

EH Subgroup Minutes

Meeting date	4 th February, 14:30 to 16:30
Meeting location	Microsoft Teams
Meeting title	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #35
HS2 contact or group	planning.forum@hs2.org.uk
Stakeholder	Environmental Health Subgroup to Planning Forum

External Attendees

Independent Chair

Planning Forum Chair

Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Head of Environmental Sciences – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Noise and Vibration Construction Lead – HS2 Ltd

Phase One Town Planning Lead – HS2 Ltd

Air Quality Lead – HS2 Ltd

Construction Environmental Lead Manager - EKFB

EH Subgroup Secretary – HS2 Ltd

EH Attendees

Lichfield District Council (LDC)

Westminster City Council (WDC)

Buckinghamshire Council (BC1)

Buckinghamshire Council (BC2)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

South Northamptonshire Council (SNC)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Buckinghamshire Council and Three Rivers District Council (TRDC)

London Borough of Camden (LBCam)

North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC)

Warwick District Council (WDC)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Julian Smith – Buckinghamshire Council (BC3)

Hillingdon Council (HC1)

Hillingdon Council (HC2)

Buckinghamshire Council (Chiltern area) (BC4)

Westminster City Council (WCC)

Slough Borough Council (SBC)

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)

Three Rivers District Council (TRDC2)

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC)

Chiltern and South Bucks Council (CSBC)

Apologies:

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF2)

London Borough of Camden (LBC2)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF3)

Cherwell District Council (CDC)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE2)

London Borough of Brent (LBB)

Item 1 - Welcome and Introductions

The Chair called the meeting to order, and meeting etiquette was run through. The chair then welcomed attendees and introductions were made.

The meeting was recorded to aid with minute taking, attendees were notified.

Item 2 - Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting

A review of minutes from previous meeting was undertaken. The Subgroup was notified that presentations are now included on the Sharepoint site. HS2 advised that there is a link to planning forum appeals on planning forum website, this will also be included in these minutes.

There were no further comments or queries, and the December 2020 meeting minutes were agreed.

Item 3 – Construction Commissioner

The Chair welcomed the Construction Commissioner (CC) to the meeting. The CC provided an overview of his role; complaints related to construction activities are escalated to the CC and he can make a ruling on the basis of what is believed fair and reasonable.

The CC facilitates liaison and collaboration between individuals, communities, and parish councils and builds engagement with HS2. He is part of a steering group that includes the DFT and local authorities who guide and inform the commissioner.

The CC's role is to also oversee HS2's small claims scheme; he deals with appeals and will judge cases accordingly (this does not include land and property issues).

Questions:

Q1: The government promotes extended hours which can lead to extended noise and vibration impacts, and not all impacts can be mitigated, what is the CC's view on this?

CC answer: each case is treated on an individual basis. Extended hours can occur because of time pressures on project, and breaches would be investigated case by case basis.

Q2: Is there an observation to make on HS2 performance in relation of noise insulation and temporary housing?

CC answer: there is no general overview unless there has been a case escalated to commissioner.

Note: the CC's reports are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-independent-construction-commissioner> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-independent-construction-commissioner>

Note: The CC can be contacted at: Complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk.

Item 4 – EKFB Site Lighting

The Chair welcomed Construction Environmental Lead Manager (EKFB), to the meeting. An overview of how site lighting impacts are managed in construction activities was provided. The Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) has to be complied with to meet environmental minimum requirements. Impacts on communities are assessed through modelling and this needs to consider local residents and also the impacts on ecology, PROW, roads, and wider landscape. Modelling helps to show overspill of lighting in a compound, and mitigation methods include temporary hoardings, sheets and repositioning.

Where possible lighting is positioned so it is not intrusive. Dialux software is used to manage compound lighting and helps to ensure that lighting limits are not exceeded and comply with BS standards.

Questions

Q1: How has early engagement with communities been discharged with respect of the CoCP and compound layout?

