

HS2 Green Corridor

In the summer, HS2 Ltd will launch the next phase of the HS2 Green Corridor concept. This will include a Green Corridor Prospectus and an online platform to help identify potential projects.

At a meeting in April the panel welcomed the plan for the prospectus to set out a clear explanation of what the HS2 Green Corridor is, and how it will be brought to life, including a practical strategy showing how people can be involved. Environmental and sustainability issues have a high profile in both public opinion and recent legislation (Environment Bill 2019). The Government decision on the future of HS2 presents an exciting opportunity to launch the next stage of the HS2 Green Corridor, as well as help refresh and refocus the wider project.

The panel supported the aim for the prospectus to speak to a broad range of people, and asked HS2 Ltd to think carefully about the information different audiences would need to make it useful.

The panel welcomed the intention to include a range of exemplar projects, and asked HS2 Ltd to ensure these capture the full variety of Green Corridor contexts, including urban locations and settings with limited existing green amenity. Insights into delivery mechanisms, and plans for long-term maintenance and management would also be helpful.



Over 40 different species are being grown by HS2 Ltd, including species that are native to different locations along the route

The HS2 Green Corridor is a concept that has the potential to deliver important benefits - and to act as exemplar for other major infrastructure projects. The panel stressed the importance of it becoming part of the culture across HS2 Ltd, informing everyday decisions and conversations and challenging assumptions.

The HS2 Green Corridor has the potential to play an important role in public perceptions of the project's success. If followed through with conviction it will allow HS2 Ltd to speak with confidence about the project's ambitions and achievements - from addressing climate change to enriching UK landscape character - essential benefits the public expects from its huge investment in HS2.

Design Panel activities April 2020

2

Chair's review meeting

- HS2 Green Corridor concept
- Future involvement of the Design Panel in HS2 commercial development

1

Workshop meetings

- Procurement of a Design and Build contractor for Curzon Street Station

1

Mentoring meetings

- Design collaboration across joint venture contracts

2

Governance meeting

- Governance Advisory Panel meeting attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair, deputy chairs and secretariat
- April monthly team meeting attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair, secretariat and HS2 Ltd staff

Design assurance on HS2

The government has now granted HS2 Ltd 'Notice to Proceed' which allows Phase One contractors to move from scheme design stage to detailed design stage and construction. In response to this change, HS2 Ltd is continuing to transform into a delivery focused organisation.

The government has also asked HS2 Ltd to identify cost and programme savings on HS2, which is likely to place increased pressure on the project's design quality. However, if HS2 is to deliver value for money it is essential that it achieves the design quality ambitions described in the HS2 Design Vision. At the quarterly Governance Advisory Panel meeting in April, the panel identified the issue of how HS2 Ltd provides design assurance at and beyond Schedule 17 stage.

In April at a meeting with Kay Hughes, Design Director at HS2 Ltd, the panel discussed how the organisation could ensure that it effectively collaborates on design quality across the newly formed Integrated Project Teams (which include both supply chain and HS2 Ltd staff). The panel generally supports the design management tools and mechanisms HS2 Ltd plans to use to increase design scrutiny. However, it highlighted how important it is that these are supported across the project, in the culture and decision making within HS2 Ltd, including by the senior leadership team.



People's stories

David has nearly 20 years' experience working in landscape architecture and archaeology. In his role as Landscape Assessment Manager at HS2 Ltd he leads on the HS2 Green Corridor concept.

"In constructing the railway, HS2 Ltd will mitigate and compensate for its effect on the natural environment. This includes integrating and reconnecting the scheme into the landscape along the line of route.

The HS2 Green Corridor project sets out to capture the sort of added value an infrastructure project the scale of HS2 can deliver. By combining HS2 funds with external capital, HS2 will help realise local stakeholder projects and further enhance the UK environment. The panel has played a key role in informing and championing the HS2 Green Corridor concept - helping to ensure it delivers more than the sum of its parts".

COVID-19

The current pandemic is having a huge impact across the world, and everyone is having to find ways of tackling the challenges presented. HS2 Ltd are keen to ensure that the HS2 Independent Design Panel activity continues as normally as possible during the pandemic, to ensure the project continues to benefit from the panel's advice and input into the design of HS2. This has led to Design Panel meetings being held by video conference. So far five meetings have been held online, and have generally run smoothly. This has been helped enormously by the flexible and positive attitude of all those involved, which is greatly appreciated.



Frame Projects
Secretariat to the
HS2 Independent
Design Panel

**HS2 INDEPENDENT
DESIGN PANEL**