

Have your say

We would like to know what you think about the plans. Please complete this comment card and return it to us by 28 February 2015.

Full name _____
 Postcode _____ Email _____

1. Do you support investment in the railway between Sheffield and Manchester?



4. Are there any aspects of the scheme that could be improved?

2. Do you support the plans for the railway around Dore & Topley station?



5. Do you ever visit the areas shown on the maps? If so, for what purpose and do you ever venture off the public paths?

3. Do you support the plans for the railway between Bamford and Hathersage?



7. Do you have any other comments?

Please tick this box if you do not wish us to contact you again.

Thank you.

Your enquiries and comments will be analysed by Network Rail. Your personal details will be held securely by Network Rail in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, will be used solely in connection with the Hope Valley Improvement Scheme consultation and will not be passed to any third parties. We may contact you if we have any follow up questions concerning the answers you have provided above. By agreeing to participate in this questionnaire, you agree to being contacted in this way.

For more information please contact hubconsultation-hopevalley@networkrail.co.uk visit networkrail.co.uk/hopevalley or call 08457 11 41 41

Next steps

Where we are proposing to use land or build outside of the established boundary of the railway, we will prepare an application for these particular elements of the scheme and apply for a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) to the Secretary of State for Transport.

To inform the design, we're consulting with the public, stakeholders and our colleagues in the rail industry. The feedback submitted to us, along with a range of other factors, will be reported on as part of the Transport and Works Act Order application and will help inform the detail of the final scheme.

Timeline



Improving rail journeys in the north

Faster, more frequent services

January 2015



Better journeys

We're planning to improve sections of railway in the Hope Valley, close to Dore & Topley station, Bamford and Hathersage. Our plans will allow passenger services to overtake slower moving freight and stopping passenger trains.

This will deliver better journeys on the route between Manchester and Sheffield, improving capacity, frequency and reliability.

Background – investment in the Hope Valley

We consulted on previous plans to improve the railway in the Hope Valley in November 2013 and collected valuable feedback from the local community.

In November 2013, our plans included building new track near Grindleford station. Since then, the rail industry has reviewed the timetable requirements for the route and has decided there is a need for three fast passenger trains per hour. The previous requirement of four fast trains per hour meant we had to build the new track at Grindleford. Now that the scope has changed, we no longer need to pursue this option.

The new option, between Bamford station and Jagger's Lane bridge near Hathersage, is easier to build and generates fewer construction impacts. In addition to this, the new plans do not affect any ancient woodland.

The plans for works near Dore & Topley station and at Dore South Curve remain largely unchanged from what we consulted on in 2013. However, we would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness of the plans for this area again now that we are developing the design of the scheme to support the Transport and Works Act Order application.

Consent for the work

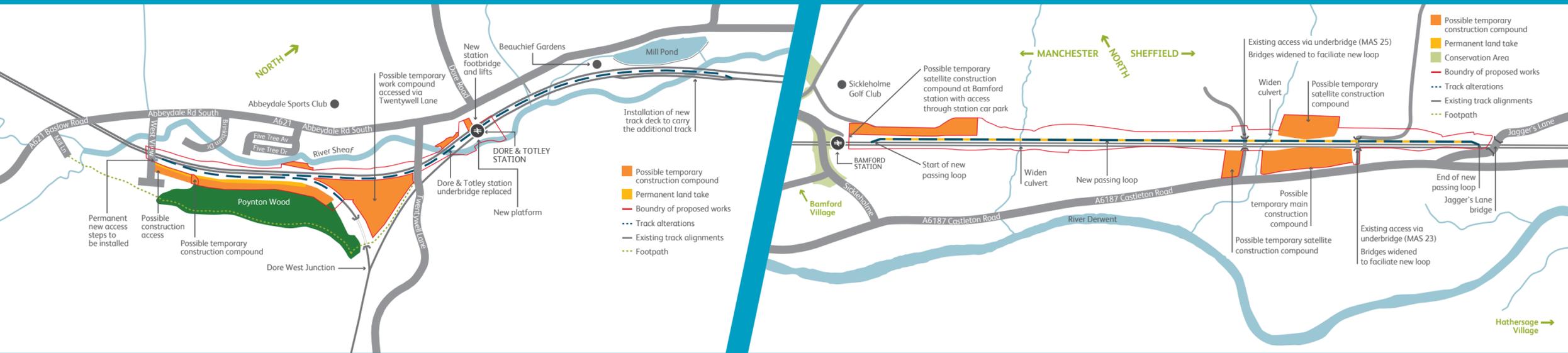
Where we are proposing to use land or build outside of the established boundary of the railway, we will submit an application for a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) to the Secretary of State for Transport.

Some of the improvements will take place within the boundaries of Network Rail's land and will not be included in the TWAO application.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will consider all aspects of the scheme, whether part of the TWAO or not.

