

**SAY
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Your Guide to the HS2 Consultation

HS2 have sent out thousands of pages of complex, technical documents – we've read them so you don't have to!

Overleaf is a summary of that information, highlighting the negative impact on our health, environment and local communities in the LS25 and LS26 areas.

Act now! You must SAY NO – it's your last chance!

Use this information to voice your objections by submitting a response to the HS2 Consultation before the 21st Dec 2018 deadline.

You can respond by filling in the accompanying HS2 Consultation Response Form which **MUST** be returned by 21st Dec 2018. Alternatively you can respond to the consultation by any of the methods below:
Online: www.ipsos.uk/environment2b
Email: environment2b@ipsos-mori.com
Post: FREEPOST HS2 PHASE 2B ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION

Numbers count, so everyone in your household should submit their own individual response (including children old enough to express an opinion). Tell your family and friends everywhere in the UK to do the same!

More response forms are available at:
Vintage In Oulton, Woodlesford Post Office, Jail Yd Diner, Howgate & Farrar, Beechwood Nisa, Wood Fire Dine, Swillington Organic Farm, Go Local Extra (Swillington), Rivers MEET, HS2 and SOWHAT.

Completed forms can be posted free of charge or returned via Woodlesford Post Office no later than 19th Dec 2018.

For details of the HS2 Equality Impact Consultation go online at: sowhat.org.uk/sayno

**Support Your Community
SAY NO**

Damaging to Health

- **HS2 do not know what is in the land they plan to disturb**
Old landfill and mining sites (like the old Armitage landfill) contain asbestos and heavy metals (like lead and arsenic), which we will breathe in once the soil is dug up.
- **Air pollution will be worse**
Increased traffic and dust from construction will affect the quality of our air, but HS2 do not plan to monitor the air in our towns and villages.
- **HS2 is not doing enough to help people with noise and vibration**
Construction and noise from the line (once running) will be very loud. HS2 has set noise and vibration thresholds to help people, but these are not good enough. They can still cause damage, including hurting children's health and hearing. Construction will carry on at night, including digging the tunnel under Woodlesford.
- **HS2 is making people ill and doing little to help**
People are already experiencing high levels of anxiety and stress. This will only get worse as construction gets underway with congestion and disturbance increasing – people's lives and well-being are at high risk and HS2 is doing very little to prevent this.
- **Construction compounds and tunnels**
The location of construction compounds and site haul routes are unacceptably close to people's homes and will significantly increase health risks, including the 24x7 tunnelling compound in the heart of Woodlesford.

Major Traffic Disruption

- **Traffic will be at a standstill for up to 6 years during construction**
Main roads in and out of our towns and villages will be closed, including the M1, M621, M62 and Bullerthorpe Lane. Pontefract Road (B6481) past Arla Dairy will be closed for 9 months. Construction traffic will make this even worse and, combined with train station closures, we will be isolated.
- **HS2 construction sites have hundreds of workers and will be open 8am to 6pm**
This will make rush hour traffic even worse and increase traffic accidents, but HS2 say rush hours start at 8am and finish at 6pm, which we all know is not true. Contractors can work even longer and maintenance means the sites can run 7 days per week. Many sites will see activity from 7am to 7pm and some will operate 24 hours a day.
- **HS2 traffic monitoring does not take winter traffic into consideration**
HS2 has monitored traffic in our area, but have not considered how much worse traffic gets in winter. This means that their predictions will not be accurate and their plans will not be good enough.
- **Business and landlords impacted**
Local business will suffer due to closures, diversions and congestion. People will not want to live or be here.
- **HS2 should open or create alternative road routes**
Pontefract Lane could provide access to Junction 45, Leeds and the Park & Ride, easing traffic through the village and the bottleneck caused by the railway, canal and river bridges.

Losses to Homeowners

- **Homeowners are not fairly compensated for what they lose**
HS2 make it very hard to prove that their plans (e.g. a tunnel under your house) are making it harder to sell and slashing the value of your home. You also have to prove that you must sell your house, but documenting this to HS2's standards is very difficult. Eligibility criteria are also extreme, only covering things like bereavement and divorce.
- **Homeowners will not be fairly compensated in the short or long term**
Compensation for people up to 300 metres from the track (or less) is very low. There is no provision for those living further away who may be blighted, visually or by noise, leaving homeowners out of pocket when they try to sell. HS2 have no plans to compensate those affected, now or during the construction period.
- **Work could cause flooding and subsidence**
Construction will change the water table and shift the land underneath us, so our homes could flood and sink.

Negative Environmental Impact

- **Green space will be torn apart during construction**
More than two-thirds of Water Haigh Woodland Park will be used for construction. This takes away our green spaces for up to 10 years and they will take 30 years to regain their current beauty.
- **Wildlife reserves, legally protected species and ancient woodland will be permanently destroyed**
There is a significant and unacceptable loss of ancient woodland, parks and green belt in our area. This will harm otters, birds (including owls and red kites), water voles and even rare amphibians and mosquitoes.
- **Wildlife habitats will be destroyed.** HS2 have given no thought to the movement of wildlife species across the proposed route in our area meaning habitat connectivity will be lost.
- **HS2 will cause permanent damage to our landscape**
HS2 acknowledge that there is a huge amount of change in this area with major adverse effects, both short and long term – with many permanent changes to the landscape. They say the viaduct will 'integrate with existing skyline features' but this is not possible with a 36m (120ft) viaduct.

HS2 Should Find an Alternative

- **HS2 does not need to take this route**
Other options are much less damaging to people, the environment and would be cheaper.
- **Leeds Station will be a dead end**
Trains will not be able to carry on travelling north. A different station location should be chosen.

Further information

Visit our website: www.sowhat.org.uk

Join us on Facebook: facebook.com/groups/sowhathats2

Follow us on Twitter: [@hs2sowhat](https://twitter.com/hs2sowhat)

Call us: 07805 038 219