

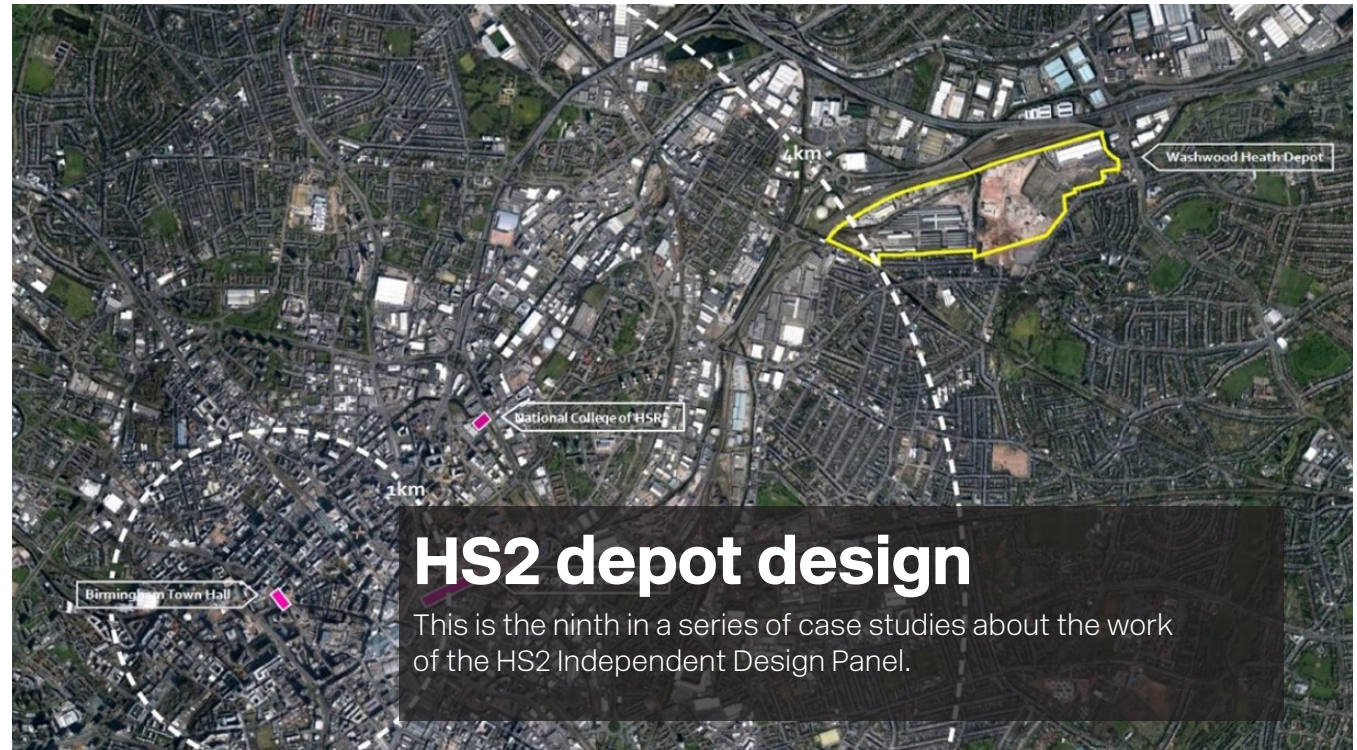
Case Study #9

HS2 INDEPENDENT
DESIGN PANEL

For Phase One and Phase 2a, HS2 rolling stock servicing will be carried out at the 'Rolling Stock Maintenance Depot' in Washwood Heath, Birmingham.

The depot will be delivered by three contractors: Enabling Works Contractor (EWC) - clearing the site; Main Works Civil Contractor (MWCC) - providing a level site to construct from; and the Railway Systems Contractor (RSC) - designing and building the depot.

