewing in the field, it is recommended that each image from the panoramic photomontage is printed individually, onto an A3 landscape sheet for a viewing distance of 500mm. For further details on the selection of photomontage locations, verifiable methodology and presentation refer to the Landscape and visual assessment Technical Note - Approach to verifiable photomontages (SMR Addendum Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002).



Figure Number	LV-01-559
Figure Name	Verifiable Photomontage Operation Year 1 (2027) - Winter Viewpoint 024.02.011
Community Area 5: South Cheshire	



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Viewpoint 024.03.013: View east from farmland north-west of The Grange

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors using Blakenhall Footpath 4.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 373487.770, 346960.473

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 373487.770, 346960.473

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 a high level of sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



Viewpoint 024.03.013: View east from farmland north-west of The Grange

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of rolling farmland with few distinctive features other than some former field boundary trees and mature tree copses. The foreground view comprises a large arable field bounded by a gappy hedgerow and post and wire fence which rises away from the viewpoint to the mid-ground skyline. This localised landform largely contains most mid-ground views, although roofs of the large sheds at The Grange and some rolling arable fields are visible above the crest of the landform. Beyond these are distant views of farmland with a generous cover of trees and woodlands, including Checkley Wood and Wrinehill Wood, which form skyline features. An electricity pylon is distantly visible on the skyline to the left of the photograph.</p>	<p>As winter, although the foreground vegetation in full leaf obscures much of the view other than the distant skyline.</p>

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	Users of the footpath will have medium range views of construction activity associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including, the HS2 spurs and associated earthworks. These works, and the presence of construction equipment, material stockpiles, and movement of construction vehicles will result in new incongruous features in views across the open fields. Footpath users will have views of the construction works to the east and south-east as there is little vegetation to provide any screening or filtering of views. Overall, the construction activity in this location will introduce a medium magnitude of visual change with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Users of the footpath will have medium range views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on low embankment or at grade. There are few trees or hedgerows to provide screening, although the large scale, relatively flat landform means that the infrastructure will recede into the distance, and it will be less apparent in the view. For these reasons, there will be a low magnitude of visual change with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	The magnitude of visual change will remain low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects as there is little intervening vegetation other than the hedgerows to further screen or filter views.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	By the summer of year 15, the maturing mitigation planting will help to screen and filter views and integrate the elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs within the wider visual context. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs within the view. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 024.03.018: View south-west from farmland north of Bowsey Wood

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors at the intersection Betley Footpaths 4 and 15.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 29/03/2016. Time taken: 13:15. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373793.234, 346715.035. Elevation: 111.084 Metres AOD.

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

It was not possible to capture summer photography at this viewpoint due to programme/land access constraints.

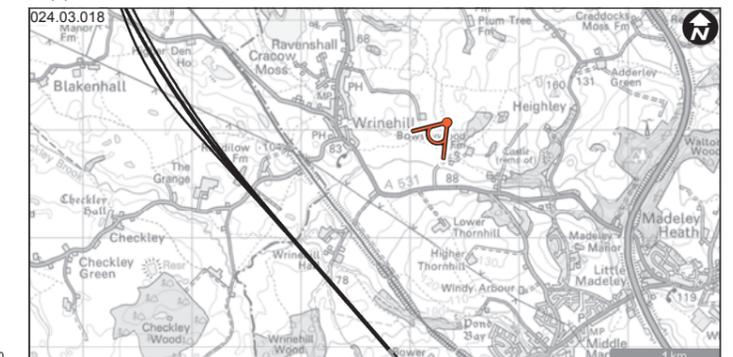
Value of the viewpoint:

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 024.03.018: View south-west from farmland north of Bowsey Wood

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
This viewpoint is located in an area of undulating small to medium scale slightly elevated arable fields and pastures with few hedgerow trees. The slightly elevated location affords sweeping, long distance views out over the rural landscape, with large open pastures in the foreground sloping in a south-westerly direction towards a linear tree belt along Checkley Brook in the mid-ground. Beyond the brook in the distance the lower lying landscape comprises mixed farmland bound by a robust intact hedgerow pattern. The WCML is distantly and intermittently visible between the landform and trees. Beyond the WCML, in the background view, the land begins to rise up with many large tree groups forming a well-wooded horizon. The hills of Wales are visible on the distant skyline to the west.	As winter although views of the WCML will be more screened by intervening vegetation in full leaf.

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	Users of the footpaths will have distant filtered views of construction activity beyond the WCML associated with the Checkley Brook viaduct, Checkley South embankment, Checkley North embankment, Checkley Lane realignment and Checkley Lane overbridge and associated earthworks, together with the presence of the Checkley Brook viaduct satellite compound, material stockpiles, construction equipment, and movement of construction vehicles. The tops of static tower cranes used for construction of the viaduct may also be visible. This construction activity will be glimpsed through the woodland along Checkley Brook. Residential receptors at Checkley Wood New Farm may have some upper floor views of the works between the trees. Recreational receptors on the Checkley cum Wrinehill Footpath 7 will have similar views. The magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects as the construction works will be screened and filtered by the intervening landform and vegetation and will largely blend into the background view. The view of the Proposed Scheme from viewpoint 024.03.018 during construction winter is illustrated on the photomontage shown in figure LV.01.615 (Volume 2, South Cheshire area Map Book).	Minor adverse (non-significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Users of the footpaths will have distant views of the Proposed Scheme beyond the WCML as it crosses the valley of Checkley Brook valley on the Checkley Brook viaduct and Checkley South embankment and Checkley North embankment. The overhead line equipment and passing trains will be visible between the trees. The magnitude of visual change will be negligible (non-significant) effects due to the distance of this viewpoint and the screening and filtering of views by intervening landform and vegetation along Checkley Brook.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	Views of the Proposed Scheme will be further screened and filtered by the woodland along Checkley Brook being in full leaf. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The overhead line equipment and passing trains will be distantly visible from the upper floors of Checkley Wood New Farm, but ground floor views will be screened and filtered by the intervening vegetation. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The overhead line equipment and passing trains will be distantly visible from the upper floors of Checkley Wood New Farm, but ground floor views will be screened and filtered by the intervening vegetation. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

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Viewpoint 024.03.018: View south-west from farmland north of Bowsey Wood

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors at the intersection Betley Footpaths 4 and 15.

Current Baseline - Winter View

Date taken: 29/03/2016. Time taken: 13:15. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373793.234, 346715.035. Elevation: 111.084 Metres AOD.



Winter Verifiable Photomontage - Peak construction phase (2023)

Date taken: 29/03/2016. Time taken: 13:15. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373793.234, 346715.035. Elevation: 111.084 Metres AOD.



NOTE: Exact pylon design has not been shown at this stage. Exact appearance of pylons may vary following detailed design.
The viewpoint has been taken approximately 1788 metres away from the Proposed Scheme. Viewpoint location shown on Map LV-07-226b.
For full details of the visual assessment at viewpoint 024.03.018 refer to Volume 5: Appendix LV-001-003, Part 3.

This verifiable photomontage provides an illustration of how the Proposed Scheme may look during the peak construction phase to help inform the visual impact assessment. The construction methods and siting of construction activities of the LV-01-615 Proposed Scheme may be subject to change in response to consultation and ongoing design. The extent of land required temporarily to construct the scheme will not extend beyond that shown in the photomontage. Changes in the construction of the Proposed Scheme will not result in any significant adverse change in the environmental effects detailed in the photomontages of the Proposed Scheme.

At this scale the images do not lend themselves to direct comparison out in the field. Therefore, for viewing in the field, it is recommended that each image from the panoramic photomontage is printed individually, onto an A3 landscape sheet for a viewing distance of 500mm. For further details on the selection of photomontage locations, verifiable methodology and presentation refer to the Landscape and visual assessment Technical Note - Approach to verifiable photomontages (SMR Addendum Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002).

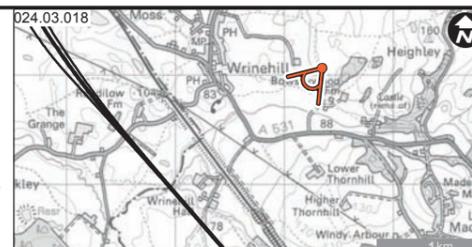


Figure Number	LV-01-615
Figure Name	Verifiable Photomontage Peak construction phase - Winter Viewpoint 024.03.018
Community Area 5: South Cheshire	

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Viewpoint 025.02.001: View south-west from Den Lane near Higher Den Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Higher Den Farm, recreational receptors using Den Lane, Blakenhall Bridleway 9 and Blakenhall Footpath 9, and transport receptors using Den Lane.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 373853.999, 347817.633

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



It was not possible to capture winter photography at this viewpoint due to programme / land access constraints.

Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 01/09/2016. Time taken: 14:15. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373853.999, 347817.633. Elevation: 75.997 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 receptors and recreational receptors with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



Viewpoint 025.02.001: View south-west from Den Lane near Higher Den Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located within an area of landform which is distinctive for its series of small-scale, irregular hillocks, deriving from the underlying glacial drift deposits. These are overlain by a medium pattern of irregular pastures with patchy hedgerows, and a high prevalence of former field boundary trees. The foreground view comprises a gently undulating pasture bounded by timber post and rail fences, with wood pole overhead lines and scattered mature trees. This merges into a strongly undulating pasture, which forms the mid-ground horizon and is bounded by overgrown and gappy hedgerows with groups of field boundary trees. This undulating pasture restricts most distant views other than some electricity pylons on the skyline.</p>	<p>As winter, although the hedgerows and trees in full leaf partially obscure some of the middle distance views. The electricity pylons remain visible on the skyline.</p>

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	<p>Residents and users of the footpaths will be surrounded on all sides by construction works, associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs, modification works to the WCML, Blakenhall Southbound spur embankment, the Den Lane diversion, Den Lane viaducts (East and West) and associated earthworks. These works, and the presence of construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will result in new features that form prominent, incongruous elements in the views across the medium-scale pastoral landscape, interrupting the already patchy hedgerow field boundary pattern and reducing scenic quality. Excavation and working of the borrow pit south of Higher Den Farm and west of a large unnamed mere, will occupy much of the mid-ground and distant view to the south. The borrow pit will result in loss of mature trees, hedgerows, small copses of trees, a pond and part of the distinctive belt of strongly undulating landform. The scale and proximity of the works in this location will completely alter the current rural outlook from both the ground and upper floors of the farm as well as from the PRoW. Part of the distinctive belt of strongly undulating landform will be lost for construction of the borrow pit. There is little intervening vegetation to provide any screening and as a result there will be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	<p>Residents and users of the footpaths will have views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Blakenhall Southbound spur embankment. There will also be views of the realigned Den Lane and vehicles on the Den Lane east viaduct. Upper storey views from Higher Den Farm, which occupies a more elevated situation than the viewpoint, will be more extensive. The slopes of the Blakenhall Southbound spur embankment will be slackened to help integrate it within the surrounding landscape, but it will still be a prominent, incongruous feature to the south-west. There will also be views of the restored borrow pit landscape (including newly reinstated hedgerows). The Proposed Scheme will include the formation of new balancing ponds with associated access tracks, two of which will be visible from the farm. Extensive new planting will not provide any screening or landscape integration at this stage. Given the proximity and the scale of the changes, the magnitude of visual change will be high with major adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	<p>Due to the open aspect of this view, the magnitude of visual change will remain high, with receptors continuing to experience major adverse (significant) effects from the presence of the new balancing pond access track, Blakenhall Southbound spur embankment, realigned Den Lane and vehicles on the Den Lane east viaduct.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	<p>The Proposed Scheme will become less apparent in the view by year 15, as the extensive mitigation planting around and between the various elements of the Proposed Scheme described above (including on the lower slopes of the Blakenhall Southbound spur embankment), matures and helps to both filter views and integrate the Blakenhall Southbound spur embankment and road embankments within the wider visual context. There may be glimpsed views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains above the maturing trees. The outlook will change from relatively open fields to developing woodland, but it will remain rural in context. There will therefore be a low magnitude of visual change with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.</p> <p>The view of the Proposed Scheme from viewpoint 025.02.001 during year 15 operation (summer) is illustrated on the photomontage shown in figure LV-01-661 (Volume 2, South Cheshire area Map Book).</p>	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	<p>The mature mitigation planting described above will further screen and help integrate the Blakenhall Southbound spur embankment and road embankments within the view. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).</p>	Negligible (non-significant)

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Viewpoint 025.02.001: View south-west from Den Lane near Higher Den Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Higher Den Farm, recreational receptors using Den Lane, Blakenhall Bridleway 9 and Blakenhall Footpath 9, and transport receptors using Den Lane.

Current Baseline - Summer View

Date taken: 01/09/2016. Time taken: 14:15. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373853.999, 347817.633. Elevation: 75.997 Metres AOD.



Summer Verifiable Photomontage - Operation Year 15 (2042)

Date taken: 01/09/2016. Time taken: 14:15. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373853.999, 347817.633. Elevation: 75.997 Metres AOD.



The viewpoint has been taken approximately 614 metres away from the Proposed Scheme. Viewpoint location shown on Map LV-08-227. The intervening landscape mitigation planting along Den Lane screens views of the Den Lane Central Underbridge, Den Lane East Viaduct and Blakenhall Southbound Spur Embankment. For full details of the visual assessment at viewpoint 025.02.001 refer to Volume 5: Appendix LV-001-003, Part 3.

This verifiable photomontage provides an illustration of how the Proposed Scheme may look in 2042 (15 years after opening) to help inform the visual impact assessment. The design of the LV-01-661 Proposed Scheme may be subject to design development in response to consultation. Development of detail design after Hybrid Bill submission will not result in any significant adverse change in the environmental effects reported in the assessment. Where new planting is proposed, it has been shown as semi-mature trees which have put on 15 years of growth to illustrate how the Proposed Scheme will further integrate into the landscape over time.

At this scale the images do not lend themselves to direct comparison out in the field. Therefore, for viewing in the field, it is recommended that each image from the panoramic photomontage is printed individually, onto an A3 landscape sheet for a viewing distance of 500mm. For further details on the selection of photomontage locations, verifiable methodology and presentation refer to the Landscape and visual assessment Technical Note - Approach to verifiable photomontages (SMR Addendum Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002).



