

28 February 2022

David Eve
Head of Engagement and Compliance for HS2 at Align JV
via email.

Dear David

As you may be aware, we have been communicating with the Environment Agency (EA) over the past eight months. Copies of this correspondence can be accessed at <https://chilternsociety.org.uk/hs2-tunnelling-risks-response-questions-and-concerns/>

One of the questions that we have been asking relates to tunnelling in unconsolidated chalk. Originally, we were informed that all tunnelling was to be within solid chalk. However, later information shows that at both Chalfont St Giles and Little Missenden where the tunnel passes under the River Misbourne the top two to three metres of the tunnels will be in unconsolidated chalk. The EA advised us that we should address our questions to HS2/Align.

We understand that where the tunnel is through unconsolidated chalk there is a significantly greater risk of substantial settlement caused by vibration from the TBM than tunnelling in solid rock. Our further concern is that settlement would fracture of the riverbed resulting in the loss of the river to the underlying aquifer.

Please advise what additional precautions HS2/Align will be taking to ensure that that substantial settlement does not take place to ensure that that this does not happen at either location.

Yours faithfully



Simon Kearey

Chairman

cc Tom Beeston

John Gladwin