



# **HS2 Phase 2a: West Midlands to Crewe**

## **Equality Impact Assessment Scope and Methodology Report: Consultation Summary Report**

**A report to Hs2 Ltd by Arup / ERM**

**September 2016**

**ARUP**



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# Executive summary

HS2 Ltd consulted on the HS2 Phase Two: West Midlands to Crewe Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Draft Scope and Methodology Report (the draft EQIA SMR) from 8 March 2016 until 13 May 2016. The purpose of the consultation was to seek responses on the appropriateness of the proposed approach to the development of the EQIA and the subsequent formal EQIA Report for Phase 2a of the proposed high speed rail network (HS2). The consultation led to three responses resulting in 23 individual comments.

Each of the 23 comments has been reviewed and addressed by the technical equality topic authors of the draft EQIA SMR. This Consultation Summary Report provides a summary of the type of responses received and the main changes made to the draft EQIA SMR as a result of these.

Consultation responses considered directly relevant to the draft EQIA SMR have been considered, and incorporated into the revised EQIA SMR, where appropriate.

Comments that did not relate to the draft EQIA SMR, but which were relevant to the project in general, to the design or to the detailed EQIA were discounted from the analysis but have been passed onto the relevant part of the project team and are being considered where appropriate as part of the development of the project.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

1.1.1 The HS2 Phase Two: West Midlands to Crewe Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Draft Scope and Methodology Report, (hereafter referred to as the 'draft EQIA SMR') was published for consultation on the HS2 Ltd website for a period of nearly 10 weeks from 8 March to 13 May 2016. HS2 Ltd also wrote to a number of bodies and organisations directly informing them of the consultation. The draft EQIA SMR set out the proposed method and content of the EQIA and structure of the formal EQIA Report for Phase 2a of the proposed high speed rail network (HS2), (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Scheme').

1.1.2 The purpose of the consultation exercise was to obtain views on the proposed scope and methodology of the EQIA, its appropriateness in determining likely significant equality effects and the proposed structure of the EQIA Report.

1.1.3 This report summarises the findings of the consultation exercise on the draft EQIA SMR.

## 1.2 Revisions to the draft EQIA SMR

1.2.1 The feedback received during the consultation exercise has been considered and the draft EQIA SMR has been revised in light of the comments received.

## 1.3 Structure of this Consultation Summary Report

1.3.1 This report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 - describes the consultation methodology;
- Section 3 - describes the process adopted for addressing the responses received as a result of the consultation;
- Section 4 - provides a summary of the types of comments raised, themes which have emerged from the consultation and changes made to the draft EQIA SMR. Section 4 is broken down into headings consistent with the sections of the draft EQIA SMR. These are:
  - Introduction;
  - Establishment of baseline;
  - Stakeholder engagement and public consultation;
  - Key aspects of the Proposed Scheme for consideration;
  - Scope of assessment;
  - Assessment methodology and reporting;
  - Assumptions; and
  - Reporting;

- Section 5 - describes the next steps that will be taken following the consultation;
- Annex A of this report contains the response form that consultees were asked to complete as part of the consultation;
- Annex B of this report contains the list of organisations contacted by HS2 Ltd to inform them about the consultation; and
- Annex C of this report contains the list of organisations who responded to the consultation before the deadline.

## 2 Consultation methodology

### 2.1 Consultation process

- 2.1.1 The draft EQIA SMR was published for consultation on the HS2 Ltd website<sup>1</sup> for a period of nearly 10 weeks from 8 March to 13 May 2016. The consultation was open to all through the website, which included a response form (shown in Annex A) and invited responses via email or post. Dedicated email and FREEPOST addresses were provided.
- 2.1.2 HS2 Ltd also sent letters on 8 March 2016 to the organisations listed in Annex B of this report to inform them about the consultation. The organisations included statutory consultees and other groups likely to have an interest in the EQIA SMR or the area potentially affected by the Proposed Scheme. Reminders of the consultation and its closing date were circulated to the same organisations by email on 25 April 2016.
- 2.1.3 The organisations that responded before the deadline on the 13 May 2016 are listed within Annex C of this report.

