

A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme

Preliminary Environmental Information Report - Appendix 7.2
Visual Baseline

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1 Visual baseline

1.1 Representative viewpoints

1.1.1 The baseline view for each representative viewpoint is described in Table 1-1. Locations are presented on Figure 7.4 ZTV and Proposed Viewpoints and winter photographs for each (plus night photographs for selected viewpoints) provided on Figure 7.9 Viewpoint Photographs.

Table 1-1 Representative viewpoint baseline

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
1	0	Public Rights of Way (PRoW) to north of Stoke Road and Arundel Cottages	View across open arable fields with clipped hedgerows, telegraph poles and associated wires.	Located on slightly rising ground with arable fields forming the horizon to the view, clipped hedgerow, and telegraph poles and associated wires.	Upper storeys and roof of individual properties on Stoke Road and at Ivy House Park and tree canopies rising beyond arable fields.	Yes	Yes	High Very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure without incurring substantial loss of visual amenity.
2	0	PRoW east of Stoke Wood heading towards Henlade Village	Open pastoral field, which gently undulated downwards, surrounded by well-maintained hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.	The south of Henlade village is visible with views down towards an orchard, alongside pastoral and arable fields surrounded by hedges with trees. In the summer months a group of trees centre obscures views towards part of the village. At night there is some visible lighting, associated with roads	Ruishton village visible in the background with the Quantock Hills AONB rising above it in the distance. Lighting at Ruishton and Taunton visible across the background of the view at night.	No	Yes	High Very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure without incurring substantial loss of visual amenity.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
				and properties in Henlade.				
3	0	PRoW to north-west of Stoke St Mary	View across hedgerow and ditch to arable field, clipped hedgerow, and hedgerow tree crossing the view. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Rolling arable fields and hedgerow trees crossing the horizon line to the east. Chestnut Cottage, adjacent properties, and fields south of the existing A358 are visible to the north. Passing vehicles on the M5 are visible to the west. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Distant rising ground containing a mix of woodland, properties, and arable fields. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	No	Yes	Medium Limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure without undue adverse consequences for visual amenity.
4	135	PRoW to west of Ivy House Park	Open view across pastoral field with mix of clipped and naturalised hedgerows. Telegraph pole located within nearby hedgerow. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	View across flat landscape of pastoral fields with layers of hedgerows and trees visible. Stoke Hill and Wood provide a noticeable landmark rising out of the surrounding flat landscape. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	The rising ground of the Blackdown Hills provide the distant horizon line, filtered to some extent by intervening hedgerow trees in winter. In summer months the view becomes more enclosed, although the Blackdown Hills AONB horizon line remains visible.	Yes	Yes	High Views of designated landscape and very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure without incurring substantial loss of visual amenity.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
5	270	PRoW south-west on Thorn Hill	Pastoral grassland is present on the hill and lower agricultural fields surrounded by hedgerows and two trees. Other visible planting includes a woodland adjacent to the hill and gorse planting (<i>Ulex</i> sp.) where the landform steeply undulates down. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Glebe Cottages looks out over arable/pastoral fields, surrounded by thick hedgerows with a limited number of hedgerow trees. The view remains similar in summer and winter. At night there is a small amount of lighting visible at Glebe Cottages and movement of vehicle lighting along the A358.	Stoke Wood emerges above agricultural fields bounded by hedgerows with trees, where the landform slopes upwards. The existing A358 and Henlade village can be seen on the lower landform, behind a hedgerow with trees. The view remains similar in summer and winter. At night lighting is visible across the back of the view associated with Henlade and Taunton, resulting in some sky-glow. The silhouette of Stoke Hill is visible against a partially lit sky.	No	Yes	High Views from a landscape of regional importance very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure without incurring substantial loss of visual amenity.