Improving rail in the north

Network Rail is improving the Hope Valley's railway as part of over £1 billion of investment to deliver faster, more frequent services across the north of England. Demand for train travel between Sheffield and Manchester is increasing, with forecasts showing by 2029 demand will grow 56% in Sheffield and 66% in Manchester. The proposals will improve the line between Sheffield and Manchester, and include major upgrades to the railway near Dore & Topley, Bamford and Hathersage.



Our plans in Dore

Since we consulted in November 2013 our plans for the railway near Dore & Totley station have remained largely in line with those originally proposed.

We want to extend the existing Dore South Curve railway line, between West View Lane and Dore West Junction, to allow fast passenger trains to overtake slower freight services.

A second track serving Dore & Totley station will be created and a new platform constructed. This will be accessed by a new footbridge and lifts.

Construction

We will need to clear vegetation and excavate in the area to lay the new track. This will include changes to the slope down to the track between West View Lane and Twentywell Lane. We propose to set up the main site compound within an area of land accessed from Twentywell Lane.

Construction will take place in various phases, including:

- setting up site compounds and temporary site access points at West View Lane (small compound and track access), near the train station (small compound) and Twentywell Lane (main site compound)
- excavating the existing embankment from the track side to make space for the new track
- laying new track and associated infrastructure
- constructing a new permanent track access at West View Lane
- constructing a new platform and footbridge with lifts at Dore & Totley station
- replacing the track bridge over the River Sheaf just west of Dore & Totley station to allow another section of track to be built

Our plans east of Bamford station

We want to build a 1km passing loop between Bamford station and Jagger's Lane bridge, near Hathersage.

The new track would run alongside the existing railway, and would allow fast passenger trains to overtake slower freight services. This will allow more trains to run and improve reliability of services.

Grindleford was previously proposed as the site for a new section of track in November 2013. However, after a review of the project's scope, the proposal is now to build the passing loop near Bamford station.

The new option is easier to build and generates fewer construction impacts. In addition to this, the new plans do not affect any ancient woodland.

Construction

Work to build the new track will be delivered on a phased basis, including:

- setting up site compounds and temporary track access points
- modifying railway embankments and cuttings
- piling and abutment work to the bridges leading to Cunliffe House and Thorpe Farm
- improvements to two culverts to facilitate track widening
- undertaking groundworks to improve drainage
- laying stone ballast and new tracks

The environment

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for our work near Dore & Totley station has already been started and the scope is being extended to include the proposed new passing loop between Bamford station and Jagger's Lane bridge. An Environmental Statement will be produced to present the findings of all aspects of the assessment and will inform the detail of the application.

The environment

The railway is a sustainable form of transport. We work hard to reduce our impact on the environment and put rail at the heart of a low carbon economy.

An Environmental Impact Assessment for our work near Dore & Totley station has been undertaken. The main findings include:

Noise and vibration

Lineside residents are likely to experience some disturbance during construction.

We are fully committed to working with the local authority to reduce potential disturbance. Regular updates will be issued to the local community about the work and we will be putting in place measures to reduce noise levels where we predict disturbance, these will be agreed with the local authority.

We will complete an assessment which will identify if properties may be eligible for additional noise insulation.

Historic environment

A full heritage assessment has been conducted and we do not anticipate the work to significantly impact on any local assets.

Traffic and transport

Where possible, construction materials will be carried to site by rail to minimise any impact on local roads.

Temporary access alterations may be required to Twentywell Lane and West View Lane but our intention is to minimise any disruption this may cause. Temporary alterations may also be required to the public right of way near Twentywell Lane during construction but we are committed to maintaining this route for public use except at specified times when temporary closure may be required for safety reasons. Any disruption will be advertised and communicated well in advance of the works.

Landscape

The proposed work is within a deep cutting so the visual impact is not expected to be significant. Where possible, we have selected sensitive materials for the retaining walls, and the proposed platform and footbridge at Dore & Totley station will be designed to be in keeping with the surrounding rail environment.

Ecology and conservation

A comprehensive tree survey of the area has been undertaken. Some trees and vegetation next to the railway will need to be removed but this will not be carried out during the general bird nesting season. We have not identified any impacts on bats in the area. Nevertheless we are committed to working locally to put in place elements of habitat replacement.

A pollution prevention and incident control plan will be agreed with the local authority and measures taken to protect the River Sheaf and Totley Brook.

Bamford to Jagger's Lane Loop

The scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment is being extended to include the proposed new passing loop between Bamford station and Jagger's Lane bridge. This will include analysis of the potential effects of the proposed railway and its construction:

- visual and landscape
- noise and air quality
- ecology and biodiversity
- heritage

Appropriate mitigation measures will be recommended to address the effects of the proposal.

An Environmental Statement will be produced to present the findings of all aspects of the assessment and will inform the detail of the application.

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Hope Valley Consultation
 Network Rail
 167-169 Westbourne Terrace
 LONDON
 W2 6JX



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