

EH Subgroup Minutes

Meeting date	Thursday 29 th Jan 2026, 14:30 to 16:00
Meeting location	Microsoft Teams
Meeting title	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #61
HS2 contact or group	planning.forum@hs2.org.uk
Stakeholder	Environmental Health Subgroup to Planning Forum

External Attendees

Independent Chair

Independent HS2 Commissioner

Planning Forum Chair

AECOM Acoustic Associate

Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Air Quality Manager – HS2 Ltd

Environment Graduate – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Noise Assessment Specialist – HS2 Ltd

Environment and Town Planning Director – HS2 Ltd

EH Attendees

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

Westminster City Council (WCC)

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

Cherwell District Council (CDC)

Birmingham City Council (BCC)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Stratford on Avon District Council (SADC)

Apologies

Three Rivers Council (TRC)

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 November 2025 meeting minutes was undertaken.

There were no further comments and the meeting minutes for November 2025 were agreed.

Item 3 – Construction Noise Prediction Study – AECOM/DEFRA

AECOM Acoustic Associate presented results from a national construction noise prediction study, which included data from the HS2 project. The study involved a comparison of Environmental Statement (ES) stage and Section 61 stage noise predictions with onsite measured data and telematics. Key findings were that Section 61 submissions over-predicted construction noise relative to measured noise and that ES stage predictions were more accurate than Section 61 in many cases.

Questions/Comments:

Head of Noise Assessment asked Local Authorities (LA) for reflections from the findings that Section 61’s tend to overpredict.

BC: Preference for Section 61 assessments to be as accurate as possible to ensure reliable monitoring against Best Practical Means (BPM).

LBHF: Trigger action levels are set against the predicted levels, if these are overpredicted then management of genuine emerging issues may be delayed.

LBC: Accurate predictions allow more time for mitigation before exceedances, reducing delays and community impact.

BCC: Queries raised on the outdated BS 5228 contributing to inaccuracies. AECOM Acoustic Associate agreed this has a role, highlighting that modern equipment is quieter

Head of Noise Assessment enquired on future plans with the project findings.

AECOM Acoustic Associate outlined the work could be refined by adopting methodologies with increased accuracy from plant source data using different loadings. A key benefit will be to get the findings integrated into a planning context to streamline the process in the future.

Item 4 – View from the Bridge – Strategic HS2 Update

The Environment and Town Planning Director, HS2 Ltd, provided a broad strategic update covering organisational changes, productivity, environmental controls, consenting, and the ongoing programme reset.

Constructive collaboration from LA's during consent processes was emphasised and appreciated. No direct comments from LA's.

The Independent Chair asked if there was any clarity on when the HS2 Reset will conclude. The Environment and Town Planning Director outlined there were no fixed dates, ranges will be announced by the Transport Secretary, followed by detailed baselining later in the year.

Item 5 – Project Updates

A general update of Phase One construction works and highlights of the latest environment specific and programme wide press releases provided by HS2's Environment Graduate.

Air Quality Manager, HS2 Ltd, confirmed that current NRMM emission standards will remain in line with the latest GLA emission standard. An instruction to raise standards across the route would add cost that cannot be justified at this stage of the project in the context that contractors are already deploying high NRMM emission standards.

Item 6 - Ongoing Construction and Section 61 & Schedule 17 Experience

BC: Questioned a potential inconsistency in operational assumptions used by EKFB and ALIGN for noise assessments. Head of Noise Assessment agreed to investigate and to provide more information about operational assumptions at a future meeting.

LA's requested more regular updates of HelpDesk data. HS2 agreed to investigate if a regular report sent to the Planning Forum attendees could also be sent to EHSG attendees.

Item 7 - Action Log / Forward Plan / AOB

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

A future agenda item for March's meeting will be a Rolling Stock update, the Chair encouraged suggestions for future agenda items from LA's.

The Chair closed the meeting.