Figure Number	LV-01-661
Figure Name	Verifiable Photomontage Operation Year 15 (2042) - Summer Viewpoint 025.02.001
Community Area 5: South Cheshire	

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Date: 12/06/17

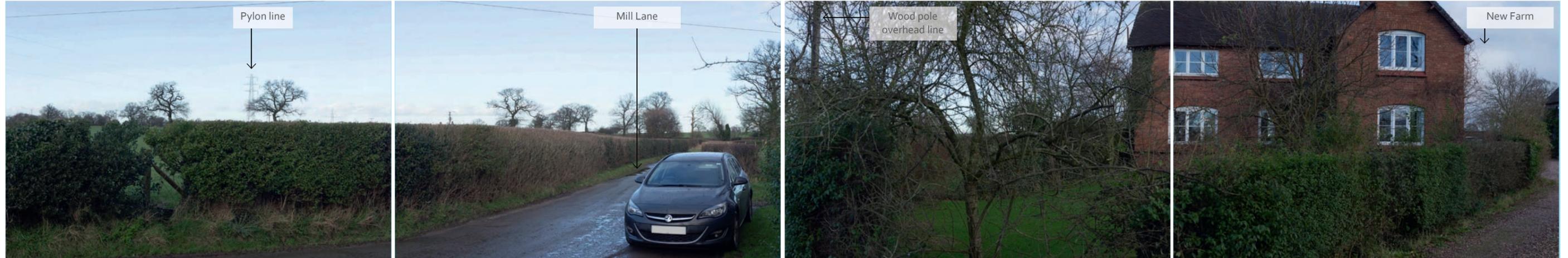
Viewpoint 025.02.003: View north-east from Mill Lane near Yew Tree Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors at Mill Lane, particularly Yew Tree Farm and New Farm and recreational receptors using Blakenhall Footpath 4.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 373078.657, 347605.721

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 373078.657, 347605.721

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)



Viewpoint 025.02.003: View north-east from Mill Lane near Yew Tree Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located on the boundary between a smaller scale pastoral landscape to the west and an area of large open arable fields with scattered former field boundary trees to the east. Beyond the roadside hedgerow the foreground view comprises a large, gently rolling arable field bounded by patchy managed hedgerows. This field slopes down towards a row of residential properties at the junction of Mill Lane and Den Lane in the mid-ground. Also in the mid-ground are an electricity pylon and telegraph pole are prominent features. In the background, groups of mature trees and small woodlands and the landform to the east rises to a crest on the horizon. Electricity pylons, wood pole overhead power lines and telegraph poles are visible on the skyline.</p>	<p>As winter, although the presence of hedgerows and trees in full leaf partially obscures the view.</p>

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	<p>Residents and users of the footpath will have close to medium range views across the roadside hedgerows towards the construction of the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs, the Den Lane diversion, Den Lane East and West viaducts and Den Lane Central underbridge, alterations to the Scottish Power Energy Networks 132kV overhead line and associated earthworks. These works, together with the presence of Blakenhall Northbound spur satellite compound, material stockpiles, construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will introduce further uncharacteristic features into the view. This construction activity will substantially change easterly views over the large scale arable farmland. Residential receptors on Mill Lane will have ground and upper floor views of the works, although these will be partially filtered by garden vegetation and by the scattered field and hedgerow trees. Footpath users will have views of the works above the roadside hedgerows, although views will be partially filtered by the intervening trees. Due to the scale and prominence of the construction works and loss of existing landscape features such as trees and hedgerows, there will be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	<p>Residents and users of the footpath will have medium range views across the roadside hedgerows of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the HS2 spur (northbound) and vehicles on the Den Lane West viaduct. Upper storey views from the properties will be more extensive. The new features in the view, combined with changes to the landform and loss of existing landscape features, including hedgerows, trees and field boundaries, will change the outlook from this viewpoint. Views will however be partially obscured and filtered by the intervening hedgerows and scattered field and hedgerow trees. For these reasons there will be a medium magnitude of visual change with moderate adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	<p>Intervening vegetation in full leaf will help screen and filter views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the HS2 spur (northbound). For this reason the magnitude of visual change will reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.</p>	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	<p>By the summer of year 15, the maturing mitigation planting around the various elements of the Proposed Scheme described above will help to screen views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the HS2 spur (northbound) within the view. There will therefore be a low magnitude of visual change with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.</p>	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	<p>The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the HS2 spur (northbound) within the view. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).</p>	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 025.02.007: View south-west from WCML overbridge

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 location: 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 location: 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 and recreational receptors with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



Viewpoint 025.02.007: View south-west from WCML overbridge

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)
No change anticipated.	No change anticipated.

Table 3: Visual impact assessment

	Temporary effect during construction	Level of effect
Construction	Residents and users of the footpath will have close range views of construction activity associated with the modifications to the WCML and construction of realigned section of Blakenhall Bridleway 8 and Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge and associated earthworks. The existing overbridge (on which this viewpoint is located) will be demolished. The presence of the Blakenhall cutting satellite compound, material stockpiles, construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will result in new features that form prominent, incongruous elements in close range views from the farm. In addition, there will be some distant views of construction of the Den Lane East viaduct and the Blakenhall Southbound spur embankment to the south-west. Together with some mature tree loss in front of the farm, these elements will introduce a high magnitude of change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and users of the footpath will have close range views of the realigned section of Blakenhall Bridleway 8 and Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge and associated bridge embankments. The most noticeable changes will be the interruption and foreshortening of views across an open arable field in front of the farm by the grassed embankments of the Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge. The existing access track will be realigned and the overbridge removed. Existing vegetation along the WCML will mostly screen views of Den Lane East viaduct to the south. For these reasons, the magnitude of visual change will be medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	Foreground vegetation in full leaf will help filter some views of the Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge and the magnitude of visual change will reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	As the mitigation planting around the lower embankment slopes of the Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge mature it will help screen and filter views of the overbridge and help integrate the structure within the wider visual context. The Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge will still be visible, therefore the magnitude of visual change will reduce to low rather than negligible. This will result in minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the Blakenhall Bridleway 8 accommodation overbridge within the view and the magnitude of visual change will remain low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)

Viewpoint 025.02.006: View east from junction of Den Lane and Mill Lane

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors along Mill Lane and transport receptors using Den Lane and Mill Lane.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 373266.087, 348059.097

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 16/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 373266.087, 348059.097

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



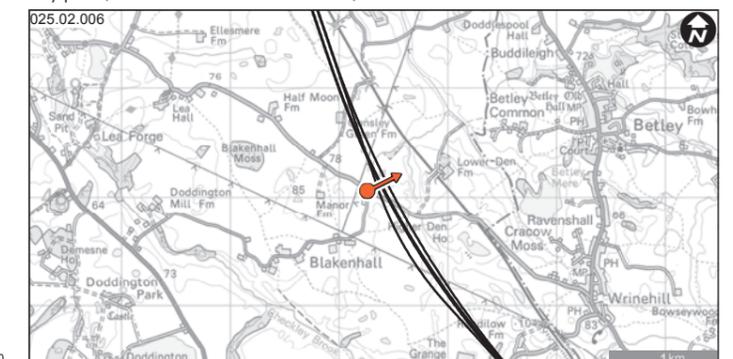
Value of the viewpoint:

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 025.02.006: View east from the junction of Den Lane and Mill Lane

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
This viewpoint is located in an area of small to medium-scale gently rolling arable fields and pastures bounded by hedgerows with hedgerow trees. On the opposite side of Mill Lane the rising landform restricts views to the tops of some trees on the mid-ground horizon. Low roadside hedgerows along the far side of Den Lane filter views of gently rising pastures with trees on the horizon. Background views are contained by the rising landform. A pylon line and wood pole overhead line are prominent skyline features.	As winter, although the view across Den Lane will be screened by roadside hedgerows in full leaf.

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	Residents and lane users will be surrounded by construction works, associated with the Blakenhall Northbound spur embankment, realigned section of Den Lane and the Den Lane West viaduct, associated earthworks, planted landscape bunds and alterations to the Scottish Power Energy Networks 132kV overhead line. The Blakenhall Northbound spur embankment satellite compound will also be visible in close range views from the ground and particularly upper floor of the residential properties. These works, and the presence of construction equipment, material stockpiles and movement of construction vehicles will introduce prominent, incongruous elements in the view across gently rising arable fields with scattered mature trees. Due to the extent and proximity of the construction activity, there will be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and lane users will have ground and upper floor close range views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Blakenhall Northbound spur embankment. The lower parts of the embankment will be screened by the landscape bunds, but the upper parts will be prominent, and will interrupt views across well-treed farmland from the front of the properties and fundamentally change skyline character. Although the slopes of the embankment will be slackened to help integrate them within the surrounding landscape, the Proposed Scheme will alter key characteristics of the view with loss of trees, hedgerows and field boundaries, and substantial changes to the gently rising landform. Views across the open farmland will be foreshortened. The realignment of Den Lane and raising of an existing pylon overhead line will create further visual effects. For these reasons there will be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	Views will be more filtered by the foreground hedgerows in full leaf, but the landscape bunds and Blakenhall Northbound spur embankment beyond will remain prominent. The magnitude of visual change will therefore remain high with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The Proposed Scheme will become less prominent within the view by year 15, as the extensive maturing mitigation planting helps to filter views and integrate the embankment and landscape bunds within the wider visual context. The outlook will change from relatively open arable fields and pastures to developing woodland, but it will remain rural in context. Views of passing trains and the overhead line equipment will be screened by the maturing vegetation. Due to the sense of severance and foreshortening of views caused by the close proximity of the Blakenhall Northbound spur embankment, the magnitude of change will reduce to medium rather than low with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	By year 60, although the Blakenhall Northbound spur embankment will not be visible, there will be an ongoing sense of severance and foreshortening of views. The magnitude of visual change will therefore remain medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)

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)



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)
No change anticipated.	No change anticipated.

Table 3: Visual impact assessment

	Temporary effect during construction	Level of effect
Construction	<p>Residents and users of the footpath and bridleway will be surrounded on three sides by construction works associated with the HS2 spurs, Crewe South cutting, Chorlton South embankment, the South Crewe mid-point auto-transformer station, associated earthworks and landscape bunds. Construction of the Blakenhall viaduct will be distantly visible to the south. The Crewe South cutting satellite compound will also be visible in the mid-ground. These works, presence of construction equipment, materials stockpiles and movement of construction vehicles will be prominent and incongruous elements in the views across the arable fields and pastures, foreshortening views and interrupting the characteristic hedgerow/ post and rail field boundaries, and small blocks of woodland and the rural, relatively open visual character. A distinctive copse of trees to the east of the farm will be removed and pond to the rear, which is a focal point in views from the house, will be reduced in size. The scale and proximity of the works in this location will completely alter the current rural outlook from both the ground and upper floors of the farm, as there is little intervening vegetation to provide any screening. As a result there will be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	<p>Residents and users of the footpath and diverted section of Blakenhall Bridleway 12 will have close range views of newly planted landscape bunds, the South Crewe mid-point auto-transformer station and access track. Above and beyond the landscape bunds the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Chorlton South embankment will extend across most of the view to the east. Whilst the lower parts of the embankment will be screened by the landscape bunds, the upper parts will be apparent. South of the bunds the Blakenhall viaduct will also be visible. Blakenhall Bridleway 12 will be closed and the existing WCML overbridge demolished. The new features in the view, combined with changes to the landform and loss of existing landscape features, including hedgerows and mature trees, will intensify the effects of the WCML and change the current rural outlook across arable fields and pastures towards Chorlton and Wychwood Park. The pond to the rear of the Gonsley Green Farm will be reduced in size and the northern end of the landscape bund will impinge on views from the house and define new skyline views. The magnitude of visual change will therefore be high with major adverse (significant) effects.</p> <p>The view of the Proposed Scheme from viewpoint 025.02.013 during year 1 operation (summer) is illustrated on the photomontage shown in figure LV-01-563 (Volume 2, South Cheshire area Map Book).</p>	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	<p>Views of the elements of the Proposed Scheme described above will remain largely unchanged due to the limited intervening vegetation to provide additional summer screening. The magnitude of change will therefore remain high with major adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	<p>The Proposed Scheme will become less prominent within the view by year 15, as the extensive maturing mitigation planting around the various elements of the Proposed Scheme described above, and along the landscape bunds helps to screen and filter views and integrate the embankment and landscape bunds within the wider visual context. The outlook will change from relatively open fields to developing woodland, but it will remain rural in context. Views of passing trains and the overhead line equipment will be screened by the maturing vegetation. Due to the sense of severance and loss of distant views, caused by the proximity of the wooded embankment, the magnitude of change will reduce to medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects, rather than low.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	<p>By year 60, although the Chorlton South embankment will not be visible, there will be an ongoing sense of severance and loss of longer views. The magnitude of visual change will therefore remain medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)

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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.

Current Baseline - Winter View

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.



Winter Verifiable Photomontage - Operation Year 1 (2027)

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.



NOTE: Exact pylon design has not been shown at this stage. Exact appearance of pylons may vary following detailed design.

The viewpoint has been taken approximately 106 metres away from the Proposed Scheme. Viewpoint location shown on Map LV-08-227.

For full details of the visual assessment at viewpoint 025.02.013 refer to Volume 5: Appendix LV-001-003, Part 3.

This verifiable photomontage provides an illustration of how the Proposed Scheme may look in 2027 (opening year) to help inform the visual impact assessment. The design of the LV-01-563 Proposed Scheme may be subject to design development in response to consultation. Development of detail design after Hybrid Bill submission will not result in any significant adverse change in the environmental effects reported in the assessment. Where new planting is proposed, it has been shown as immature plants which would mature over time to further integrate the Proposed Scheme into the landscape.

At this scale the images do not lend themselves to direct comparison out in the field. Therefore, for viewing in the field, it is recommended that each image from the panoramic photomontage is printed individually, onto an A3 landscape sheet for a viewing distance of 500mm. For further details on the selection of photomontage locations, verifiable methodology and presentation refer to the Landscape and visual assessment Technical Note - Approach to verifiable photomontages (SMR Addendum Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002).



Figure Number	LV-01-563
Figure Name	Verifiable Photomontage Operation Year 1 (2027) - Winter Viewpoint 025.02.013
Community Area 5: South Cheshire	

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Doc Number: C861-ARP-EV-MAP-000-101563-P01

Date: 12/06/17

Viewpoint 025.03.010: View south-west from farmland south of Waybutt Lane

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors using Chorlton Footpath 4.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 374129.495, 349397.826

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

It was not possible to capture summer photography at this viewpoint due to programme/land access constraints.

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 025.03.010: View west from farmland south of Waybutt Lane

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
This viewpoint is located on the boundary between an area of small to medium-scale, gently rolling arable fields and pastures, with robust hedgerows and generous cover of hedgerow trees and woodland, and an area of similar scale fields but with intermittent hedgerows and noticeably fewer trees. Foreground views look out across a gently rolling arable field bounded in the mid-ground by a narrow, linear belt of mature trees. The undulating landform extends into the mid-ground, where fields are bounded by post and wire fencing with occasional gappy sections of hedgerow. In the background, dispersed properties and the overhead line equipment of the WCML are glimpsed between the trees and the undulating landform. The elevated village of Chorlton is visible in the distance, and electricity pylons, a wind turbine and telecommunications mast are skyline features.	The tall arable crop within this field obscures views, but even without this crop it is assumed that trees along the field boundary in full leaf will largely screen views beyond the foreground field.

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	Users of the footpath will have distant views of the complex construction works associated with the area where the HS2 spurs and WCML meet in the open countryside to the south-west of Wychwood Park on the far side of the WCML. Due to the distance of this viewpoint from the Proposed Scheme and localised screening and filtering of views by intervening landform and vegetation, the magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects as the works will largely blend into the background view.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Users of the footpath will have distant views towards the WCML with the overhead line equipment overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Blakenhall viaduct and Chorlton South embankment beyond. These views will be distant and will be partially screened or filtered by intervening vegetation. Overall, given the above, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	Views will be further screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in full leaf. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The maturing mitigation planting will help to further screen and filter views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Blakenhall viaduct and Chorlton South embankment. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Blakenhall viaduct and Chorlton South embankment within the view. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 025.02.014: View east from Wrinehill Road near Half Moon Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors along Wrinehill Road and transport receptors using Wrinehill Road.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372291.020, 348796.468

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

It was not possible to capture summer photography at this viewpoint due to programme/land access constraints.

