

Introduction

Colne Valley Viaduct

Welcome to the Align and HS2 engagement event showing the design for the Colne Valley Viaduct.

In March last year we held four events to show our developing design for the Colne Valley Viaduct and associated recreational and landscaping opportunities. We asked you to rank our design priorities and provide any comments. Today we would like to:

- show you the feedback that we received from our March 2018 events
- show you the designs we will be submitting to your local authority
- provide more information on how we intend to construct the viaduct

Our team are here today to answer any questions you may have.

Please note: the design of the western valley slopes and tunnel portal will be shown at a future event.

HS2 Phase 1

HS2 Project Overview

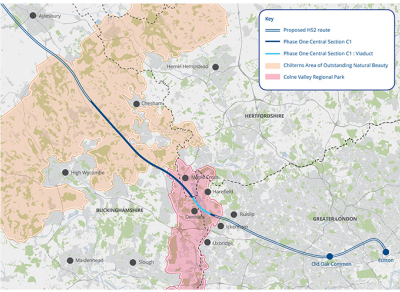
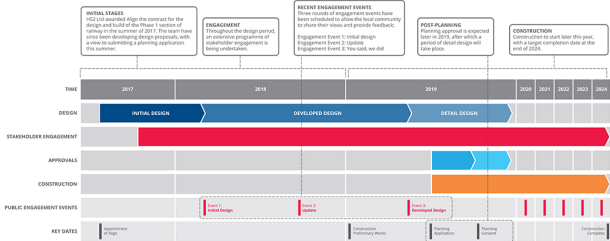
HS2 will be the backbone of our rail network, joining up Britain to help build a fairer more balanced country. HS2 services will directly connect eight out of 10 of Britain's largest cities and their regions, putting more opportunities in reach for millions of people.

As a brand new railway line, our intercity services will carry more than 300,000 people a day and free up space on the existing network, helping to relieve overcrowding and improve reliability for rail users across the country.

HS2 is the first intercity railway to be built north of London in over 100 years and will be delivered in two phases. The line between Birmingham and London is planned to open in 2026 and then extend to Crewe by 2027. The route will then continue north towards Manchester and Leeds by 2033.



Project Timeline



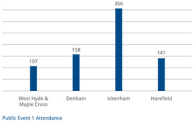
Existing Context

The Colne Valley is an area of diverse countryside with areas of parks, green spaces and reservoirs. Along with the River Colne and the Grand Union Canal, the valley is a well-used public amenity offering recreational opportunities for visitors to enjoy. We have carried out detailed surveys to gain a thorough understanding of the characteristics of the valley. Our proposal has developed in response to these surveys and engagement and aims to design the Colne Valley Viaduct in a way that best integrates with the surrounding landscape.



Public Engagement

In March last year we held four events across the valley to show our developing designs. We held events in Maple Cross, Ickenham, Denham and Harfield. The events were well attended with over 750 members of local communities joining us at our events. We had many interesting and informative conversations and have listened to the feedback we received.



Public Feedback

During last year's events, you completed questionnaires via freepost, email and Commonplace. The questionnaire covered seven topics and asked you to rank our objectives in order of priority and provide comments. Over 100 of you responded, and these responses were analysed. This event covers five areas of input:

- Recreational Opportunities
- Viaduct Design
- Viaduct Landscape Design
- Noise Barriers
- Construction

Your ranking of objectives is shown on the right-hand side, and you will find some of the comments we received in the following panels.

Further Engagement

Alongside our public events, we have met regularly with local community groups. We have also been working with key stakeholders including:

- Colne Valley Regional Park Panel
- Local authorities including: London Borough of Hillingdon, Hertfordshire County Council, Chiltern District Council, South Buckinghamshire District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and Three Rivers District Council
- HS2 Independent Design Review Panel
- Canal and River Trust
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

Your ranking of objectives is shown below. You will find some of the comments we received in the following panels.

Construction

- Reducing lorry movements on local roads
- Minimise temporary land take required for construction
- Reduce the amount of excavation that takes place
- Minimise disruption to the use of the Grand Union Canal
- Build from the north, transporting components along the deck
- Use a precast approach to construction of the viaduct where possible

Landscape Design

- Retain as much of the original woodland as possible
- Preserve the enclosure of the canal as a distinct and historic corridor
- Restore areas using native and indigenous species
- Provide new and interconnected land and water wildlife habitats
- Enhance the biodiversity of the landscape
- Fully integrate existing and proposed footpaths with the viaduct

Recreational Opportunities

- Maintain access to lakes for recreational purposes, such as sailing and angling
- Ensure our plans align with the recreational proposals of the Colne Valley Additional Mitigation Plan (AMP)
- Improve access for the physically and mentally impaired where possible
- Expand the existing footpaths to create circular recreational routes around the lakes
- Connect existing and proposed footpaths with new railway structures
- Provide views of the viaduct from the public rights of way

Viaduct Design

- Maximise open views of the landscape through the structure
- Pay special attention to places where people get close to structure
- Create a consistent visual identity for the length of the viaduct
- Create different spans between piers over woodland and water
- Create special structures at key valley locations and crossing points
- Provide texture and pattern where the viaduct is experienced close up

Noise Barriers

- Protect local communities from train noise
- Protect local wildlife from the train noise
- Create visually unobtrusive barriers
- Barriers to be consistent with the viaduct design
- Ensuring the barriers are easy to maintain and clean
- Enable train passengers to view the landscape