6	0	PRoW north of Stoke Hill Farm and east of Henlade Wood	Arable field surrounded by hedgerows with trees, the landform gently undulates downwards.	Views of the existing A358, arable/pastoral fields and block of woodland, surrounded by hedgerows and hedgerows with trees. House with an evergreen hedge is visible behind the block of woodland, adjacent to the A358. View to Ashe Farm Caravan and Camping	Glebe Cottages and Thornfalcon village are visible in the distance. The land slopes upwards to meet Thorn Hill, with distant views of arable/pastoral fields behind Thornfalcon village.	No	Yes	Medium Views from users of local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
				<p>site are fully obscured by vegetation in the summer months. Filtered views of A358 during summer months, with a section still open with vehicles passing across the view.</p> <p>At night, the existing lighting and vehicles along the A358 is the only visible lit features.</p>				
7	45	PRoW west of Ashe Farm Caravan and Camping Site	<p>Landform gently undulated down from the pastoral field with a low hedge. Ashe Farm Caravan and Camping Site has evergreen/ deciduous planting office/toilet buildings and Ashe Farm farmhouse, creating filtered views of Ashe Farm.</p> <p>Within the summer only roofs of buildings are visible including Ashe Farm in the Foreground.</p>	<p>Landform gently undulates upwards through arable fields crossed by utility lines, providing views of the existing A358 and associated traffic, SPAR/Thornfalcon Garage and Motorhome Centre surrounded by woodland, low hedging, and hedgerows with trees. Thorn Hill and Meare Green are visible beyond the agricultural land and undulating landform.</p> <p>The view remains similar in summer and winter.</p> <p>At night, the A358 corridor is a prominent</p>	<p>Distant views of Crimson Hill and Line Wood, behind a block of woodland.</p> <p>The view remains similar in summer and winter.</p>	Yes	Yes	<p>Medium</p> <p>Views from less populated area and local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.</p>

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
				feature due to street lighting. However, roadside hedgerows limit visibility of lights associated with passing traffic.				
8	270	PRoW north of Solomon's Hollow Road	Arable field surrounded by hedgerows with trees and landform gently undulating up. Line of telegraph poles visible along Solomon's Hollow Road.	Mattock's Tree Green and hedgerow planting screen most views, but residential properties are visible in the mid-distance through gaps in the hedgerow. In summer only tops of telegraph poles visible beyond planting at the field boundary. Clear view towards Thorn Hill (not shown on presented photography) to north-west.	Glimpsed view towards higher ground beyond Mattock's Tree Green. In the summer this is only partially visible.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from users of local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
9	0	PRoW above Ashe Farm	Arable field with post and wire fence, separating the field from Ashe Farm. Landform drops downwards with farm buildings associated with Ashe Farm in the dip, tops of trees visible where the	Predominantly arable/pastoral fields with maintained hedgerows and occasional hedgerow trees. The existing A358, Mattock's Tree Green, SPAR Thornfalcon Garage and Somerset Motorhome Centre are	Hedgerows with trees and arable fields visible behind SPAR Thornfalcon Garage and Somerset Motorhome Centre. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	No	Yes	Medium Views from users of local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
			landform beings to rise. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	visible behind gappy hedgerow planting. This is more obscured within the summer months.				
10	90	Representative view from West Hatch, located north-west of West Hatch Lane on a PRow.	Open pastoral land with hedgerows and mature trees located at the field boundaries. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	The A358 is located central to the view, orientated east-west, with vehicles passing along the road filtered in part by intervening vegetation. Mature hedgerows with trees run parallel on both sides of the carriageway, resulting in filtered views of the road and increased screening in summer.	Griffin House is located to the north of the view. Line wood, a dense woodland running north-east to south is a distinctive topographic feature in the background. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	No	Yes	Medium Views from users of local PRow with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
11	45	PRow north of Thurlbear Woods	Arable field, bordered by a well-maintained hedgerow, containing a single hedgerow tree.	Arable/pastoral fields surrounded by hedgerows and hedgerows with trees, which gradually undulate upwards. In summer the south-east is largely covered by trees and full hedgerows.	Huish Woods and Thorn Hill are visible, where the landform slopes upwards.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from users of local PRow with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
12	180	PRoW within Hatch (Beauchamp) Court Grade II Registered Park and Garden	Concrete private access track with arable field behind a heritage metal fence work. Large individual oak trees dotted around arable fields.	Arable fields separated by neat well-maintained hedgerows. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Blackdown Hills AONB and undulating landform. Glimpsed distant views of A358 to the south/south-east. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	No	Yes	High Views from a landscape of regional importance very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure without incurring substantial loss of visual amenity.