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 025.02.014: View east from Wrinehill Road near Half Moon Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of largely flat, medium scale arable fields and pastures, bounded by low gappy hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees. Fields show evidence of amalgamation, hedgerow loss and infilling by post and wire fencing. The foreground pasture is bounded by low gappy hedgerows and a wood pole overhead power line alongside the road. The Half Moon Farm complex is present to the right of the view. The mid-ground view comprises farmland with tree belts, woodland, hedgerows and scattered individual mature trees. The WCML runs at grade across the view and the overhead line equipment and passing trains are glimpsed between the intervening hedgerow trees. The skyline is mostly screened by intervening vegetation, but a distant ridgeline is visible to the right of the view.</p>	<p>As winter, although the vegetation in full leaf partially obscures some mid-ground and background views. Half Moon Farm and glimpses of the WCML are afforded above the foreground hedgerow.</p>

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	Residents and users of the road will have distant views of the complex construction works associated with the area where the HS2 spurs and WCML meet in the open countryside to the south-west of Wychwood Park. Residential receptors at Half Moon Farm, Half Moon Holding and Fradswell will have distant views of construction activity and the presence of construction equipment, including static tower cranes used for constructing the Blakenhall viaduct, which will be noticeable but not prominent in the view. Due to the distance of this viewpoint from the Proposed Scheme and localised screening and filtering of views by intervening landform and vegetation, the magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects as the works will largely blend into the background view.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and users of the road will have distant ground and upper floor views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Blakenhall viaduct and Chorlton South embankment. The relatively flat landform, combined with the distance means that the infrastructure will recede into the distance and it will become less apparent in the view. Intervening trees will also obstruct and filter views. The magnitude of visual change will therefore be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	Distant views of the Proposed Scheme will be largely obscured and filtered by intervening vegetation in full leaf. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The maturing mitigation planting will help to further screen and filter views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Blakenhall viaduct and Chorlton South embankment. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Blakenhall viaduct and Chorlton South embankment within the view. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 025.02.015: View south-east from Wrinehill Road near Lea Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors on Wrinehill Road, visitors to Lea Farm (Bed & Breakfast) and transport receptors using Wrinehill Road.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 09/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371866.994, 349016.580

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 17/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371866.994, 349016.580

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)



Viewpoint 025.02.015: View south-east from Winehill Road near Lea Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of largely flat, medium-scale arable fields and pastures, bounded by low gappy hedgerows with few trees. Fields show evidence of amalgamation, hedgerow loss and infilling by post and wire fencing. Foreground and mid-ground views comprise largely flat open pastures. A small, mixed woodland block is visible beyond the pastures. In the background beyond the woodland, properties around Chorlton Farm are visible through a gap in the tall hedgerows and scattered mature trees that screen distant views. The landform slopes away beyond the woodland and affords background views over a wide, well-treed valley in which the overhead line equipment of the WCML is distantly visible. The Wedgwood Monument on Bignall Hill and a pylon line are present on the skyline.</p>	<p>As winter, although trees in full foliage screen filter some mid-ground and distant views.</p>

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	Residents, visitors to Lea Farm and road users will have distant views of the complex construction works associated with the area where the HS2 spurs and WCML meet in the open countryside to the south-west of Wychwood Park. Construction activity and the presence of construction equipment, including static tower cranes used for constructing the Blakenhall viaduct, which will be noticeable but not prominent. Due to the distance of this viewpoint from the Proposed Scheme and localised screening and filtering of views by intervening landform and vegetation, the magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects as the works will largely blend into the background view.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents, visitors to Lea Farm and road users will have distant, glimpsed ground and upper floor views towards the WCML with the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Blakenhall viaduct and Chorlton South embankment. The new features in the view will only give rise to a slight change to the background view. Recreational receptors will have similar distant views. Overall the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	Distant views of the Proposed Scheme will be more screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in full leaf. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The maturing mitigation planting will help to further screen and filter views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Blakenhall viaduct and Chorlton South embankment. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the Blakenhall viaduct and Chorlton South embankment within the view. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 026.02.002: View south-west from Waybutt Lane

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors in Wychwood Park, recreational receptors using Chorlton Footpath 3 and transport receptors using Waybutt Lane.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 09/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 373118.471, 349680.984

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 24/08/2016. Time taken: 11:08. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373118.471, 349680.984. Elevation: 68.92 Metres AOD.

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



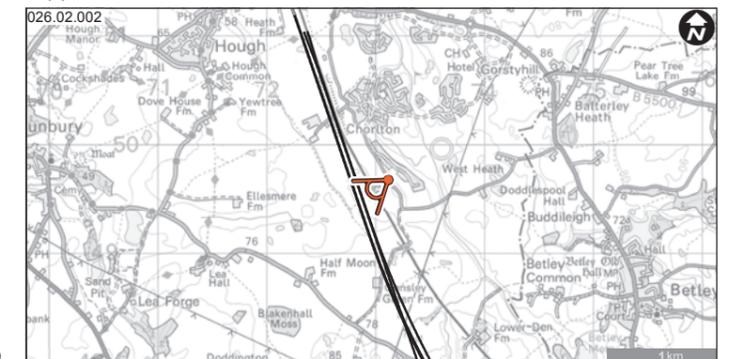
Value of the viewpoint:

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)



Viewpoint 026.02.002: View south-west from Waybutt Lane

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of medium scale arable fields, situated between the WCML to the west and the large slightly elevated rear gardens of properties within Wychwood Park to the east. The foreground view is of an open arable field with a farm track bounded by low hedgerows and occasional hedgerow trees. In the mid-ground beyond, the WCML runs on low embankment and the farm track crosses the WCML via a brick built overbridge. Occasional trees are dispersed along the rail embankment and partially screen views of passing trains. In the background beyond the WCML, pastures, woodlands, tree groups and individual mature trees are visible across the field of view. The skyline is formed by the rail embankment and intervening vegetation.</p>	<p>The summer view is similar to that of the winter, because this is an open view and the occasional trees in full foliage have little effect other than screening and filtering some views.</p>

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	Residents on the edge of Wychwood Park and users of the footpath and lane will have close range views towards the extensive construction works associated with the Proposed Scheme, including the HS2 spurs, a new section of the WCML, the Chorlton viaduct (and associated tower cranes) and Chorlton Lane diversion, retaining walls, embankments and cuttings, landscape bunds and balancing ponds. Views will also be affected by the presence of material stockpiles. The construction activity and movement of construction vehicles will substantially change the current outlook across large scale arable fields. Residential receptors on the edge of Wychwood Park will have views of the works from the ground and upper floors. The earth formation and haulage vehicle movements associated with the landscape bunds along Waybutt Lane and Chorlton Lane will be particularly prominent. Overall, given the above, there will be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents on the edge of Wychwood Park and users of the footpath and lane will have close range views of the landscape bunds which will screen most views of the Proposed Scheme beyond. Between the bunds, there will be views of the noise fence barriers on the Chorlton viaduct beyond the WCML, with the tops of passing trains and the overhead line equipment visible above. The Chorlton Footpath 3 will be diverted and the existing WCML overbridge removed. The mitigation planting will provide minimal screening or landscape integration at this stage, and the artificial landform of the bunds will be prominent in the view. Overall there will be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	The mitigation planting will provide minimal screening or landscape integration at this early stage, and the artificial landform of the bunds will still be prominent elements in the view. For these reasons there will continue to be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The Proposed Scheme will become less apparent in the view by year 15, as the maturing mitigation planting on the bunds helps to screen and filter views and integrate the new landscape bunds within their landscape context. Although the outlook will have changed from open fields to developing woodland, this is still a rural context. Therefore at year 15 there will be a low magnitude of visual change with minor adverse (non-significant) effects. The view of the Proposed Scheme from viewpoint 026.02.002 during year 15 operation (summer) is illustrated on the photomontage shown in figure LV-01-662 (Volume 2, South Cheshire area Map Book).	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	By year 60, the woodland mitigation planting will have matured, and will provide further screening and filtering of views. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

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Viewpoint 026.02.002: View south-west from Waybutt Lane

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors in Wychwood Park, recreational receptors using Chorlton Footpath 3 and transport receptors using Waybutt Lane.

Current Baseline - Summer View

Date taken: 24/08/2016. Time taken: 16:06. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373118.471, 349680.984. Elevation: 68.92 Metres AOD.



Summer Verifiable Photomontage - Operation Year 15 (2042)

Date taken: 24/08/2016. Time taken: 16:06. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 373118.471, 349680.984. Elevation: 68.92 Metres AOD.



The viewpoint has been taken approximately 292 metres away from the Proposed Scheme. Viewpoint location shown on Map LV-08-228. The intervening landscape earthworks and mitigation planting along Waybutt Lane screens views of the Chorlton Viaduct, Chorlton North Embankment and Blakenhall Bridleway 12 East Accommodation Overbridge. For full details of the visual assessment at viewpoint 026.02.002 refer to Volume 5: Appendix LV-001-003, Part 3.

This verifiable photomontage provides an illustration of how the Proposed Scheme may look in 2042 (15 years after opening) to help inform the visual impact assessment. The design of the LV-01-662 Proposed Scheme may be subject to design development in response to consultation. Development of detail design after Hybrid Bill submission will not result in any significant adverse change in the environmental effects reported in the assessment. Where new planting is proposed, it has been shown as semi-mature trees which have put on 15 years of growth to illustrate how the Proposed Scheme will further integrate into the landscape over time.

At this scale the images do not lend themselves to direct comparison out in the field. Therefore, for viewing in the field, it is recommended that each image from the panoramic photomontage is printed individually, onto an A3 landscape sheet for a viewing distance of 500mm. For further details on the selection of photomontage locations, verifiable methodology and presentation refer to the Landscape and visual assessment Technical Note - Approach to verifiable photomontages (SMR Addendum Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002).



Figure Number	LV-01-662
Figure Name	Verifiable Photomontage Operation Year 15 (2042) - Summer Viewpoint 026.02.002
Community Area 5: South Cheshire	

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Doc Number: C861-ARP-EV-MAP-000-101662-P01

Date: 12/06/17

Viewpoint 026.02.004: View east from Chorlton Lane

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors along Chorlton Lane and transport receptors using Chorlton Lane.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372555.231, 350221.947

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 23/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372555.231, 350221.947

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



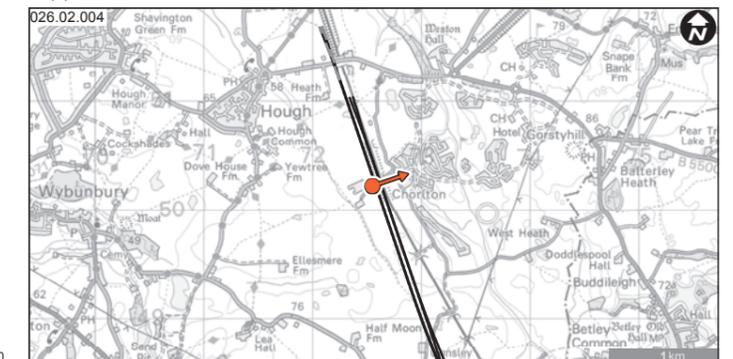
Value of the viewpoint:

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 026.02.004: View east from Chorlton Lane

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of largely flat, medium scale arable fields and pastures, bounded by low gappy hedgerows with few trees. Fields show evidence of amalgamation, hedgerow loss and infilling by post and wire fencing. The foreground view comprises Chorlton Lane with its roadside hedgerows, intermittent trees and brick built underbridge. The far side of the pasture is bounded by the WCML on low embankment in the mid-ground of the view. The overhead line equipment and passing trains are prominent. In the background beyond the WCML are the residential properties of Wychwood Park alongside further fields with hedgerows and trees. A single wind turbine is visible in the centre of view.</p>	<p>As winter, although the view is more screened and filtered by foliage on the foreground hedgerows and trees in full leaf. The sporadic trees on the WCML embankment provide little additional screening of the WCML and the overhead line equipment and passing trains remain prominent.</p>

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	Residents and lane users will have foreground views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Scheme including the new section of WCML, Chorlton Lane diversion, associated earthworks and planted landscape bunds. The presence of construction vehicles, material stockpiles and movement of construction vehicles will be further uncharacteristic features of the view. Works to divert Chorlton Lane, which currently crosses the WCML via underbridge, will be prominent in close range views. This construction activity will result in a loss of many of the key characteristics of the view which, despite proximity to the WCML is currently rural in outlook. Residents on Chorlton Lane will have ground and particularly upper floor views of the works, with little intervening vegetation to provide screening. Overall therefore the magnitude of visual change will be high with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and lane users will have close range views of the newly planted landscape bunds and Chorlton Lane diversion. The Chorlton Lane underbridge will be closed. A noise fence barrier and the upper parts of the overhead line equipment will be prominent features. Beyond and slightly above this, there will be views of the Chorlton retaining walls, overhead line equipment and passing trains associated with the new section of WCML. The presence of these new features, together with the loss of vegetation, will completely change the outlook from this viewpoint and will interrupt views to Wychwood Park. Overall the magnitude of visual change will be high with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	The removal of the existing vegetation along Chorlton Lane will create open views. Therefore there will be little vegetation to provide additional screening and filtering of summer views and the magnitude of visual change will remain high with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	By the summer of year 15, the large areas of maturing mitigation planting around Chorlton Lane will help to screen and filter views of the Proposed Scheme and the WCML beyond it, and additionally to integrate the new features within their landscape context. Although the outlook will have changed from open fields to developing woodland, this is still a rural context. Due to the proximity of the Proposed Scheme, however, the magnitude of visual change will be medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	By year 60, the mitigation planting matures and helps to screen and integrate the Proposed Scheme and new section of WCML within the wider visual context. The magnitude of visual change will therefore reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)

Viewpoint 026.02.006: View south-west from Waybutt Lane and Chorlton Lane junction

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors on the edge of Wychwood Park, recreational receptors using Chorlton Footpath 10 and the Wychwood Park Golf Course, and transport receptors on Waybutt Lane and Chorlton Lane.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 09/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372732.341, 350349.809

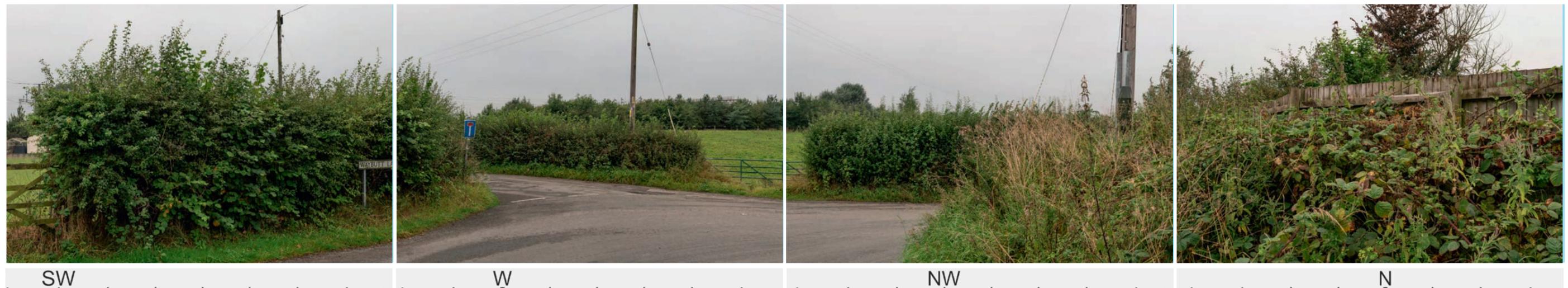
Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 25/08/2016. Time taken: 11:18. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 372732.341, 350349.809. Elevation: 65.237 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)



Viewpoint 026.02.006: View south-west from Waybutt Lane and Chorlton Lane junction

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of medium to large scale pastures fields, situated between the WCML to the west, and the slightly elevated rear gardens of properties within Wychwood Park to the east. Gently rising pastures with managed hedgerows in the foreground extend up to the WCML in the mid-ground. In the field to the right of Chorlton Lane, a low planted screen mound extends across much of the field and helps to screen the WCML, although the overhead line equipment remains visible. Other infrastructure includes a wood pole overhead line and telegraph lines. Parts of Dairy Farm and Lane End Farm are visible on the far side of the WCML, but distant views are masked by the WCML embankments, the bunds and intervening vegetation.</p>	<p>As winter, although the view is more screened and filtered by the foreground hedgerow in full leaf. The overhead line equipment of the WCML is substantially screened by the vegetation on the planted bunds.</p>

