Question

At Q74 on Tuesday 24 April 2018 Mr Mould said that “the embankment......not only will it be planted with trees, but also, its affect will be to place the railway in a four metre deep cutting”.

The Chair has had a letter from Whitmore Parish Council saying that they have now been told that there will not be a cutting but a 4m noise protection fence. Could you check whether there has been a change since Mr Mould appeared before the Committee please.

Answer

There has been no change since the hearing of the petition of Whitmore Parish Council on 24 April 2018.

The location under discussion during that part of the morning session on 24 April 2018 was Whitmore Wood and the settlement of Madeley Park Wood to the west of the HS2 Phase 2A railway, beyond the existing alignment of the West Coast Main Line. See paragraph 60 of the minutes, which records that Counsel for Whitmore Parish Council had put up his exhibit A28(15), headed “Whitmore Wood”, as a prompt for comment by his witness, Mr Webb of Whitmore Parish Council.

At that location, the design of the railway includes the following main engineering, landscaping and noise mitigation elements (Environmental Statement Community Area Report CA4: Whitmore to Madeley paragraph 2.2.19) –

- Whitmore North cutting
- Whitmore Wood retaining wall
- A 3m noise fence barrier extending along the southern side of Whitmore North cutting to provide acoustic screening for properties on Snape Hall Road, Whitmore Heath and Madeley Park Wood
- Woodland restoration to the south of Whitmore North cutting
- Lea South embankment
- Landscape earthworks and landscape mitigation planting to both sides of the embankment and slopes graded out to help integrate the embankment into the surrounding landscape
- A 4m noise fence barrier extending along the top of the embankment to the start of the River Lea viaduct to provide acoustic screening for properties at Madeley Park Wood.

These elements of the design of the railway at this location are shown on Plans CT-06-230 and CT-06-231 in Volume 2 Map Book CA4 Whitmore Heath to Madeley.

In paragraph 72 of the minutes, Mr Webb agreed that the tree planting shown on the maps along the southern side of the railway would screen the retaining wall from the view of houses in Madeley Park Wood. However Mr Webb questioned whether the trees would abate noise from the railway.

At paragraph 74 of the minutes, Mr Mould’s submission answered that question: in terms of noise impact, the effect of providing a 4m noise fence barrier extending along the top of the Lea South embankment would be as if the railway was placed in a 4 metre deep cutting, thus provide acoustic screening for properties at Madeley Park Wood, in addition to the visual screening provided by tree planting.

25 February 2019