

Phase One Planning Forum – Heritage Sub-Group Meeting Notes – 14th December 2017

Date & time:	14th December 2017 1, Canada Square London 1.45-5.00pm
Chair:	Helen J Wass
	Presentations attached.

Item	Topic	Lead
1	Welcome and introductions	Chair
2	<p>Phase 1 Overview</p> <p>HS2 provided an overview of Phase 1 works, summarising the enabling works contract activities, on site geophysical survey and trial trenching, preparation of project plans, the signing of the Heritage Agreement for Grim’s Ditch, award of the main works civil contracts, publication of the HERDS and commencement of filming of the documentary on the historic environment works.</p> <p>Highlights for in 2018 include: investigations works, community engagement activities and recruitment.</p> <p>For built heritage, 2017 included the approval of the first submissions under Schedule 18 of the Act: two method statements for recording of listed monuments in St James’s Gardens Euston were approved and works completed.</p> <p>Historic England provided two ‘setting masterclass’ to HS2 staff, including town planners, architects and environmental staff.</p> <p>Discussion and questions</p> <p>GLAAS noted that they had yet to see any evidence yet of Schedule 17 related fieldwork results. Only small scale Schedule 17 applications had been submitted thus far, e.g. habitat recreation.</p>	HS2 P1

	<p>HS2 pointed out that only a limited amount of works had been fully completed – much was still ongoing and that HS2 had its own internal checks to complete prior to issuing documentation to LPAs, as was normal practice.</p> <p><i>Engagement feedback</i></p> <p>The HS-G discussed the need for clarity and transparency of the engagement process by the Contractors on project plans and specifically the feedback process for when comments are, or are not, taken on board.</p> <p>HS2 highlighted that the Contractors should reflect the engagement process in section 8 of the project plan documents.</p> <p>Fusion noted that all comments received were captured in a spreadsheet with responses annotated.</p> <p>NCC raised concerns that consultations were arriving from different organisations within the Contractor organisations and sought clarity over the communication process?</p> <p>There was a general request for greater clarity regarding named individuals from Contractors and adequate notice of engagement and response time.</p> <p>BCC noted that communications between districts and county councils isn't good and so disparate contacts between a range of organisations adds to the complication.</p> <p>HS2 ACTION: EWCs to review communication processes with stakeholders, including providing named points of contact and how the EWCs feedback stakeholder comments to them.</p>	
3	<p>EWC Area North Update</p> <p>DJV outlined the site works completed in 2107, including geophysical surveys, trial trenching and historic landscape and setting recording.</p> <p>A prehistoric landscape has been identified at Handscare including a possible roundhouse.</p> <p>Evaluation at Park Street burial ground has commenced. To date, thirteen individuals have been removed. Pre-cemetery archaeology has been identified, including two potential medieval ditches and two large undated pits. Preservation across the site is variable.</p>	WSP/DJV

	<p>A number of detailed desk-based assessments have been completed including a review of the LiDAR data. Other work has focused on historic settlements and the railway and associated industry.</p> <p>A possible 17th century Civil War battlefield, suggested from HER is being researched.</p> <p>DJV set out their plans for further geophysical survey in the New Year.</p> <p>Discussion and questions</p> <p>WCC agreed that works at Coleshill Hall provided a great Community Engagement opportunity.</p> <p>HS2 ACTION: to discuss the possible Civil War battlefield with HE at next HERDS meeting.</p>	
4	<p>EWC Area Central Update</p> <p>Fusion summarised the scope of their works and set out the context, order of priorities of their work and their overall approach to the works and in particular, the decision-making processes involved in whether site evaluation was required and how decisions were made if areas appeared to be 'blank'.</p> <p>Fusion set out their use of character zones, the evidence iceberg and estimating feature density and how they influenced different approaches, techniques and decision making.</p> <p>Fusion summarised the range of site work completed in 2017, including topsoil sampling, trial trench evaluation, setting recording and borehole surveys.</p> <p>Discussion and questions</p> <p>Suggested agenda item for next HS-G: a review of the output from the recording of setting.</p> <p><i>'Blank Areas'</i></p> <p>The HS-G discussed the decision-making process for areas where no 'archaeology' is identified and therefore no further work would be proposed.</p>	Fusion

	<p>HE noted that truly blank areas are important also from a landscape perspective.</p> <p>Fusion outlined their decision-making process and offered to share the decision-making records with the relevant local authorities.</p> <p>HS2 ACTION: to ensure that the EWCs demonstrate their decision-making process, including areas of limited potential which have attracted no fieldwork, in line with HERDS objectives. HS2 and EWCs to share decision-making process with the HS-G.</p>	
5	<p>EWC Area South Update</p> <p>CSJV summarised the work in their 'priority' package of works, including building recording in advance of demolition, evaluation and recording works in St James's Gardens, trial trenching in the Colne Valley and community engagement.</p> <p><i>St James's Gardens</i></p> <p>St James's Gardens works included six trial trenches to assess the preservation, density and depth of the burial horizon, the recording of extant funerary monuments and the design of further temporary works.</p> <p>The results of the trial trenches was summarised.</p> <p>Preservation was very good due to the wet London Clay and perched water table. In trench 1 this was exceptional with the survival of coffins, a wooden doll and metal coffin furniture.</p> <p>Different recording methods are being explored and in trench 2, digital survey and paperless recording were employed. Memorial stone were recorded including one with a careful repair.</p> <p>Trench 3 included lead coffin plates and at least five craniotomies. Levels of preservation were good including twigs and sawdust from inside a coffin.</p> <p>Trench 4, targeted at the Middle Ground included a coffin with surviving baize fabric held in place by the stud work. Some personal items, including a hair comb have been recovered. Photogrammetry was being trialled.</p> <p>Trench 5, targeted the Upper Ground, nearer the chapel. The remains of five table tombs were discovered and included</p>	CSJV