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	Residents on the edge of Wychwood Park, users of the footpath and Wychwood Park Golf Course and users of the lanes will have close range views towards extensive and complex construction works associated with the Proposed Scheme, including the HS2 spurs (northbound and southbound), a new section of the WCML, the Chorlton North embankment, Chorlton Lane diversion, Chorlton retaining walls, embankments and cuttings, noise barriers, associated earthworks and landscape bunds. These works, and the presence of construction equipment, material stockpiles and movement of construction vehicles will substantially change the current outlook which, despite proximity to the WCML, is currently rural in character. Residential receptors on the edge of Wychwood Park will have views of the works from the ground and upper floors. The works associated with the landscape bunds along Waybutt Lane and Chorlton Lane, and works to close Chorlton Lane, will be particularly prominent in views from Bridge Cottage and the edge of Wychwood Park. Overall there will be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects, due to the proximity and prominence of the construction activity.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents on the edge of Wychwood Park, users of the footpath and Wychwood Park Golf Course and users of the lanes will have close range views of the closed section of Chorlton Lane and the landscape bunds which will screen much of the Proposed Scheme beyond. Between the bunds there will be views of the noise fence barriers on the HS2 spur beyond the WCML, with the tops of passing trains and the overhead line equipment visible above. The loss of vegetation on the existing bunds (in order to raise the height of the existing bund) will be very apparent. Mitigation planting will not provide any screening or landscape integration at this stage and the artificial landform of the bunds will be noticeable in the view. The intensification of overhead line equipment and changes to the landscape bunds will give rise to a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	The foreground hedgerows in full leaf will help to screen views from Chorlton Lane and Waybutt Lane, but residential receptors on the edge of Wychwood Park will have views over the hedgerows towards the WCML. The magnitude of visual change will therefore remain high with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The noise fence barriers on the HS2 spur (southbound) will become less apparent in the view by year 15, as the maturing mitigation planting on and around the landscape bunds helps to both screen and filter views and integrate the bunds and noise barriers within their landscape context. Although the outlook will change from open fields to developing woodland, it will still be rural in context. The magnitude of visual change will therefore reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects. The view of the Proposed Scheme from viewpoint 026.02.006 during year 15 operation (summer) is illustrated on the photomontage shown in figure LV-01-665 (Volume 2, South Cheshire area Map Book).	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the noise fence barriers on the HS2 spur within the view. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

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Viewpoint 026.02.006: View south-west from Waybutt Lane and Chorlton Lane junction

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors on the edge of Wychwood Park, recreational receptors using Chorlton Footpath 10 and the Wychwood Park Golf Course, and transport receptors on Waybutt Lane and Chorlton Lane.

Current Baseline - Summer View

Date taken: 25/08/2016. Time taken: 10:02. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 372732.341, 350349.809. Elevation: 65.237 Metres AOD.



Summer Verifiable Photomontage - Operation Year 15 (2042)

Date taken: 25/08/2016. Time taken: 10:02. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 372732.341, 350349.809. Elevation: 65.237 Metres AOD.



The viewpoint has been taken approximately 194 metres away from the Proposed Scheme. Viewpoint location shown on Map LV-08-228. The intervening landscape mitigation planting along Chorlton Lane screens views of the WCML modification, Chorlton Lane Closure and Chorlton North Embankment. For full details of the visual assessment at viewpoint 026.02.006 refer to Volume 5: Appendix LV-001-003, Part 3.

This verifiable photomontage provides an illustration of how the Proposed Scheme may look in 2042 (15 years after opening) to help inform the visual impact assessment. The design of the LV-01-665 Proposed Scheme may be subject to design development in response to consultation. Development of detail design after Hybrid Bill submission will not result in any significant adverse change in the environmental effects reported in the assessment. Where new planting is proposed, it has been shown as semi-mature trees which have put on 15 years of growth to illustrate how the Proposed Scheme will further integrate into the landscape over time.

At this scale the images do not lend themselves to direct comparison out in the field. Therefore, for viewing in the field, it is recommended that each image from the panoramic photomontage is printed individually, onto an A3 landscape sheet for a viewing distance of 500mm. For further details on the selection of photomontage locations, verifiable methodology and presentation refer to the Landscape and visual assessment Technical Note - Approach to verifiable photomontages (SMR Addendum Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002).

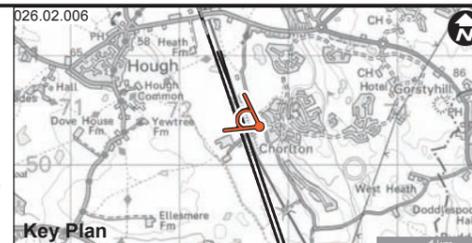


Figure Number	LV-01-665
Figure Name	Verifiable Photomontage Operation Year 15 (2042) - Summer Viewpoint 026.02.006
Community Area 5: South Cheshire	



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Doc Number: C861-ARP-EV-MAP-000-101665-P01

Date: 12/06/17

Viewpoint 026.02.012: View north-east from farmland near Heath Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors of Heath Farm and the vicinity and recreational receptors using the Chorlton Footpath 8.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 29/03/2016. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 372021.145, 351040.699. Elevation: 64.174 Metres AOD.

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



*Relocated winter viewpoint photography (to match summer position) from this location was unable to be undertaken due to land access restrictions.

Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 23/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372023.587, 351039.409 RELOCATED

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)



Viewpoint 026.02.012: View north-east from farmland near Heath Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of medium scale arable fields close to the A500 Shavington Bypass and the WCML. The foreground flat arable field bounded by robust hedgerows with few hedgerow trees extends into the mid-ground where the large agricultural buildings of Heath Farm are clearly visible. The tall columnar poplar trees along the access track to Heath Farm are a prominent feature. Further poplar trees are visible on the distant horizon. Newcastle Road crosses the WCML via overbridge and this and the overhead line equipment of the WCML are partly visible beyond the poplars. The flat landscape limits distant views.</p>	<p>As winter although there is some additional screening and filtering of mid-ground views. The Newcastle road overbridge and overhead line equipment of the WCML remain visible beyond the row of poplar trees.</p>

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	<p>Residents and users of Chorlton footpath 8 will have close to medium range views towards construction works associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the Crewe South cutting, HS2 spurs, new section of the WCML, Chorlton Lane diversion and Chorlton Footpath 7 overbridge, associated earthworks, two balancing ponds, associated earthworks and landscape bunds. The presence of the Heath Farm satellite compound, material stockpiles, construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will completely change the current rural outlook across open farmland in which the WCML currently has a relatively unobtrusive presence. Users of the nearby South Cheshire Way and Two Saints Way will have wide ranging views of the works. The earth formation and haulage vehicle movement associated with the landscape bunds along the diverted section of Chorlton Lane will be particularly prominent. Some views of the construction works will be filtered by the line of poplar trees along the access track to Heath Farm, but due to the scale and proximity of the works the magnitude of change will be high with major adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	<p>Residents and users of Chorlton Footpath 8 will have close to medium range views of the diverted section of Chorlton Lane, the Chorlton 7 overbridge, newly planted landscape bunds and the balancing ponds. There may also be distant views to the north of the Newcastle Road overbridge. It is unlikely that the overhead line equipment of the Proposed Scheme will be visible due to the location of the line in cutting as it approaches the Crewe South portal. Views will also continue to be filtered by the mature line of columnar poplar trees along the access track to Heath Farm and obstructed by the farm buildings. Mitigation planting will not provide any screening or landscape integration at this stage and the bunds and road diversion will be very apparent. The presence of these new features in the view will change the current rural outlook across arable fields and give rise to a medium magnitude of visual change and moderate adverse (significant) effects on these sensitive receptors.</p> <p>The view of the Proposed Scheme from viewpoint 026.02.012 during year 1 operation (winter) is illustrated on the photomontage shown in figure LV.01.565 (Volume 2, South Cheshire area Map Book).</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	<p>This is an open view with few trees to provide any screening or filtering of views. The magnitude of visual change will therefore remain medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	<p>The Proposed Scheme will become less apparent in the view by year 15, as the mitigation planting on the landscape bunds matures and helps to both screen and filter views, and integrate the elements of the Proposed Scheme described above within their wider visual context. Therefore at year 15 there will be a low magnitude of visual change and the effects will reduce to minor adverse (not significant).</p>	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	<p>The mature mitigation planting on the landscape bunds will further screen views of the overhead line equipment and integrate the bunds within the wider visual context. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).</p>	Negligible (non-significant)

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Viewpoint 026.02.012: View north-east from farmland near Heath Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors of Heath Farm and the vicinity and recreational receptors using the Chorlton Footpath 8.

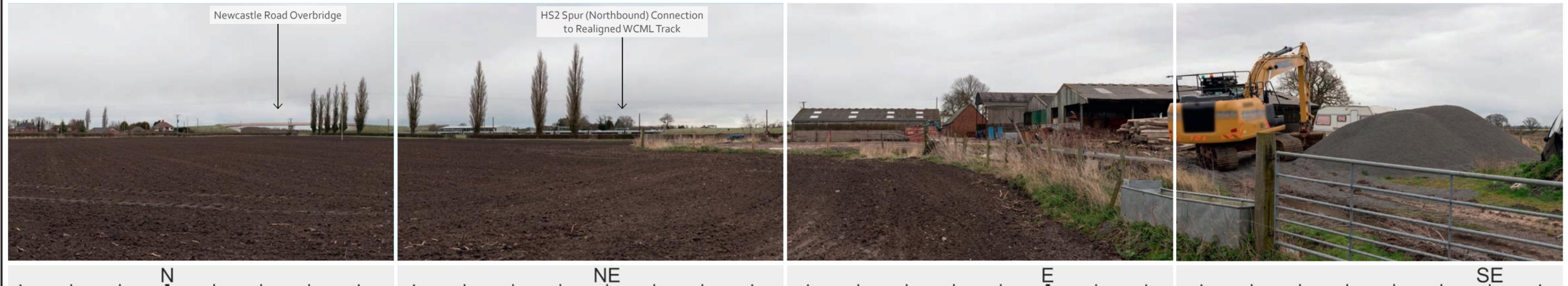
Current Baseline - Winter View

Date taken: 29/03/2016. Time taken: 14:48. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 372021.145, 351040.699. Elevation: 64.174 Metres AOD.



Winter Verifiable Photomontage - Operation Year 1 (2027)

Date taken: 29/03/2016. Time taken: 14:48. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 372021.145, 351040.699. Elevation: 64.174 Metres AOD.



The viewpoint has been taken approximately 271 metres away from the Proposed Scheme. Viewpoint location shown on Map LV-08-229. For full details of the visual assessment at viewpoint 026.02.012 refer to Volume 5: Appendix LV-001-003, Part 3.

This verifiable photomontage provides an illustration of how the Proposed Scheme may look in 2027 (opening year) to help inform the visual impact assessment. The design of the LV-01-565 Proposed Scheme may be subject to design development in response to consultation. Development of detail design after Hybrid Bill submission will not result in any significant adverse change in the environmental effects reported in the assessment. Where new planting is proposed, it has been shown as immature plants which would mature over time to further integrate the Proposed Scheme into the landscape.

At this scale the images do not lend themselves to direct comparison out in the field. Therefore, for viewing in the field, it is recommended that each image from the panoramic photomontage is printed individually, onto an A3 landscape sheet for a viewing distance of 500mm. For further details on the selection of photomontage locations, verifiable methodology and presentation refer to the Landscape and visual assessment Technical Note - Approach to verifiable photomontages (SMR Addendum Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002).



Figure Number	LV-01-565
Figure Name	Verifiable Photomontage Operation Year 1 (2027) - Winter Viewpoint 026.02.012
Community Area 5: South Cheshire	

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Doc Number: C861-ARP-EV-MAP-000-101565-P01 **Date:** 12/06/17

Viewpoint 026.03.014: View south-west from within Wychwood Park

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors using Chorlton Footpath 10 and Wychwood Park Golf Course.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 09/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372933.721, 350724.322

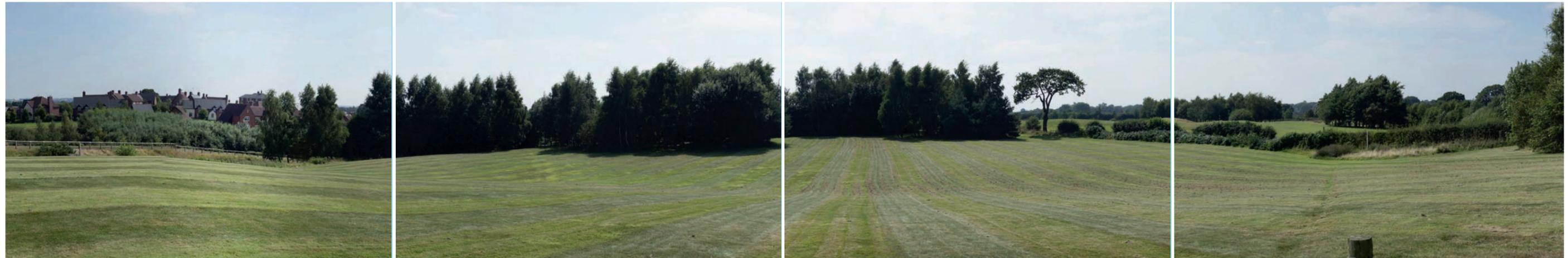
Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 17/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372933.721, 350724.322

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 026.03.014: View south-west from within Wychwood Park

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
The viewpoint is located in the undulating green space between two of the Wychwood Park housing areas at Chorlton, and close to the Wychwood Park Golf Course. Gently rolling grassland in the foreground slopes down to a gappy low hedgerow with the managed landscape of the golf course in the mid-ground beyond. Woodland belts and copses are still maturing. Jubilee Farm, and its associated outbuildings, are glimpsed between the trees in the distance. Wychwood Park residences and the overhead line equipment of the WCML are also intermittently visible across the background of the view. The upper parts of a warehouse at Jubilee Farm, a farm silo and rolling wooded hills are present on the skyline.	As winter, although the intervening hedgerows and trees in full leaf screen many mid-ground and distant views.

