

HS2 Phase 2a 2016 Consultations – West Midlands to Crewe

In November 2015 the Government announced its intention that, subject to Parliamentary approval, part of the High Speed Two (HS2) route – from the West Midlands to Crewe, known as Phase 2a – will open in 2027.

HS2 Ltd is now consulting on how Phase 2a might affect people and the environment, and also on some possible changes to its previously published plans. There are three separate consultations. This letter explains what they are about, and how you can give us your views on them.

The consultations will run until 7 November and are on:

- **The Working Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report**

This is HS2 Ltd's current assessment of the environment that will be affected and how those effects can be managed.

- **The Working Draft Equality Impact Assessment Report**

This is HS2 Ltd's current assessment of how people with protected characteristics might be affected and how those effects can be managed.

- **Design Refinement**

These are changes to the plans that the Secretary of State for Transport is considering.

What is the Working Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report?

In order to secure powers to build the railway, HS2 Ltd needs to carry out an environmental impact assessment. The Working Draft EIA Report presents draft environmental information based on the current stage of design of Phase 2a. It includes a description of the existing environment; an evaluation of the anticipated environmental impacts of the scheme; and the measures we are proposing to manage these impacts.

The consultation gives people a chance to see our current understanding of the environmental impact of HS2 and to comment on it. We will consider responses to the consultation as we develop the design and assessment of Phase 2a.

This is not your last chance to comment on the environmental impacts, as there will be a public consultation on the formal EIA report after we deposit a Phase 2a Bill in Parliament, which we expect to do before the end of 2017.

What is the Working Draft Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Report?

The Working Draft EqIA Report presents draft equality information based on the current stage of design of Phase 2a. It looks at whether HS2 will have a bigger or different effect on groups of people because of their age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation, and describes our current understanding of the potential equality effects that may arise.

It also explains how we propose to avoid or reduce any adverse equality effects that may occur over the life of the HS2 project. This consultation presents the information in the Working Draft EqIA Report and asks for your views.

This is not your last chance to comment on the equality impacts, as there will be a public consultation on the formal EqIA report after we deposit a Phase 2a Bill in Parliament, which we expect to do before the end of 2017.

What is the Design Refinement Consultation?

Since the preferred route of Phase 2a was announced, work has been underway to develop the design of the scheme. Three potential refinements have been identified, and the Secretary of State for Transport is now seeking views on them. The proposed design changes involve:

- extending the proposed tunnel at Crewe, re-siting the tunnel entrance south of the A500 and Weston Lane;
- moving the lines near Crewe that would connect HS2 to the West Coast Main Line further south and extending their length; and
- constructing a temporary railhead near Stone, with the potential to convert it to a permanent maintenance facility.

This consultation asks for your views, based on the information in the HS2 Phase 2a West Midlands to Crewe Design Refinement Consultation document. Responses to the consultation will be independently analysed, and considered by the Secretary of State when making a decision about the route.

Where can I find the consultation documents?

Documents relating to all three consultations, including response forms and associated maps, are available online at www.gov.uk/hs2

You can request documents from the HS2 Helpdesk on 020 7944 4908.

Paper copies of the consultation documents are available to view in local public libraries. To find your nearest library, please see the list at www.gov.uk/hs2 or call the HS2 Helpdesk.

Consultation documents will also be available at our public information events.

Information events

To help people respond to the consultations, we are holding information events along the line of the planned Phase 2a route during the consultation period. These events will be a chance for people to meet our specialists, ask questions and make comments. The times and locations of these events are shown on the attachment.

Responding to the consultations

We would be very grateful for responses to the consultations, as they will help inform our plans and improve our design. These are public consultations: anyone can respond to any or all of them.

Please note that the consultations are separate, so it is important that you respond using the correct method for each consultation.

If you would like to respond to the working draft EIA Report consultation, you can:

- use the dedicated online response form at www.gov.uk/hs2
- download the relevant response form at www.gov.uk/hs2 (although responses in other formats will also be accepted) and email your response to: DraftEnvironmental2a@dialoguebydesign.co.uk
- post your response to: FREEPOST DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL 2A

If you would like to respond to the working draft EQIA Report consultation, you can:

- use the dedicated online response form at www.gov.uk/hs2
- download the relevant response form www.gov.uk/hs2 (although responses in other formats will also be accepted) and email your response to: DraftEquality2a@dialoguebydesign.co.uk
- post your response to: FREEPOST DRAFT EQUALITY 2A

If you would like to respond to the Design Refinement Consultation, you can:

- use the dedicated online response form at www.gov.uk/hs2
- download the relevant response form at www.gov.uk/hs2 (although responses in other formats will also be accepted) and email your response to: DesignRefinement2a@dialoguebydesign.co.uk
- post your response to: FREEPOST DESIGN REFINEMENT 2A

If you use one of the FREEPOST addresses, you do not need to include any other address information and you do not need a stamp. Please write the FREEPOST address in capital letters.

All three consultations close at 23:45 on 7 November 2016.

Further information

Information relating to the three consultations, together with details about the consultation events, will be sent to owner/occupiers 1km either side of the proposed line of route as well as to other key local stakeholders. We will also advertise the consultation events in local newspapers.

If you would like information in other formats or have any questions about this letter, please contact us at HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk or by calling the HS2 Helpdesk on 020 7944 4908.

<image004.png>Yours faithfully

Alison Munro
Managing Director of Development

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Tel: 020 7944 4908 | E: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk | www.gov.uk/hs2

You can also contact us for help and information in a different language or format.

Consultation Events

Venue	Location	Date	Event Time
Whitmore & District Village Hall	Coneygreave Lane, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 5HX	Friday 30 September	11am – 7pm
Kings Bromley Village Hall	Alrewas Road, Kings Bromley, Burton-on-Trent DE13 7HW	Wednesday 5 October	12pm – 8pm
Great Haywood Memorial Hall	Main Road, Great Haywood, Stafford ST18 0SU	Friday 7 October	12pm – 8pm
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre	Eastgate Street, Stafford ST16 2LT	Monday 10 October	12pm – 8pm
Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre	The Cedar Suite (use Cedar Suite Entrance), Yarnfield, Stone ST15 0NL	Wednesday 12 October	12pm – 8pm
The Madeley Centre	New Road, Madeley, Crewe CW3 9DE	Saturday 15 October	10am – 5pm
Wychwood Park	The Wychwood Suite, Weston, Crewe CW2 5GP	Wednesday 19 October	12pm – 8pm