



Historic England

Department for Transport  
InterCity West Coast Rail Franchise: Moving Britain Ahead (May 2016)  
Historic England Response

Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England's historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners and communities to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.

Our railways are of major international importance: first developed in the United Kingdom, the concept was then exported worldwide. Their heritage is widely valued by the general public and they often act as important gateways to cities, towns and local areas, helping to create a strong sense of place. This historical significance is nationally recognised by many of the buildings and structures afforded statutory protection by listing and scheduling.

Historic England is involved in commenting on major development proposals and works to designated structures across the railway network, and providing strategic listing advice, particularly in relation to the routes affected by electrification. We are in regular contact with Network Rail and are working with them on a number of projects and proposals.

The following comments are provided in response to Questions 7 and 8:

*Q7: Based on your knowledge of your local area/station, how could the new ICWC train operator:*

*Improve rail services (including all the support functions it needs) in a way that respects and helps to maintain the environment?*

- 1. Better support the economic growth of the areas it serves?*
- 2. Improve its support and development of its workforce?*
- 3. Play a greater role in supporting and improving the community it serves, the heritage of the railway and help develop their stations into hubs for the community?*
- 4. Improve the services offered to reduce discrimination and advance equality of opportunity for people from protected groups?*

*Q8: Please list, in priority order, the top five facilities you would like to see either improved or introduced at the station(s) served by the ICWC Franchise*  
*a) you use; or*



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*b) as a non-user would encourage you to use the rail network.*

*Please provide the name of the station(s) and why you think these improvements are needed.*

We welcome the reference to the heritage of the railways within the consultation document together with the proposed investment in those stations that are to be directly managed by the franchise operator. There are many examples where the successful regeneration of railway stations has acted as the catalyst to enhancing the wider area, providing new and enhanced commercial opportunities, together with services which help to support and serve the local community including improved accessibility.

Where this is based on a full and informed understanding of the heritage asset and its significance, the blend of the new and the old can be visually very powerful and enhance the passenger's experience. This can be seen at Kings Cross and St. Pancras which exemplify our approach to 'Constructive Conservation'.

Early consultation with the relevant authorities (including Historic England and local authority conservation advisors) is the key to success and can avoid potential delays later in the process. The introduction of new tools such as Listed Building Heritage Partnership Agreements can also help in the management of listed stations where routine work is required on a regular basis.

*Q11: If there are any additional areas that you think it is important for us to consider that have not already been addressed in this consultation please explain them here.*

As it is now part of government, Historic England wishes to see Network Rail and its franchise operators adhere to the *Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate*. This sets out best practice for the management of heritage assets in public ownership and includes, amongst other things - to ensure the significance of any heritage asset is taken into account when planning change, commission regular condition surveys, implement a planned programme of repairs and maintenance, and ensure that the design quality of any new work enhances the historic environment.

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