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	Users of the golf course and open space areas within Wychwood Park will have distant views of the construction works associated with the area where the different elements of the Proposed Scheme, including the HS2 spurs, new section of WCML, and WCML run parallel in the open countryside to the west of Wychwood Park on the far side of the WCML. These works will be distantly visible between the intervening hedgerows and trees. The nearest construction work to the viewpoint will be that associated with the landscape bunds along Chorlton Lane, but this will be substantially screened by the intervening landform and vegetation within the Wychwood Park Golf Course. Due to the distance of this viewpoint from the Proposed Scheme and localised screening and filtering of views by intervening landform and vegetation, the magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects as the works will largely blend into the background view.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Users of the golf course and open space areas within Wychwood Park will have glimpsed views of the overhead line equipment of the WCML and noise barriers along the HS2 spurs. The magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects, due to the distance of the Proposed Scheme and the presence of intervening vegetation.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	The intervening vegetation in full leaf will provide additional screening and the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	By the summer of year 15, the maturing mitigation planting on the landscape bunds between Chorlton Lane and the WCML will further screen views of the overhead line equipment and noise fence barriers within the view. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting and golf course planting will further screen and help integrate the overhead line equipment and noise fence barriers on the HS2 spur. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 026.03.010: View north-east from Hough Common

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors using Chorlton Footpath 1 and 7, Hough Footpath 8 and Hough Common.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 09/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371767.917, 350568.250

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 17/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371767.917, 350568.250

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



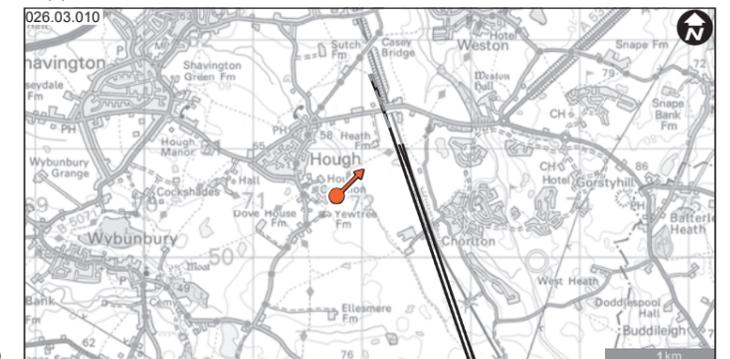
Value of the viewpoint:

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 026.03.010: View north-east from Hough Common

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located on the boundary between an area of small to medium scale, gently rolling arable fields and pastures, with robust hedgerows and a high prevalence of hedgerow trees and woodland, and an area of medium to large gently rolling pastures with intermittent hedgerows and noticeably fewer trees. Foreground and mid-ground views comprise gently rolling, open pastures bounded by Swill Brook, which is marked by a line of intermittent trees as well as a small area of developing woodland. Beyond Swill Brook, the landscape is largely open apart from the cluster of properties around Chorlton Farm which are well screened by vegetation. The WCML is visible to the rear of the field as it rises on embankment to bridge the minor road leading to the Chorlton Farm. The village of Chorlton and Wychwood Park lies beyond the WCML and is visible through the trees. A pylon line is visible beyond Wychwood Park. The Wedgwood Monument on Bignall Hill and a telecommunications mast in Silverdale Park are skyline features.</p>	<p>As winter, with the trees along Swill Brook in full leaf. There are glimpses of the overhead line equipment and passing trains on the WCML between the trees. Some pylons remain visible.</p>

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	Users of the footpaths and Hough Common will have intermittent views of construction works associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the Crewe South cutting, HS2 spurs, new section of the WCML, Chorlton Lane diversion and Chorlton Footpath 7 overbridge, associated earthworks, two balancing ponds and planted landscape bunds, together with the presence of the Heath Farm satellite compound, material stockpiles, construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles. The magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects, due to the intervening distance and screening and filtering of views by vegetation along Swill Brook.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Users of the footpaths and Hough Common will have distant and intermittent views of the overhead line equipment, which will add to that of the WCML. The magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects, due to the intervening distance and screening and filtering of views by vegetation along Swill Brook.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	The intervening vegetation in full leaf will provide additional screening and the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	By the summer of year 15, the maturing mitigation planting on the landscape bunds between Dairy Farm and Heath Farm will further screen views of the overhead line equipment. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the overhead line equipment within the view and the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 026.03.013: View west from the South Cheshire Way/ Two Saints Way

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors using the Chorlton Footpath 7 and Chorlton Footpath 9 (South Cheshire Way) and the Two Saints Way and transport receptors on Chorlton Lane.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372417.959, 350996.474

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 17/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372417.959, 350996.474

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



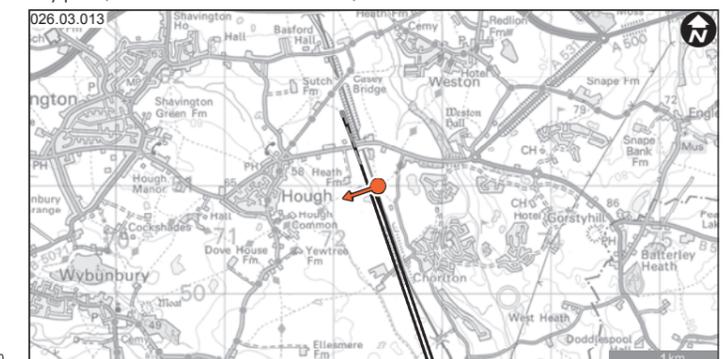
Value of the viewpoint:

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 026.03.013: View west from the South Cheshire Way/ Two Saints Way

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of relatively flat, small scale pastures situated between the WCML and the Wychwood Park Golf Course. The location of this viewpoint next to the WCML means that foreground views are dominated by rail infrastructure including a wide service area. A brick-built pedestrian overbridge carries the regionally promoted South Cheshire Way and Two Saints Way over the WCML. Beyond the WCML in the mid-ground, is relatively flat medium to large scale arable fields and pastures bounded by hedgerows with dispersed farm properties. To the south-west are two large ponds fringed with marshy vegetation. The horizon comprises of trees and woodland which screen views of Hough village beyond. To the right of the bridge, properties along Newcastle Road are visible between the avenue of columnar poplar trees which lead to Heath Farm and are a prominent skyline feature.</p>	<p>As winter although the scrub vegetation and occasional trees along the WCML and around the bridge screen many mid-ground and distant views. The WCML rail infrastructure remains prominent.</p>

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	<p>Users of the footpaths and the lane will have close range views of the construction activity associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the HS2 spurs, new section of WCML, Chorlton Footpath 7 overbridge, modifications to the WCML, Crewe South cutting, Chorlton Lane diversion and associated earthworks. The existing brick-built Chorlton footpath 7 overbridge will be demolished and the South Cheshire Way/Two Saints Way diverted. The two existing ponds will be infilled. These works, and the presence of construction equipment, and movement of construction vehicles will intensify the effects of the WCML and completely change the mid-ground view beyond. The construction activity will result in new features that form prominent, incongruous elements in the views across the medium/large-scale farmland, interrupting the characteristic hedgerow field boundaries and the rural, relatively open visual character. There will therefore be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	<p>Users of the footpaths and the lane will have close range views of the additional overhead line equipment and passing trains which will intensify that of the WCML. From the new Chorlton Footpath 7 overbridge, recreational receptors on the South Cheshire Way/Two Saints Way will have views of a substantially widened rail corridor, although these views will be temporary and transient. Due to the proximity of these elements of the Proposed Scheme in this location, the magnitude of visual change will be medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.</p>	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	<p>The scrub and occasional trees along the WCML will help screen and filter views of the overhead line equipment and passing trains associated with the WCML and HS2 spurs. Receptors on the new overbridge will continue to have more extensive views along the rail corridor, but these will be very transient. For these reasons, the magnitude of visual change will reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.</p>	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	<p>Mitigation planting along the far side of the Proposed Scheme will form a wooded backdrop to the rail infrastructure, and help integrate it into the wider visual context. This will help reduce the effect on the more extensive views from the Chorlton Footpath 7 overbridge. Overall the magnitude of visual change will remain low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.</p>	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	<p>The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the overhead line equipment and passing trains within the view. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).</p>	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 026.02.011: View south-east from farmland south of Heath Farm

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors using Chorlton Footpath 7 and the South Cheshire Way/Two Saints Way.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 09/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372142.151, 350931.109

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 17/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372142.151, 350931.109

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



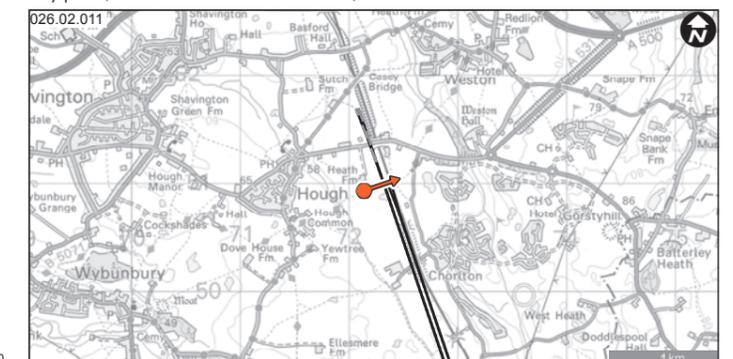
Value of the viewpoint:

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)



Viewpoint 026.02.011: View south-east from farmland south of Heath Farm

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of flat, largely open, medium to large scale arable fields and pastures with few trees. There is some evidence of field amalgamation and hedgerow removal. The foreground comprises damp pasture bounded by intact hedgerows and timber post and rail fencing. Buildings at Heath Farm are visible to the left of the view. The overhead line equipment of the WCML, concrete Newcastle Road overbridge and a brick built utilities overbridge are present in the mid-ground. A linear belt of woodland behind the WCML screens distant views, although some scattered properties are visible through the trees. The flat landform and tree cover screens any views of the distant skyline.</p>	<p>As winter, although the foreground hedgerow and mid-ground trees in full leaf help to screen and filter views.</p>

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	Residents and users of the footpaths will have close range views towards construction works associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the Crewe South cutting, HS2 spurs, new section of the WCML, Chorlton Lane diversion and Chorlton Footpath 7 overbridge, associated earthworks, two balancing ponds and planted landscape bunds. The Heath Farm satellite compound, material stockpiles and the presence of construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will completely change the current rural outlook across open farmland in which the WCML currently has a relatively unobtrusive presence. Receptors on the nearby South Cheshire Way and Two Saints Way will have wide ranging views of the works. The existing brick-built Chorlton footpath 7 overbridge will be demolished and the South Cheshire Way/Two Saints Way (Chorlton Footpath 7) will be diverted. The nearest construction work to the viewpoint is that associated with the landscape bunds, along the west side of the Proposed Scheme, the diverted section of Chorlton Lane, and the new balancing ponds, and extensive habitat creation area south of Heath Farm. Due to the proximity of this viewpoint to the construction works, the magnitude of visual change will be high with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and users of the footpaths will have close range views of the diverted section of Chorlton Lane, the Chorlton Footpath 7 overbridge and new landscape bunds. It is unlikely that the overhead line equipment of the Proposed Scheme will be visible as the line will be in the Crewe South cutting on approach to the Crewe South portal. The overhead line equipment of the new section of WCML and HS2 spurs will be visible in the mid-ground and will intensify that of the WCML. Mitigation planting will not provide any screening or landscape integration at this stage and the bunds and road realignment will be prominent. The presence of these new elements and features in the view will change the current rural outlook across arable fields and pastures, and introduce a medium magnitude of visual change with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 Summer	The loss of the existing hedgerow means that this will be an open view. The proposed mitigation planting will not provide any screening or landscape integration at this early stage. For these reasons there will continue to be a medium magnitude of visual change with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 Summer	The Proposed Scheme will become less apparent in the view by year 15, as the maturing woodland mitigation planting helps to both screen and filter views of the overhead line equipment of the new section of the WCML and HS2 spurs and integrate the new features within the wider visual context. The magnitude of visual change will therefore reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 Summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the overhead line equipment and passing trains within the view. Therefore, the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 026.03.020: View west from farmland near Newcastle Road and Basford Brook

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by recreational receptors using Basford Footpath 6 (South Cheshire Way/Two Saints Way) and transport receptors using Newcastle Road.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372720.16, 351508.598

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 17/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372651.728, 351371.229 (relocated to avoid full screening by crop)

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 026.03.020: View west from farmland near Newcastle Road and Basford Brook

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of gently undulating arable fields bounded by low managed hedgerows with hedgerow trees. The large arable field in the foreground slopes gently away from the viewpoint towards the woodland along Basford Brook in the mid-ground. A remnant section of hedgerow and ditch are present to the left of the view and filter views of Chorlton Bank Farm on the horizon beyond. A wood pole overhead line crosses the mid-ground of the view. The top of the overhead line equipment of the WCML, some trees, the roofs of properties along Casey Lane, and the tall lighting towers of the Basford Hall sidings are visible on the horizon above the slight crest in the landform.</p>	<p>The tall arable crop obstructs the views. If in the future a lower growing crop is planted, it is assumed that the summer view will be broadly similar to that of the winter, as this is a mainly open view.</p>

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	Users of the footpath will have close range slightly elevated views of construction activity associated with the realigned Newcastle Road and mid-range views towards the construction of the Casey Lane diversion. The Chorlton cutting satellite compound will be visible in the mid-ground. In the distance there will be views of construction activity associated with the Newcastle Road overbridge, Crewe South portal, a new section of WCML and associated earthworks. These works, the presence of construction equipment, material stockpiles and movement of construction vehicles will foreshorten views and introduce new incongruous elements in the views across the open arable farmland. The scale and proximity of the works in this location, will alter the current rural outlook and will introduce a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Users of the footpath will have close range views towards the realigned Newcastle Road and mid-range views towards the diverted section of Casey Lane. The Newcastle Road overbridge and the overhead line equipment associated with the new section of WCML will be distantly visible against a backdrop of trees. Together these elements of the Proposed Scheme will introduce some incongruous new features in the views across the large-scale arable farmland. There will therefore be a medium magnitude of visual change with a moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 summer	There are few trees to provide additional screening in the summer months and the magnitude of visual change will therefore remain medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects. .	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 summer	By the summer of year 15, the realigned Newcastle Road will become less apparent as the maturing mitigation planting along the Newcastle Road and Casey Lane helps to integrate the road within the wider landscape context. An area of woodland planting west of the realigned section of Casey Lane will also help to screen the road embankments. The magnitude of visual change will therefore reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	By year 60, the mature roadside hedgerow and hedgerow trees will further screen views and integrate the realigned section of Newcastle Road and Casey Lane within the wider visual context. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 026.02.021: View west from Newcastle Road

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by residential receptors including Basford House, and transport receptors using Newcastle Road.

Winter view (baseline)

It was not possible to capture winter photography at this viewpoint due to programme / land access constraints.

Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 17/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372294.836, 351381.643

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



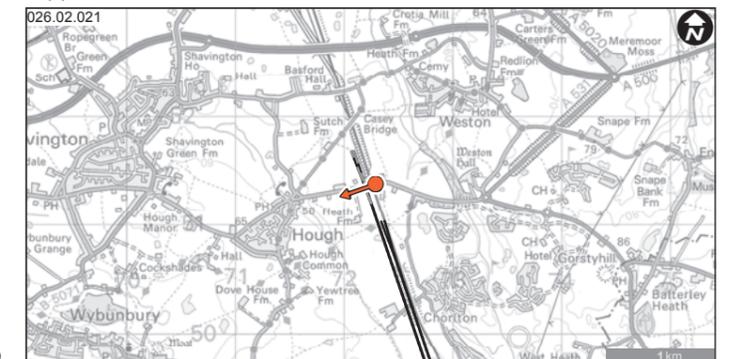
Value of the viewpoint:

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 026.02.021: View west from Newcastle Road

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of flat and gently rolling, medium to large scale arable fields and pastures. There is evidence of field amalgamation and hedgerow loss. The foreground comprises an outdoor storage yard and industrial units next to the WCML. Shrubs and sporadic groups of trees cover the far embankment of the rail line and beyond are rough pastures, bounded by low gappy hedgerows infilled with post and wire fences. The Grade II Basford Cottage and the mature gardens and boundary wall of Basford House are visible in the foreground. Other than some glimpsed views of well-treed pastures, background views are largely screened by the Newcastle Road overbridge, the foreground buildings and vegetation along the WCML. There are however some distant skyline views of the tops of the Basford Hall siding lighting columns.</p>	<p>As winter, but the view is more screened and filtered by foliage on the foreground trees in full leaf.</p>

