



Schedule 17 stage designs for Small Dean Viaduct, HS2 Ltd

Small Dean Viaduct

In November, the panel met to discuss the Schedule 17 stage designs for Small Dean Viaduct in the Chilterns – in advance of a Plans and Specifications Schedule 17 submission being made to Buckinghamshire Council.

Overall, the panel strongly supports the Schedule 17 stage designs for the viaduct. Whilst the scheme is a significant new piece of engineering that cannot be completely disguised, it sits elegantly and comfortably in the landscape.

The panel applauds the quality of the team's collaboration with Buckinghamshire Council – which has been key to the success of the proposals.

This is an important gateway to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the panel welcomes the proposed landscape terracing as an appropriate response. It considers the design to be an effortless and distinctive solution to a complex scenario – which helps the viaduct fit into its surroundings.

The additional span to the north helps to blend the viaduct into the landscape. The concertina effect of the viaduct's cantilever fins is an efficient solution to both functional and aesthetic challenges – and will further enrich how the viaduct is experienced from ground level, strengthening its distinctive character.

The panel encourages HS2 Ltd to establish robust mechanisms that can ensure the quality developed to date is maintained through to construction.

Design Panel activities October and November 2022

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- Euston Station
- Euston wider masterplan
- Old Oak Common Lane
- Small Dean Viaduct - Schedule 17

Phase One meetings

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- HS2 Legacy
- HS2 Security Fencing approach
- HS2 Arts and Culture

Workshop meetings

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- Rolling Stock Vision, delivery and governance

Rolling stock meeting

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- November Monthly Team Meeting attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair, secretariat and HS2 Ltd
- HS2 Independent Design Panel Senior Executive meeting attended by Panel chair, vice chair, members of the HS2 Ltd senior executive team, and HS2 Design Director
- Design Panel Induction Meeting

Governance meetings

Art and Culture

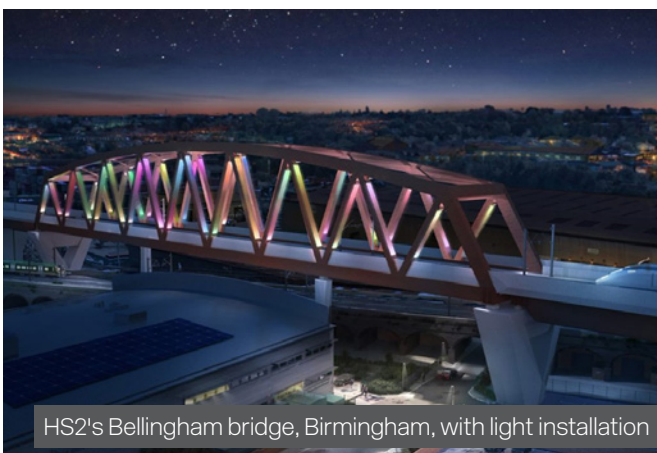
In October, the panel met with the HS2 Ltd Arts and Culture team to discuss the progress being made to develop and implement the project's arts and culture strategy.

Overall, the panel continues to be impressed by the scale, ambition, range and quality of the projects under development. It particularly endorses the team's commitment to delivering quality through arts projects. HS2 Ltd must ensure this aspiration is protected through to construction stage.

The panel suggested that a strong, overarching narrative, bringing the wide range of arts and culture projects together as part of a single, compelling vision, would be a valuable exercise. It could help communicate the significant public benefit that HS2 can deliver through its arts and culture programme.

It also encourages HS2 Ltd to engage in conversations with local and national government to help build support for project's arts and culture ambitions.

HS2 Ltd should also explore how arts and culture can be more widely integrated across the HS2 project, from train interiors to workforce benefit. The panel suggests setting time aside to reflect on its experience to date, and using this to create a plan for establishing arts and culture as an integral part of the HS2 programme.



HS2's Bellingham bridge, Birmingham, with light installation



Deborah Smith
Panel member and
Director at
Arts Council Collection

People's stories

Deborah Smith joined the HS2 Independent Design Panel in 2022. She is the Director at Arts Council Collection - the most widely circulated national loan collection of modern and contemporary British art.

She has over 20 years of experience working in the visual arts - leading, managing, designing and delivering curatorial programmes of international and interdisciplinary practice across art, architecture, engineering and design.

'I'm delighted to be part of HS2 Ltd's independent Design Panel, advocating and supporting the integration of arts and culture, and ensuring HS2 delivers public benefit.'

During the year I have had the opportunity to engage with a range of HS2 projects, on a strategic and local level. I have been struck by the rich and varied proposals I have seen, and the scale of the opportunity that HS2 presents.'

Panel induction

In October, Design Panel members who joined in 2022 attended an induction meeting. This was to provide them with insight into the role and operation of the panel, and included presentations from Prof. Sadie Morgan, Chair of the HS2 Independent Design Panel, Kay Hughes, Design Director at HS2 Ltd and Deborah Denner, Director at Frame Projects. The session was well received, providing valuable context for future Design Panel discussions.



Frame Projects
Secretariat to the
HS2 Independent
Design Panel

**HS2 INDEPENDENT
DESIGN PANEL**