

Extracts from <http://www.hs2.org.uk/consultation-engagement>

HS2 Ltd will work closely with local authorities, **communities** and stakeholders to develop the route, identifying potential impacts and exploring the best opportunities to mitigate them.

HS2 Ltd is committed to its legal duty in line with the government's commitment to **the Aarhus Convention** that encourages greater participation of the public in governmental decision-making processes and to provide access to information.

Responses to CCCF - question posed at CF of 11th July 2012

CCCF question	HS2 Ltd Response	CCCF comment on HS2 Ltd response
How can Community Forums influence the design of the HS2 route? A full explanation of the mechanisms involved is required.	The forums are a means by which local communities can highlight their concerns, ideas and priorities for mitigating the route which HS2 Ltd can then consider and where possible incorporate into the design.	Please respond by telling us what aspects of the scheme community forums can influence?
We understand there may be a November cut-off date for design alterations? If this is the case, please can you explain why?	There will continue to be opportunities for people to make their case for changes and for appropriate changes to be incorporated. It is not the case that changes to the design won't be possible after any particular month this year. While initial work on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be based upon a snapshot of the design in November, work will continue after this to further develop the design and mitigate any impact. We welcome the continued involvement of local communities to inform this process.	We note HS2 Ltd will continue welcoming suggestions for changes to design. We are glad to see HS2 Ltd believes that it can mitigate any impact of its scheme. See extracts above – we welcome HS2 Ltd's full commitment to these.
What standard of noise amelioration is to be used? We require that 'world best' standards are applied to ensure that the AONB is returned to a 'tranquil' environment. Full details of the designs, materials, standards, applicability, methods of implementation and any further appropriate information is required.	The draft EIA Scope and Methodology Report sets out in Chapter 13 how the approach to sound and vibration will take this into account. The proposed methodology for mitigating impacts will be detailed in the draft Environmental Statement.	This fails to answer the question and misses the point. At what noise level will mitigation be applied and at what noise level will it be deemed to be satisfactory? That is to say at what level of noise treatment is this railway being designed? Chapter 13 of the EIA Scope and Methodology Report considers noise measurement not noise standards. Please use the correct vocabulary: sound is non-specific. HS2 will generate noise defined as "a sound that is loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or undesired".

Rights of way –what plans do HS2 Ltd have for maintaining access to all footpaths during the construction and operation of HS2?	Access to footpaths during construction will be dealt with on a path-by-path basis. At present these plans have not yet been developed	Obviously a subject for on-going discussion as no plans have been formulated. Please note a paper on mitigating rights of way will be issued in due course.
What is the value of counting walkers (on footpaths) on only one day in July/August? How can HS2 Ltd demonstrate that this is representative of the usage of footpaths? Certain footpaths e.g. GM32a are used early in the morning by school children and people walking to work or a train.	Public rights of way in rural areas will be surveyed on a weekend day in August/early September. Public rights of way that are potentially used for commuting/ school trips will also be surveyed on a September weekday. Local authorities will also be asked to provide information on public rights of way and community forums can help by providing local knowledge.	1. This does not answer the question but only states what HS2 Ltd proposes to do. An answer is required as your proposed methodology appears to be unsound: you say your survey will only be carried out on just one day. 2. Are you planning to survey the use of roads by cyclists? The area in the AONB impacted by the scheme is recognised by the DfT as one of three Gateways to the AONB for cyclists. ¹
How does HS2 Ltd assess the value of footpaths?	Rights of Way users will be invited to answer a few questions, including their origin/ destination, trip purpose and frequency of use. This will allow us to understand the value of the route to local people and the Community. We are also discussing rights of way with community forums to understand characteristics, usage and local issues.	1. All local residents should be given the opportunity to complete the questionnaire. As noted above, the methodology proposed is not sound.
What are the plans for access from Chesham to Great Missenden and the A413 when the route is being constructed (green tunnel)?	Temporary traffic arrangements during construction are still being developed. The importance of Chesham Road has been brought to our attention.	We note HS2 Ltd has understood the importance of the B485. However an answer to the question is still required. When will you be in a position to tell us more?
How will access be maintained when the B485 Chesham Road is cut? The same question applies to Frith Hill at the other end of the green tunnel.	Temporary traffic arrangements during construction are still being developed.	As above.
What guarantees will we have that South Heath will not be isolated? Access for school, work, doctors and emergency services must be maintained.	We will try to keep access open at all times, and in the case of a temporary closure, an alternative diversion route would be specified. Access for school, work, doctors and emergency services would of course be taken into account.	A guarantee has been given.
When will the revised compensation proposals be published?	The proposals will be announced at the start of the compensation consultation	A date is required.

¹ £1 million Boost to Cycling Tourism <http://www.chilternsaonb.org/news/90/19/1-million-boost-to-cycling-tourism.html>
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When will the compensation consultation be held?	The consultation is expected to be launched in September	A date is required not just a month
When will the construction Code of Practice be published?	The Code of Construction Practice will be consulted on with the Environmental Impact Assessment in spring 2013.	This is unacceptable and fails to answer when the CoP will be published. See note below*

* Quote from minutes of Solihull MBC HS2 Working party meeting, 3 September 2012. **“It is unlikely that a formal public consultation will be carried out by HS2 Ltd in relation to the Code of Construction Practice. However, Officers have been informed that a draft version of the Code will be presented for consideration at the upcoming round of Community Forum meetings in September.”**