Process: the EWC is programmed to complete by the end of 2018; the MWCC is currently in design development stage before commencing works in early 2019; and an RSC is due to be appointed in 2020. The HS2 Independent Design Panel is supporting this process in a number of ways. An initial full panel meeting was held in September 2017 to review early proposals for Washwood Heath Depot and the Network Integrated Control Centre (NICC). It included a briefing on the Depot Design Ambition document. This work is being developed by HS2 Ltd ahead of the procurement of an RSC. A follow-up review was held in March 2018 to understand how design work had progressed. Alongside this work, additional meetings in December 2017 and April 2018 reviewed the work of the Phase One Area North MWCC, Balfour Beatty Vinci.



HS2 depot design

This is the ninth in a series of case studies about the work of the HS2 Independent Design Panel.

Project headlines

- HS2 Ltd's high quality design ambitions extend across all HS2 infrastructure – including depots.
- The Depot Design Ambition document builds on the HS2 Design Vision aspirations.
- Washwood Heath Depot will be built on a 64 hectare site in Birmingham.
- It will be the only rolling stock maintenance depot on the HS2 network during Phase One and Phase 2a.
- Washwood Heath Depot and Network Integrated Control Centre will play a critical operational role - and have potential to help transform the surrounding area.

Panel comments

The HS2 Independent Design Panel has welcomed positive work undertaken by HS2 Ltd on developing a design approach for the Washwood Heath Depot and Network Integrated Control Centre – this work has the potential to set a benchmark for the design quality HS2 Ltd expects from the Design and Build contractor. The panel also commended the Main Works Civil Contractor (MWCC) in working to meet the challenges of a complex and large scale construction programme. The panel looks forward to seeing the range of measures that will be implemented over the construction phase.

1. Capturing long term benefits

The scale of the site and works at Washwood Heath Depot means that it will form a significant element of the long term vision for the area. It will play a critical role in transforming this part of Birmingham - with potential to enhance the environment for the communities in the surrounding area.

The panel advised HS2 Ltd to maximise the wider area benefits of HS2 – encouraging collaborative work with Birmingham City Council to ensure that opportunities to drive regeneration are exploited to the full as part of a holistic vision for the area.

HS2 Ltd is responding, together with Birmingham City Council, by forming a working group that will lead on priorities for the wider area, including a potential masterplan.

As this work continues, the panel supports the focus being placed on community engagement by the MWCC – it encourages exploring possibilities for creative collaboration with the local community. There is potential to implement a range of short term and temporary initiatives, taking the opportunity to give something back to the community early on.

2. Placemaking - people focused environments

The panel emphasised that high quality public realm and landscape design is essential for ensuring HS2 makes a positive contribution to the surrounding area and achieving a high quality working environment. It encouraged HS2 Ltd to develop an extensive public realm and landscape strategy for the site and wider area.

Responding to the panel's comments, the design team has been considering the site's setting within the valley to evolve a site layout strategy – defining spaces that provide employees with spaces for 'social interaction and rest', and spaces that focus on 'operation'.

As this work continues, the panel encourages exploring the potential to enhance biodiversity,

including introduction of native planting that will attract wildlife.

3. Sustainability - construction, skills and training

HS2 Ltd 's Sustainability Approach Document describes its commitment to ensuring a sustainable legacy for the project. At Washwood Heath, contractor and design teams are working to secure this legacy by considering a range of measures, including the re-use of excavated soil. Existing railway sidings may also be used to transport construction materials to site and existing buildings could potentially be used for remediation works. Teams are also working to achieve a BREEAM 'excellent' rating at Washwood Heath – focusing on several major interventions.

Sustainability also means creating skills and employment opportunities for all and work is under way to look at how skills can be developed during the construction phase.

In working up the detail required to achieve its sustainability aims, the panel recommends that HS2 Ltd further explore opportunities to deliver early benefits for the community – including the potential construction of a site viewing platform from which the community can see work progressing on site.