

Chiltern Society

We care for the Chilterns

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

21 August 2019

High Speed 2

In light of the Review of the costs and business case, we wish to draw to your attention other aspects of HS2, which are having or will have a severe impact on the countryside. As the name implies, the Chiltern Society is a charity concerned with the conservation of the Chiltern Hills. We also work with other charities on the protection and enhancement of the Environment.

The Woodland Trust has recently issued a publication about the Threat to Ancient Woodland posed by HS2.
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/our-campaigns/hs2-rail-link/>

When Phase 1 was going through Parliament, we highlighted the impact in the Chilterns. Some actions were taken, but we will still have some 12ha of ancient woodland impacted. The map on the Woodland Trust's article shows the horrendous extent of the impact HS2 will have across the country.

We also wish to draw your attention to the other specific impacts on the Chilterns between Great Missenden and Wendover, where the line is in the open, in cuttings, on embankments and two viaducts. The latter will introduce light pollution into a particularly tranquil countryside.

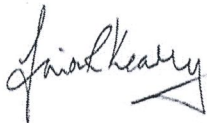
In this area, there will be:

- the loss of 38km of ancient hedgerows
- the loss of 176ha good quality farmland.
- The cutting of migration routes for wild animals for 5 km. Currently no provision has been made for Green Bridges to enable animal migration.
- The risk to the Misbourne Aquifer through tunnelling and the loss of the Misbourne, a rare chalk stream.
- The risk to Bacombe Hill SSSI, where our geologist has established that the hill is unstable, and may be affected by the Wendover cut and cover tunnel, being built at the bottom of the hill

With the current constraint on water, we understand that the tunnel boring machines will require over 1million litres of water per day. HS2 has not said where this is coming from, and possibly has not been included in the costs.

We would ask that the above are taken into account in the assessment of the COST of HS2.

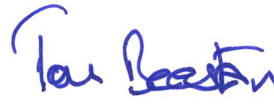
Yours sincerely



Simon Kearney
Chairman



John Gladwin
Trustee



Tom Beeston
Chief Officer

Cc Rt Hon Cheryl Gillan MP
Rt Hon David Lidington MP

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