

## Meeting minutes Phase 2b Planning Forum – Heritage Subgroup Minutes – March 2023

<b>Meeting date</b>	Thursday, 23 March 2023
<b>Meeting location</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting time</b>	10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Presenters
<b>Chair:</b> Head of Historic Environment HS2
<b>Coordinator:</b> Technical Engagement Manager HS2
<b>Project Update:</b> Senior Policy Advisor, Department for Transport (DfT)
<b>Planning Forum Update:</b> Senior Town Planning Manager HS2
<b>Heritage:</b> Head of Historic Environment HS2, Phase 1 Historic Environment Lead
<b>Meeting minutes:</b> Technical Engagement Manager HS2
Attendees
Organisation
Cheshire East Council
Cheshire West and Chester
Department for Transport
Historic England
Manchester City Council
Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS)
Trafford Council

### 1 Agenda item – Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 Technical Engagement Manager HS2, ran through the agenda, meeting etiquette and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

**Action 1: circulate the presentation slides to attendees.**

## **2 Agenda item – Welcome and Introductions**

- 2.1 Technical Engagement Manager HS2, provided an update on the status of the minutes from the October Heritage subgroup meeting, and explained where those minutes can be found.

## **3 Agenda item – Action Log**

- 3.1 Technical Engagement Manager HS2, took attendees through the actions of the previous Heritage subgroup meeting.

## **4 Agenda item – HS2 Phase 2B Update**

- 4.1 Senior Policy Advisor DfT, took attendees through a project update, and explained how the phase 2b Crewe - Manchester section of the project is currently in Select Committee and the Parliamentary process remains unaffected. The DfT also advised that they do not see any knock-on impacts on the core Northern Powerhouse Rail section, from Liverpool to York.

Questions and Discussion:

Cheshire East Council asked if the DfT are able to provide more detail in terms of which Phase 2a works will continue and which ones will be paused, Cheshire East also asked for an update on the appointment of the Design Delivery Partner for Phase 2a.

Senior Policy Advisor DfT, explained how initial work such as ground investigations will continue however, what HS2 will not be doing is proceeding to main construction. The DfT also advised that the Phase 2a Design and Delivery Partner contract has not yet been awarded.

## **5 Agenda item – Planning Forum Update Environmental Minimum Requirements (EMRs) response**

- 5.1 Senior Town Planning Manager HS2, gave an overview on the EMRs response based on what was discussed at the March 2023 2b Planning Forum meeting.
- 5.2 It was explained that the control regime for the project needs to be different from 'normal' planning, and why changes to the core process and principles of the EMRs could not be agreed.
- 5.3 The environmental protection processes and enforcement measures already in place are robust and in use on other phases of the project. it is not considered reasonable to add an additional layer of control and change the fundamental elements of the EMRs. Such an approach would increase costs and cause delays to the delivery of the project
- 5.4 However, HS2 is willing to have further discussions on specific obligations within the individual EMRs, including the Heritage Memorandum, and Members of the sub-group were invited to consider whether they wish to submit further comments on this basis.

## 6 Comment Sheet Responses

- 6.1 Head of Historic Environment HS2, summarised the additional comments HS2 received on the Heritage Memorandum and the CoCP.

Questions and Discussion:

Manchester City Council reiterated the concerns they expressed on the Heritage Memorandum and on the Schedule 18 Heritage Model Undertaking Tables.

- 6.1.1 Trafford Council asked for timescales on when their comments on schedule 18 will be responded to.

Head of Historic Environment HS2, advised that responses have to go through governance, but will be with local authorities in advance of the next heritage subgroup meeting.

Trafford Council queried what specific changes local authorities are able to make/agree on in relation to the EMRs and how the process would work.

Head of Historic Environment HS2, advised that HS2 will take the query away as an action and come back to subgroup members with a response.

Post meeting response: As per the briefing provided to the Planning Forum, changes to the core principles of the EMRs or the introduction of additional layers of control and approvals cannot be agreed. LPAs are instead invited to review specific obligations in the HM and suggest amendments as they feel necessary. These will be reviewed by HS2 & the DfT, then discussed and agreed at the sub-group. Any outstanding matters that cannot be agreed will need to be raised at Select Committee.

Manchester City Council specifically raised strong concerns about the wording of the Schedule 18 Heritage Model Undertaking Table 1 – “Removal to storage and replacement following completion of the authorised works”, where the “replacement” should be substituted by the word “reinstatement”.

Trafford Council queried if there is another opportunity to respond to HS2/DfT feedback on the comment sheets.

Head of Historic Environment HS2, advised that if subgroup members have any further comments on HS2/DfT comments to send these comments to HS2 by the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2023.

