

# HS2

## High Speed Two Phase One London to the West Midlands

### Safeguarding Directions

With guidance notes for local planning  
authorities

August 2018



Department  
for Transport

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited has been tasked by the Department for Transport (DfT) with managing the delivery of a new national high speed rail network. It is a non-departmental public body wholly owned by the DfT.

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# Safeguarding Directions for development affecting the route and associated works for the High Speed Two rail project London-West Midlands

The Secretary of State for Transport gives the following Directions (“Directions”) to the local planning authorities named in the Schedule in exercise of the powers conferred by articles 18(4), 31(1) and 34(8) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015<sup>i</sup> (“the Order”).

## Commencement

1. These Directions come into force on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 (“the commencement date”).

## Application

2. These Directions apply in respect of any application for planning permission which:
  - a) has not been finally determined by the commencement date;
  - b) relates to development within the zone specified in paragraph 3; and
  - c) is not an exempt application by virtue of paragraph 4.

## Relevant zone

3. The zone referred to in paragraph 2(b) is the zone shown bounded by lines marked “Limits of Land subject to Safeguarding Direction” on the plans annexed to these Directions (being the zone relating to the route of a railway to be constructed between London and the West Midlands).

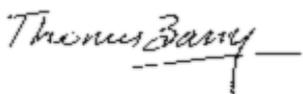
## Exempt applications

4. An application is exempt for the purposes of paragraph 2(c) if it is an application for planning permission which relates to development that:
  - a) lies within the zone shown on the plans referred to in paragraph 3 and is shown shaded as blue on those plans;
  - b) consists only of an alteration to a building which is a hereditament that falls within the scope of section 149(3) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990<sup>ii</sup> (both before and after the development); and
  - c) does not involve, or is not likely to involve, any construction, engineering or other operations below existing ground level.

## Duties on Local Planning Authorities

5. Before a local planning authority may determine any planning permission in respect of any application for planning permission to which these Directions apply it must consult High Speed Two (HS2) Limited (Company No. 06791686).
6. Where a local planning authority is required by paragraph 5 to consult High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, they must not grant planning permission otherwise than to give effect to the recommendation of High Speed Two (HS2) Limited:-
  - a) unless they have delivered to the Secretary of State for Transport the material specified in paragraph 7; and
  - b) until the expiry of a period of 21 days from the date on which that material was delivered to the Secretary of State for Transport.
7. The material referred to in paragraph 6 is:-
  - a) a copy of the application for planning permission together with a copy of any plans or documents submitted with it;
  - b) a copy of the response of High Speed Two (HS2) Limited to the consultation by the local planning authority in pursuance of paragraph 5;
  - c) such information regarding the application as the Secretary of State for Transport may require by direction under article 34(8) of the Order; and
  - d) a statement on the provisions of the development plan and other issues involved, including whether the grant of permission would be contrary to the views of another Government Department.
8. These Safeguarding Directions cancel<sup>iii</sup> and replace the Safeguarding Directions for development affecting the route and associated works for the High Speed Two rail project London-West Midlands issued to local planning authorities on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State



**Thomas Barry**

A senior civil servant in the Department for Transport

## Schedule

Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Birmingham City Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Cherwell District Council  
Chiltern District Council  
Hertfordshire County Council  
Lichfield District Council  
London Borough of Brent  
London Borough of Camden  
London Borough of Ealing  
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham  
London Borough of Hillingdon  
Manchester City Council  
Northamptonshire County Council  
North Warwickshire Borough Council  
Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation  
Oxfordshire County Council  
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea  
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
South Buckinghamshire District Council  
South Northamptonshire District Council  
Stafford Borough Council  
Staffordshire County Council  
Stratford on Avon District Council  
Three Rivers District Council  
Warwickshire County Council  
Warwick District Council  
Westminster City Council  
Wycombe District Council

# Secretary of State for Transport

## Guidance notes for Local Planning Authorities to accompany Safeguarding Directions issued for the HS2 railway line project – Phase One, London to the West Midlands

