

Appendix A – Stakeholder and Community Engagement of the iterative design process

Introduction

- 1.1.1 Leather Lane has attracted major publicity from conservation groups, councillors, protestors, and residents for the last three years. Align took formal possession of South Heath, Great Missenden, on 8 July 2024 as instructed by HS2. Working collaboratively with the local action group, Leather Lane Conservation Group (LLCG), we set about meeting and reviewing the existing approved designs to ensure that local concerns regarding environmental mitigations, and potential loss of the iconic “Lone Oak”.
- 1.1.2 The Leather Lane Conservation Group has attracted 40,000 followers who each signed a petition to save “the Lone Oak” (which is located directly in the line of route) and receives financial assistance by donations, expert advice from an arboriculturist and ecologist, and is heavily supported by local elected council members and other conservation groups.
- 1.1.3 Engagement meetings have taken place with various stakeholders who have contributed to the overall design of Leather Lane green overbridge and many of the group’s requests have helped shape the design.
- 1.1.4 Throughout the development of design, Align and HS2 have actively engaged with the stakeholder group made up of the Leather Lane Action Group, Buckinghamshire Council, Chiltern National Landscape, and several other stakeholders including local and parish councillors. We have consistently communicated that the proposals will be iterative and had a focus on maximising tree retention which includes protecting the lone Oak (Ilona), whilst providing a safe highway design and creating a sunken (Holloway) character, which complements the rest of the historic lane and protected National Landscape.
- 7.1.3 A list of meetings and attendees is included in the Table below: in summary, discussions included the Leather Lane diversion and green tunnel design, tree retention including protecting the Lone Oak and tree works for those at risk during construction (i.e. pollarding, coppicing and crown retention), bats, highway design including speed reduction and passing bays, drainage, and retention of the existing Holloway features at the tie-ins.
- 7.1.4 Finally, a site visit was undertaken with representatives on 15 January 2025.

Table A1: Stakeholder and Community Engagement

Consultation Date	Consultee Name
16 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leather Lane Conservation Group • Buckinghamshire Council • Councillors • Parish Councillors • Chiltern Society • Chilterns AONB Group
13 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leather Lane Conservation Group • Buckinghamshire Council • Councillors • Parish Councillors • Chiltern Society • Chilterns AONB Group
24 September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leather Lane Conservation Group • Buckinghamshire Council • Councillors • Parish Councillors • Chiltern Society • Chilterns AONB Group
15 January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leather Lane Conservation Group • Buckinghamshire Council • Councillors • Parish Councillors • Chiltern Society • Chilterns AONB Group