Answer: communications have been discharged to local communities but EKFB will need to consult with the relevant teams to find out specific details of those liaisons.

Q2 : overnight lighting for security purposes, how is this configured? How are impacts from generators powering lights managed?

Answer: motion sensors are used for night lighting where possible. Dialux software to model lighting impacts on residents, and all lighting is designed to face away from receptors. Innovation forums are held to find new solutions, such as solar powered generators for e.g.

Q3: What intrusion criteria does the modelling assess to? Are ground and second floor levels assessed?

Answer: more detail is needed in respect of this and EKFB will find out & advise.

Q4: CoCP requirements - how does liaison happen with communities? What is the process?

Answer: there is an engagement team that is regularly liaising with communities, as well as other Stakeholder interface teams. The consents team within EKFB also support and work closely to support the community and stakeholder engagement process, as well as section environment management teams.

Post meeting note: EKFB will be preparing a response to the above queries and HS2 looks forward to updating further.

Item 5 – Phase One Update

A summary of Phase One progress was provided, including an overview early works and the setting up of main works. Summary of works for each Phase One IPTs (South, Central and North) was included within the presentation slide deck circulated to the EH Subgroup. HS2 also provided an update regarding the chairman, stepping down.

A Health and safety passport scheme has been rolled out onsite to help increase health and safety standards on site. Tree planting ramped up over winter - 300,000 now planted, press release link available here: <https://mediacentre.hs2.org.uk/news/hs2-set-to-reach-730-000-planted-trees-landmark-by-spring-2021>. Align JV have won an international Green Apple Award for the use of drones for bird monitoring, press release link available here: <https://mediacentre.hs2.org.uk/news/hs2-contractors-win-international-green-apple-environment-award>.

HS2 has been certified to PAS2080 and carbon literacy training being rolled out across the project to help achieve carbon reduction goals, press release link available here: <https://mediacentre.hs2.org.uk/news/hs2-contractors-win-international-green-apple-environment-award>. The first freight train in Bucks arrived to help reduce HGV journeys – this will remove 12000 from roads.

Mark Thurston presented at the Transport Select Committee, with a particular focus on environmental mitigation such as reducing impacts on ancient woodland, developing the Green corridor and being a good neighbour.

Questions:

Q1: Are the protestors at Euston holding up works?

HS2 answer: safety is the first priority, but works not being hugely impacted

Q2: How far do tree planting efforts across phase 1 go to make the project carbon neutral?

HS2 answer: baseline for carbon is in the Environmental Statement and the target is to reduce construction carbon by 50%.

Q3: How have the carbon equivalents been captured?

HS2 answer: approved carbon calculators are used to show carbon equivalents of savings.

Item 6 – Air Quality Update

The Chair welcomed HS2's Air Quality Lead to provide an update on air quality across the route. HS2 Air Quality Lead summarised the compliance dashboards for 2020 and went through graphs depicting progress and a shift towards cleaner solutions.

An overview of the innovate UK funded Clean Air Gas Engine (CAGE) project was provided -including that the technology has been fitted to an Advante welfare unit in St James Garden, Camden. The welfare unit runs on renewable solar energy; and has a back-up LPG generator system rather than a conventional diesel generator. Imperial College London will be undertaking mini-PEMS (Portable Emission Measurements) in the coming weeks. EKFB are looking to extend the trial across a number of their sites.

NRMM Retrofit Project update: A retrofit solution to meet Stage V equivalent has now been certified by the Energy Saving Trust. An in-depth overview of the solution was provided to the group. The solution is aimed

at extending medium/large machinery life, while reducing emissions (delivery of stage V emission requirements). A roll-out plan is currently underway and being planned across supply chain. HS2 are also exploring opportunities to go above Euro VI HGV, and is considering a hydrogen dual fuelling system, this innovation will look to fit 3 x HGVs with a hydrogen Dual-Fuelling system to understand the use of this solution in construction. The second phase of this project will be aimed at looking to support the UK hydrogen strategy and how HS2 can be a catalyst to leave a legacy in the industry. Furthermore, in March 2021 a trial and testing alternative fuels to quantify what the benefits are on the ground, within the construction environment will be undertaken.

