

**Petitioner Evidence for 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**Dear Sirs,**

Please find attached the PowerPoint evidence, submitted by the following petitioners for the Select Committee hearing on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015, including the names of the witnesses:

**Petitions:**

- 423 Wycombe District Council
- 178 Bradenham Parish Council
- 177 West Wycombe Parish Council
- 824 Princes Risborough Town Council

**Roll B Agent:**

- James Stevens (who will present the evidence)

**Witnesses:**

- Katrina Wood: Leader of Wycombe District Council
- Teif Jones: Chairman of Bradenham Parish Council
- Sharon Henson: Clerk to West Wycombe Parish Council
- Alan Turner: Chairman and Mayor of Princes Risborough Town Council

Yours faithfully

James Stevens  
Roll B Agent

# HS2 construction traffic - A4010, A40 & A4129



Highways Evidence presented to the HS2 Select Committee by:

**WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL, PRINCES RISBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL,  
BRADENHAM PARISH COUNCIL AND WEST WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

(Buckinghamshire County Council has asked us to present their concerns on their behalf)



Bradenham Parish Council



# We are:

## Roll B Agent:

James Stevens C Eng, MICE, MCIHT

- ▶ Former Head of Transport



## Witnesses:

- ▶ Katrina Wood (Leader of WDC)



- ▶ Alan Turner (Chairman of PRTC)



- ▶ Teif Jones (Chairman of BPC)



- ▶ Sharon Henson (Clerk of WWPC)



