



Artists impression of an HS2 train at a platform, HS2 Ltd

## Designing HS2 trains

In December 2021, HS2 Ltd appointed Hitachi-Alstom High Speed, to build and maintain HS2 trains. Following this appointment, it has begun a period of 'on-boarding' to help introduce the manufacturer to HS2.

At a meeting in March, the panel met to discuss how HS2 Ltd can set the best level of design aspiration during the on-boarding process.

The panel highlighted the importance of the train to HS2. It will become the icon of the project, and the element by which people measure the railway's success. The panel suggested that the on-boarding process should take a positive

approach by establishing a focus on the delivering the 'art of the possible', building on the high-quality work HS2 Ltd has completed to establish a customer experience vision for HS2.

HS2 trains will be the result of a two-and-a-half-year collaborative design process. With a complex range of stakeholders, this process will require robust design leadership. The panel suggests setting clear expectations of what should be created, and for ways of working to achieve this.

The panel offers its support in this process, and would welcome a discussion on how it can support to the train manufacturer's programme by helping to identify and communicate lessons from its involvement with HS2 to date.

## Design Panel activities February and March 2022

# 2

### Phase One Civils meetings

- River Blythe Viaduct
- Sheephouse Wood bat mitigation structure

# 4

### Workshop meetings

- Phase 2a context integration studies
- Euston Station
- Euston masterplan
- Washwood Heath Depot

# 2

### Routewide meetings

- Learning Legacy Paper: HS2 Design Vision
- Rolling Stock Manufacturer onboarding preparation

# 4

### Governance meetings

- February and March monthly team meetings attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair, secretariat and HS2 Ltd
- Design Panel quarterly senior executive meeting, attended by the HS2 Ltd senior executive, the Department for Transport (DfT), and the Design Panel.
- Governance Advisory Panel meeting attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair, deputy chairs and secretariat

# Euston Station

Euston Station is one of the most complex parts of the HS2 route, situated in a densely populated residential area and adjacent to a busy operational railway.

Following a decision by the Department for Transport, there is now greater certainty on the future regeneration of the Network Rail station, on the HS2 station and on over-site development. At meeting in March, the Euston Station Design Panel welcomed the decision and the opportunity it presents to develop a more cohesive masterplan and a single design vision for Euston.

A robust and compelling design vision will be invaluable to guiding thinking and ensuring the various aspects of the Euston development, including the HS2 and Network Rail stations and the work led by the Master Development Partner, combine to create exceptional quality of place, including world-class class public realm.

The panel is broadly supportive of the design for the HS2 station, and considers the station roof designs to be a bold solution to bring light into the concourse and act as an important marker in views from the south. Integration with the Network Rail station, as well as the surrounding city, will continue to be important discussion points as the designs progress towards Schedule 17 stage submission.



Damian Cox  
Town Planning Manager,  
HS2 Ltd

## People's stories

Damian joined HS2 Ltd in 2014 and is Town Planning Manager for the HS2 station at Euston. He is responsible for achieving the Schedule 17 consent necessary for the station.

“As a town planner, I’m passionate about making places where people want to live, work and visit. In my role, I work closely with the station construction partner to engage stakeholders on the station design, including Camden Council.

At Euston, there is a massive opportunity to create a new piece of city but integrating the different elements represents a challenge, particularly given the requirements of a major transport interchange. The Design Panel plays an essential role in providing expert insight to test the proposals and supporting an integrated solution with a legacy of good quality design.”

## HS2 Learning Legacy

HS2 Ltd is developing its own 'Learning Legacy', building on previous major projects' learning legacies, such as those for Crossrail and London 2012. The intention is to collate and disseminate good practice, innovation and lessons learned from HS2 which can help raise the bar in the rail industry. As part of this, the panel will be supporting the creation of a series of design papers, focussing on topics such as the HS2 Design Vision. They will combine the knowledge and experience of those with a 'hands on' role delivering the project and the independent perspective of panel members.



Frame Projects  
Secretariat to the  
HS2 Independent  
Design Panel

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DESIGN PANEL**