Questions:

Q1: Retrofitted Plant with SCRT, how does HS2 plan to handle ammonia control?

Answer: A second round of workforce exposure monitoring will be taking place. Assurances are given with these systems and contractors need to ensure that maintenance regimes are adhered to.

Q2: What testing standards will be applied to HGVs that do not meet Euro 6d?

Answer: Every vehicle is registered, and Euro classes confirmed through a third party (which extracts which Euro 6 class a vehicle is).

Q3: Are HS2 looking at trying to reduce the number of diesel vehicles in terms of LDVs? Are HS2 prioritising dumpers and excavators in terms of NRMM priority retrofit?

Answer: dumpers and excavators are replaced a lot quicker, and they are part of a scale of retrofit. LDVs are reducing in activity too, and alternatives are being considered.

Item 7 – Noise Update

The Chair welcomed HS2 Noise and Vibration Lead to the meeting. An update on the new construction webpage was provided, this contains links to pertinent documents regarding construction noise and vibration, and noise insulation scheme booklet.

HS2 provided a breakdown of the current noise insulation eligibility progress across the 3 construction areas (including surveys, engagement, mitigation etc). Temporary housing and prolonged disruption compensation scheme guidance been approved and gone through plain English award, and this new guidance document is on the webpage. www.hs2.org.uk/documents/guide-to-temporary-rehousing-and-the-prolonged-disruption-compensation-scheme/

Questions:

Q1: Is there any breakdown by borough available?

Answer: Within Ealing there are 219 properties eligible for noise insulation, 60 of those have been installed and 159 have been concluded, of these 82 residents have provided no response, and 77 have been progressed to some degree we are awaiting a response back.

Q2: With regards to mapping of properties where there are vulnerable residents (Wells House Road) and those that have been deemed concluded but insulation may still be required, what is the progress with this?

Answer: In Wells House Road a second glazing contractor is now on board, and are going through a reengagement process with those that haven't had insulation fitted which is identifying others who may need it.

Q3: When is the review of noise insulation going to be concluded?

Answer: there is a date of 18th March for CC's next steering group and he will share this then. LA representatives are also on that steering group, and from this date HS2 can also share the report.

Item 8 - Noise Working Groups Update

The Chair welcomed feedback from Local Authorities in attendance at the Noise Working Groups. Three meetings have taken place since last Subgroup concerning Paper E22, background noise and compliance with BS4142, noise from stationary plant, and a Schedule 17 noise demonstration report. It was noted that in the assessment of noise impacts each of subcontractors may use different modelling methods, and it is at the design and commissioning stage that bringing into use applications will review compliance with EMR requirements. HS2 contractors will engage LAs through the pre application stage of development.

HS2 thanked the LAs for attending the noise working group, and various demonstration reports are being made available for their awareness.

Item 9 – Town Planning

An update on the last held planning forum was provided, the main agenda items for which were GSMR masts and an item on statutory guidance. In the forum, it was explained that HS2 will be reliant on radio systems to operate the trains. These are needed for passenger communications throughout journeys and for signalling. However, there is opportunity for radio systems (telecom masts) to provide benefits to the wider community subject to relevant planning consents. Telecom masts require approval under Schedule 17. The 4 MWCC will be instructed to space proof for provision of masts within civil designs. Rail systems contractors and will take forward detailed design and obtained relevant approvals

The Schedule 17 Statutory Guidance is intended to be reissued by DfT to address some of the points and uncertainties raised in the court of appeal judgement relating to ecological mitigation in Hillingdon. It was agreed that some of the intended revised guidance would be covered in a new planning forum note, and both documents to be taken forward and issued in the planning forum.

Schedule 17 performance is now shown at Planning Forums well as the turnaround times for consent determination.

Q1: should there be pre-engagement about site layout/ lighting under the CoCP?