13	180	PRoW at Hatch Beauchamp, south of village	Arable field bordered by a hedgerow predominantly well maintained but contains sparse sections. The view remains similar in summer and winter. At night there is some light cast across the field from Hatch Green Coaches.	There are filtered views of the existing A358, through hedgerows and hedgerows with trees. Views still filtered in summer months, but tops of lorries are slightly more covered. Top of woodland and frame of a old barn or shed for agricultural purposes are visible over hedgerow. At night passing vehicles light the vegetation along the A358.	Blackdown Hills AONB is visible to the south-west. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
14	45	Representative view from Bickenhall Farm.	Flat open pasture land bounded to the west by a mature hedgerows orientated north to south.	The A358 is located central to the view, orientated north to south. Hedgerows with mature trees are located parallel on both sides of the road. Matures trees are denser to the south of the view, screening views to the road – more effectively in summer months.	Dense mature trees are located in the background.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRow with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
15	45	Representative view from Batten's Green, Bickenhall from the road.	Road bordered both sides by grass verges, telegraph poles, ditches, and hedgerows with occasional trees, arable/pastoral fields visible just beyond the hedgerows.	Glimpsed views of high-sided vehicles on the A358 are visible beyond low hedgerows and arable fields, with mid-distance views including mature hedgerow trees. Leaves on trees enclose the view in summer months.	Windsor Farm and woodland are visible, where ground undulates upwards. In summer this view is screened by vegetation.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRow with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
16	50	Representative view from Neroche Hall.	Open pasture-land, bounded to the east with a mature hedgerow with trees, orientated north to south. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Residential houses along Dairy House Lane are located to the north of the view. Open pastoral land with mature hedgerows at the boundaries are located central to the view. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	A358 and glimpsed view of passing traffic is located central to the view, orientated north to south. Mature hedgerow with trees are along both sides of the carriageway, filtering views of the road. A white crane at Hatch Beauchamp is located central to the	No	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRow with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
					view, behind the A358. In summer months the road and passing traffic is mostly obscured by mature trees with very occasional glimpses views.			
17	180	PRoW to the north of Staundle Lane	Open view from elevated position across large arable field towards clipped hedgerow.	Limited middle ground due to the topography falling away beyond the field boundary. Small groups of trees visible in parts of the view.	Distant view towards undulating landscape and the Blackdown Hills AONB. Some vehicle movements on the A358 visible in the distance with limited influence on the overall nature of the view.	No	Yes	Medium Views from local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
18	135	Entrance to property on 'Stewley' road	View across hedgerow and roadside gate towards pastoral field and naturalised hedgerow boundaries.	Filtered view of traffic passing along the existing A358 beyond field boundary hedgerow. Multiple layers of trees visible in the wider landscape. The hedgerow provides greater screening effectiveness in summer and limits distant views.	Topography at Windmill Hill rising above existing vegetation in small proportions of the view.	Yes	No	Medium Views from less populated residential areas with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
19	0	PRoW at Myrtle Farm, Bickenhall	An arable field, with large rocks amongst the soil, bordered by hedgerows with some hedgerow trees.	Arable fields surrounded by hedgerows and hedgerows with trees adjacent to the existing A358, these create filtered views of high-sided vehicles on the road through the hedgerows. The landform gradually undulates downwards. Passing traffic on the A358 less visible in summer months.	Filtered views of Hatch Beauchamp behind hedgerow with trees, Line Wood and Crimson Hill are visible where the landform slopes upwards. The crane at Hatch Beauchamp is visible in the distance.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
20	225	PRoW to south of Radigan Lane	Open view across arable field with mature hedgerow boundary. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	View of mature trees at lower level crossing the view, following the alignment of Venner's Water. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Rising agricultural landscape towards Kenny with larger vehicles passing on the A358 visible crossing the view. Horizon line of agricultural fields and trees, with the trees becoming more prominent on the horizon during summer months.	No	Yes	Medium Views from local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
21	45	PRoW to north of Barrington Hill National Nature Reserve	View of fields around the PRoW contained by clipped hedgerows immediately north of the PRoW.	View beyond hedgerow across a relatively flat landscape including hedgerows and a large number of trees across the view. Buildings at Folly Farm are visually prominent. Filtered views	Rising ground forms the background to the view including Crimson Hill, appearing above trees in the middle ground. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	No	Yes	Medium Views from local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
			The view remains similar in summer and winter.	of passing traffic on the A358, predominantly larger vehicles, is visible between and filtered by trees. Passing traffic on the A358 less visible in summer months.				
