

EH Subgroup Minutes

Meeting date	Thursday 26 th Mar 2026, 14:30 to 16:00
Meeting location	Microsoft Teams
Meeting title	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #62
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

Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Active travel Lead – HS2 Ltd

Air Quality Manager – HS2 Ltd

Environment Graduate – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Head of Rolling Stock Engineering – HS2 Ltd

Noise Assessment Specialist – 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 January 2026 meeting minutes was undertaken.

There were no further comments and the meeting minutes for January 2026 were agreed.

Item 3 – Active travel presentation

Head of Active Travel presented on HS2’s active travel strategy, providing context and an overview of how HS2’s active travel programme is made up. The presentation demonstrated the location of active travel interfaces and the different interventions taken route wide. HS2’s active travel programme is also assessing whether logistics assets can be repurposed. If possible, this could enable a 150-mile-long path between Birmingham and London, which will have the potential to provide three regional tourism routes.

Questions/Comments:

LBHF: Queried whether there be cargo bicycle facilities at each station to encourage zero emissions commercial deliveries to the sites.

Head of Active Travel outlined the hubs will cater for all types of bikes. They are pushing for commercial proposition that will provide a balance between potential retail space and a local cycle facility for people who want to travel by bike.

LBE: Queries raised on who will provide long-term maintenance of the active travel paths and whether this has been costed.

Head of active travel stated this is an ongoing conversation and highly depends on whether the assets are stationed on HS2 land for ownership.

Item 4 – Project Updates

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

Head of noise assessment, HS2 Ltd, provided an update on work taking place within area south (SCS) to identify areas of interest where great crested newts may have been present.

Item 5 – other updates

Planning forum chair summarised Topics from the Planning Forum Subgroup meeting held on the 19th March 2026. The 19th March agenda included an update by Paul Fuller on Service level agreement (SLAs), consent performances and local authority feedback.

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

LBHF: Questioned the potential operational arrangements around secondary power supply for life safety emergency generators at the station. Head of Noise Assessment agreed to investigate and to provide more information about this at a future meeting.

Item 8 - 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 May's meeting will be an update on the outcome of the noise barrier testing. Additional suggestions for future agenda items were discussed.

A 10-minute break occurred

Item 7 – Rolling Stock Update

The Head of Rolling Stock Engineering, HS2 Ltd, provided an in-depth update of the rolling stock design phase, including visuals of multiple aspects of train such as the train interior, seating and platform train interface. Mock ups and consultations with multiple stakeholders have occurred to ensure the best passenger experience. Manufacturing of components is expected to commence over the next 12 months.

Questions/Comments:

The Independent Chair highlighted that operational noise is a key consideration and is seeking further information on the outcomes of the pantograph design development.

The Head of Rolling Stock Engineering, HS2 Ltd advised that train manufacturers are incentivised to try and minimise noise at every opportunity but that there is no further detailed available to share at this stage.

Environmental graduate, HS2: Requested clarification on the design of the platform train interface and step free access.

The Head of Rolling Stock Engineering, HS2 Ltd confirmed HS2 platforms will be higher to enable level boarding without assistance in most cases, though assistance may still be required for some passengers. A larger step design allows more efficient boarding for passengers with luggage and wheelchair users.

The Independent Chair asked about the provision of the train for bike storage.

The Head of Rolling Stock Engineering, HS2 Ltd: Space for up to 4 bikes to be stored horizontally on a 200m HS2 train

Head of noise assessment: YouTube video available provides a visual update of the rolling stock design: [First look at the future of high-speed travel | Inside HS2's train mock-ups](#)

LBE: Asked about benchmarks for measuring ride quality.

The Head of Rolling Stock Engineering, HS2 Ltd: There is a European standard that provides a range of target values for high-speed train which HS2 are aiming to reach.

The Chair closed the meeting.