### 2.2 Quality assurance

- 2.2.1 HS2 Ltd sent out a series of 'test responses' to the dedicated email and FREEPOST addresses in order ensure the systems operated smoothly and to also establish the length of any potential lag between the send and receipt of FREEPOST responses. HS2 Ltd sent test emails on 24 February 2016 and 1 March 2016 that were received on the same day they were sent. HS2 Ltd also sent test letters to the FREEPOST address. All of the test responses were received, although this process revealed that letters could take up to 15 days to be delivered. Consequently, a 15 day grace period following the 13 May 2016 consultation deadline was allowed for the receipt of consultation responses by post.
- 2.2.2 Quality assurance exercises were carried out at different stages of the process to ensure that the receipt, coding and reporting of responses was consistent and fair. A sample of responses was read by the HS2 Ltd Consultation Team and cross-checked for consistency against the coding framework (see Section 2.3), in order to understand how codes had been developed and applied against respondents' comments. HS2 Ltd was satisfied that the analysis process was consistent and fair.

### 2.3 Processing of responses

- 2.3.1 On receipt, consultation responses were registered and logged with a unique response number.
- 2.3.2 Responses were then initially checked for validity and null representations<sup>2</sup>, and late responses were discounted from the formal analysis, although have been reviewed separately. From each response various general information was recorded including:

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-two-west-midlands-to-crewe-draft-equality-impact-assessment-scope-and-methodology-report-consultation](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-two-west-midlands-to-crewe-draft-equality-impact-assessment-scope-and-methodology-report-consultation)

<sup>2</sup> A null representation was considered to be any duplicate response, blank response forms, responses with no name, or responses submitted under false names

- organisation;
- type of response (email or letter); and
- address.

2.3.3 Individual comments within each response were then reviewed and attributed codes based primarily on the different sections of the draft EQIA SMR in order to aid analysis. Comments were passed onto technical members of the project team to consider if or how the comments would or should affect the draft EQIA SMR. A summary of this process is presented in Section 4 of this report. Comments were considered and actions were identified in line with the following:

- the comment relates to a point that is already included in the SMR, and therefore, no change is required;
- the comment is relevant to the SMR and the project agrees that a change should be made to the SMR;
- the comment is relevant to the SMR, but is not considered to provide any new evidence that would make the SMR more robust, and therefore no change should be made to the SMR;
- the comment is one that will be addressed during the detailed EQIA process and does not require a change to the SMR; or
- the comment is considered a wider issue, such as general stakeholder engagement or design related, which does not have direct relevance to the content of the SMR and therefore no change should be made to the SMR.

2.3.4 Not all of the comments received related to the draft EQIA SMR. Comments that did not relate to the draft EQIA SMR included wider project comments, design suggestions and general (i.e. not SMR specific) stakeholder engagement comments. These were passed on to HS2 Ltd and discounted from the analysis of the draft EQIA SMR consultation responses.

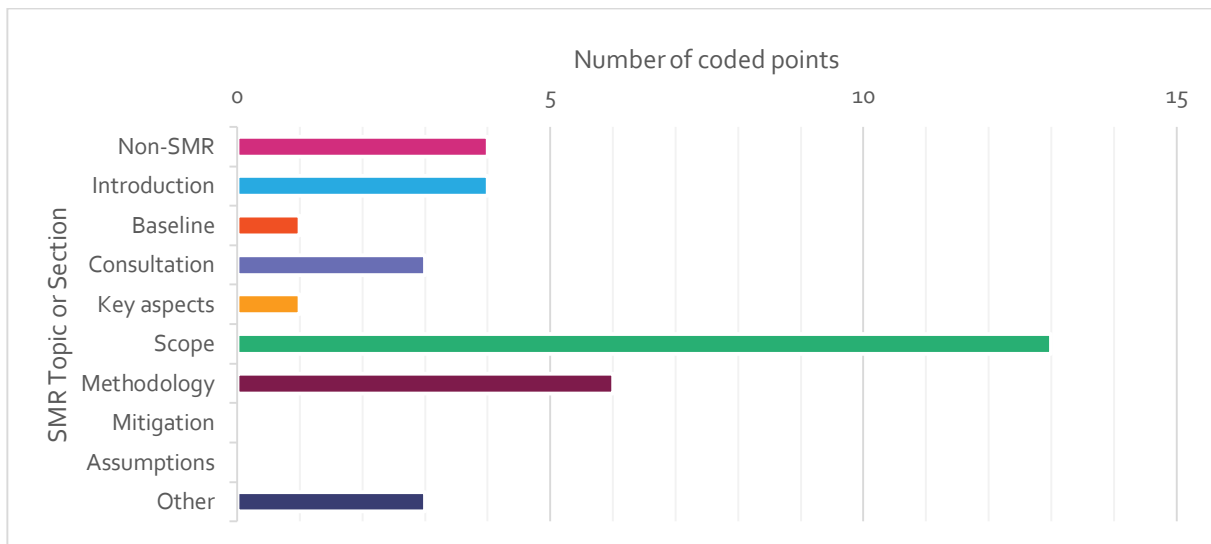
2.3.5 Some comments were useful to the EQIA SMR as well as other related processes (including the detailed EQIA itself rather than just its scope and methodology), these comments were given multiple codes so that various parts of the project team could use them as well as being considered as part of the analysis.

