

# HS2

## High Speed Two Phase 2b Crewe to Manchester West Midlands to Leeds

### Safeguarding Directions

With guidance notes for local planning  
authorities

May 2023



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 – Phase 2b: the Western leg (Crewe to Manchester) and the Eastern Leg (West Midlands to Leeds), with connections onto the existing network**

**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>1</sup> (“the Order”).**

## **Commencement**

1. These Directions come into force on 23 May 2023 (“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 proposed to be constructed between the Western Leg (Crewe and Manchester) and the Eastern Leg (West Midlands and Leeds), with connections onto the existing network). The annexed plans in relation to:
  - a) the Eastern Leg (West Midlands to Leeds) are dated June 2019; July 2020, August 2021 and May 2023 (in relation to Leeds); and October 2021 (in relation to

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<sup>1</sup> S.I. 2015/595 as amended by S.I. 2021/756 made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (c. 8), see in particular section 74.

- Nottingham); and
- b) the Western Leg (Crewe to Manchester) are dated June 2022.

## 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>2</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 Directions cancel and replace the Safeguarding Directions for development affecting the route and associated works for the High Speed Two rail project – Phase 2b: the Western Leg (Crewe to Manchester) and Eastern Leg (West Midlands to Leeds), with connections onto the existing network, which were issued on 6 June 2022.

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<sup>2</sup> 1990 c. 8.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RMiddleton'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rob Middleton

A senior civil servant in the Department for Transport

## Schedule

Ashfield District Council

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Bolsover District Council

Broxtowe Borough Council

Carlisle City Council

Cheshire East Council

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Chesterfield Borough Council

Cumbria County Council

Derbyshire County Council

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

Erewash Borough Council

Lancashire County Council

Leeds City Council

Leicestershire County Council

Manchester City Council

North East Derbyshire District Council

North Warwickshire Borough Council

North West Leicestershire District Council

North Yorkshire County Council

Nottingham City Council

Nottinghamshire County Council

Preston City Council

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Rushcliffe Borough Council

Salford City Council

Selby District Council

South Ribble Borough Council

Staffordshire County Council

Tamworth Borough Council

Trafford Council

Wakefield Council

Warrington Borough Council

Warwickshire County Council

Wigan Council

# Guidance notes for Local Planning Authorities to accompany Safeguarding Directions issued for the HS2 rail project – Phase 2b: the Western Leg (Crewe to Manchester) and the Eastern Leg (West Midlands to Leeds), with connections onto the existing network

## Background

1. To protect the Phase 2b route from conflicting development, the Secretary of State for Transport has safeguarded this section of the HS2 route using Safeguarding Directions, which are an established tool of the planning system designed for this purpose. Safeguarding aims to ensure that new developments along the HS2 Phase 2b route do not impact on the ability to build or operate HS2 or lead to excessive additional costs.
2. These Directions have been issued to the Local Planning Authority (“LPA”), by the Secretary of State for Transport. The LPA will need to consult High Speed Two Limited (“HS2 Ltd”) with regard to any planning applications falling within paragraph 2 of the Directions before determining an application for planning permission.
3. Safeguarding is kept under review and updated as the project evolves and as the level of engineering detail facilitates a greater understanding of the actual land required. This is to ensure that land which is not required for construction or operation of HS2 is not unnecessarily blighted for extended periods.
4. These Directions will be kept under review, in line with the approach taken on Phase One and Phase 2a of HS2 and other major infrastructure projects.

## Updates to safeguarding

5. These Safeguarding Directions (the “Directions”) were issued and came into force on 23 May 2023 under articles 18(4), 31(1) and 34(8) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015<sup>3</sup> (the “Order”). The Directions cancel and replace the Safeguarding Directions for Phase 2b: the Western Leg (Crewe to Manchester) and Eastern Leg (West Midlands to Leeds), with connections onto the existing network, which were issued on 6 June 2022 (the “June 2022 Directions”).
6. Although the June 2022 Directions have been cancelled and replaced, most of the land that was safeguarded in those Directions has been incorporated in the Directions. The plans annexed to the Directions mark the safeguarded zones and clarify updates to the safeguarded land where relevant. In summary, the plans for:
  - a. the Eastern Leg (West Midlands to Leeds) have been updated to reflect design and refinement changes affecting one area around Leeds. The relevant plans are

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<sup>3</sup> S.I. 2015/595 as amended by S.I. 2021/756.

dated June 2019, July 2020, August 2021, October 2021 and May 2023; and

- b. the Western Leg (Crewe to Manchester) have not been updated as no changes have been made to this section of the route. The relevant plans are dated June 2022.