	<p>inscriptions and dedications to the deceased. A burial vault was also revealed.</p> <p><i>Other works</i></p> <p>Two time capsules were discovered beneath the two foundation stones for the older wings of the National Temperance Hospital.</p> <p>Historic building recording has included monuments within St James’s Gardens, a railway cargo shed and setting surveys across Euston – the latter including community input.</p> <p>Recording work in advance of noise insulation has involved 3D photogrammetry and measured survey drawings.</p> <p>Trial trench evaluation at Northolt Tunnels did not reveal any archaeology.</p> <p><i>Look ahead to 2018</i></p> <p>The main investigation works at St James’s Gardens burial ground will commence in Spring/early summer.</p> <p>There will be a programme of schools engagement.</p> <p>Further historic building recording will be undertaken, including Old Oak Common and at Euston Square and piazza.</p>	
6	<p>HERDS Review</p> <p>The HERDS document was published on line. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-one-historic-environment-research-and-delivery-strategy</p> <p>HS2 highlighted that over 150 project plans had been submitted for review, including trial trench and geophysical surveys, community engagement and built heritage recording.</p> <p>HS2 outlined anticipated and forthcoming Project Plans for ongoing works.</p> <p>Historic environment Project Plans are now moving from urgent/priority works and specific site locations, to area wide approaches.</p> <p>A series of roundtables have been held to discuss objectives, methods and approaches to sampling for various aspect of the works, including new specific objectives for human remains.</p>	HS2 P1

HS2 outlined the ongoing route-wide geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental work and the Palaeolithic roundtable held with specialists from UCL, Royal Holloway and the British Museum.

A round table will be held in early 2018 to discuss approaches to medieval and post medieval field systems.

New specific objectives for burial grounds developed in consultation with Historic England

Discussion and questions

How will the knowledge generated by the works be shared and how will this be reflected in the resource assessment?

HS2 ACTION: The resource assessment will be formally updated with considerable input from the EWCs, every six months. This sequence will commence once sufficient fieldwork has been completed to make it worthwhile.

HS2 will share the updated resource assessment with the HS-G and will consider the best mechanism for that.

NCC: noted that there was geo-archaeological potential across the route and asked what specific works were targeting it.

HS2 highlighted that route-wide geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental assessments have been produced which will feed into proposals for investigation and recording. Geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental investigations will complement archaeological site works as well as being an avenue for investigations into blank areas. Works will be assessed against the impacts of the scheme.

Fusion outlined their specific project plans for that element and for faunal remains.

GLAAS asked how field systems and landscapes were being address on a route wide basis.

HS2 replied that will be developed following a roundtable workshop with relevant specialists, including Historic England, early in 2018.

HS2 ACTION: HS2 to draw together a response and feedback at a future HS-G.

7	<p>Historic environment and design</p> <p>GLAAS requested that HS2 provide detail on how all the information being generated by the historic environment works, feeds into the design process going forward, e.g. how are the dramatic changes in landform caused by the main works considering historic environment.</p> <p>What is the process to receive information and contribute to the design of landscape and infrastructure works?</p> <p>HS2 noted that as the LPA they had approval of Schedule 17 design and that this included pre-application discussions. There are commitments in the Heritage and Environmental Memoranda to have regard to setting and historic landscape; the EMRS are binding on the Contractors.</p> <p>HS2 has a range of technical standards, processes and procedures in place to ensure good design. A key role of the HS2 Phase 1 historic environment team is to work collaboratively with colleagues and the EWC to ensure that historic environment is part of the design process.</p> <p>The EWCs are meeting with the MWCCs to feed developing information from surveys into the MWCC design teams. This will be an ongoing dialogue.</p> <p>HS2 has its Design Handbook which includes heritage within its design resources as part of the integrated design approach (and an available version is proposed for next year). The HS2 Art Approach document was also written with input from the Heritage team.</p> <p>SNDC noted that standard design elements for some structures had been consulted on at the Planning Forum some months ago but there had been no update.</p> <p>HS2 ACTION: to clarify with the Town Planning team the status of this engagement and report back.</p> <p>WDC highlighted that local character will be important part of the design.</p> <p>HE West Midlands expressed their concerns that they were 'outside the door' as the design work progresses at Curzon Street. When will HE be consulted by the main works civil</p>	HS2 Phase 1

	<p>contractors and what is the mechanism for that? HE noted that they had much earlier involvement on other major schemes.</p> <p>Historic England ACTION: send through an e-mail articulating their concerns.</p> <p>HS2 heritage team are making links within the design team and discussing heritage within passenger experience, art, urban design and landscape. This links to heritage outputs in place-making and engagement</p> <p>Site specific issues and opportunities being identified through working with EWC and communicating to the MWCC, as they work towards creating large scale infrastructure which also requires design coherency and, where appropriate, reference to the local environment and communities affected by the project.</p> <p>HS2 ACTION: This will be an agenda item for the March Sub-Group. HS2 to outline the existing routes of engagement on design.</p> <p><i>HS2 Woodland Fund</i></p> <p>NCC & WCC raised concerns about the Woodland Fund and its impact on archaeological sites.</p> <p>Post meeting note: Designated and non-designated assets are considered as part of the application process and reflect current Forestry Commission initiatives and practice.</p> <p>HS2 Woodland Fund https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/bee-h-ag-jim5</p>	
8	AOB	