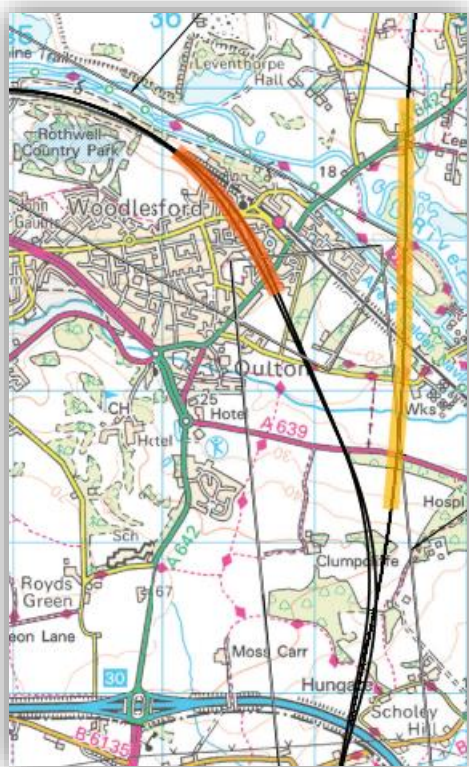


HS2 IMPACT BRIEF

Since the original announcement of HS2 in January 2012 our area has been blighted, with many house prices tumbling and the property market slowing dramatically in affected areas. Many home owners are unable to move, sell or remortgage.

Furthermore, HS2's Need to Sell scheme and the compensation proposed for those affected by the route are woefully inadequate.

HS2 announced changes to the route in our area in November 2016. The viaduct along the canal side being replaced by two tunnels, and the main line viaduct increasing in height and length.



Main line to Swillington and Garforth

Our skyline and countryside will be dominated forever by a huge concrete viaduct, with the track running at 28.5m above ground. The 2.2km (1.4 mile) viaduct will tower high above Woodlesford at over 36m / 120 feet with trains travelling at up to 225 mph.

At its highest point the viaduct will stand 4 houses high over the River Aire, and 10m above the top of the slag heap between the river and canal. It will be seen and heard from almost everywhere and every home as it spans the entire Aire Valley.

Passing over the M62, the main and spur lines split at Clumpcliffe. The main line continues on a viaduct over Methley Lane, Fleet Lane, Water Haigh Farm, the canal, river Aire and Swillington Organic Farm before reaching the hillside at Jinny Moor Lane.

The line then follows Swillington Lane and the M1 eventually passing Garforth on its way North.

Branch (spur) line to Leeds

Trains will run at 145 mph over the M62 with one track crossing under the main line from Hungate as it climbs to Clumpcliffe before a very steep decent to Methley Lane. It then crosses Fleet Lane in a cutting that continues through Eshald Lane to enter tunnels.

From Water Haigh Park, formerly Armitage Quarry, the two 1.1km tunnels pass 45m under Woodlesford to resurface into a further 500m cut and cover tunnel, before passing under the existing railway to emerge between the canal and Rothwell Country Park.

The tunnel mouth will be 140m wide, completely destroying Water Haigh Woodland Park. Lines run through the floodplain, landfill site, abandoned mines, and the slag heap that is constantly moving.

Construction

Construction work is likely to be 24/7 and last in the region of 6 years. A temporary village to house 1000 workers will be created. Around 143,000 cubic metres of spoil will be generated by the tunnel excavation, equating to some 14,000 trucks on our roads.

Woodlesford train services will be suspended for anything up to two years during construction.

Operations once lines are open

It is likely that HS2 train movements will occur 24/7 through a combination of passenger services and overnight maintenance on the track and equipment. There is also potential for future freight services too.

Operational hours for passenger services are planned to be 6am to midnight, but empty stock movements for cleaning and servicing are likely to extend that to perhaps 5am to 1am. HS2 plan to operate 18 trains per hour, that's roughly one every 3 minutes.

Impact on community spaces and wildlife

Our area will be significantly affected. Water Haigh Woodland Park will be destroyed. Leeds Country Way will be crossed no less than 4 times. Aire Valley will be decimated. Our connected space will be gone forever.

An abundance of wildlife, insects, bats, wildflowers, bats and deer that will also be affected.

Impact on East Coast Main Line

It has been indicated that there will be a loss of some existing rail services from Wakefield to London once HS2 is operational.

TAKE ACTION NOW

Check out all the information in more detail online at www.sowhat.org.uk, join the discussion on the "SO WHAT" Facebook group and sign up to receive our email newsletters to stay up to date.

Sign SOWHAT petition:

Follow the link on www.sowhat.org.uk

Email or write our MP:

Alec Shelbrooke MP Rothwell and Elmet
alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Email or write to the LCC Executive:

Judith Blake, Leader
judith.blake@leeds.gov.uk
Labour Group Office, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 1UR

Keith Wakefield
Keith.wakefield@leeds.gov.uk
Labour Group Office, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 1UR

James Lewis
James.Lewis@leeds.gov.uk
Labour Group Office, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 1UR

Tom Riordan, Chief Executive
tom.riordan@leeds.gov.uk
Labour Group Office, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 1UR

Route and property consultations:

Email or write to have your say on the two HS2 consultations, DEADLINE 9th MARCH 2017:

Route

route2b@dialoguebydesign.co.uk
FREEPOST HS2 PHASE 2B ROUTE
REFINEMENT CONSULTATION

Property

property2b@dialoguebydesign.co.uk
FREEPOST HS2 PHASE 2B PROPERTY
CONSULTATION

or complete an online response form
Property2b.dialoguebydesign.net

Consultation Support Documents

We have begun to publish guidance on the SOWHAT website to assist in completing submissions to the HS2 consultations. Our template responses make it easy for everyone to get involved.

It is, however, very important to personalise your response to make it individual – this carries far more weight when evaluated. You can read further guidance on how to respond in our online news.



SOWHAT Next?

We are still blighted and at significant risk of another massive engineering disaster given the former coal mining in the area. HS2 must be stopped.

We still believe a more direct tunnelled route, or a route largely following the existing transport corridors would be cost neutral in comparison to the complex viaduct and tunnel construction now proposed.

We continue to believe, like many others, that an integrated station with through trains would be far more beneficial to the region.

We don't accept that HS2 as currently proposed is advantageous; the costs far outweigh the benefits, which only benefit a minority of the population.

We've already proven that there is strength in numbers. Despite LCC, HS2 did listen to us and have tried to find a better alternative within the demands being made on them for the station location.

We need to stand united and respond en masse, making our feelings known beyond any doubt; why shouldn't we be treated fairly and reasonably? Why should this project be at our direct expense?

HS2, our MP and LCC need to realise that we won't rest until we get what's right.

Every individual needs to take action now, don't just submit one response or one letter per household – the volume of personal responses is what counts.

Drop-in sessions Midland pub/café

Saturday 25th February 10am – 12pm

Saturday 4th March 10am – 12pm

We will help you with your consultation response, and have maps, forms and templates available to assist.