## Processing of Applications

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

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

And 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 the 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 proposals that do not conflict with, or obstruct, the HS2 route, HS2 Ltd has produced information about the HS2 design criteria to be used by developers bringing forward new developments in the safeguarded area of the HS2 route. That information can be requested 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 the LPA does not accept the recommendation, it will be required to notify the Secretary of State for Transport in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Directions.

13. Where permission is refused by the LPA due to a conflict with the HS2 project, the decision notice should refer to that conflict as the reasons for refusal(s). 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 Directions and may recommend that conditions are imposed in specified circumstances and where appropriate to protect the HS2 Project.
14. Applications which the LPA is minded to approve against the recommendation of HS2 Ltd should be sent by the LPA, in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Directions with the material specified in paragraph 7 of the Directions, to:

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

And by email to: [highspeedrail@dft.gov.uk](mailto:highspeedrail@dft.gov.uk), copied to: [town.planning@hs2.org.uk](mailto:town.planning@hs2.org.uk)

15. The DfT will inform the LPA of the date of receipt of the application and the material required under paragraph 7 of the Directions and will either notify the LPA that there are no objections to permission being granted, or issue directions restricting the granting of permission specifically for that application.
16. Where the DfT has not responded 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

Alternatively, blight notices with attached evidence can be emailed to:  
[blightnotice@hs2.org.uk](mailto:blightnotice@hs2.org.uk)

Further details of the provisions and how to complete a blight or purchase notice can be obtained from the Land and Property Team at the above address or can be found on our website [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2)

## Planning and local land charges registers

18. In accordance with article 40(4)(b) of the Order, particulars of the 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 DfT and HS2 Ltd consider 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 Directions.

## Extant planning permissions

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

## Pending planning applications

20. The LPA is reminded that the Directions issued on 23 May 2023 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 paragraphs 2 and 4 of the Directions.
21. Accordingly, the LPA must review all pending applications to determine whether the development proposed is a development to which the Directions apply.

## Local Plans

22. In preparing any Development Plan Document (an area's Local Plan), the area safeguarded by the Directions should be taken into account. Where a Safeguarding 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>4</sup> (as amended)).
23. Adding information about the extent of the safeguarded area on the Policies Map is helpful for those considering development in the area. However, it is important to note that the requirements of the Directions apply in the circumstances described above regardless of whether the safeguarded area is identified on the Policies Map.
24. It should be made clear in the Local Plans that the Directions are made by the Secretary of State for Transport. They are not proposals of the LPA and the HS2 Phase 2b route in question will not be determined through the development plan process. The HS2 Phase 2b route is considered in Parliament under the hybrid Bill procedures, which provide

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<sup>4</sup> S.I. 2012/767.

appropriate opportunities for petitions to be made to Parliament by those directly affected by the scheme.

25. Further information on hybrid Bill procedures can be obtained from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/constructing-the-hs2-railway> and from the HS2 Ltd Community Relations Helpdesk – telephone 08081 434 434 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 Directions and bring these to the attention of the inspector appointed to hold the examination of the Local Plan. The inspector's role is to consider the policies of the LPA set out in the Local Plan. If the inspector is satisfied that an objection is solely to matters covered by the Directions, rather than to proposals of the LPA, the inspector is unlikely to consider the objection to be relevant to the consideration of the Local Plan document.
27. The LPA, when adopting supplementary planning documents, should note in the statement of consultation any representations received which relate to the Directions.

## **Timing**

28. These Directions come into force on 23 May 2023 and apply in respect of the applications for planning permission described in paragraph 2 of the Directions.

**23 May 2023**

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

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**HS2**