Answer: further scrutiny of CoCP is required and confirmation will be provided.

Note: MD advised that permanent lighting needs specific approval under Schedule 17. Temporary lighting arrangements are covered by the Schedule 17 Class Approval and no further approval is required under Schedule 17.

Item 10 – Ongoing Construction and S61 Experience

Questions:

Q1: what is the definition of a day within the E23 policy?

Answer: a note will be provided with a definition of how the policy calculates the time periods.

Note 1: the issue of the Site access road being used by EKFB was raised and how it was being assessed and mitigated. HS2 Noise and Vibration Lead agreed to talk to the LA representatives offline and a meeting has been set up for next week 1st March.

Note 2: Joint benefit on Section 61 experience is to be outlined in a note by Steve Braund. No further items raised.

Item 11 – Action Log / Forward Plan / Meeting Agenda Items

Chair reviewed the action log.

Action 10A – the Construction Commissioner has been invited to the EH Subgroup, and this item is now closed.

Action 11A – SharePoint user access issues: PSC email address users need to login in frequently to prevent their credentials expiring.

Action 6A - CDE noise barriers remains open.

Items for next meeting:

Presentation items for next subgroup:

- Vibration from tunnelling activities and how HS2 intends to manage that in relation to Section 61
- Implementation of noise insulation scheme - this topic will include feedback from the Construction Commissioner noise insulation report

New Actions

- Feb 2021 – review noise insulation report at next March 2021 Subgroup
- HS2 to provide link to noise baseline data location
- A note will be provided with a definition of how the policy calculates the time periods (see Appendix 1 of these minutes)

Appendix 1:

Action 14A - Definition of a day within the E23 policy

Where noise from the construction of the Scheme exceed the noise thresholds set out in Table 5 of Appendix B in Information Paper E23 (and reproduced below), noise insulation or temporary re-housing will be offered with the aim that noise from the construction of the Scheme does not give rise to significant adverse effects on health and quality of life. To be eligible for the scheme Information paper E23 sets out that you must own or occupy a residential dwelling and the dwelling must be one in which the predicted or actual noise exceeds any of the relevant thresholds in Table 5 for:

- a period of 10 or more days of working in any 15 consecutive days during construction; or
- for a total of 40 days or more in any 6 consecutive months during construction.

As detailed within Table 5 of Information Paper E23, the noise thresholds are defined for different 'days' (e.g. Monday to Friday, Saturday and Sundays etc.), 'time periods' (e.g. 07:00 – 08:00, 08:00 – 18:00, 18:00 – 19:00) and 'averaging periods' (LAeq,10hr, LAeq1hr) to reflect the sensitivities of receptors to noise across a day. For the purposes of identifying any NI/TRH eligibility a day is considered to begin at 07:00 and if construction noise, either predicted or measured, exceeds the trigger levels over the defined time period that make up a day then this would be counted towards the temporal criteria above. Each time period that makes up a 'day' is considered as a whole, as such multiple exceedances of the threshold within the same defined time period (e.g. night 22:00 – 07:00) or across multiple time periods (07:00 – 08:00, 08:00 – 18:00 etc.) within the same 'day' would only be counted as a single exceedance of the NI/TRH criteria.

Table 1: Noise thresholds for noise insulation/temporary re-housing (reproduced from Information Paper E23)

Day	Time (hours)	Averaging period T	Noise Insulation trigger level LAeq,T (dB)	Temporary re-housing trigger level LAeq,T (dB)
Monday to Friday	0700 – 0800	1 hour	70	80
	0800 – 1800	10 hours	75	85

	1800 - 1900	1 hour	70	80
	1900 - 2200	1 hour	65	75
Saturday	0700 - 0800	1 hour	70	80
	0800 - 1300	5 hour	75	85
	1300 - 1400	1 hour	70	80
	1400 - 2200	1 hour	70	80
Sunday & Public Holiday	07:00 - 2200	1 hour	65	75
Any night	2200 - 0700	1 hour	55	65

