

EH Subgroup Minutes

Meeting date	Thursday 24 nd July 2025, 14:30 to 16:00
Meeting location	Microsoft Teams
Meeting title	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #58
HS2 contact or group	planning.forum@hs2.org.uk
Stakeholder	Environmental Health Subgroup to Planning Forum

External Attendees

Independent Chair

Planning Forum Chair

Associate Director (INNS), Environment, Water & Energy - AECOM

Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Air Quality Manager – HS2 Ltd

Environment Graduate – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Noise and Vibration Manager – HS2 Ltd

Senior Public Response Manager – HS2 Ltd

EH Attendees

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Apologies

Birmingham City Council (BCC)

Cherwell District Council

Staffordshire County Council

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Item 1 – Chairman’s Introduction and Apologies

The Chair called the meeting to order and provided an overview of the meeting etiquette. The Chair welcomed attendees and asked for introductions to be made in the chat function. Apologies were shared by the Chair. The meeting was recorded to aid with minute taking, attendees were notified.

Item 2 - Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting

A review of the May 2025 meeting minutes was undertaken.

The Chair acknowledged the circulation of the Camden Health Impact Report.

The Chair highlighted the post meeting note that CEF/BLEF funds are ring-fenced

There were no further comments and the meeting minutes for May2025 were agreed.

Item 3 – Invasive/non-invasive plant management in Colne Valley

AECOM’s ecologist presented on the management of INNS (Invasive non-native species) at the Colne Valley which recently won a CIEEM award.

Questions/Comments:

(Q) BC: Has Japanese native fungus been tested to manage Japanese knotweed?

(A) AECOM: The fungus would attack native plants as it is not host specific. Trials have been done with host specific insects, currently studies are ongoing to see if these insects can adapt to UK winters.

(Q) Independent Chair: Have the methods developed been written into any national or statutory guidance and has the Environment Agency (EA) endorsed these proposals?

(A) AECOM: The EA were very pleased with the waste reduction results and were the nominators for the CIEEM award.

The Chair asked for the publication to be shared with HS2 and subsequently circulated to the group.

Item 4 – Project Updates

A general update of Phase One construction works and highlights of the latest press releases from across the programme were provided by HS2’s Environment Graduate.

Item 5 – Hs2 HelpDesk Update

HS2's Public Response Manager provided an annual update on Helpdesk enquiries and complaints

Questions/Comments:

(Q)LBE: Number of complaints doesn't always reflect what's happening on the ground. How do complaints correlate to on the ground triggers for sound and air quality?

(A) HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager: Generally, there is no correlation from noise between monitor exceedance and complaints

(Q) Independent Chair: Is it possible to get data on small claims to find out how they are being used?

(A) HS2's Public Response Manager: Yes, happy to attend future meeting to talk through the process and provide facts and figures in relation to small claims.

(Q) Independent Chair: What is the typical complaint response procedure?

(A) HS2's Public Response Manager: 62% of all enquires are handled at the Helpdesk. Complaints beyond this are either assessed internally or passed to contractors. Most complaints and enquires are handled within 5 working days and more complex matters within 20 days.

HS2's Public Response Manager will liaise with HS2 Environment to return to provide data on small claims and enquiries.

Item 6 – Other Updates

The Bromford Tunnel judicial review determined by the High Court in the Secretaries of State's favour. North Warwickshire District Council has lodged an application with the Court of Appeal, to challenge the High Court's decision, we are currently waiting to hear the Court of Appeal will accept the application.

The chair shared that a new HS2 Independent Residents' and Construction Commissioner has been appointed.

HS2's Air Quality Manager shared that the proposal for emission standards for plant across greater London to meet stage 5 has been paused due to the Hs2 reset.

Item 7 – Ongoing Construction and Section 61 Experience

LBE noted an increase in requests for out of hours working. Meetings and site visits have been attended with HS2 and there are ongoing discussions regarding cost feasibility

Item 8 – Action Log / Forward Plan / AOB

The Planning Forum Chair noted that the NAO report attributed rising costs to consents. The Planning Forum Chair updated the subgroup on his recent contact with the NAO to understanding basis for the conclusion, the NAO directed him back to HS2 Ltd., and he will be in touch with the relevant personnel.

The Chair raised a query on HS2 response to the 2024 Q4 Construction Commissioner report regarding lighting on local properties. HS2 will provide an update on this in the next meeting.

The Chair reviewed the action log, which has been updated to reflect items that remain open and those which are now closed.

The Chair requested that future agenda items include Camden's Clean Air Action Plan, Annual Air Quality report, an update from the Construction Commissioner, and an update on pantograph noise and source terms.

The Chair closed the meeting.