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	Residents and users of the footpath will have close range views of construction works, associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the Crewe South portal, HS2 spurs, modifications to the WCML, a new section of WCML, the realigned Newcastle Road and Newcastle Road overbridge and associated earthworks. The Chorlton Cutting satellite compound and Creamery Bridge railway systems compound will also be visible. These works, material stockpiles and the presence of construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will substantially change the outlook from this viewpoint, which apart from the outdoor storage yard and industrial units, is mostly rural in character. Demolition of the existing Newcastle Road overbridge and embankments and removal of a section of carriageway will further contribute to the complete change in outlook that will be experienced in this location. Views from properties to the south of the Newcastle Road will be screened and filtered by existing garden vegetation, although residents at Chorlton Bank Farm will also experience more open views, mainly due to the works associated with the realigned Newcastle Road and the presence of the Chorlton Cutting satellite compound and materials stockpile. Overall, there will be a high magnitude of change and major adverse (significant) effects	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and users of the footpath will have foreground views of the closed section of the Newcastle Road. The existing overbridge will be demolished, the road embankments removed and the area planted. The southernmost properties in the cluster will have westerly views of the overhead line equipment of the HS2 spurs, which will intensify that of the WCML. The residents at Chorlton Bank Farm will have open mid-range views of the realigned section of the Newcastle Road to the north and the Newcastle Road overbridge to the north-west. The new section of road will interrupt mid-range skyline views across the gently rolling farmland towards woodland along Basford Brook, although views of passing traffic on the current road alignment will be substantially reduced. In summer views from residential properties to the south of the closed section of the Newcastle Road will be more screened and filtered by foreground trees in full leaf, but there is little vegetation to provide screening from Chorlton Bank Farm. Overall, however, there will be a high magnitude of change and major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 summer	Views from residential properties to the south of the closed section of the Newcastle Road will be more screened and filtered by foreground trees in full leaf, but there is little vegetation to provide screening from Chorlton Bank Farm. The magnitude of visual change will therefore remain high, with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 summer	By the summer of year 15, the realigned Newcastle Road will become less apparent as the maturing mitigation planting on the closed section of Newcastle Road helps to screen and filter views and integrate the road within the wider visual context. In time this will improve the setting of the Basford Cottage listed building and the outlook for residential receptors to the south of the road. An area of woodland planting around the cluster of properties to the south of the closed section of the Newcastle Road will also help to screen the overhead line equipment of the HS2 spurs/ new section of WCML, although it will change the outlook from these properties from open farmland to developing woodland. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	The mature mitigation planting will screen and filter views of the realigned section of Newcastle Road and the HS2 spurs. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 026.02.022: View east along Newcastle Road near Hough

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by residential receptors along or close to Newcastle Road and transport receptors using Newcastle Road.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/03/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371963.866, 351320.208

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 17/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371963.866, 351320.208

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



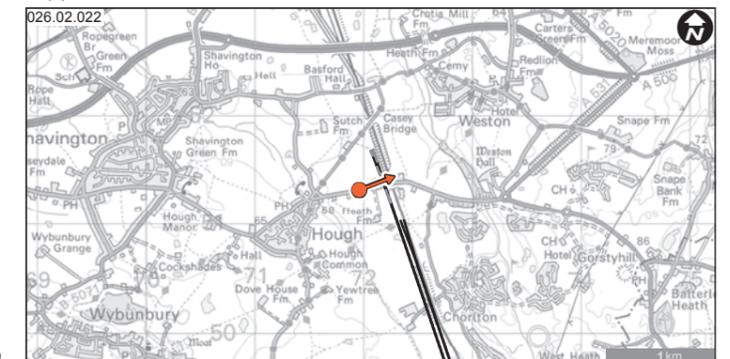
Value of the viewpoint:

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 026.02.022: View east along Newcastle Road near Hough

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of medium to large-scale flat arable fields bounded by hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees. Field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows is evident. The foreground comprises the single carriageway Newcastle Road, which in the mid-ground rises to cross the WCML on overbridge. A row of mainly brick-built suburban properties front onto the north side of the road, whilst to the south, a large flat arable field bounded by low managed hedgerows extends into the mid-ground. The overhead line equipment of the WCML is present in the mid-ground to the left of Heath Farm, and a line of columnar poplar trees along the access track leading to Heath Farm is a prominent skyline feature. Low wooded hills are distantly visible beyond the WCML.</p>	<p>As winter, but the roadside hedgerow and trees in the middle distance provide more screening and filtering of views. The overhead line equipment of the WCML remains visible in the mid-ground.</p>

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	Residents and road users will have close range views of construction activities associated with the different elements of the Proposed Scheme including the Crewe South portal, HS2 spurs, modifications to the WCML, a new section of WCML, the realigned Newcastle Road and Newcastle Road overbridge and associated earthworks. The Crewe South portal satellite compound will also be visible to the rear of the properties. The current outlook across arable fields will be replaced by large scale construction activity, although there will be some filtering of views by the garden vegetation, particularly to the rear. These works, presence of construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will introduce prominent, incongruous elements in the views across the arable landscape. This will interrupt the characteristic hedgerow field boundaries, small blocks of woodland and the rural, relatively open visual character. Together these elements will introduce a high magnitude of change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Receptors on the current road alignment will have their view along the road substantially altered as the existing overbridge will be demolished, the road embankments removed and the area planted. In time this will improve the setting of the outlook from the properties, particularly since views of passing traffic will be substantially reduced. To the rear of the properties, however, there will be close range views towards the realigned section of the Newcastle Road as it rises up to the Newcastle Road overbridge. A landscape bund will screen views of passing traffic on the new road and mature trees along the rear garden boundary of the properties will also help screen views of the road embankments. Overall, however the outlook to the rear of the properties will be substantially altered and the magnitude of visual change will be high with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 summer	Garden vegetation in full leaf will provide additional screening and filtering of views and the magnitude of visual change will reduce to medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 summer	By the summer of year 15, the realigned Newcastle Road will become less apparent as the extensive maturing mitigation planting around the realigned section of Newcastle Road, along the road embankments and between the properties and the Crewe South portal (including on the new landscape bunds), helps to screen and filter views and integrate the road, its associated embankments and the upper parts of the Crewe South portal within the wider visual context. The outlook to the rear and east of the properties will be one of developing woodland, rather than open views across arable farmland, but it will still be rural in character. As a result the magnitude of visual change will reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	The mature woodland mitigation planting will further screen and filter views of the realigned section of Newcastle Road. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 026.02.028: View east along Newcastle Road on the edge of Hough

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by residential receptors on Newcastle Road and Back Lane, recreational receptors using the Regional Cycle Network Route 70 and transport receptors.

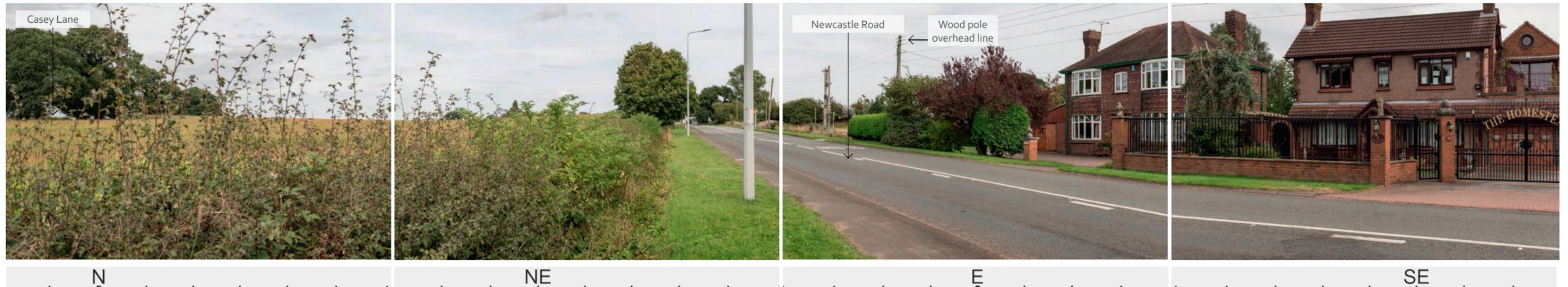
Winter view (baseline)

It was not possible to capture winter photography at this viewpoint due to programme / land access constraints.

Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 01/09/2016. Time taken: 16:10. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 371573.723, 351265.563. Elevation: 58.906 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)



Viewpoint 026.02.028: View east along Newcastle Road on the edge of Hough

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located between a smaller scale pastoral and well-treed landscape to the south of the road and an area of larger more open arable fields to the north. A row of mainly brick-built suburban properties front onto the south side of the Newcastle Road, whilst to the north, a low managed hedgerow bounds undulating arable fields, which rise up to a low crest in the mid-ground and contain more distant views. South of the road, at the end of the houses, there are some small undulating hedged pastures. Beyond are some large open arable fields which afford longer distance views towards Basford Brook in the mid-ground and low wooded hills in the distance. There are distant views of the overhead line equipment of the WCML and tall lighting columns at Basford Hall sidings.</p>	<p>As winter, although vegetation in full leaf provides further screening and filtering of views. Depending on the height of future arable crops, some additional temporary screening may be afforded.</p>

Table 2: Future baseline description

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

Table 3: Visual impact assessment

	Temporary effect during construction	Significance of effect
Construction	Residents, users of the cycle route and road users will have close range views of the construction works associated with the realigned Newcastle Road, Newcastle Road overbridge and associated earthworks. The current outlook across arable fields will be replaced by large scale construction activity, largely to the north of the road. From the upper floors of the properties, residential receptors will also have views of the Crewe South portal satellite compound and more extensive views of construction of the Newcastle Road overbridge. These works, the presence of construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will introduce prominent, incongruous elements in the views across the arable landscape, interrupting the characteristic hedgerow field boundaries and the rural, relatively open visual character. Together these elements will introduce a high magnitude of change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Significance of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents, users of the cycle route and road users will have close range views of the new section of the Newcastle Road as it diverts away from the current alignment through the arable field to the left of the photograph. The current outlook will be substantially altered with views across the open fields replaced by a new road, a small balancing pond and areas of landscape planting and grassland habitat creation. A benefit of the Proposed Scheme is that traffic movements along the current road alignment will be substantially reduced which will improve the setting of these properties. Overall, however, due to the proximity of the new road and the openness of views, the magnitude of visual change will be medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 summer	Garden vegetation in full leaf will provide additional screening and filtering of views and the magnitude of visual change will reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 15 summer	The maturing roadside planting will help to further screen and filter views of the realigned section of the Newcastle Road. The woodland/scrub planting around the junction of Casey Lane and the Newcastle Road will also help to screen and filter views. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant). The view of the Proposed Scheme from viewpoint 026.02.028 during year 15 operation (summer) is illustrated on the photomontage shown in figure LV-01-649 (Volume 2, South Cheshire area Map Book).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and filter views of the realigned section of Newcastle Road and the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

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Viewpoint 026.02.028: View east along Newcastle Road on edge of Hough

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by residential receptors on Newcastle Road and Back Lane, recreational receptors using the Regional Cycle Network Route 70 and transport receptors.

Current Baseline - Summer View

Date taken: 01/09/2016. Time taken: 16:10. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 371573.723, 351265.563. Elevation: 58.906 Metres AOD.



Summer Verifiable Photomontage - Operation Year 15 (2042)

Date taken: 01/09/2016. Time taken: 16:10. Camera: Sony a7RII, Zeiss Loxia 50mm f/2.0 lens (stitched panorama). Co-ordinates: 371573.723, 351265.563. Elevation: 58.906 Metres AOD.



The viewpoint has been taken approximately 612 metres away from the Proposed Scheme. Viewpoint location shown on Map LV-08-229. For full details of the visual assessment at viewpoint 026.02.028 refer to Volume 5: Appendix LV-001-003, Part 3.

This verifiable photomontage provides an illustration of how the Proposed Scheme may look in 2042 (15 years after opening) to help inform the visual impact assessment. The design of the LV-01-649 Proposed Scheme may be subject to design development in response to consultation. Development of detail design after Hybrid Bill submission will not result in any significant adverse change in the environmental effects reported in the assessment. Where new planting is proposed, it has been shown as semi-mature trees which have put on 15 years of growth to illustrate how the Proposed Scheme will further integrate into the landscape over time.

At this scale the images do not lend themselves to direct comparison out in the field. Therefore, for viewing in the field, it is recommended that each image from the panoramic photomontage is printed individually, onto an A3 landscape sheet for a viewing distance of 500mm. For further details on the selection of photomontage locations, verifiable methodology and presentation refer to the Landscape and visual assessment Technical Note - Approach to verifiable photomontages (SMR Addendum Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-002).



Figure Number	LV-01-649
Figure Name	Verifiable Photomontage Operation Year 15 (2042) - Summer Viewpoint 026.02.028
Community Area 5: South Cheshire	

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Doc Number: C861-ARP-EV-MAP-000-101649-P01

Date: 12/06/17

Viewpoint 027.02.001: View north-east from farmland near Back Lane

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by residential receptors along Back Lane and recreational receptors using Basford Footpath 7.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/03/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371522.517, 351541.052 (15m accuracy)

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 17/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371522.517, 351541.052 (15m accuracy)

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



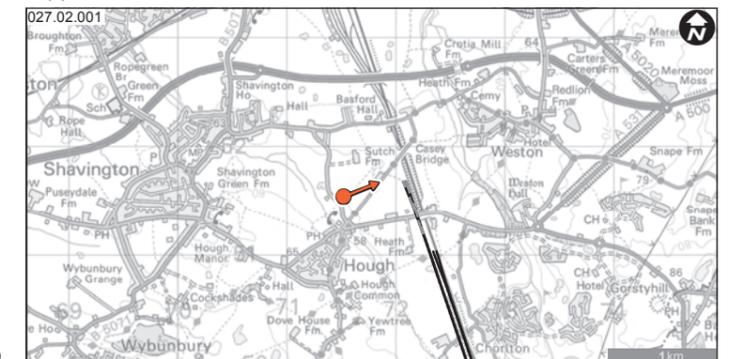
Value of the viewpoint:

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)



Viewpoint 027.02.001: View north-east from farmland near Back 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. There is evidence of field amalgamation and hedgerow loss. Foreground and mid-ground views comprise a large arable field and pasture, which are bounded by low managed hedgerows with occasional mature hedgerow trees. Beyond these fields on the horizon, Sutch Farm and the edge of Basford are distantly visible to the left of the view. Also in the distance, are some glimpsed views of passing traffic on the A500 Shavington Bypass and the overhead line equipment of the WCML. The tall lighting columns at Basford Hall sidings are also skyline features.</p>	<p>As winter, although trees in full foliage screen filter some mid-ground and distant views.</p>

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	Residents and footpath users will have mid-range to distant views of the construction activity associated with the realigned section of Newcastle Road and Newcastle Road overbridge. The Crewe South portal satellite compound will also be visible in the distance and will screen most views of construction works associated with the Crewe South portal. Due to the distance of this viewpoint from the Proposed Scheme, and localised screening and filtering of views by intervening landform and vegetation, the magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects as the works will largely blend into the background view.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and footpath users will have distant, glimpsed views of the realigned section of the Newcastle Road, and the Newcastle Road overbridge, but these new features will only give rise to a slight change in the background view. Overall the magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 summer	Distant view of the Proposed Scheme will be more screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in full leaf. The magnitude of visual change will therefore reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 summer	The maturing mitigation planting will help to further screen and filter views of the Newcastle Road and the Newcastle Road overbridge. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the realigned section of Newcastle Road and the Newcastle Road overbridge within the view. The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

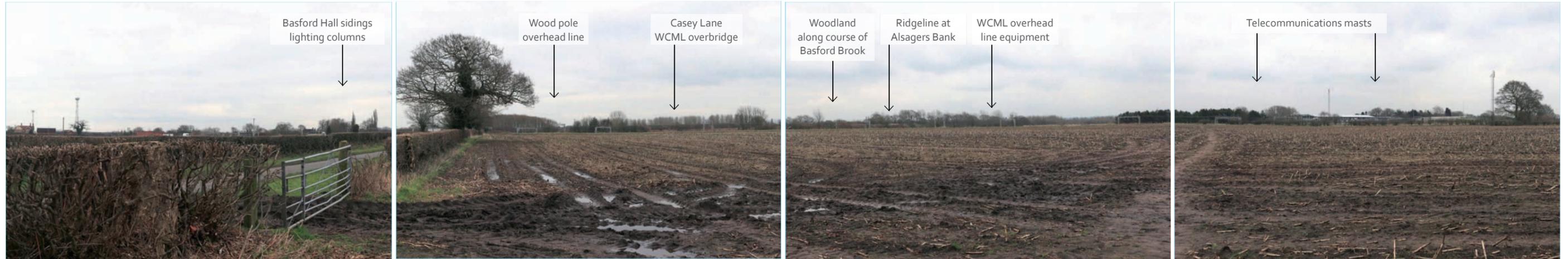
Viewpoint 027.02.004: View north-east from farmland close to Casey Lane

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by residential receptors along Casey Lane, recreational receptors using Basford Footpath 5 and transport receptors using Casey Lane.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 10/03/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371908.430, 351737.883

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

It was not possible to capture summer photography at this viewpoint due to programme/land access constraints.

