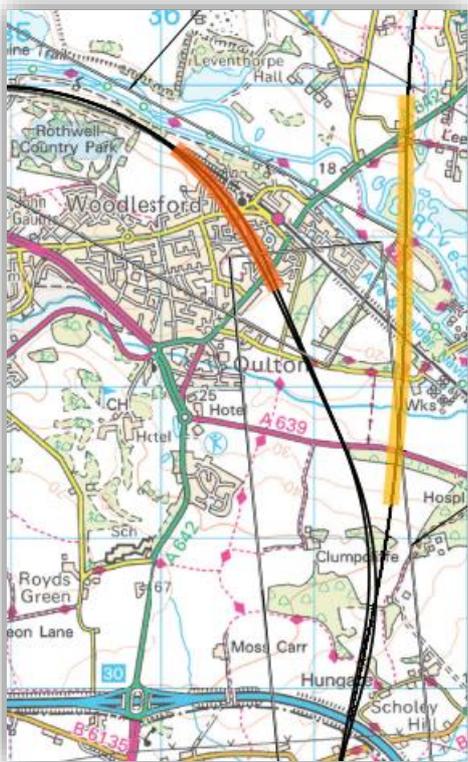


HS2 IMPACT BRIEF

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.



www.sowhat.org.uk

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 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.

SOWHAT

SWILLINGTON OULTON WOODLESFORD HS2 ACTION TOGETHER

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 by LCC.

We need to stand united, 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? Why won't LCC do more to support us?

HS2, our MP and LCC need to realise that we won't rest until we get what's right. Everyone needs to take every opportunity to make sure our voice is heard and to hold those impacting our future to account for their actions.

COMMUTER CHAOS

HS2 may suspend services between Castleford and Leeds for up to two years during construction. With no services from Woodlesford railway station the impact on our road network will be catastrophic.

This will be further compounded by rail commuters from Castleford and surrounding areas taking to the road, and at the same time there will be significantly more construction related traffic on our roads too.

ACCESS REQUEST AGREEMENTS

HS2 are demanding access to many properties within 500m of the proposed route to conduct surveys. We strongly recommend that you seek independent legal advice – HS2 offer £600 towards your legal costs.

One of our neighbours, directly impacted by HS2, is a Partner at **Blacks Solicitors**. They have offered to assist with these agreements and are already engaged with a number of local residents and businesses.

Drop-in sessions

If you have questions or concerns, SOWHAT hold a short drop-in session at the Midland pub/café on the first Saturday of most months from 11-11:30am. HS2 will also attend on an occasional basis. You will generally find us in the far corner near the high table.

Sessions will be confirmed in advance online. Please check for variations before travelling.

What can I do?

Email or write to Leeds City Council Executive, our local Councillors and MP, the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Transport. Inform your family and friends. Sign our online petition and get involved.

www.sowhat.org.uk

Check out all the information in more detail online, join the discussions on the "SO WHAT" Facebook group and sign up to receive our email newsletters.

Contact our friends at Blacks Solicitors for legal advice.

A very warm welcome from Blacks

Blacks Solicitors LLP, City Point, 29 King Street, Leeds, LS1 2HL, Contact Asad Ali on 0113 227 9202
E: AAli@LawBlacks.com @AsadLawBlacks



www.LawBlacks.com