

Design Panel visits the Chilterns

Part of the Phase One route will see HS2 travel through the Chilterns, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Given the sensitivity of the AONB, it was agreed during Select Committee that an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Panel (AONBP) would be established.

The panel – known as the Chilterns Review Group – has an independent chair and is made up of members from all the planning authorities within the Chilterns AONB, Natural England and the Chilterns Conservation Board. Its main remit is to work with HS2 Ltd to develop design principles to guide the construction of HS2 in the Chilterns, and identify opportunities to integrate the scheme into the AONB landscape.

In March the HS2 Independent Design Panel undertook a tour of key locations along the route of HS2 through the Chilterns AONB, led by the Chilterns Review Group. Following the route tour, the Design Panel met to discuss the general and detailed design principles being developed by Land Use Consultants on behalf of the Chilterns Review Group in collaboration with HS2 Ltd. These will be completed in time to inform designs by a civil engineering contractor to be appointed by HS2 Ltd in summer 2017.



Panel members: Tony Burton; Martin Stockley; Annie Coombs; and Les Sparks on a tour of key locations along the HS2 route in the Chilterns

The panel warmly welcomed the attention being paid to this nationally significant landscape, recognising that the work done in developing design principles has the potential to inspire place specific solutions.

The panel made suggestions to further refine the principles to ensure they were clear and robust, encouraging HS2 Ltd and the Chilterns Review Group to work together to ensure they are tailored to their main user, the contractor. Whilst recognising the sensitivity of the context, the panel also felt opportunities to celebrate rather than conceal the HS2 route should be explored, inspired by the landscape quality of the Chilterns. Overall, the panel was positive about the work presented and would welcome further involvement as designs and solutions develop.

Design Panel activities March 2017

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- Peter Maxwell mentoring session on his experience of the procurement processes at the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC)

Mentoring session

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- Carbon management
- Climate change resilience
- Circular economy
- Bridges and viaducts specimen designs
- Bridge parapets specimen designs

Workshops

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- Chilterns AONB - route tour and full review of the design principles developed by HS2 Ltd and the Chilterns Review Group

Full reviews

2

- Monthly Design Panel Team Meeting, including preparation for DfT meeting - March
- Euston over site development - LoD3 Independent Assurance meeting

Governance meetings



A parapet design by Knight Architects



People's stories

Laura Russell is Sustainability Manager at HS2 Ltd. She joined three years ago and is responsible for development and implementation of a sustainability strategy for the programme – ensuring social, economic and environmental benefits are delivered.

She has substantial experience in sustainability strategy and policy, including working for the World Business Council for Sustainable Development on its plan for action by 2020. She also worked for Crossrail on delivering sustainability.

Laura has been working with the Design Panel over the last six months to define an expanded role in advising on sustainability. This has included recruitment of two additional sustainability experts. Moving forward, Laura will help focus the panel's attention on specific aspects of sustainability, as well as ensuring that this is a 'golden thread' in all panel discussions. This will help to embed sustainability throughout the design of the HS2 programme.

HS2 Ltd mentoring

On 7 March, Peter Maxwell led a mentoring session with HS2 Ltd staff to support their work to develop procurement processes for Phase One stations. Peter Maxwell shared lessons learned from his experience of procurement at the London Legacy Development Corporation, where he is Director of Design, responsible for projects including a new cultural quarter in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

HS2 bridge parapets

Bridges along the HS2 route will feature in a variety of landscapes and settings, and so will be integral to defining the overall character and public perception of HS2.

Whilst parapets will need to integrate a variety of technical requirements to ensure they are fit for purpose, they will also play a key role in the experience of bridge users and the overall bridge aesthetic.

In March the HS2 Design Panel met to discuss Knight Architects' approach to developing a bridge parapet specimen design for the entire Phase One route. Knight Architects' presentation gave an overview of the constraints and key functional requirements for HS2 parapets.

The panel congratulated Knight Architects on their creative solution to designing parapets for route wide application, adaptable to specific contexts. Suggestions were made for how the design team could go further to respond to different landscapes and settings. The panel was keen to understand how bridge designs as a whole would sit within specific landscapes and transition to existing boundary treatments. It also encouraged HS2 Ltd to engage with sustainability colleagues to inform decisions on materials and construction. Overall, the panel was impressed with the approach and would welcome continuing involvement in this work stream.



Frame Projects
Secretariat to the
HS2 Independent
Design Panel

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