### Background

1. These Safeguarding Directions were issued and came into force on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 under articles 18(4), 31(1) and 34(8) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015<sup>iv</sup> (“the Order”). They replace the previous Safeguarding Directions for Phase One of HS2 issued on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016 (“the August 2016 Directions”).
2. Phase One of the High Speed Two railway line project is proposed to run between London Euston and the West Midlands (with a new station in central Birmingham), including a connection to the existing West Coast Main Line north of Lichfield. Legislative approval for Phase One was given by Royal Assent to the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017 on 23 February.
3. In order to protect the planned railway route from conflicting development, the Government has safeguarded the London to West Midlands route (Phase One) of HS2 using Safeguarding Directions, which are an established tool of the planning system designed for this purpose. Safeguarding aims to ensure that new developments do not impact on the ability to build or operate HS2 or lead to excessive additional costs.
4. The Safeguarding Directions have been issued to Local Planning Authorities (“LPAs”), by the Secretary of State for Transport. As a result LPAs need to consult High Speed Two (HS2) Limited (“HS2 Ltd”) with regard to any planning applications falling within paragraph 2 of the Safeguarding Directions before determining an application for planning permission.
5. The safeguarded land shown in previous Safeguarding Directions for Phase One culminating in the August 2016 Directions included the land at that time identified as being required to build and/or operate the railway. The Department for Transport has recently reached an agreement with Heathrow Airport Ltd and Heathrow Express Operating Company Ltd (HEX) for the provision of services until at least the end of 2028,

a feature of which is that HEX's rolling stock depot facilities at Old Oak Common will be replaced by existing depot facilities in Reading. As a result, the Secretary of State will not be using his powers to construct a new rolling stock depot at Langley.

6. The Secretary of State has therefore decided to update the Safeguarding Directions and reduce the area of land required to be safeguarded by removing the part no longer required in relation to a Langley depot.

## Processing of Applications

7. Applications for planning permission on which HS2 Ltd must be consulted, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Safeguarding Directions, should be sent either by first class post to:

The Safeguarding Planning Manager  
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited  
Two Snowhill  
Snow Hill Queensway  
Birmingham, B4 6GA

Or by email to: [town.planning@hs2.org.uk](mailto:town.planning@hs2.org.uk)

8. Such applications must not be determined before the expiry of the period for consultation set out in article 18(5)(b) of the Order.
9. Any applications sent to HS2 Ltd under paragraph 5 of these Safeguarding Directions will be considered by HS2 Ltd on a case-by-case basis on the grounds of whether the proposed development will impact on the ability to build or operate HS2 or lead to excessive additional costs.
10. Where the application does not include all the information required to allow HS2 Ltd to determine whether the development will impact on the ability to build or operate HS2 or lead to excessive additional costs, HS2 Ltd will notify the LPA without delay setting out what additional information is needed and why.
11. In order to assist developers to design buildings that do not conflict or obstruct the route of HS2 and to avoid the possibility of a recommendation of refusal being made to the LPA by HS2 Ltd under these Safeguarding Directions, HS2 Ltd has produced information about HS2 design criteria for the use of developers bringing forward new developments in the safeguarded area of the route of HS2. Copies of that information are obtainable by request from:

The Safeguarding Planning Manager  
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited  
Two Snowhill

Snow Hill Queensway  
Birmingham, B4 6GA

Or by email to: [town.planning@hs2.org.uk](mailto:town.planning@hs2.org.uk)

12. Where HS2 Ltd has not responded within the period set out in article 18(5)(b) of the Order, the LPA may proceed to determine that application. Where HS2 Ltd has responded, the LPA will not be bound by that recommendation. However, if it does not accept the recommendation, it will be required to notify the Secretary of State for Transport under paragraph 6 of the Safeguarding Directions.
13. Where permission is refused due to a conflict with the HS2 project, the decision notice should include that conflict in the reasons for refusal. Copies of all decisions on planning applications on which HS2 Ltd have been consulted should be sent to the Safeguarding Planning Manager at the above postal or email address. HS2 Ltd has developed procedures for handling consultations relating to the Safeguarding Directions and may recommend that conditions are imposed in specified circumstances and where appropriate in order to protect the HS2 project.
14. Applications which local planning authorities are minded to approve against the advice of HS2 Ltd should, in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Safeguarding Directions, be sent, together with the material specified in paragraph 7 of the Safeguarding Directions, by authorities by first class post to:

High Speed Rail Property Team  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Or by email to: [highspeedrail@dft.gov.uk](mailto:highspeedrail@dft.gov.uk)

And copy email to: [town.planning@hs2.org.uk](mailto:town.planning@hs2.org.uk)

15. The Department for Transport will inform LPAs of the date of receipt of the application and the material required under paragraph 7 of the Safeguarding Directions, and will, within 21 days of that date, either notify authorities that there are no objections to permission being granted, or issue Directions restricting the granting of permission specifically for those applications.
16. Where the Department for Transport has not responded to this consultation within 21 days of receipt of the papers referred to above, the LPA may proceed to determine the application.