**Our issues relate to:**



**Construction traffic using A4010, A40 and A4129**



**This is where we are:**



**Construction traffic routes**

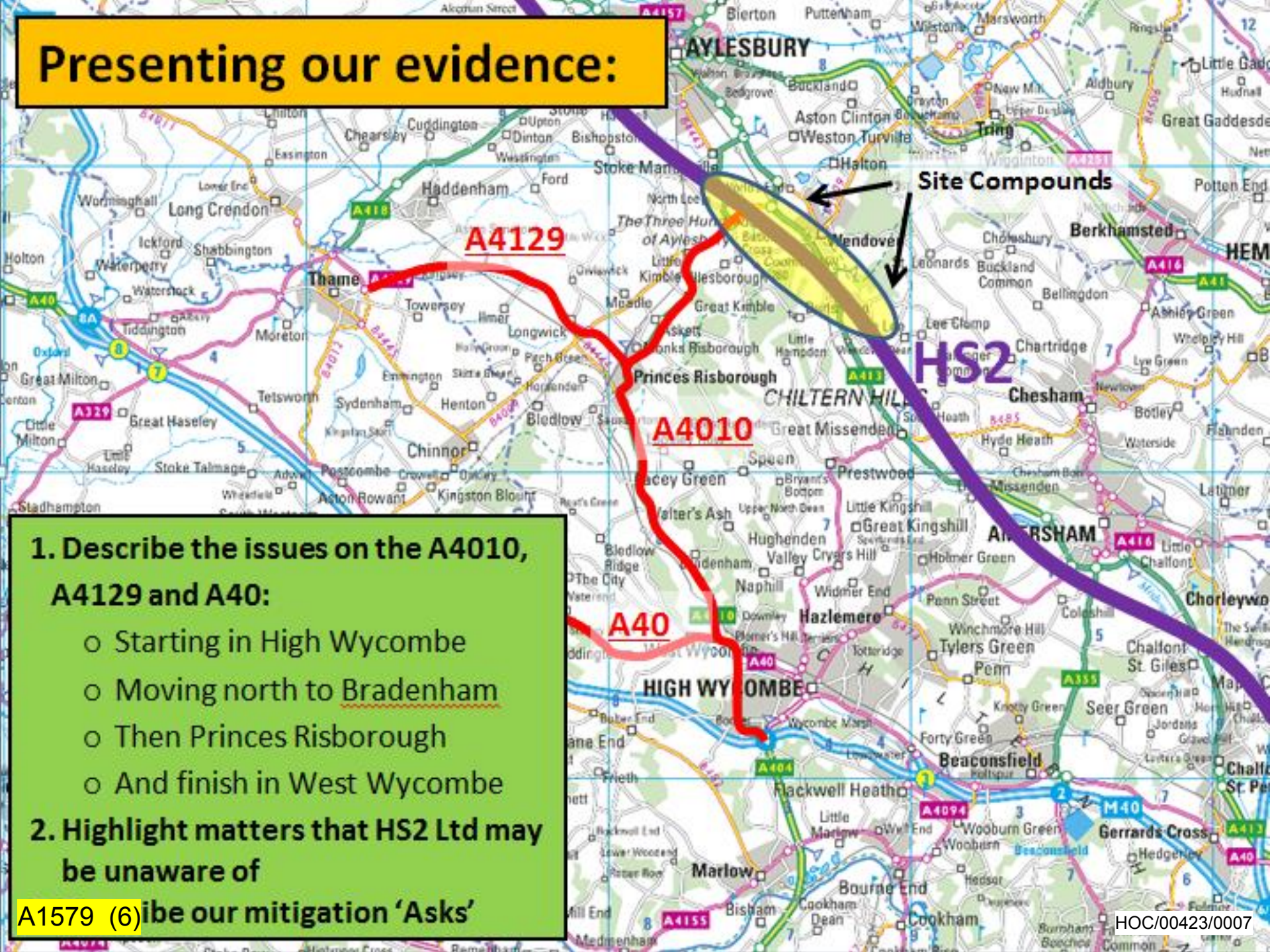
**Site Compounds**

**HS2**

**No HS2 compounds in our area – but we are affected by the construction traffic**



# Presenting our evidence:



## 1. Describe the issues on the A4010, A4129 and A40:

- Starting in High Wycombe
- Moving north to Bradenham
- Then Princes Risborough
- And finish in West Wycombe

## 2. Highlight matters that HS2 Ltd may be unaware of

A1579 (6) Describe our mitigation 'Asks'



# Our 'ASK' (the same as being requested by BCC):

1. Don't use A4010, A40, A4129 for HGV's > 3.5 tonnes (other than in exceptional circumstances)



2. But first, technically assess if alternative routes (A355 / A413 and A418) can take this traffic
  - ▶ If yes, then use these routes instead for HGV's >3.5t.



## If the alternative routes cannot take more traffic: Then our 'ASK' is:

- ▶ No HGV's >3.5t on A4010 and A4129 during peak hours.
- ▶ Fund and install permanent road safety measures on A4010 / A4129.
- ▶ We have identified a number of low cost measures that will help:
  - ▶ vehicle activated signs
  - ▶ pedestrian islands
  - ▶ footpath widening
  - ▶ coloured surfacing, road lines and signs
- ▶ BUT still don't use A40 West Wycombe Village at all for HGV's >3.5t