22	0	Copse Lane and Every's Copse Ancient Woodland, properties to the south-west	Relatively flat arable fields divided by hedgerows with some hedgerow trees. PRow with hedgerows and Every's Copse ancient woodland lining the road. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	View of the A358 behind a low hedgerow, with pylons running alongside the road. Beyond the A358 there are sections of woodland and/or hedgerows with trees. Hedgerow with trees and Every's Copse to the right of PRow and hedgerows to the left, neat and well maintained. In summer the leaf coverage within the ancient woodland creates a more enclosed character, however views towards the A358 remain similar.	A small number of trees create a filter view towards Park Barn, which is visible over the hedgerows. Distant view of woodland. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRow with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
23	90	Ashill PRow east of the sport field	A large open pasture field gently undulating downwards	Views of high-sided vehicles along the A358. Largely filtered views by tree vegetation in summer. At night the existing A358 can occasionally be discerned via lights from vehicles, but roadside vegetation limits visibility.	View of Every's Copse Ancient Woodland. Ilton village visible in background, with view of trees and hedgerows. At night, lighting at Ilton is the most prominent feature.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRow with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
24	315	Representative view at Rapps village from the village centre	Large well-maintained hedges border the road with occasional hedge trees, filtering views of arable fields. Village houses and Rapps Farm are visible lining the road. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Arable field surround by hedgerows and woodland in the background. Glimpsed views of high-sided vehicles on the existing A358 crossing the end of the road. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Any potential distant views are screened by woodland and hedgerows with trees. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Yes	No	Medium Views from less populated residential areas with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
25	270	Cad Road and residential properties	Low hedgerow with sparse planting creates open views into a relatively flat pastoral field.	The pastoral field is surrounded by hedgerows with some trees, as the hedgerow has been cut low the existing A358 is clearly visible beyond the hedgerow planting. In the summer months only	Distant views of hedgerow trees can be seen within the flat landform. In summer Blackdown Hills remains visible above lower landform.	Yes	No	Medium Views from less populated residential areas with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
				the top of cars and vans are visible.				