2.3.6 After discussion with HS2 Ltd technical specialists, comments that resulted in a change to the method or scope of the EQIA or a change to the draft EQIA SMR, have been taken into account and amendments in the revised EQIA SMR; see Section 5 (Next steps) for further details.

### 3 Overview of responses

- 3.1.1 Three valid responses were received on the draft EQIA SMR, all from organisations (listed in Annex C).
- 3.1.2 From the three responses a total of 23 comments were made. Some comments related to more than one aspect or topic. These were therefore coded multiple times to ensure that the comments could be referred to the correct, and multiple, technical specialists in the project team and comprehensive consideration could be given to whether a change should be made to the draft EQIA SMR. For example, a comment about the assessment of noise on various groups was considered relevant to the noise, health and community assessments therefore this one comment was deemed to have made three points for consideration; it was, therefore, coded three times and passed to each of the three technical teams for consideration. A total of 35 of these 'coded points' were identified from the 23 comments. Figure 1 shows the breakdown of the 35 coded points by topic or SMR section.

Figure 1: Breakdown of the EQIA SMR comments by topic or SMR section



- 3.1.3 Four coded points did not relate to the draft EQIA SMR. The remaining 31 coded points were considered relevant to the draft EQIA SMR and are discussed in the following sections of this report.
- 3.1.4 In parallel to the draft EQIA SMR consultation HS2 Ltd also consulted upon the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scope and Methodology Report<sup>3</sup>. Comments received on the draft EIA SMR that were relevant to the EQIA SMR were coded as such and details were cross-referenced.

<sup>3</sup> Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-two-west-midlands-to-crewe-draft-environmental-impact-assessment-scope-and-methodology-report-consultation>



## 4 Responses by section

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section of the report summarises the main 'themes' of the comments received for each section of the draft EQIA SMR and provides details of the project team's response. 'Themes' were established for this report by grouping together comments that raised similar issues. Individual comments are, therefore, not reported directly in this report, but are collectively summarised.

4.1.2 Four comments were made in relation to the introduction. The theme to come through from the consultation and subsequent response is summarised as follows:

#### Theme

- Concerns were raised over how the working draft EQIA Report would be amended to reflect commentary received on the draft EIA SMR.

#### Response:

- As set out in paragraph 3.1.4 a parallel consultation was undertaken on the draft EIA SMR and comments received on the draft EIA SMR that were relevant to the EQIA SMR were coded as such and details were cross-referenced. The EQIA will take into consideration comments received on the working draft EIA Report where relevant. Section 3.1 of the draft EQIA SMR 'Relationship with the EIA' explains that the EQIA and EIA will draw on shared baseline data where relevant and engagement will be undertaken as an integrated process. No changes have been made to the revised EQIA SMR to reflect this theme.

### 4.2 Establishment of baseline

4.2.1 One comment was made in relation to the establishment of baseline. The theme that came through from the consultation and subsequent response is summarised as follows:

#### Theme:

- The consultee highlighted particular vulnerable groups known in the study area for consideration in the EQIA (e.g. migrant communities, teenagers that are pregnant, children that are obese).

