

Pickmere Parish Council
1 Merehaven Close
Pickmere
Knutsford
WA16 0LP

16 April 2021

Dear Mr Steel,

I am writing in response to the letter you sent to my colleague John Atkinson 9 March. As you are aware John retired on 18 March and following this I have taken over responsibility for the area Pickmere to Agden and Hulsheath. I note in your letter you have a number of points outstanding and I will aim to cover them off in turn.

A. The proposed landtake

In your letter you requested the percentage increase in landtake. Please find the calculations below. These figures cover the area pink area the Consolidated Construction Boundary (CCB) you will find in the CT05 maps of both the WDES [mapbook](#) and the Route wide update [mapbook](#).

Appreciating the figures for MA03 have a high percentage increase it is important to note that the CCB includes temporary works such as utilities which may only be on site for short period of time on occasion a matter of weeks. As you are aware there are a significant amount of utilities work in the area. Also as another point the CCB is not fixed and is subject to change until Royal assent is granted.

MA03 CCB	Area (km²)		Parish of Pickmere CCB	Area (m²)
Working Draft Environmental Statement (WDES) CP1 total	2.50		Working Draft Environmental Statement (WDES) CP1 total	219,542
Route Wide Update (RWU) CP3 total	5.08		Route Wide Update (RWU) CP3 total	252,609

Percentage Change	+103%		Percentage Change	+15%
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B. The updated business case - If HS2 Ltd updated the business case prior to getting Royal Assent for HS2a last month, can you please provide the information?

No such update was made; the last update was the Phase One Full Business Case, which was published by the Department for Transport in April 2020, and which is available [online](#).

The Parish also had the following two supplementary questions:

1. Will you confirm whether or not it is HS2 Ltd's intention to separate the business case for Phase 2b for the eastern and western legs of the route?

The business case for HS2 is owned by the Department for Transport. Hence the scope of the business case for Phase 2b is a decision for the Department.

2. Will you confirm when the results of the Ground Investigation surveys will be published?

There will be extensive Ground Investigations (GI) undertaken on the Western leg route between 2021 and 2024. GI Survey Reports would not be made available in the public domain due to their technical nature. The GI Reports being commissioned through our contractors contain factual data which is not intended for the public domain. HS2 Ltd will use this data and prepare interpretative reports for different purposes, these include Geotechnical Investigation Reports, which provide summaries of geotechnical parameters and Geotechnical Baseline Reports used to establish ground conditions for bidding purposes. These data and reports are technical in nature and would need to be used carefully. These are prepared months after completion of the factual reports. In the context of engagement, there may be an opportunity to present (GI) results, in a non-technical way, if required at some appropriate future time after Royal Assent.

I trust this answers your query and to confirm that I am the area engagement manager for this area so should you need anything further do not hesitate to contact me

Your Faithfully

Carol Evans

Engagement Manager