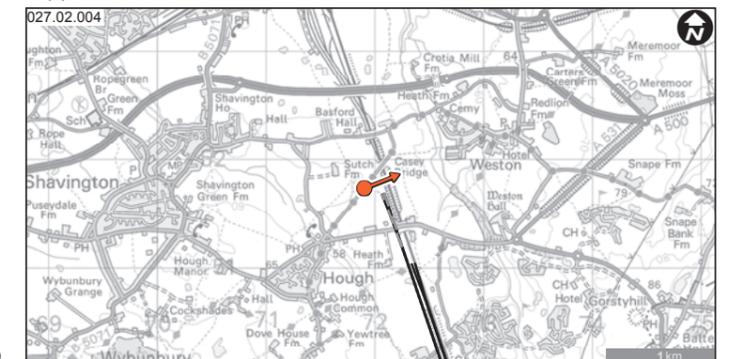
Value of the viewpoint:

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)



Viewpoint 027.02.004: View north-east from farmland close to Casey Lane

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of large-scale, mostly flat arable fields bounded by low gappy hedgerows with sporadic hedgerow trees. Field amalgamation and hedgerow loss is evident. Casey Lane in the foreground is bounded by low managed hedgerows and has arable fields to either side with occasional mature hedgerow trees. These fields continue into the mid-ground where the tops of passing trains and the overhead line equipment of the WCML are seen against the backdrop of fields and trees.</p>	<p>As winter, although vegetation in full leaf provides further screening and filtering of views. Depending on the height of future arable crops, some additional temporary screening may be afforded.</p>

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	Residents and users of the footpath and road will have close to medium range views of construction activity associated with the different components of the Proposed Scheme including the Crewe South portal, HS2 spurs, a new section of WCML, the realigned Newcastle Road and Newcastle Road overbridge, and associated earthworks. The Crewe South portal satellite compound will also be visible to the front of the properties. The current outlook across arable fields will be replaced by large scale construction activity, although there will be some filtering of views by the garden vegetation. These works, the presence of construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will introduce prominent, incongruous elements in the views across the arable landscape, interrupting the characteristic hedgerow field boundaries and the rural, relatively open visual character. Together these elements will introduce a high magnitude of change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and users of the footpath and road will have close to medium range views of the landscape bunds around the top of the Crewe South portal and a new balancing pond and associated access track. They will also have more distant views of the realigned section of the Newcastle Road, and the Newcastle Road overbridge beyond Casey Lane, but these new features will only give rise to a slight change in the background view. Views from the upper floors of the properties will be more extensive. At this early stage, the mitigation planting will not provide any screening or landscape integration and the new landforms will appear as uncharacteristic features in the view. Overall therefore the magnitude of visual change will be medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 summer	Garden vegetation in full leaf and trees along Casey Lane will provide additional screening and filtering of views and the magnitude of visual change will reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 summer	By the summer of year 15, the mature mitigation planting around the balancing pond and along the landscape bunds and Newcastle Road embankments, will help to screen and integrate the new features with the wider visual context. A mature belt of trees across the road from the properties will change the outlook from one of open arable fields to developing woodland but it will still be rural in context. As a result the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the realigned section of Newcastle Road and the Newcastle Road overbridge within the view. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 027.02.002: View north-east from farmland east of Back Lane

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by residential receptors at properties on Casey Lane and Sutch Farm and recreational receptors using Basford Footpath 7.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 01/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371763.338, 351882.271

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 11/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371763.338, 351882.271

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



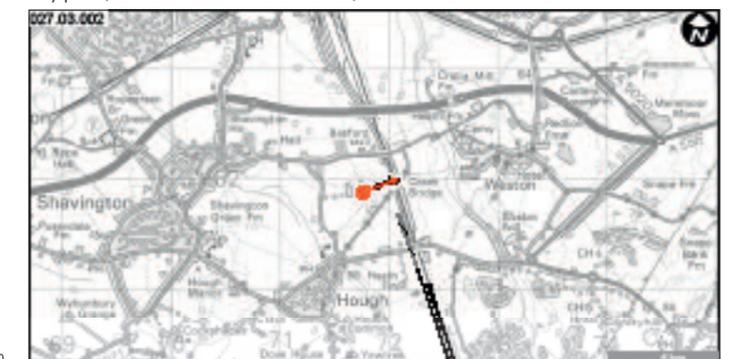
Value of the viewpoint:

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)



Viewpoint 027.02.002: View north-east from farmland east of Back Lane

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
This viewpoint is located in an area of flat or gently undulating, medium to large scale arable fields and pastures. There is evidence of field amalgamation and hedgerow loss. The large, relatively flat arable field bounded by low gappy hedgerows with occasional mature hedgerow trees occupies much of the foreground and mid-ground view and is crossed by a wood pole overhead line. Beyond this field, there are some distant views of the overhead line equipment of the WCML, lighting columns on Basford Hall sidings and properties on Casey Lane.	The tall arable crop obstructs the views. If in the future a lower growing crop is planted, it is assumed that the summer view will be broadly similar to that of the winter, as this is a mainly open 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	Residents and users of the footpath will have close to medium range views of the Crewe South Portal satellite compound and construction of a balancing pond and associated access track, which will help screen mid-ground views of construction activity associated with modifications to the WCML, new section of WCML and the Crewe South portal beyond. There may also be distant views of the realigned section of the Newcastle Road. Residential receptors at Sutch Farm will have extensive ground floor and upper floor views of the works. Most of the works will be at grade, which will require less change to the local landform, but the material stockpiles and the presence of construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will result in new incongruous features in the views across the open arable farmland. Part of the Crewe South Portal satellite compound will be screened by the properties on Casey Lane, but due to the proximity of the construction activity and the openness of views, there will be a medium magnitude of visual change with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and users of the footpath will have close to medium range views towards the overhead line equipment of the new section of WCML. There may also be distant views of the realigned section of the Newcastle Road. The new features in the view will only give rise to a slight change to the background view, although receptors on the upper floor of Sutch Farm will be slightly more extensive. Overall the magnitude of visual change will be low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 summer	Distant views of the Proposed Scheme will be more screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in full leaf, and the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 summer	The maturing mitigation planting will help to further screen and filter views of the new section of WCML and realigned section of Newcastle Road. The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the new section of WCML and realigned section of Newcastle Road within the view. The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-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 location: 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 location: 372385.659, 352065.914

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



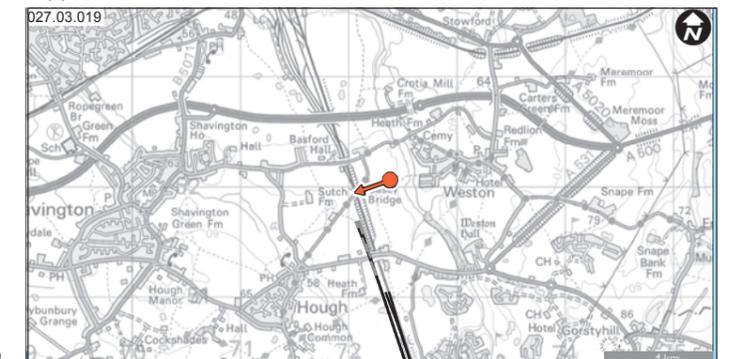
Value of the viewpoint:

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
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.	As winter, although the background trees in full leaf help to screen and filter distant views and create a more visually contained horizon.

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	Users of the footpath will have close to medium range views of the construction works associated with the diverted section of Casey Lane and a balancing pond and associated access track. The small woodland block will be removed. These works, together with the presence of the Casey Lane East satellite compound (on the site of the former woodland) and a large materials stockpile will screen most views of the construction activity associated with the modifications to the WCML, the new section of WCML and the Crewe South portal beyond. Users of the footpath will also have distant southerly views towards the realigned section of Newcastle Road. Most of the works will be at grade, which will require less change to the local landform, but the material stockpiles and the presence of construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will result in new incongruous features in the views across the open arable farmland. These activities will give rise to a medium magnitude of visual change with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Users of the footpath will have their outlook across open fields replaced by a new road with areas of tree and shrub planting and grassland habitat creation. The new road will be an incongruous feature within the rural landscape. In the distance there will also be mid-range views of the realigned section of Newcastle Road. The new section of Casey Lane will interrupt longer views across the arable farmland. This is an open view with little intervening vegetation to provide screening or filtering of views. Operation of the Proposed Scheme at year 1 will give rise to a medium magnitude of visual change and moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 summer	This is an open view with no intervening vegetation to provide screening or filtering of views. Mitigation planting will not yet be established and will therefore not provide any screening or landscape integration. For these reasons, the magnitude of visual change will remain medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 summer	The diverted section of Casey Lane will become less prominent within the view by year 15, as the maturing mitigation planting along the diverted section of road helps to screen and filter views and integrate the road within the wider visual context. The planting either side of Basford Footpath 3 will obstruct most views out from the path. The outlook will change from relatively open fields to developing woodland, but it will remain rural in context. The magnitude of visual change will therefore reduce to low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the realigned section of Newcastle Road and the Newcastle Road overbridge within the view and the effects will remain low with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)

Viewpoint 027.02.013: View east from Weston Lane near Basford Hall

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by residential receptors at Basford Hall and transport receptors using Weston Lane.

Winter view (baseline)

It was not possible to capture winter photography at this viewpoint due to programme / land access constraints.

Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 23/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371905.396, 352230.088 RELOCATED

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



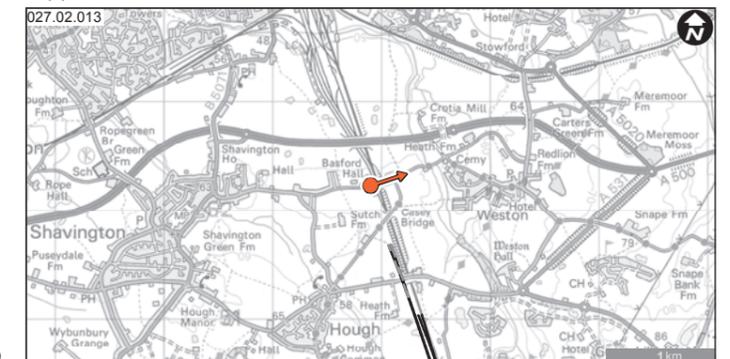
Value of the viewpoint:

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 027.02.013: View east from Weston Lane near Basford Hall

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. These are typically bounded by hedgerows with sporadic hedgerow trees. There is evidence of field amalgamation and hedgerow loss. Weston Lane in the foreground is a single carriageway road which crosses the WCML via a brick-built overbridge and is bounded by hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees. To the left of the road is Basford Hall Farm. The overhead line equipment of the WCML in cutting is visible to the left of the bridge. To the left of the view, the A500 Shavington Bypass can be seen crossing the WCML via a large viaduct. The tall lighting columns of the Basford Hall sidings are prominent skyline features.</p>	<p>The summer view was relocated slightly to the west as the original viewpoint was in the middle of the area required for construction of the Proposed Scheme. Vegetation in full foliage on either side of Weston Lane obstructs any mid-ground or distant views.</p>

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	Residents and lane users will have close range views towards the construction activity associated with the modifications to the WCML and realignment of the WCML down slow and extended freight lines to Basford Hall sidings, new section of WCML, additional WCML railway systems equipment and associated access track. The Basford Hall southbound satellite compound and a large materials stockpile will be visible on the opposite side of the road and the southern roadside hedgerow will be removed. These new incongruous features will interrupt views and change the character of the otherwise rural outlook from the Basford Hall and Larch Farm, although ground floor views will continue to be partially screened by the tall hedgerows on the north side of the road. Together with the presence of construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles, these elements will introduce a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and lane users will have close range views of the newly planted hedgerow along the south side of Weston Lane and the linear belt of planting along the west side of the rail access track. The realigned WCML down slow and extended freight lines to Basford Hall sidings will be visible but not prominent. As a result there will be a low magnitude of visual change with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 summer	Views from Basford Hall Farm and Larch Farm towards the WCML will be further screened and filtered by the hedgerow along the northern side of Weston Lane in full foliage. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 summer	The maturing hedgerow and linear woodland mitigation planting will help to screen and filter views of the rail infrastructure. The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will therefore remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	By year 60, the mature hedgerow and linear woodland mitigation planting will further help to screen and filter views of the rail infrastructure, and the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 027.02.014: View south-east from junction of Casey Lane and Weston Lane

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by residential receptors at Dairy House, recreational receptors using Regional Cycle Route 70 and Basford Footpath 1 and transport receptors using Casey Lane and Weston Lane.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 03/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372123.241, 352282.958

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 11/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372123.241, 352282.958

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



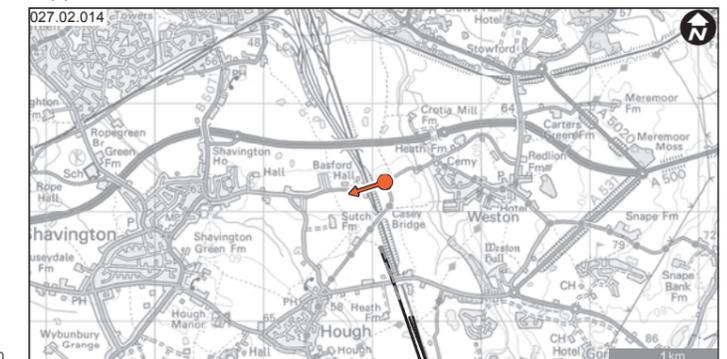
Value of the viewpoint:

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)



Viewpoint 027.02.014: View south-east from junction of Casey Lane and Weston 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. The fields are typically bounded by hedgerows with only occasional hedgerow trees. There is evidence of field amalgamation and hedgerow loss. Casey Lane and Weston Lane in the foreground are both single carriageway lanes bounded by managed hedgerows on low embankments with occasional hedgerow trees. To the right of Weston Lane is Dairy House, whilst to the left, a large flat arable field extends into the mid-ground beyond the roadside hedgerow to the left of the photograph. On the far side of this field, the overhead line equipment of the WCML is distantly seen against a backdrop of mature trees on the horizon.</p>	<p>As winter, although vegetation in full foliage on either side of Weston Lane obstructs mid-ground and distant views.</p>

Table 2: Future baseline description

Construction (2020)	Operation (2027)

