

Meeting minutes

Chiltern AONB Review Group Meeting # 23

Meeting date Thursday, 03 December 2020

Meeting location Teams Meeting

Meeting time 10:00-12.30

Members (those who make the quorum of the forum)	Attendees (presenters/additional attendees)	Apologies
Review Group Chair RGC	HS2 Main Works Civil Contractors Align	
Buckinghamshire Council BC	HS2 Main Works Civil Contractors EKFB	
HS2 Ltd HS2	HS2 Enabling Works Contractors Fusion	
Chiltern Conservation Board CCB		
Natural England NE		

Signed

Chair Tom Hinds

Date

1 Introductions

1.1 Members and attendees introduced themselves.

2 Review of Minutes & Action Tracker

2.1 Minutes for 3 September 2020 meeting were approved and the action tracker updated. A new ongoing action would be added to demonstrate how the railway design adhered (or otherwise) to the Detailed Design Principles.

3 Buckinghamshire Council voting and reimbursement process.

3.1 BC confirmed that following the move to a Unitary Authority, they would like (up to) four officers to continue supporting this group as they contribute in different disciplines. Without additional voting rights but with their attendance being charged to RG funds.

Action for HS2 to update the TOR and recirculate for confirmation.

4 HS2 Programme

4.1 EKFB main works update

EKFB (SM) provided a construction programme update. This included details on the North tunnel portal adjustments with Align works which will ensure landscape and earthworks are integrated. The technical details will be included in documents submitted as part of the Schedule 17 planning applications.

Action: HS2 to circulate EKFB update with the draft minutes.

Action: EKFB to provide details on:

- **What a water abutment will look like.**
- **How earthworks and material impacts will be managed at Hunts Green Farm (has U&As).**
- **What the visual impacts of the extra compound area will be.**

4.2 Align main works update

Align (JW) shared details on the vent shaft designs (height of the fins) and their construction including key CSP dates, planned engagement and the TBM launch in May 2021. The vent shaft designs, and the fins in particular, were subject to a number of queries from the group.

Action: HS2 to circulate Align update with the draft minutes.

Action: Align to share visualisation of Vent Shaft Design without fins.

5 Committed Additional Projects updates:

5.1 Landscape & Biodiversity Connectivity Project

CCB (NJ) had circulated a written update on this prior to the meeting.

5.2 Ridgeway Connections Project

No update on this – progress limited due to Covid restrictions for NT staff.

5.3 How will RG record and share its funded projects with the public?

Community newsletter suggested (as per Colne Valley forum, CVRPP) – may be a way to share good news on projects.

Action: CCB (NJ) to speak to PR for suggestions.

6 Future additional projects (Post Sch 17):

- 6.1 CCB continued to develop some of the ideas for additional projects raised at the previous meeting and would update at a future meeting.
- 6.2 It was suggested that the RG might seek a presentation from the CVRPP to gain a better understanding of its project activities in case there are projects ideas that could be borrowed, or other lessons to be learnt.

Action: HS2 to invite CVRPP programme manager to a future meeting.

Action: all to have conversations with other stakeholders and PC's on additional projects.

7 Financials

Admin and Projects Budget. There was some concern raised about whether the admin budget had sufficient funds to maintain current levels of expenditure into the longer term, especially given the desire to postpone additional projects until after mitigation plans are known.

Action: HS2 and Chair to discuss health of RG Admin Budget and report back findings at next meeting.

Action: BC (IN) to circulate Projects Budget update.

8 AOB

HS2 will be publishing their Green Corridor prospectus and mapping tool which will be useful for this group next week. The launch is also coinciding with the publication of a Natural environment web page.

HS2's stakeholder engagement team and Fusion contractors joined the meeting to explain the effort made to reach families and communities as part of works at Wendover Memorial grounds and recent events at Jones' Hill Woods. All acknowledged the experience and agreed there was an opportunity for everyone to make improvements.

<https://hs2inbucksandoxfordshire.commonplace.is/news> May be useful to RG members to sign up to get first hand notifications of events and works information.

Next meeting

Thursday 1st April 2021 10-1230