

**Phase One Planning Forum – Heritage Sub-Group  
Meeting Notes – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

<b>Date &amp; time:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2021: 14.00-16.00  Virtually: MS Teams
<b>Chair:</b>	<b>HS2</b>
<b>eB ref</b>	PH1-HS2-EV-MRC-000-000111

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Women in Construction</b></li> </ul>	HS2
<b>2</b>	<b>Values moment</b>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>CEF/BLEF update</b> (Presentation provided)</p> <p>Links</p> <p>Independent Grant Management Body - Groundwork UK Telephone hotline 0121 237 5880 <a href="mailto:HS2funds@groundwork.org.uk">HS2funds@groundwork.org.uk</a> All the key documents including guidance documents, FAQs etc. <a href="https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds">https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds</a></p> <p>HS2 provided an update on the funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BucksCC confirmed that they are looking at CEF/BLEF and asked if there are application from an LPA alongside a charity how does it work with match-funding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HS2 responded that partnerships are welcome and result in better projects. A lead applicant is required. The match funding doesn't have to be monetary, it can be in-kind.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• GLAAS asked about project planning and if projects had to be fully worked up or could the planning itself be funded. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HS2 confirmed that a certain level of planning should have been done before applying but the level depends on the type of project. For example, planning permission isn't required before applying as it can be added as a condition of award if the application is successful. As a general rule, the Funds won't fund costs linked to the planning or development of an application.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	HS2

<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Forum update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS2 provided an update on key agenda items from meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule 17 applications for radio masts</li> <li>• Revised statutory guidance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Planning Forum (PF) Chair noted that contractors would be required to establish common design element for masts (81 masts in total).</li> <li>• PF Chair added that revised statutory guidance has been provided to all PF members.</li> <li>• Next Planning Forum is 27.05.2021.</li> </ul>	<p>HS2</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Built heritage and setting in the design process</b> (Summary presentation provided)</p> <p>CDC outlined their experience of engagement with HS2, the Main Works contractors at a number of locations. Examples included Chalfont St Giles Headhouse at Bottom House Farm Lane in the Chilterns, and design response to hollow ways / sunken lanes.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS2 Landscape noted that the presentation highlighted the tension between trying to put a 21<sup>st</sup> century piece of infrastructure through an ancient landscape. Some of the issues have been dealt with well (e.g. Align's integrated design team work with the Chiltern headhouses).</li> <li>• HS2 Landscape discussed the Bottom House Farm Lane decisions and challenges including removal of the haul road, reinstatement of the lane and the balance of emergency and maintenance vehicle access in operation. Sunken lanes developed over hundreds of years expose a tension with the construction of new roads and the highways standards that have to be followed.</li> <li>• HS2 Landscape considered that in the design process we all have a part to play, including stakeholders, and the best possible outcome is through collaboration.</li> <li>• CDC responded that collaboration is good, but in her view the engineering requirements are set ahead of everything else and then specialists are brought on board to develop other design aspects.</li> <li>• HS2 Landscape noted that the design process for the railway is different to architectural design because of the constraints needed to design and build the railway. However, it was</li> </ul>	

	<p>acknowledged that in some cases the design teams could be better briefed and HS2 welcomes the input from LPAs as this can prompt designers and strengthens the need for engagement and input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS2 Landscape noted that there are some challenges about how we respond to vernacular buildings that are not statutorily listed and acknowledged the need to be vigilant about how the landscape changes irrespective of HS2.</li> <li>• CDC asked others in the sub-group how other people have found the experience.</li> <li>• SNDC had similar experiences and shared that pre-apps are often based on technical specifications and mitigation rather than designing to compliment the historic landscape. However, they did note that they are also coming up with good outcomes.</li> <li>• SNDC also stated that they were asking that applications include the latest archaeological information.</li> <li>• HS2 Hist Env Manager acknowledged that there has been a challenge with the timing but now the archaeological information is forming part of the decision-making process, e.g. at Edgcote and Grim's Ditch. The HS2 historic environment team are supplying more information to Schedule 17 pre-apps and this informs the applications to a much greater extent than previously - an improving situation.</li> <li>• HS2 Town Planner had been involved in all three of the schemes highlighted by CDC. It is important that the input of the LPAs specialists is recognised as a key element of the pre-app process and critical to arriving at a consentable solution. Pre-app discussions are time limited and there are many issues that need to be raised.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> HS2 Town Planner to speak to Align and EK.</li> <li>• CDC was concerned that she is coming in at too late stage once decisions had been made, whereas if a heritage assessment informed the design then it wouldn't need so much CDC involvement.</li> <li>• CDC noted that there has been one or two occasions where designs presented at pre-apps for listed/scheduled assets where heritage input is missing.</li> <li>• HS2 Town Planner responded that when making Schedule 17 submissions the written statement should address the historic environment including setting, and that should be taken into account in the submission.</li> <li>• HS2 Landscape observed that other aspects of the design that may sometimes be missing from the baseline information</li> </ul>	
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	<p>supporting a pre-app or a submission. This is a recognition that the design has to proceed with missing elements that get bought in as design develops e.g. noise modelling and flood risk. In addition, designs may be revisited due to changing standards. The design process is not perfect; we do not know everything at the start, it has to be dynamic and take in new information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLAAS offered a perspective from work at Hillingdon where he asked for an historic landscape study. This has been done and it will be interest how that feeds into the design process. That kind of study has not been typical of the route as a whole, and perhaps would have been useful across the route. [HS2 historic environment team to note]</li> <li>• HS2 Hist Env emphasised that sometimes what and how the design is presented and what is written down is not always representative of what input the HS2 historic environment team and other colleagues, are having.</li> <li>• HS2 Hist Env stated that regarding landscape, that HS2 is having useful discussions behind the scenes about how historic landscape will feed into the design.</li> <li>• HS2 working on improving how designs are presented to LPAs.</li> <li>• HS2 highlighted that the Main Works contractors going through re-briefing (webinars) in order to try and smooth out some of these matters. It was emphasised the hard work of the town planning, landscape and historic environment teams in trying to make this situation better.</li> </ul>	
<b>8</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCC: raised concern that contractor carrying out evaluation declining to carry out mitigation. BCC to send details to HS2 Hist Env team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post meeting note: HS2 and BCC have exchanged information and provided clarity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• BCC: Qus regarding archives: are you planning to invite curators to the HS-G?</li> <li>• Requested that Archives be on the agenda for June.</li> <li>• HS2 Head of Heritage invited people with archive concerns to contact her directly.</li> </ul>	
	Next meeting: 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 2-4pm	