## Blight and Purchase Notices

17. The provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 on blight and purchase notices will apply to property affected by safeguarding. The appropriate authority to receive purchase notices is the LPA. Blight notices should be served on the Secretary of State for Transport and sent to:

The Land and Property Team  
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited  
Two Snowhill  
Snow Hill Queensway  
Birmingham, B4 6GA

Or by email to: [blightnotice@hs2.org.uk](mailto:blightnotice@hs2.org.uk)

Further details of the provisions and how to complete the prescribed form can be obtained from the Land and Property Team at the above address or can be found on our website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-one-safeguarding-for-property-owners>

## Planning and local land charges registers

18. In accordance with article 40(4)(b) of the Order, particulars of the Safeguarding Directions must be entered in Part 2 of the Register of Applications, in respect of any application for planning permission to which they apply. The Department for Transport/HS2 Ltd is also of the view that the safeguarding provisions should be revealed in response to Optional Enquiries sent with requisitions for searches of the local land charges register in relation to properties within the zone described in paragraph 3 of the Safeguarding Directions.

## Extant planning permissions

19. Where LPAs are aware of, or become aware of, any extant planning permissions affecting land within the zone described in paragraph 3 of the Safeguarding Directions, which have yet to be implemented, it would be helpful if they could inform HS2 Ltd.

## Pending planning applications

20. LPAs are reminded that the Safeguarding Directions issued on 22 August 2018 apply to any planning application that has not been finally determined by that date (and which includes cases where a resolution to grant a permission has been made by the LPA but the permission has not been formally issued) other than an application in relation to development of the exempted category specified in paragraph 4 of the Safeguarding Directions.
21. Accordingly, LPAs must review all pending applications to determine whether the development proposed is a development to which these Safeguarding Directions apply.

## Local Plans

22. In preparing any Development Plan Document (an area's Local Plan), the area safeguarded by the Safeguarding Directions should be taken into account. Where a Safeguarded Direction is taken into account in a Local Plan, it should be represented on the policies map (in accordance with Regulation 9 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012<sup>y</sup> as amended).
23. Adding information about the extent of the safeguarded area on the Proposals Map is helpful for those considering development in the area, however it is important to note that the requirements of the Safeguarding Directions apply, in the circumstances described above, regardless of whether the safeguarded area is identified on the Proposals Map or not.
24. Local Plans should state that the Safeguarding Directions have been made by the Secretary of State for Transport. They are not proposals of the LPA and the routes in question will not be determined through the development plan process. They were considered in Parliament under hybrid Bill procedures, which provided appropriate opportunities for petitions to be made to Parliament by those directly affected by the scheme. Since enactment of the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017 a range of preparatory works have commenced, including archaeological surveys and the creation of new wildlife habitats.
25. Further information on how Phase One is being constructed can be obtained from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/constructing-the-hs2-railway> and from the HS2 Ltd Community Relations Helpdesk – telephone 020 7944 4908 or [HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)
26. Where the Local Plan has been submitted for independent examination, the LPA should record any representations received which relate to the Safeguarding Directions and bring these to the attention of the inspector appointed to hold the examination of a Local Plan document. The inspector's role is to consider the policies of the LPA set out in the draft Local Plan document. If the inspector is satisfied that an objection is solely to

matters covered by the Safeguarding Directions, rather than to proposals of the LPA, the inspector is unlikely to consider the objection to be relevant to consideration of the Local Plan document.

27. LPAs when adopting supplementary planning documents should note in the statement of consultation any representations received which relate to the Safeguarding Directions.

## Timing

28. These current Safeguarding Directions came into force on 22 August 2018 and apply in respect of the categories defined in paragraph 2 of the Directions.

### 22 August 2018

## Endnotes

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<sup>i</sup> SI 2015/595 made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (c. 8), see in particular section 74.

<sup>ii</sup> 1990 c.8.

<sup>iii</sup> SI 2015/595, article 45.

<sup>iv</sup> SI 2015/595.

<sup>v</sup> SI 2012/767

[www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)

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