Head of Historic Environment mentioned the HS2 Historic Environment Archive Strategy in relation to comments received on the draft Heritage Memorandum.

**Action 2: HS2 to share the strategy for archiving.**

**Action 3: HS2 to respond to comments made on schedule 18 in advance of the next subgroup meeting.**

**Action 4: HS2 to speak with the Planning Forum team in relation to what specific changes local authorities are able to make/agree on in relation to the EMRs and how the process would work.**

**Action 5: local authorities to provide HS2 with any further comments on draft Heritage Memorandum/CoCP responses from HS2/DfT by 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

## **7 Phase 1 Historic Environment Programme Insight**

7.1 Phase 1 Historic Environment Lead, provided an overview and shared examples on the programme and process of historic environment works on Phase 1, including the application of Schedule 18 (listed built heritage), Schedule 19 (scheduled monuments) and Schedule 20 (Burial grounds).

Questions and Discussion:

7.1.1 Trafford Council queried if HS2 had a baseline of information about the condition of Gilson Hall and if the structural survey was carried out before the monitoring equipment installed, a building that was one of the case studies presented in the meeting.

Phase 1 Historic Environment Lead HS2, advised that a structural survey was done for Gilson Hall.

Manchester City Council queried the demolition of a building on Phase 1 and asked if HS2 tried to minimise the harm. Manchester City Council also asked if total demolition was agreed by the local authority.

Phase 1 Historic Environment Lead HS2, explained how the building was in station footprint and there was no opportunity for minimising the impact however, there are other buildings along the route of Phase 1 that HS2 have permission to demolish but are trying not to. HS2 also advised that demolition is agreed through the Act – set out in Schedule 18.

Manchester City Council provided an example of a building in Manchester that is in the schedule, whereby the station will be altered rather than completely demolished and queried if the local authority could require a statement of justification and if that would be part of the document.

Head of Historic Environment HS2, outlined the detail in column 3 of Table 1 of Schedule 18 which define what works can be carried out. Works other than what are defined would require listed building consent.

Post meeting response: A statement of justification is not required for works set out in Table 1. Table 1 of Schedule 18 addresses buildings authorised to be demolished, altered, or extended.

Manchester City Council commented on the Schedule being vague and asked for any confirmation in writing on the design process and how the station will look.

Head of Historic Environment HS2, that the Schedule 18 (table 1) process enabled discussion on historic recording methodology and that the LPA would have sign-off of that. The approval of the station design and external appearance is dealt with through Schedule 17 (Conditions of deemed planning permission).

Manchester City Council queried how the process of recording and stabilisation equipment is controlled, and where would the equipment be going. Manchester City Council also queried additional monitoring equipment and asked how that was controlled and if HS2 will be in discussions with local authorities on this.

Phase 1 Historic Environment Lead HS2, advised the locations of monitoring equipment was agreed with the LPAs. HS2 monitors and approves the contractors work; engagement will continue with the LPA as required. HS2 will present in more detail on this process at a future meeting.

MCC sought further clarification on the exact processes through which the location, size, design, and method of affixing was agreed with the LPA and within what timeframes. MCC would seek further clarification on the form and method of engagement with the LPA as specified, and the proposed timeframes. Clarification was also sought regarding how to we control works to resolve the damage caused by installing the monitoring equipment and the removal and making good.

Historic England, provided an example on what happens with monitoring equipment, explaining that HS2 provided photographs of all aspects of the structure, indications of precisely where the monitoring equipment was going and what it was going to look like.

Trafford Council commented on paragraph 205 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) where it talks about recording, advancing, and understanding where a historic asset is demolished, and queried if the application includes that requirement and if it also includes details on advance understanding on how the building has been lost in that application.

Head of Historic Environment confirmed that historic building recording would be undertaken and that the level of recording would be discussed and agreed with the LA as part of the Schedule 18 process.

Built heritage works will form part of the Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy to be developed for Phase 2b; there will be engagement and discussion on that in the future.

Manchester City Council queried timescales on how long provisions will be in place for both secondary glazing and monitoring equipment.

Phase 1 Historic Environment Lead HS2, advised HS2 will come back to the subgroup with information on timescales for secondary glazing and monitoring equipment provisions.

**Action 6: HS2 to seek further clarification from MCC regarding what would be helpful regarding the process of recording & stabilisation and the installation of additional monitoring equipment with subgroup members.**

**Action 7: HS2 to invite the Historic Building Specialist to the next Heritage subgroup meeting.**

**Action 8: HS2 to organise another meeting for June with it potentially being made hybrid.**

## **8 Agenda item – AOB (next meeting & agenda items)**

- 8.1 Head of Historic Environment HS2, asked subgroup members for suggestions on agenda items for future meetings and discussed holding the next meeting in June.