

Meeting minutes

Phase 2b Planning Forum – Flooding and Drainage Subgroup Minutes #1 – May 2023

Meeting date Tuesday, 23 May 2023
Meeting location Arup, 3 Piccadilly Place, Manchester, M1 3BN and Microsoft Teams

Presenters
Chair: Water Resources and Flood Risk Specialist HS2
Coordinator: Technical Engagement Manager HS2
Water and Drainage Leads: Lead Drainage Engineer HS2, Groundwater Specialist HS2, Water Resources and Flood Risk Specialist HS2, Principal Hydrogeologist Mott Macdonald, Associate Director, EOC Water Resources and Flood Risk Topic Lead Arup
Attendees
Organisation
Department for Transport
Environment Agency
Manchester City Council
Trafford Council
United Utilities

1 Agenda item – Welcome and Introduction

- 1.1 Water Resources and Flood Risk Specialist as Chair, HS2 asked all attendees to introduce themselves and went through the agenda. Technical Engagement Manager, HS2 and Associate Director Arup took attendees through housekeeping.

2 Agenda item – Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 2.1 Technical Engagement Manager, HS2 advised that the previous meeting minutes have been circulated and no comments were returned. It was agreed that the minutes are signed off as complete.

3 Agenda item – HS2 Phase 2B Update

- 3.1 Department for Transport took attendees through an update on the project.

4 Agenda item – Action Log

- 4.1 Technical Engagement Manager went through all of the actions that were taken from the previous Flooding and Drainage meeting.

Questions and discussion

Manchester City Council commented that they are keen to get responses back on the CoCP as soon as possible.

Action 1: circulate formal responses on the CoCP

5 Agenda item – Technical Standard Documents

In advance of the meeting, Technical Engagement Manager, HS2 asked if subgroup members had any queries on the technical documents shared; Manchester City Council responded, asking if HS2 could provide the subgroup with an overview on Technical Standard – Watercourse Diversions and Realignment P05 and Technical Standard – Water Resources and Flood Risk Consents P07. Lead Drainage Engineer, HS2 shared an update on the Technical Standard Documents. The Chair, HS2 and all Water and Drainage leads provided attendees with an overview of both Technical Standards documents.

Questions and discussion

Environment Agency queried if the technical standards and the mandatory requirements are verified by HS2 or the Design and Delivery Partner.

The Chair, HS2 advised that it depends which delivery mechanism 2b goes for as on Phase 1, that falls to HS2 however, Phase 2a where HS2 have a Design and Delivery Partner, they would undertake that role.

Trafford Council queried what legislation the works are being consented under, as they were led to believe that HS2 are overriding the Land Drainage Act.

The Chair, HS2 explained how the Land Drainage Act is reinstated through the Protective Provisions (Schedule 32).

6 Agenda item – Comment Sheet Responses

- 6.1 The Chair, HS2 and the Water and Drainage Leads went through the responses HS2 received on the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) and explained that those who provided comments will also receive a formal response. Environment Agency gave attendees a presentation on Guidance Notes for HS2 activities. The Chair, HS2 made note of the time, and advised that watercourse crossings will be taken offline. To note, not all of the comments received on the CoCP were discussed within the meeting.

Questions and discussion

Manchester City Council queried how HS2 deal with land ownership when it comes to attenuation ponds shown on the diagram HS2 presented.

The Chair, HS2 advised that on parcels like shown on the diagram, HS2 will maintain the land.

Environment Agency made reference to the diagram HS2 showed, advising that having three small ponds as shown is worse for the environment than having one big pond.

The Chair, HS2 advised that when Phase 2b goes through detailed design process those elements will be looked at however typically the intent is to separate the ponds based on their infrastructure owners and the differences in the quality of runoff i.e. potential hydrocarbons from highways and legacy railway vs cleaner quality water from HS2 rail systems.

Manchester City Council expressed concerns on the asset handover and what they will get back from HS2, and queried HS2's approach to maintenance packs.

The Chair, HS2 explained that the maintenance packs are bespoke and provided examples of what maintenance packs may include.

Manchester City Council asked for a more strategic oversight of how HS2 plan to deal with and classify assets.

United Utilities raised concerns on how the Bill provides HS2 with a discharge route whenever they like and further commented that it is inconsistent with other legislations HS2 are subject to.

The Chair, HS2 advised that United Utilities concerns is a petition point and will be discussed within the petitioning process.

Trafford Council queried what HS2 do when there are local drainage byelaws.

The Chair, HS2 explained how the byelaws would be disapplied where they relate to elements of the primary legislation (in this case the Land Drainage Act 1991) where that has been disapplied.

Manchester City Council asked Environment Agency how their guidance notes for HS2 in relation to incident reporting are working on Phase 1.

Environment Agency explained the different contact methods they have for incident reporting, they also advised how contractors will produce reports and share those with the Environment Agency Compliance Officers.

Manchester City Council queried how HS2 will be engaging with lead local flood authorities in managing flood risk and.

The Chair, HS2 advised that HS2 are likely to engage with Local Authorities around the work HS2 are doing on sites generally in combination with the Environment Agency and this is happening on Phase One. This gives the LLFAs the chance to understand the wider works and so they don't just see discrete applications for Schedule 32 Part 4 approvals. I.e. if they need to consent a culvert, they will see the wider detail on where the culvert sits in the railway and the surrounding railway assets. This happens during pre-application discussion on Phase One regularly.

United Utilities requested a copy of the slides. HS2 agreed to circulate post-meeting.

Action 2: organise a separate meeting to discuss how HS2 deal with and classify assets.

Action 3: organise the next Flooding and Drainage meeting for July

Action 4: circulate presentation slides.

7 Agenda item – Future Meetings and AOB

The Chair, HS2 agreed to organise another meeting to take place in July 2023.