#### Response:

- Where vulnerable groups with protected characteristics are identified, any disproportionate or differential equality effects will be highlighted in the formal EQIA Report. No changes have been made to the revised EQIA SMR to reflect this theme.

### 4.3 Stakeholder engagement and public consultation

4.3.1 Three comments were made in relation to stakeholder engagement in the EQIA process. The theme to come through from the consultation and subsequent response is summarised as follows:

### **Theme:**

- Consultees welcomed the amount of engagement so far on the EQIA and requested continuation of this with key stakeholders.

### **Response:**

- Stakeholder engagement will be ongoing throughout the EQIA process. Stakeholders and the public will also have the opportunity to comment on the working draft EQIA Report<sup>4</sup>, and the formal EQIA Report<sup>5</sup>, which will include the outcome of the assessment and any proposed mitigation measures. No changes have been made in the revised EQIA SMR to reflect this theme.

## **4.4 Key aspects of the Proposed Scheme for consideration**

4.4.1 One comment was made in relation to the aspects of the Proposed Scheme for consideration in the EQIA. The theme to come through from the consultation and subsequent response is summarised as follows:

### **Theme:**

- It was commented that the assessment must identify suitable mitigation to address any adverse impacts.

### **Response:**

- Section 3.1 of the draft EQIA SMR sets out that the EQIA will serve to inform the design as well as identify mitigation measures to address adverse impacts where practicable. The formal EQIA Report will set out how disproportionate or differential equality effects will be reduced where effects are negative, or enhanced where effects are positive. No changes have been made to the revised EQIA SMR to reflect this theme.

## **4.5 Scope of assessment**

4.5.1 Thirteen comments were made in relation to the scope of assessment of the EQIA. The main themes to come through from the consultation and subsequent responses are summarised as follows:

### **Theme:**

- It was recommended that the methodology be strengthened by consideration of health (both mental and physical) impacts.

### **Response:**

- The EQIA will be informed by the findings of the health assessment. Equality is inextricably linked to health, wellbeing and the environment and these linkages will be detailed in the formal EQIA Report. The links between the EQIA and EIA with respect to health (which includes mental and physical

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<sup>4</sup> The working draft EQIA Report provides initial equality assessment on the current stage of design – see HS2 Ltd's website [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2)

<sup>5</sup> The formal EQIA Report will be published alongside the deposit of the hybrid Bill in Parliament, at that point HS2 Ltd will consult and the public and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the formal EQIA Report

health) are explained in Section 3.1 of the draft EQIA SMR. No changes have been made to the revised EQIA SMR to reflect this theme.

#### **Theme:**

- It was suggested that the potential for community severance be considered as part of the community infrastructure assessment.

#### **Response:**

- Community infrastructure severance is primarily considered as part of the EIA rather than the EQIA. Section 9 of the draft EIA SMR sets out that impacts and effects on community infrastructure and organisations will be assessed including consideration of physical, psychological and social barriers. The formal EQIA Report will identify how the community assessment in the EIA may give rise to disproportionate or differential impacts for those with protected characteristic groups. No changes have been made to the revised EQIA SMR to reflect this theme.

#### **Theme:**

- It was suggested that socio-economic and health inequalities be referenced in the scope of assessment.

#### **Response:**

- The EIA provides the primary assessment of socio-economic and health impacts from the Proposed Scheme. The EQIA will seek to assess whether any of the effects identified in the EIA socio-economic and health assessments will have disproportionate or differential impacts on protected characteristic groups. The links between the EQIA and EIA with respect to community and health are explained in Section 3.1 of the draft EQIA SMR, and likewise there are strong links between the community, health and socio-economic assessments in the EIA. The revised EQIA SMR has been updated to include a separate paragraph in Section 3.1 to clarify this further.

## **4.6 Assessment methodology**

4.6.1 Six comments were made in relation to the assessment methodology. The main themes to come through from the consultation and subsequent responses are summarised as follows:

#### **Theme:**

- Consultees requested that the interrelationships between protected characteristic groups be considered as part of the EQIA.