Table 3: Visual impact assessment

	Temporary effect during construction	Level of effect
Construction	Residents, users of the footpath and cycle route and road users will have close range views of the construction works associated with the diverted section of Casey Lane and mid-range views of the Casey Lane East satellite compound, and associated earthworks. Views will be more extensive from the upper floor of Dairy House. These works, loss of hedgerows and trees along the south side of Weston Lane and along Casey Lane and the presence of construction equipment and movement of construction vehicles will result in new features that form prominent, incongruous elements in the views across the arable farmland, interrupting the characteristic hedgerow field boundaries and the rural, relatively open visual character. Views will, however, be screened and filtered by intervening mature trees within the garden of Dairy House and along the north side of Weston Lane. Overall there will therefore be a medium magnitude of visual change with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents, users of the footpath and cycle route and road users will have close range views of a widened road junction and some large areas of mitigation planting and habitat enhancement extending along the south side of Weston Lane. A new balancing pond on the far side of the field will be visible from the upper floor of Dairy House. Views will be screened and filtered by intervening mature trees within the garden of Dairy House and along the north side of Weston Lane. There will therefore be a low magnitude of visual change with minor adverse (significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
Operation year 1 summer	Views will be further screened and filtered by the hedgerow along the north side of Weston Lane in full foliage. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 summer	The maturing mitigation planting will help to screen and filter views, and help integrate the road junction within the wider visual context. The planting either side of Basford Footpath 3 will block many views out from the path. The outlook will change from relatively open fields to developing woodland, but it will remain rural in context. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	The mature mitigation planting will further screen and help integrate the rail infrastructure within the view, and the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 027.02.016: View west from junction of Mill Lane and Whites Lane

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by residential receptors around the junction of Cemetery Road, Weston Lane, Mill Lane and Whites Lane, recreational receptors using the allotments and Regional Cycle Route 70, and transport receptors using local roads.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 03/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372575.348, 352493.417

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 23/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 372575.348, 352493.417

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



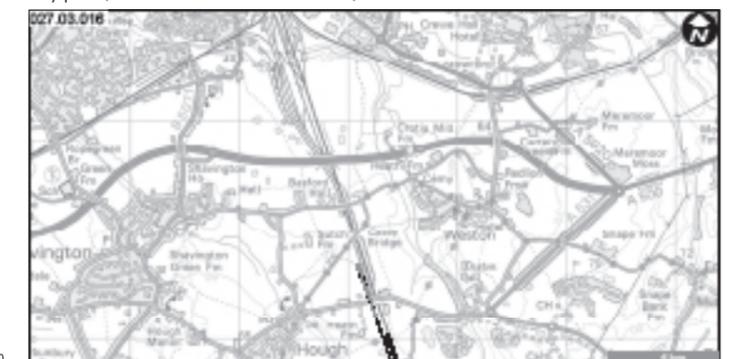
Value of the viewpoint:

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)



Viewpoint 027.02.016: View west from junction of Mill Lane and Whites Lane

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of undulating rural fringe arable fields and pastures close to the A500 Shavington Bypass. In the foreground are the Mill Lane allotments of the Weston Allotment Group. Beyond the allotments is an area of scrubby grassland. Basford Brook flows through this grassland but does not have a strong visual presence. A wood pole overhead line crosses the allotments and grassed area. The trees within the allotment partially screen the WCML and A500 Shavington Bypass viaduct. In the mid ground, vegetation along the WCML lies beyond the allotments and obstructs more distant views, although the Basford Hall sidings lighting columns are visible on the skyline.</p>	<p>As winter, although vegetation in full foliage on Weston Lane and within the allotments, obstructs mid-ground and distant views.</p>

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	Residents, users of the allotments and cycle route and road users will have distant views of the construction activity associated with the modifications to the WCML. The magnitude of visual change will be low as the works will largely blend into the background view and will also be screened and filtered by the undulating landform and intervening vegetation. Views of the construction works from properties to the south of Weston Lane will be largely screened by garden and roadside vegetation. Overall there will be a low magnitude of visual change with minor adverse (non-significant) effects.	Minor adverse (non-significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents, users of the allotments and cycle route and road users will have distant view of the Proposed Scheme as the modifications to the WCML will not involve any new high level structures. The magnitude of visual change will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 1 summer	The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).as views from this location towards the Proposed Scheme will be largely screened by the intervening vegetation in full leaf.	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 summer	The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 027.02.012: View north from farmland near Larch Avenue

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by residential receptors along Larch Avenue and recreational receptors using Basford Footpath 11.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 03/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371587.395, 352306.638

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 11/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371587.395, 352306.638

Figure 2: Summer baseline view



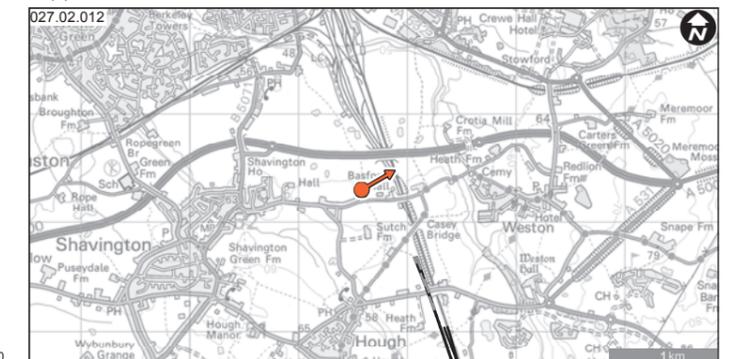
Value of the viewpoint:

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

Sensitivity of the receptor:

Residential receptors and recreational receptors with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



Viewpoint 027.02.012: View north from farmland near Larch Avenue

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Winter	Summer	Night time
This viewpoint is located in an area of small to medium scale pastures bounded by hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees. The farmland which displays some evidence of historic field patterns, is being eroded by 20 th century agricultural intensification, and the presence of housing and infrastructure. Views over the low gappy hedgerow in the foreground look out across a large, relatively flat and open arable field, bounded by unmanaged hedgerows and post and wire fences with occasional mature trees. The A500 Shavington Bypass on embankment and viaduct is a strong linear feature running across the mid-ground and screens any distant views to the north, other than the tall lighting columns at Basford Hall sidings. The overhead line equipment of the WCML is visible next to the A500 Shavington Bypass viaduct. To the right of the viaduct, there are occasional views of Mow Cop on the skyline but these are mostly screened by vegetation in the mid-ground.	As winter, although trees in full foliage obstruct some mid-ground and distant views.	There is light spill from the tall lighting columns at the Basford Hall sidings and from the roadside lighting along the A500 Shavington Bypass. Sky glow from the urban area of Crewe beyond the A500 Shavington bypass is also apparent.

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	Residents and users of the footpath will have oblique close range to mid-range views towards the Basford cutting transfer node and batching plant. However the viewpoint is also representative of views from properties along Larch Avenue. From here, residents will also experience more extensive, close and mid-range views towards the Basford cutting main compound and temporary workers accommodation, in addition to the transfer node and batching plant. These elements of the Proposed Scheme will occupy much of the large arable field close to the A500 Shavington Bypass. The work will result in loss of mature trees and hedgerows and will substantially alter the current outlook from the properties which, despite proximity to major road and rail lines, retains a largely rural character and partly intact field pattern. In addition, night time lighting of the Basford cutting main compound will intensify the light spill already experienced. Movement of construction vehicles will intensify the effects of traffic movements on the A500 Shavington Bypass. For these reasons there will be a high magnitude of visual change with major adverse (significant) effects.	Major adverse (significant)
Construction (night time)	At night, the lighting associated with the Basford cutting main compound and temporary workers accommodation will be visible in mid-range views and will intensify the existing light spill from the A500 Shavington bypass and urban area of Crewe. The controls on light spill set out in the draft CoCP will limit the change these new light sources introduce to the wider view, but the extent of the new lighting will introduce a medium magnitude of visual change with moderate adverse (significant) effects on these residents.	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	During operation, due to the distance and presence of intervening vegetation, it is highly unlikely that there will be any views of the Proposed Scheme from this location, although the outlook will be altered due to loss of mature trees and hedgerows to facilitate construction of the Proposed Scheme. The A500 Shavington Bypass embankment and A500 Shavington Bypass viaduct will be more visible and upper floors of the properties along Larch Avenue will afford views of passing traffic. For this reason the magnitude of visual change will be medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 1 summer	The absence of mature tree cover will be still be noticeable, therefore the magnitude of visual change will remain medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation year 15 summer	The maturing mitigation planting along the former field boundaries will help to screen and filter views of the A500 Shavington Bypass embankment and A500 Shavington Bypass viaduct. Assuming incremental growth of the vegetation on the road embankment, passing traffic on the A500 Shavington Bypass will mostly be screened in views from the properties. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	The mature field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees will help to screen and filter views of the A500 Shavington Bypass embankment and viaduct. Assuming further incremental growth of the vegetation on the road embankment, passing traffic on the A500 Shavington Bypass will mostly be screened in views from the properties. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Viewpoint 027.02.010: View north from farmland next to Weston Lane

This viewpoint is indicative of views experienced by residential receptors along Weston Lane and transport receptors using the lane.

Winter view (baseline)

Date taken: 15/02/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371102.353, 352179.328

Figure 1: Winter baseline view



Summer view (baseline)

Date taken: 11/08/2016. Camera: Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm lens (stitched panorama). Approximate location: 371102.353, 352179.328

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 on Weston Lane with high sensitivity.

Key plan (arrow shows direction of view)



Viewpoint 027.02.010: View north from farmland next to Weston Lane

Table 1: Visual baseline description

Visual Baseline Description		
Winter	Summer	Night time
<p>This viewpoint is located in an area of small to medium scale pastures bounded by hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees. The farmland which displays some evidence of historic field patterns, is being eroded by 20th century agricultural intensification, and the presence of housing and infrastructure. Views across the field gate in the roadside hedgerow look out across a large, open and relatively flat arable field, which extends into the mid-ground, where it is bounded by a robust hedgerow with occasional hedgerow trees. Beyond are further hedged pastures with mature trees, and the embankment of the A500 Shavington Bypass. The Basford Hall sidings lighting columns and the tops of some tall commercial buildings in Crewe are visible above the road embankment.</p>	<p>As winter, although trees in full foliage obstruct some more distant views.</p>	<p>There is light spill from the tall lighting columns at the Basford Hall sidings and from the roadside lighting along the A500 Shavington Bypass. Sky glow from the urban area of Crewe beyond the A500 Shavington bypass is also apparent.</p>

Table 2: Future baseline description

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 Year	Residents and road users will have mid-range views of the Basford cutting main compound and temporary workers accommodation. These elements of the Proposed Scheme will occupy two large arable fields close to the A500 Shavington Bypass, resulting in loss of mature trees and hedgerows and substantially altering the mid-ground view. There will, however, be some screening and filtering of views by hedgerows and mature trees along the intervening field boundary. There will be some screening of views by garden vegetation and field boundary trees, but overall the construction activity associated with the main compound will be very prominent and will change the outlook from the rear of these properties. The magnitude of visual change will therefore be medium with moderate adverse (significant) effects.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Construction (night time)	At night, the lighting associated with the Basford cutting main compound and temporary workers accommodation will be visible in mid-range views and will intensify the existing light spill from the A500 Shavington bypass and urban area of Crewe. The controls on light spill set out in the draft CoCP will limit the change these new light sources introduce to the wider view, but the extent of the new lighting will introduce a medium magnitude of visual change and moderate adverse (significant) effects on these residents.	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Permanent effect during operation	Level of effect
Operation year 1 Winter	Residents and road users are highly unlikely to have a view of the Proposed Scheme. Therefore the magnitude of visual change and level of effect will reduce to negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 1 summer	The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 15 summer	The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)
Operation year 60 summer	The magnitude of visual change and level of effect will remain as negligible (non-significant).	Negligible (non-significant)

Part 4: Assessment matrices

4.1 Landscape assessment matrix

4.1.1 Table 2 summarises the assessment of significance for all of the LCA identified in the South Cheshire area. These are ordered from south to north along the route of the Proposed Scheme. The assessment of significant effects is presented in Volume 2, South Cheshire community area report, Section 11.

Table 2: Landscape assessment matrix summarising the assessment of significance for all of the LCAs identified in the South Cheshire area

Landscape character area	Construction	Operation year 1 (2027)	Operation year 15 (2042)	Operation year 60 (2087)
Checkley Brook Lower Farms and Woods	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Betley Ancient Clay Farmlands	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
The Grange Lower Farms and Woods	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
Blakenhall Lower Farms and Woods	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
Border Fisheries Lower Farms and Woods	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Hough Common	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
Wychwood Park	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Basford Brook Lower Farms and Woods	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Shavington/Crewe Outer Fringe Lower Farms and Woods	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
Crewe Urban Fringe	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Crewe Hall	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Crewe Station Built Area	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

4.2 Visual assessment matrix

4.2.1 Table 3 summarises the assessment of significance for all the representative viewpoints identified in the South Cheshire area. These are ordered from south to north along the route of the Proposed Scheme. The assessment of significant effects is presented in Volume 2 South Cheshire community area report, Section 11. 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 in the South Cheshire area

Viewpoints		Construction	Operation year 1 (2027)		Operation year 15 (2042) summer	Operation year 60 (2087) summer
		Winter	Winter	Summer		
024.02.016	View east from farmland near Checkley New Farm	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
024.03.001	View north-east from farmland north of Checkley Brook	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse
024.02.019	View east from farmland east of Turncocks Lane	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
024.02.017	View south-west from farmland near Bowsey Wood close to A531 Main Road	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

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Viewpoints		Construction	Operation year 1 (2027)		Operation year 15 (2042) summer	Operation year 60 (2087) summer
		Winter	Winter	Summer		
024.02.004	View south-west from Checkley Lane near Maltkiln Farm	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
024.02.010	View north-east from Checkley Lane and Turncocks Lane	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
024.02.008	View south-west from Checkley Lane near Randilow Farm	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
024.02.009	View north-east from farmland north of Checkley Lane	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
024.02.011	View north-east from farmland near The Grange	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
024.03.013	View east from farmland north-west of The Grange	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
024.03.018	View south-west from farmland north of Bowsey Wood	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
025.02.001	View south-west from Den Lane near Higher Den Farm	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
025.02.003	View north-east from Mill Lane near Yew Tree Farm	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
025.02.007	View south-west from WCML overbridge	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
025.02.006	View east from junction of Den Lane and Mill Lane	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse
025.02.013	View north-east from Gonsley Green Farm	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse
025.03.010	View west from farmland south of Waybutt Lane	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
025.02.014	View east from Wrinehill Road near Half Moon Farm	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
025.02.015	View south-east from Wrinehill Road near Lea Farm	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
026.02.002	View south-west from Waybutt Lane	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
026.02.004	View east from Chorlton Lane	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse
026.02.006	View south-west from Waybutt Lane and Chorlton Lane junction	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
026.02.012	View north-east from farmland near Heath Farm	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
026.03.014	View south-west from within Wychwood Park	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
026.03.010	View north-east from Hough Common	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
026.03.013	View west from the South Cheshire Way / Two Saints Way	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
026.02.011	View south-east from farmland south of Heath Farm	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
026.03.020	View west from farmland near Newcastle Road and Basford Brook	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor Adverse	Negligible
026.02.021	View west from Newcastle Road	Major adverse	Major adverse	Major adverse	Negligible	Negligible
026.02.022	View east along the Newcastle Road near Hough	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
026.02.028	View east along Newcastle Road on the edge of Hough	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
027.02.001	View north-east from farmland near Back Lane	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

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Viewpoints		Construction	Operation year 1 (2027)		Operation year 15 (2042) summer	Operation year 60 (2087) summer
		Winter	Winter	Summer		
027.02.004	View north-east from farmland close to Casey Lane	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
027.02.002	View north-east from farmland east of Back Lane	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
027.03.019	View west from farmland east of Casey Lane	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
027.02.013	View east from Weston Lane near Basford Hall	Major adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
027.02.014	View south-east from junction of Casey Lane and Weston Lane	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
027.02.016	View west from junction of Mill Lane and Whites Lane	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
027.02.012	View north from farmland near Larch Avenue	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Negligible	Negligible
027.02.010	View north from farmland next to Weston Lane	Moderate adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Part 5: References

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

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

Cheshire County Council (2008), *Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment*.

