

HS2 Phase 2b – Western Leg Design Refinement Consultation and update OCTOBER 2020

Following the Oakervee Review at the end of 2019, the Government has decided to proceed with legislation for the Western Leg of Phase 2b as a priority. The final design and phasing of both the Western and Eastern Legs of Phase 2b will be confirmed as part of an Integrated Rail Plan, which is due to be published by the Government later this year.

Subject to the conclusions of the Integrated Rail Plan, a hybrid Bill for the Western Leg is being prepared for deposit to Parliament early in 2022 or sooner, if possible.

This update includes information about:

- a consultation on four proposed changes to the current design of the Western Leg of Phase 2b;
- an update on last year's Design Refinement Consultation;
- details of a route-wide update for the Western Leg; and
- an update on safeguarding.

Western Leg Design Refinement Consultation

On **7 October 2020**, the Minister of State for Transport announced a consultation on four proposed changes to the design of Phase 2b.

These proposed changes are based on design development, ongoing engagement, and future integration with Northern Powerhouse Rail and other transport projects. The proposed changes only affect the Western Leg of Phase 2b.

The consultation closes at 11:45pm on **11 December 2020**.

The proposed changes for consultation are:

- the addition of Crewe Northern Connection and changes to the design of Crewe North Rolling Stock Depot;
- changes to the design of Manchester Airport High Speed station;
- changes to the design around Manchester Piccadilly High Speed station; and
- the introduction of a new train stabling facility at Annandale, in Dumfries and Galloway.

How to respond

Although the changes only affect specific areas, everybody is welcome to respond. To access the consultation documents and for details about how to respond, please visit www.hs2.org.uk/phase2b or call our Helpdesk on 08081 434 434.

Updates to Western Leg proposals and safeguarding

As well as the changes being consulted on, there have been a number of smaller changes to the design of the Western Leg of Phase 2b. These are a result of ongoing design development and feedback received during previous consultations and engagement with stakeholders and communities.

Also included in the update are plans for proposed works to Preston and Carlisle stations. High speed trains will continue from the new railway along the West Coast Main Line to provide services to the North, North West and Scotland.

Details of how the design has changed in your area and the new plans can be found online at www.hs2.org.uk/phase2b.

We are contacting people whose property or land is directly affected by our proposals to arrange online or telephone appointments.

In order to ensure that land needed for HS2 is protected from conflicting development, safeguarding has been updated for the Western Leg of Phase 2b. More information about this can be found at www.gov.uk/government/collections/safeguarding-information-and-maps-for-hs2.

2019 Design Refinement Consultation

Following the closure of the HS2 Phase 2b Design Refinement Consultation in September 2019, a report has been published providing a summary of the responses received.

In addition, the Minister of State for Transport, having considered the responses received, has published his decision on whether to include the refinements proposed for the Western Leg.

The Consultation Report and Minister of State for Transport's decision can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-2b-design-refinement-consultation