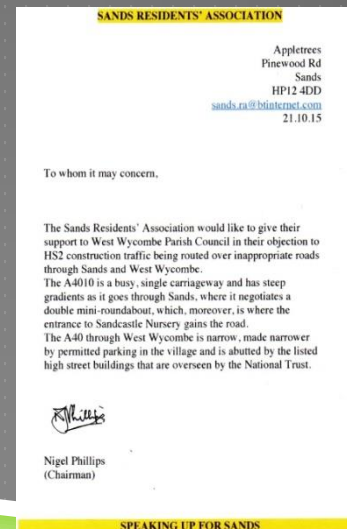
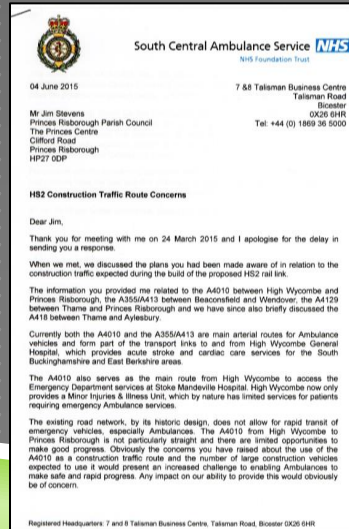
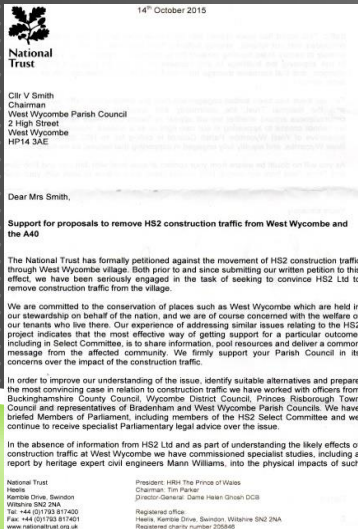
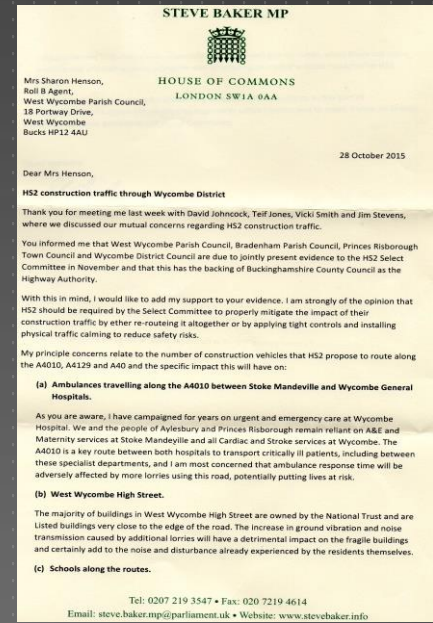




# Our Support Letters:

## Letters of support from:

1. John Bercow MP
2. Steve Baker MP
3. Buckinghamshire County Council
4. National Trust
5. South Central Ambulance Service
6. St Teresa's School Princes Risborough
7. Sands Residents Association



# How many lorries / vans / cars?

HS2 construction traffic using A4010:

- 146 HGV's/day
- 220 LGV's/day

**45%** increase in HGV's / day



## HGV'S COMPARED WITH CARS:

HGV's - up to 150,000 more damaging

A1579 (10) up to 3 times more road space



## Proposed and alternatives routes

**A355/A413**

**A4010 route - RED**

### A4129 route – ORANGE

**A40 route – PURPLE**

A355/A413 route – BLACK

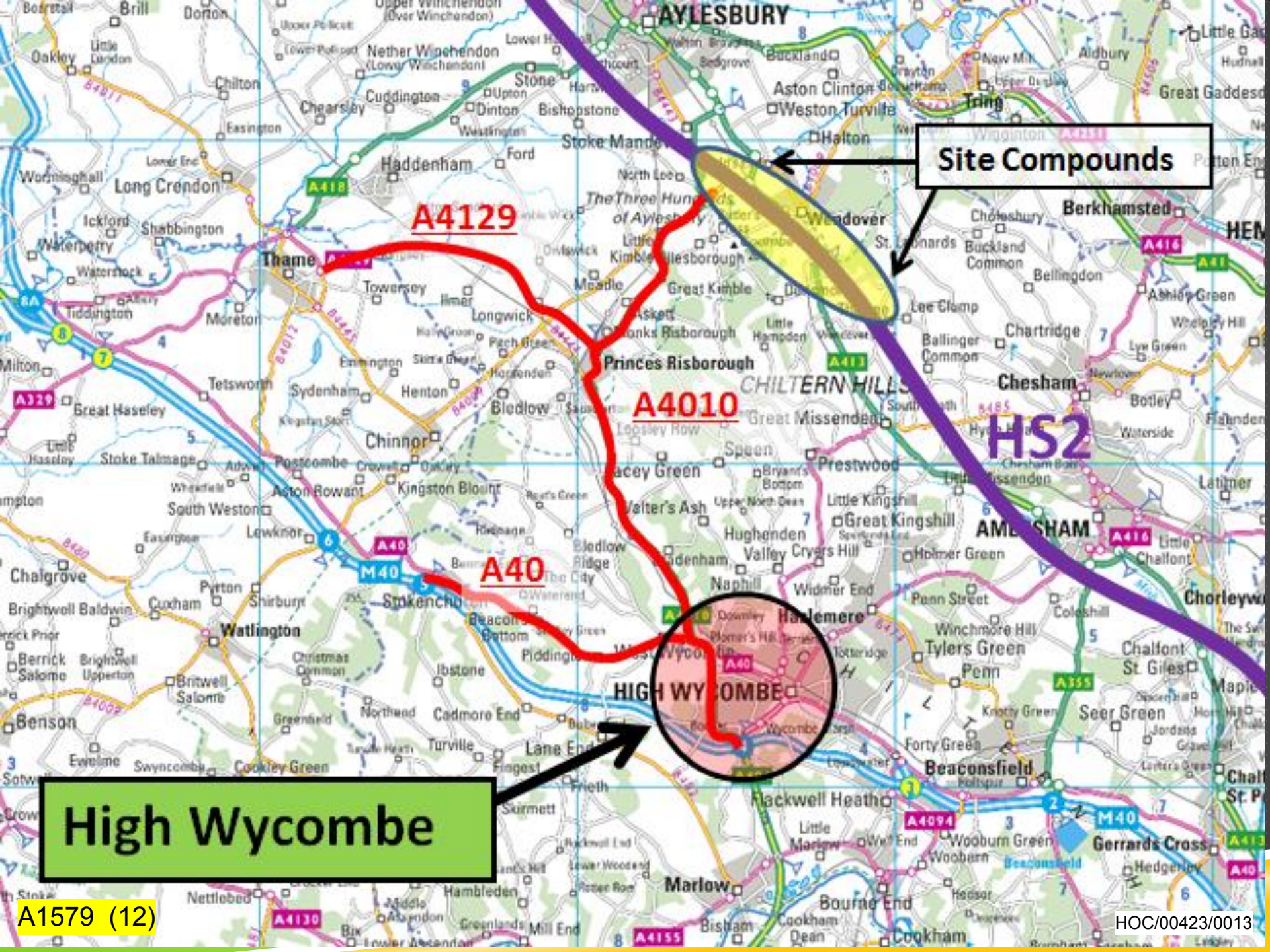
A418 route BLACK

HS2

A1579 (11)

HOC/00423/0012





Site Compounds

A4129

A4010

A40

HS2

High Wycombe

A1579 (12)

HOC/00423/0013



**Witness: Katrina Wood**  
**Leader: Wycombe District Council**



## **Wycombe District:**

### **The area:**

- 175,000 population, unspoilt villages and country lanes
- HS2 construction routes run through Wycombe District
- A4010 runs N – S through district and High Wycombe town to join the M40 at Junction 4 Handy Cross

### **What we are promoting:**

- Economic development and regeneration
- More homes and more jobs

### **Our main issues:**

- Already lots of construction traffic, roadworks and disruption
- Noise, disruption for residents along the routes

**A1579 (13)s to ambulances**

**Ariel View of High  
Wycombe Town**

HOC/00423/0014



# Development and Regeneration in High Wycombe:

## 2015 - 2021:

- 2300 more homes
- 100,000m<sup>2</sup> more commercial space
- Major public realm improvements
- A further 15,000 houses during next 20 years

## This means:

- At least 23% more traffic
- Roadworks and disruption
- More pressure on A4010
- HS2 traffic will cause even greater problems
- ..... and get stuck in the congestion

