



Concept for interior of HS2 train

Concept for HS2 train interiors

As part of the HS2 Independent Design Panel's role in advising on customer experience, the HS2 Ltd Customer Experience team presented the Rolling Stock Concept Blueprint to the panel at a meeting in January.

The blueprint is an exploratory piece of work which aims to bring to life HS2 Ltd's aspirations for rolling stock interiors and the potential for a holistic and flexible approach to train interior design. Rolling stock manufacturers are the primary audience for the blueprint, but it will also help to communicate the benefits of a customer centric design approach more widely.

The blueprint is intended as a suggestion of how the train interior could be built but is not a requirement. HS2 trains will be built by the manufacturers and operated by the West Coast Partnership (WCP) which is being procured by the Department for Transport (DfT). Train design, will be defined collaboratively between the manufacturer, HS2 Ltd and the WCP.

The panel warmly congratulated HS2 Ltd on the Rolling Stock Concept Blueprint, which establishes a robust vision for the quality of customer experience that HS2 Ltd aspires to, and expects from the future train builder and operator. The panel highlighted the risk of this positive work not being carried on by the future WCP and urges the DfT to ensure its ambitions are embedded in the procurement process for this train franchise.

Design Panel activities January 2018

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- Chair's review of HS2 Ltd responses to Design Panel recommendations, focussing on design panel meetings to discuss Railway Systems
- Annie Coombs lunchtime talk for HS2 Ltd staff on 'open space design and the aesthetics of structures'

Chair's reviews and mentoring

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- Area South - Mandeville Road vent shaft
- Area South - Canterbury Works and Adelaide Road vent shafts and Euston Approaches
- Area Central - Colne Valley Viaduct

Main Works Civil Contractor meetings

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- Customer Experience - Rolling Stock Concept Blueprint
- Euston Station - workshop to discuss design principles ahead of Station Design Services Contractor starting in early February and the Master Development Partner in April
- London underground ventilation building, Cobourg Street

Full reviews

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- Design Panel team meeting attended by the chair, vice chair, secretariat and HS2 Ltd staff
- Quarterly Governance Advisory Group meeting with chair - Sadie Morgan; vice chair - Tony Burton and; Deputy Chairs - Annie Coombs and Martin Stockley
- HS2 design leadership update meeting with DfT

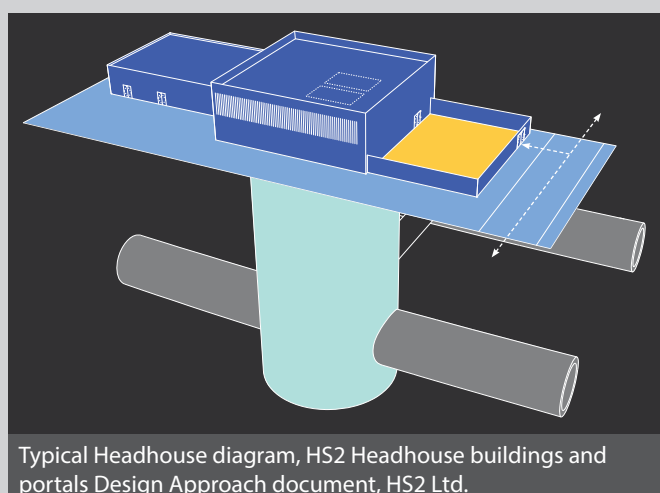
Governance meetings

First round of Phase One MWCC meetings complete

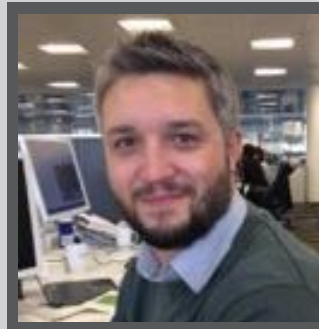
The Design Panel has now completed its first round of site visits and meetings to discuss civil engineering designs for the Phase One route. Sessions in January focused on the Area South portion of the route which is being led by the civil engineering consortium Skanska Costain Strabag (SCS) Railways.

SCS Railways presented its developing designs for structures on four Area South sites: the Mandeville Road vent shaft; the Adelaide Road vent shafts; the Canterbury Works; and the Euston Approaches. The emerging designs are intended to create a 'family' of engineering structures which respond to their locations, while also forming part of a line-wide identity for HS2.

The panel commended the work as some of the most impressive it has seen from HS2 Main Works Civils Contractors. It found the commitment to collaboration between professions and work streams refreshing and encouraging, and is particularly pleased by the extent to which engineering and landscape approaches are integrated. The main challenge now is to ensure that this high quality thinking is translated into reality. Critical to this will be collaboration and discussion with relevant London boroughs and local communities. The panel looks forward to seeing how this work progresses over the next few months.



Typical Headhouse diagram, HS2 Headhouse buildings and portals Design Approach document, HS2 Ltd.



Alasdair Hassan
Deputy Head of Engineering
for Area South, HS2 Ltd

People's stories

Alasdair Hassan is one of HS2 Ltd's longest serving members of staff having joined the organisation in early 2011. He is currently Deputy Head of Engineering for Area South, but has previously held a number of different positions within Phase Two, and played a key role in developing the Phase Two routes to Leeds and Manchester as well as their integration with other projects such as the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Connect. This culminated in the Phase 2b announcement in late 2016.

Alasdair has seen HS2 Ltd change immeasurably during his seven years - from the early days working out of a small office on Victoria Street with fifty people to the organisation now of over sixteen hundred staff spread across multiple sites. Alasdair has been a strong advocate of the Design Panel since its introduction in 2015, having seen at first hand the benefits the panel can bring in influencing the design of the Phase Two route particularly through South Yorkshire. Alasdair is now focussed on the construction of Phase One starting with the complex demolitions in the Euston area which will create the space for London's next major station development.

Talk by Annie Coombs

On the 9 January, Deputy Chair of the HS2 Independent Design Panel, Annie Coombs, gave a talk on 'open space design and the aesthetics of structures'. Highlighting the benefits of a multidisciplinary approach through all the stages of assessment and design. Annie also described how Environmental Statement assessments should form the basis for design development, including the need for, and difference between, mitigation and enhancement.



Frame Projects
Secretariat to the
HS2 Independent
Design Panel

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