26	180	PRoW near entrance to Jordans Park and Garden	Remnant of local road, (now the PRoW), with naturalised verge and gappy roadside hedgerow planting to the west, mature hedgerow and parkland trees to the east adjoining Jordans Park.	Arable field with hedgerow planting, allow filtered views of the existing A358 and passing vehicles, mature trees screen a section of the road. In the summer months only the top of cars and vans are visible above roadside hedgerows.	The landform rises, creating views of pastoral fields surrounded by hedgerows and hedgerows with trees.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
27	180	PRoW south of Barleyland Cattery	Relatively flat pastoral land, with a PRoW passing through the centre. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	The pastoral land is bordered by a well maintain, but gappy hedgerow with few hedgerow trees, creating clear views of the existing A358 and passing traffic. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Rapps Farm and village, along with various woodlands, hedgerows and hedgerows with trees visible where the landform lowers. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
28	0	Junction of PRow, north of water treatment works	View across open arable fields with an isolated field tree.	Farm track cuts through the centre of the fields to the east, where there is wider farmland and boarding hedgerows between the fields and the existing A358. High sided vehicles on the A358 are clearly visible, with filtered views towards cars through roadside vegetation. In summer the roadside hedgerows screen views of smaller vehicles.	The gappy hedgerow provides filtered views of Jordans Park.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRow with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
29	45	PRow at opening in hedgerow	View of open arable and pastoral fields with surrounding hedgerows and hedgerow trees.	Gappy hedgerows separate the wider arable landscape and create filtered views to the existing A358 beyond. Passing traffic is clearly visible with some filtering by vegetation in summer.	The distant landscape is enclosed by trees and woodland in most directions.	No	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRow with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
30	0	Windmill Hill PRoW north-east of the windmill	Arable fields with gappy hedgerows and dominated by pylons, in the falling landform.	Various woods, farmsteads and arable fields surrounded by hedgerows and hedgerow trees are visible within the dip of the landform, these filter views of the existing A358.	Distant settlements, fields and hedgerows are all visible where the landform rises.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
31	45	Ashill PRoW north of Crow Lane	An open chalk and limestone agricultural field with stones present in the ground, bordered by post and rail fencing and hedgerow, separating the field from the existing A358. The existing A358 is clearly visible within the depression of the landform. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Mid-ground consists of arable/pastoral fields bordered by hedgerows with trees and blocks of woodland, providing filter views of Park Barn. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Undulating landform created open views of Hatch Beauchamp, centred between woodland blocks and arable fields bordered by mature hedgerows. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
32	270	PRoW south of Venner's Water and north of A358	View across open pastoral fields rising to the south-west with clipped hedgerow boundaries. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Small group of mature trees creating a prominent feature of the view. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Naturalised vegetation alongside the existing A358 corridor with filtered views of passing traffic a notable feature of the view beyond. Views of traffic screened by vegetation during summer months.	No	Yes	Medium Views from local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
33	0	PRoW at Curland Common	View along avenue of mature trees to north-west, with views into surrounding landscape between trees and beyond hedgerow boundary. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	View over gently undulating landscape with a network of clipped hedgerows and multiple field and hedgerow trees. The trees enclose the distant views in summer months and the middle-ground view becomes more prominent.	Distant views of larger vehicles moving across the view along the existing A358 between or above trees in the middle ground. Settlements of Hatch Beauchamp and Ilton within a landscape of fields and woodlands are visible beyond. In summer distant views are much less prominent due to enclosure provided mature field trees.	No	Yes	High View from designated landscape very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
34	45	PRoW to the north-east of Castle Neroche	View beyond field gates to the north and north-east across pastoral fields towards a wooded boundary. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Middle ground screened by presence of woodland in the view. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Distant views across the wider landscape above woodland trees from an elevated position. A small element of movement in the view can be identified as a result of larger vehicles passing along the existing A358. Vehicles on the existing A358 are less prominent in the summer months.	No	Yes	High View from designated landscape very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure.
35	45	Picnic bench on circular walk to north of Staple Hill car park	View from picnic bench of surrounding woodland, gravel track, and clearing with bracken understorey. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	View of mixed woodland beyond clearing. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Distant panoramic views across the wider landscape above woodland trees from an elevated position. Topographic features in the vicinity of the existing A358 corridor can be identified at Thorn Hill and Stoke Hill. A small element of movement in the view can be identified as a result of larger vehicles passing along the existing A358. Vehicles on the existing A358 are less prominent in the summer months. At night the lighting around the junction of	No	Yes	High View from designated landscape very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
					the existing A358 and A378 is visible, lighting associated with the areas of Taunton, Ruishton, and Henlade are the most prominent features.			
36	45	Viewpoint on circular walk to north of Staple Hill car park	Limited foreground of surrounding woodland, gravel track, and clearing with bracken understorey. Timber artwork illustrating underlying geology of the Blackdown Hills located adjacent to track. Views directed north by rising ground and woodland immediately to south and clearing of woodland trees to the north.	View of mixed woodland beyond clearing. At night, lighting associated with property at Underhill Farm is visible.	Distant panoramic views across the wider landscape above woodland trees from an elevated position. Topographic features in the vicinity of the existing A358 corridor can be identified at Thorn Hill and Stoke Hill. A small element of movement in the view can be identified as a result of larger vehicles passing along the existing A358 and M5. In summer, foreground vegetation screens some elements of the distant view, although it is anticipated this is managed to retain the view. At night the lighting around the junction of	No	Yes	High View from designated landscape very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
					the existing A358 and A378 is visible, lighting associated with the areas of Taunton, Ruishton, and Henlade are the most prominent features.			
