

# Meeting Note

## Chiltern AONB Review Group Meeting # 28

**Meeting date** Wednesday 29 March 2023  
**Meeting location** Teams Meeting  
**Meeting time** 10:00am-13:00pm

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	Sean Armstrong HS2
HS2 Ltd HS2		
Chiltern Conservation Board CCB		
Natural England NE		

### Attendees:

(TH) - DfT Chair	HS2 Main Works Civil Contractors EKFB	
(CE) - HS2 Ltd Sec	Buckinghamshire Council (BC)	
(NJ) - Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB)	(LD) - Sustrans	
(CF) - Natural England (NE)	(JB) - Buckinghamshire Council (BC)	
<b>(MT) - Natural England (NE)</b>	(LB) - Natural England (NE)	

**Signed  
Chair  
Date**

Tom Hinds

## **1 Introductions**

1.1 Welcome by chair.

## **2 Review of Minutes & Action Tracker**

2.1 It was agreed that to catch up on recent approvals of Minutes, the group would need to review the October, December and March minutes together and send comments and acceptance by correspondence ahead of the next meeting. The Chair acknowledged this was not ideal but requested the task to be undertaken on this occasion.

**Action: All to review minutes and by correspondence confirm their acceptance**

2.2 Discussion took place on recent issues ensuring the correct attendees were copied into emails, and HS2 undertook to update records on group membership.

**Action: HS2 to update its review group members list, seeking confirmation as necessary.**

2.3 Discussion took place around action tracker, CE advised SA sent apologies as called to meeting last minute. SA did commit to sending updated action tracker and budget.

**Action: SA to send budget allocation and updated action tracker before next meeting.**

## **3 Update following announcement**

3.1 TH explained this item added following [government announcement](#) of 9 March 2023 on HS2. At this stage no impacts anticipated on Chilterns AONB panel. Review of work programme being undertaken by HS2 and any changes will be communicated.

## **4 EKFB Update**

4.1 SM gave an update on progress using the following slides (see attached)



1MC12-EKF-SE-PRE-  
CS03-000019.pdf

4.2 LB thanks SM for update and queried the Leather lane situation and discussion of findings with Council. LB queried if NE would also form part of discussion?

- 4.3 SM confirmed he would share findings from ecological perspective and explained challenges in area.
- 4.4 LB confirmed NE would be interested in future discussions, NJ confirmed CCB would also be interested.
- 4.5 SM confirmed findings would be shared at appropriate time due to sensitive nature of area and would update in due course.
- 4.6 NJ queried the plans for Grimms ditch and discussions took place around Historic England in relation to when construction complete.
- 4.7 SM explained access and other issues.

**ACTION: SM (EKFB) to ask heritage team to provide update to panel in respect of Grimms Ditch**

- 4.8 SM left meeting
- 4.9 Discussion took place about an update from Align and concern the panel had not received an update for some time.

**ACTION: Ensure Align attend next meeting**

## 5 Update on Existing projects

### 5.1 Misbourne Greenway cycleway project:

- 5.1.1 TH reminded the group that the project had been approved by correspondence since the last meeting.
- 5.1.2 LD from Sustrans joined the call to give an update on progress.
- 5.1.3 Discussions took place on the legal fees associated with agreement, which it was confirmed should come out of the project allocation.
- 5.1.4 LD left meeting.
- 5.1.5 Discussions took place on the continuing need for clarity on the panel's budget for additional projects.

**Action: HS2 Ltd to circulate updated Panel budget and resource budget ahead of next meeting**

### 5.2 Canal Tow path (Wendover) project \*Enc



2023 03 22

Wendover Canal towpath

- 5.2.1 NJ gave update on progress with the Wendover canal towpath project (see attached PDF).

### 5.3 Landscape and connectivity project \*

March 2023 update -  
Landscape and Biodiv

- 5.3.1 NJ gave overview of progress on this project (see attached PDF).
- 5.3.2 LB queried connection to local nature recovery strategies.
- 5.3.3 NJ commented the local nature recovery strategies were going to be getting underway in earnest from 1st of April. He believed the Defra guidance had come out last week.

5.4 Ridgeway. An update on this project would be provided at the next meeting.

## 6 New Project proposals

### 6.1 Wendover Visitor Centre (verbal update)

- 6.1.1 CCB sought initial views on an early proposal to build visitor centre at Wendover. NJ explained Anna Brown from Wendover business group is developing the project with Wendover mitigation group.
- 6.1.2 NJ explained the proposal was on the site of the old Wendover cricket pitch.
- 6.1.3 Discussions took place around archaeological finds in the vicinity which could potentially be housed at the centre.
- 6.1.4 NJ explained the promoters were also looking at HS2 Community and Environment fund.
- 6.1.5 LB raised discussion about identifying potential projects and prioritising projects appropriately. LB raised point to look at funding pot and understand how much left, what projects complete and what priorities remain before approval of new projects could be given.
- 6.1.6 LB explained at outset of panel there were little heritage proposals put forward and this could help address it.
- 6.1.7 Discussion took place on whether this was on the same site as the separate viewing platform proposals.
- 6.1.8 Discussions took place on potential funding availability from other sources for Heritage.

### 6.2 Wildlife verge project \*Enc

- 6.2.1 CA from BC joined the call to give overview of another possible project relating to turning an A-road central reservation into a chalk grassland / wildflower strip.
- 6.2.2 Group discussed the proposal.
- 6.2.3 NJ recommended CA have discussion with HS2 contractors on the adjacent site to see whether they would have extracted chalk available to use for the project

6.2.4 CA took the action to work up the proposal more based on the suggestions from panel and come back as appropriate.

## **7 HS2 AP web page – [HS2 Chilterns AONB Additional Projects Fund – Chilterns AONB | Chilterns AONB.](#)**

7.1 NJ gave overview of the AONB pages on the CCB website, which now provide more of a description of the additional projects funded by the review group so far.

**Action: all panel members to look into getting a link to the page from their respective home websites.**

## **8 Panel Budget update**

8.1 SA sent apologies.

8.2 Discussions took place around the urgent need to update and circulate a summary of the budget situation ahead of next meeting.

8.3 Discussions took place on need to also look again at the original enhancement plan, as set out in the DDP/Additional Project documents, and compare them to what had so far been funded and to what had been put forward as future proposals.

8.4 Panel agreed to carry this out once budget review complete.

## **9 AOB**

9.1 Discussion took place around frequency of meetings and 3 to 4 per year considered sufficient subject to the update on the remaining administration budget.

## **10 Next meeting**

10.1 The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 7 June 2023 from 1000-1300 hours.