#### **Response:**

- The interrelationship between protected characteristic groups will be considered where relevant in the formal EQIA Report as noted in the objectives in Section 3.1 of the draft EQIA SMR. No changes have been made to the revised EQIA SMR to reflect this theme.

### **Theme:**

- The assessment should consider the future potential for negative housing outcomes including risk of homelessness, overcrowding or poor quality housing.

### **Response:**

- Section 3.6 of the revised EQIA SMR has been updated to outline that there may be people with protected characteristics at risk of housing related disadvantage arising from demolition, compulsory purchase and severance during construction and these will be reported in the formal EQIA Report.

## **4.7 Assumptions**

- 4.7.1 There were no comments made in relation to the assumptions of the draft EQIA SMR.

## **4.8 Reporting**

- 4.8.1 There were no comments made in relation to the proposed reporting structure of the formal EQIA Report.

## **4.9 Other**

- 4.9.1 Three comments were made in relation to other aspects of the draft EQIA SMR. The main theme to come through from these comments is that consultees noted that the draft EQIA SMR is clear and well presented.

## 5 Next steps

- 5.1.1 The draft EQIA SMR has been updated to reflect the consultation responses and the revised EQIA SMR has been published alongside this EQIA SMR Consultation Summary Report on-line at [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2).
- 5.1.2 A working draft EQIA Report, presenting the findings so far of the EQIA has been published online at [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2) for consultation. Consultations are also taking place on a working draft EIA Report and design refinement. Details of all consultations are available on-line at [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2).
- 5.1.3 Stakeholders and the public will have the opportunity to comment on the working draft EQIA Report and the formal EQIA Report, which will include the outcome of the assessment and any proposed mitigation measures.

# Annex A – Consultation form

# HS2 Phase Two: West Midlands to Crewe



## Draft Equality Impact Assessment Scope and Methodology Report Consultation 2016 Response form

This consultation seeks your views on the Government's draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Scope and Methodology Report, which will inform the way the EQIA is carried out.

This consultation will close on Friday 13 May 2016 at 23.45.

Please respond to us by one of the methods below:

By email

**HS2SMRConsultation2016@arup.com**

By post

**Freepost HS2 SMR CONSULTATION 2016**

## HS2 Phase Two: West Midlands to Crewe Draft EQIA Scope and Methodology Report Consultation 2016

To inform the development of these proposals, the Government has commissioned consultants to undertake an EQIA and prepare an EQIA Report. The EQIA will identify any particular equalities groups that may be disproportionately affected and action that may be necessary to limit such effects if they arise. This consultation seeks your views on the draft EQIA Scope and Methodology Report, which will inform the way the EQIA is carried out.

**Please write your response clearly in black ink**, within the boxes and, if applicable, attach additional evidence to the response form, clearly stating the question to which it refers.

### Confidentiality and data protection

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998, and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals with, amongst other things, obligations of confidence.

In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, in itself, be regarded as binding on the Department for Transport or HS2 Limited.

The Department for Transport and HS2 Limited will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

I wish my response to be treated as confidential.  
Please write your reasons below.



# PART ONE

## Information about you

It is important to give us your name to ensure your response is included. Your email address will be used to inform you of the outcomes of the consultation.

## Your contact details

First name
Surname
Address
Postcode
Email

## Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or group?

Yes	No
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## If yes, state the name of your organisation or group:

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## If you are providing a response on behalf of an organisation or group:

The name and details of the organisation or group may be subject to publication or appear in the final report.

## What category of organisation or group are you representing?

Please tick  one box that applies.

- Academic (includes universities and other academic institutions)
- Action group (includes rail and action groups specifically campaigning on the high speed rail network proposals)
- Business (local, regional, national or international)
- Elected representative (includes MPs, MEPs, and local councillors)
- Environment, heritage, amenity or community group (includes environmental groups, schools, church groups, residents' associations, recreation groups, rail user groups and other community interest organisations)
- Local government (includes county councils, district councils, parish and town councils and local partnerships)
- Other representative group (includes chambers of commerce, trade unions, political parties and professional bodies)
- Statutory agency
- Real estate, housing associations or property-related organisations
- Transport, infrastructure or utility organisation (includes transport bodies, transport providers, infrastructure providers and utility companies)
- Other
- Prefer not to say

**Please tell us whom the organisation or group represents and, where applicable, how you assembled the views of members.**

Please write in the box below

# PART TWO

## Consultation questions

To inform the development of these proposals, the Government has commissioned consultants to undertake an EQIA and prepare an EQIA Report. The EQIA will identify any particular equalities groups that may be disproportionately affected and action that may be necessary to limit such effects should they arise. This consultation seeks your views on the draft EQIA Scope and Methodology Report, which will inform the way the EQIA is carried out.