37	45	PRoW within Mount Fancy Farm Reserve	View across wet pasture of purple moor grass towards field boundaries of hedgerows, hedgerow trees and dead hedges, contained by woodland to the south.	Buildings clearly visible at Mount Fancy Farm with surrounding pastoral fields, field trees, and woodland blocks across an undulating landscape that falls away to the north. In summer, trees in the middle distance encloses some of the more distant view.	Open distant views of the wider landscape from an elevated position. Stoke Hill can be identified in the vicinity of the existing A358 corridor. A small element of movement in the view can be identified as a result of larger vehicles passing along the A358 to the east of Stoke Hill and the M5.	Yes	Yes	High View from designated landscape very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure.
38	45	PRoW at the south-western end of Underhill Lane	Open views across a large undulating pastoral field.	Mix of hedgerows with hedgerow trees, small woodland blocks, pastoral fields, and farm buildings. Staple Fitzpaine visible beyond.	Distant panoramic views across the wider landscape from an elevated position. Topographic features in the vicinity of the existing A358 corridor can be identified at Thorn Hill and Stoke Hill. A small element of movement in the view can be	No	Yes	High View from designated landscape very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
					identified as a result of larger vehicles passing along the A358 to the east of Stoke Hill and the M5, becoming more screened in summer months.			
39	0	PRoW to north of Church in Curland	Open view across pastoral field with boundary of clipped hedgerow and mature hedgerow trees. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Gently rolling landscape with a mixture of agricultural fields with hedgerows, hedgerow trees, and woodland blocks. The large woodland block of Thurlbear Wood on an area of higher ground contains views to the north. Clusters of buildings are visible within the view, notably at Curland. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Distant skyline visible beyond Thurlbear Wood, with more open view across the landscape to the north-east. Thorn Hill is an identifiable feature of the view as is the movement of larger vehicles along the existing A358 in sections between existing vegetation and landform. Views of larger vehicles will be filtered further during summer months.	No	Yes	High Views from local PRoW very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure.
40	45	Old Combe Hill	View across narrow rural lane with associated grass verge, clipped hedgerow, and occasional hedgerow trees.	Limited middle ground due to the topography falling to the north. Small groups of trees visible in parts of the view and the woodland covering Pickeridge Hill.	Open distant views of the wider landscape from an elevated position. Stoke Hill can be identified in the vicinity of the A358 corridor. A small element of movement in the view can be identified as a	No	Yes	High View from designated landscape very susceptible to large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
			The view remains similar in summer and winter.	The view remains similar in summer and winter.	result of larger vehicles passing along the existing A358 and M5 to the west of Stoke Hill. The view remains similar in summer and winter.			
41	0	PRoW north of Netherclay Lane	Open view across flat arable field.	Mix of tree planting along field boundary and prominent farm building on opposite side of the field. Views beyond to further flat arable fields with field trees creating a layering effect.	Rising ground visible in the far distance forming the horizon line between and behind intervening trees. The distant skyline is less visible in summer months due to screening by trees in the middle distance.	No	Yes	Medium Views from local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
42	45	Representative view from PRoW located north of Griffin Lane.	Open pastoral land with mature trees along the field boundary orientated north-west to south-east. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	The existing A358 and site of the proposed is central to the view, orientated north-west to south-east, with hedgerows with trees running parallel on both sides of the road. The A358 is visible between hedgerows with trees and where the topography flattens. Residential houses on West Hatch Lane are visible to the north-west.	Open pastoral/arable land with hedgerows with trees along field boundaries. Meare Court Farm is central to the view, orientated north-west to south-east. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
				In summer the hedgerow trees screen more of the agricultural land and A358 beyond.				
