

Note for inclusion in all records of the Central Chilterns Community Forum meetings

*As presented
11-July-2012*

1. Forum Members are resolutely opposed HS2
2. Consequently, participation in the Community Forum discussions regarding possible mitigation is not to be taken as any agreement to or acceptance by Forum Members of HS2 or of the current HS2 proposals.
3. If, notwithstanding discussions and objections, HS2 is to proceed along the existing proposed route or otherwise through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, despite its statutory designation as a nationally protected landscape, then mitigation should be to the highest international standards. Mitigation should be particularly concentrated on and addressed to ensuring the greatest possible protection of the Chilterns AONB; and in particular its tranquillity and natural beauty,
4. The most effective and preferred form of mitigation for this section of the route is therefore considered to be a fully bored tunnel throughout the Chilterns AONB.
5. DfT/HS2 Ltd is reminded that in presenting the HS2 proposals for consultation, the budgeted cost for the section of HS2 between Mantles Wood and Wendover was £250-300 million more than that now budgeted cost for the revised, more damaging, proposals, which were announced only after the consultation; and despite this being a nationally protected area of countryside at the heart of the AONB. This expenditure should be reinstated in the budget and applied to further mitigation, including the full tunnelling option, for this area.
6. Presentations at Community Forums should not be taken as final statements on any topic.
7. Community Forum members will not be able to make decisions on any propositions put forward by HS2 Ltd. Proposals will be referred for discussion to the communities and organisations they represent.