Do you have any comments on the draft EQIA Scope and Methodology report?

Please provide as much detail as possible in the box below.

Please attach additional pages as required.

# PART THREE

## Submitting your response

Thank you for completing the response form. Please send it to the Freepost address below.

### **Freepost HS2 SMR CONSULTATION 2016**

*Please note: no additional address information is required and you do not need a stamp.*

Or email your response to [HS2SMRConsultation2016@arup.com](mailto:HS2SMRConsultation2016@arup.com)

The consultation closes on Friday 13 May 2016 at 23.45.

Please ensure you send your response by this date.

Please only use the response mechanisms described in this form when responding to this consultation. We cannot guarantee that responses sent to other addresses will be included in this consultation.

## Annex B – List of consultees

The following table sets out the list of consultees who were consulted on the content of the EQIA SMR. This includes statutory consultees as well as non-statutory equality organisations.

The draft EQIA SMR was also made available on the HS2 website. Consultees were therefore not limited to this list and responses received from others have been taken into account where relevant as part of the draft EQIA SMR consultation.

Alrewas Parish Council
Armitage with Handsacre Parish Council
Arriva
British Transport Police Authority
Campaign for Better Transport
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
CPRE – Cheshire
CPRE – North West
Canal & River Trust
Cannock Chase AONB Unit
Central Association of Agricultural Valuers
Chapel and Hill Chorlton Parish Council
Checkley-cum-Wrinehill Parish Council
Cheshire East Council
Cheshire Fire Authority
Cheshire Police Authority
Cheshire Resilience Forum
Chorlton and Hough Parish Council
Civil Aviation Authority
The Coal Authority
Coal Pro
Colton Parish Council
Colwich Parish Council
The Commission for Rural Communities
Country Land and Business Association
Crewe Town Council
Crown Estate Commissioners
Department for Culture, Media & Sport
Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)
Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
Design Council
The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee
Doddington and District Parish Council
East Staffordshire Borough Council
English Heritage
Environment Agency
Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)
Forestry Commission

Fradley and Streethay Parish Council
Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace
Hamstall Ridware Parish Council
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
Heritage Alliance
Highways England
Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission for England (Historic England)
Hopton and Coton Parish Council
Ingestre and Tixall Parish Council
International Union of Railways
The Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Kings Bromley Parish Council
Lichfield City Council
Lichfield District Council
Local Government Association (LGA)
Madeley Parish Council
Marston Parish Council
Mavesyn Ridware Parish Council
Ministry of Defence
National Association of Areas of Outstanding National Beauty
National Farmers Union
National Parks England (Formerly English National Park Authorities Association)
National Trust
Natural England
Network Rail
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
NHS England Midlands & East
NHS Staffs & Surrounds CCG
The Office of Rail Regulators and Approved Operators
Public Health England (PHE)
PHE North West
PHE West Midlands
Rail Future
Ramblers Association
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
RSPB Midlands
RSPB Northern England
Sports England
Stafford Borough Council
Staffordshire County Council
Staffordshire Police Authority
Staffordshire Prepared
Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Stone Parish Council
Swynnerton Parish Council
Transport Focus (formerly Passenger Focus)
UK Coal

The Water Services Regulation Authority
Weston and Basford Parish Council
Whitgreave Parish Council
Whitmore Parish Council
The Wildlife Trusts
Wildlife Trust - Cheshire
Wildlife Trust - Staffordshire
Woodland Trust
Wynbunbury Parish Council

# Annex C – List of consultation respondents

The following is the list of organisations that responded to the consultation on the draft EQIA SMR before the deadline.

Highways England
Public Health England
Cheshire East County Council