43	0	Road to east of Swingrite Golf Centre	Glimpsed views through field gate in hedgerow that otherwise contains views along the rural road corridor. View of flat arable field. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Clipped hedgerow with small hedgerow trees along field boundary and flat fields beyond, before fields rise to the north. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Notable properties visible along the southern edge of the existing A358 on higher ground. View north of lighting columns and passing traffic to the west of the Taunton Park and Ride in the vicinity of the Nexus Roundabout. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	No	Yes	Medium Views from local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.
44	180	PRoW to the east of Village Road	Open view across gently undulating pastoral fields with clipped hedgerow field boundaries. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Further gently undulating pastoral fields crossed by telegraph poles and associated wires. Property clearly visible on the road to the east of Village Road. In summer months the majority of the view is contained to middle-distance by hedgerows and hedgerow trees.	Distant views generally contained by layers of hedgerow trees and vegetation, with higher ground visible between towards Windmill Hill.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

Number	Direction (degrees)	View from	Foreground view	Middle ground view	Background view	Residential	Amenity	Sensitivity
45	135	Capland Lane south of Capland Farm	Pastoral field surrounded by low well maintain hedgerows and hedgerows with trees. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	A358 and Windsor Farm can be seen behind hedgerows and hedgerows with trees, where the landform undulates downwards. Pylons visible between the hedgerow trees. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Landform undulates upwards, providing views woodlands and fields bounded by hedgerows and hedgerows with trees. The view remains similar in summer and winter.	Yes	Yes	Medium Views from less populated residential areas and local PRoW with a limited ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.

1.2 View from the road

- 1.2.1 The view from the road, as experienced by road users, is described below moving from west to east.
- 1.2.2 Around the M5 junction 25 and Nexus roundabout the nature of the view is predominantly of highway infrastructure with multiple lanes, signage, traffic lights, and lighting. From Nexus roundabout There is a glimpsed view west towards Stoke Hill in the background.
- 1.2.3 Past the Taunton Park & Ride the road has a suburban main road feeling with street lighting, side roads, and properties fronting on to the carriageway. Hedgerows and properties contain views within the road corridor.
- 1.2.4 Between Henlade and Glebe Cottages the road corridor is noticeably wider with two lanes, with a grassed central verge that has occasional lengths of shrub or hedgerow. The road edges are contained by hedgerows and post and wire fences with some hedgerow gaps allowing views into the surrounding agricultural landscape, and views towards Thorn Hill.
- 1.2.5 At Mattocks Tree Hill the ridgeline forms the distant horizon with some field trees standing out. The road follows the landform up the hill and street lighting, signage, and traffic lights become more regular. The junction with the existing A358 is more urban in character due to the presence of Thornfalcon Garage and Somerset Motorhome Centre. The green central verge continues from the top of the hill and tapers out at the western side of Somerset Motorhome Centre. There are elevated distant views across the surrounding rural landscape.

- 1.2.6 South of the Somerset Progressive School, the road corridor narrows to single carriageway and becomes more enclosed and wooded in nature through to Bickenhall Lane.
- 1.2.7 Between Bickenhall Lane and Southfields Roundabout the majority of the existing A358 is relatively flat with naturalistic hedgerows and hedgerow trees limiting views out towards the wider landscape, with exceptions being through gaps in hedgerows, or sections of hedgerows maintained at a lower height. Where views away from the road are afforded, they are generally across a flat arable landscape and contained by woodlands and hedgerow trees beyond. The road is single carriageway, unlit (except around Stewley Lane), and with few signs, with exceptions where the road widens around side road junctions and on approach to Southfields Roundabout. Occasional views towards mature field and hedgerow trees in the surrounding landscape.
- 1.2.8 At Southfields Roundabout the context becomes more urban due to the scale of the roundabout and range of commercial uses including petrol station, Burger King, Costa Coffee, Greggs, and Travelodge.
- 1.2.9 The sensitivity is judged to be low, as users of a main road with relatively enclosed views and an ability to accommodate large scale road infrastructure.