**Witness: Katrina Wood**  
**Leader: Wycombe District Council**



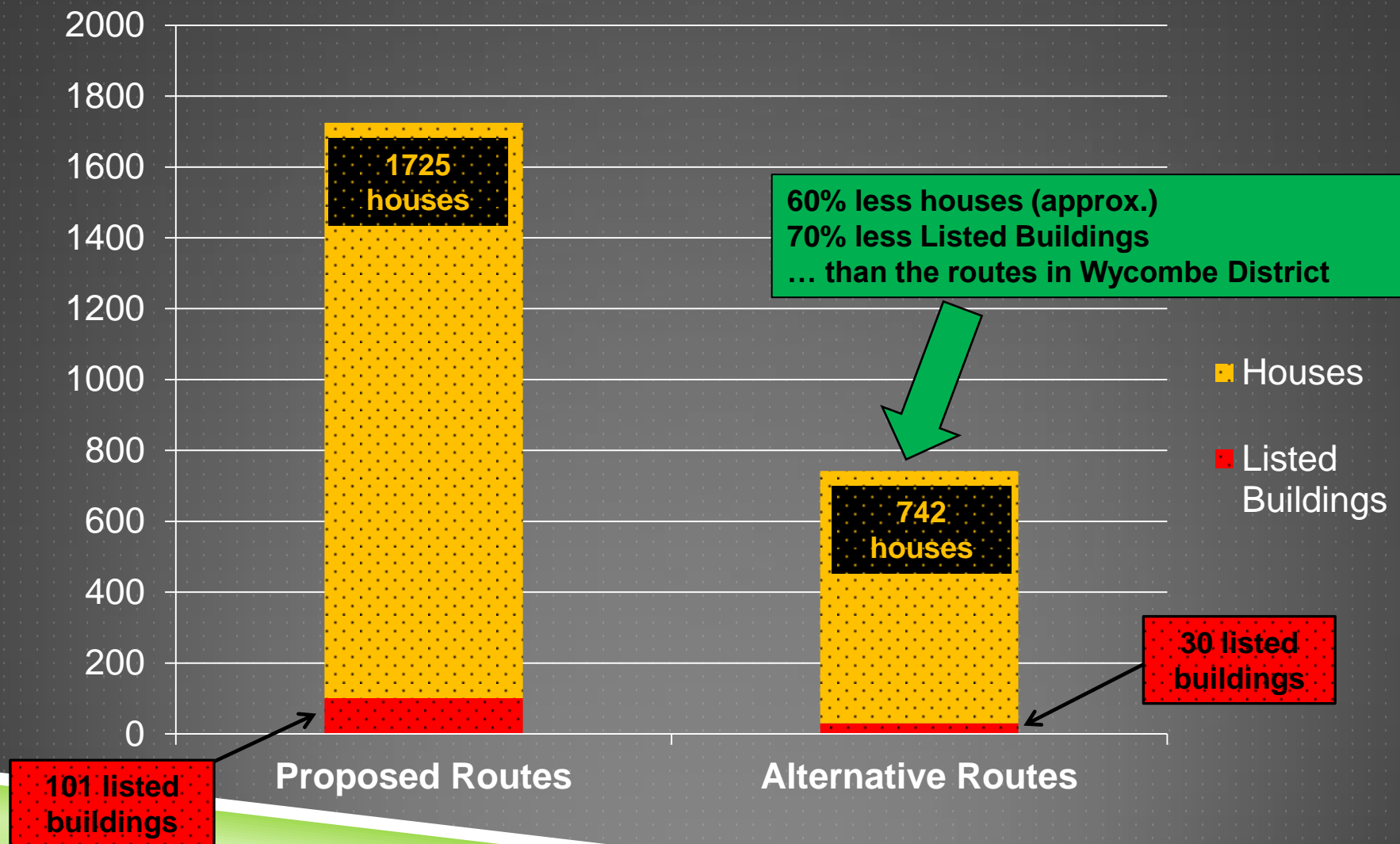
HOC/00423/0015



A1579 (14)



# How many houses front onto the routes?



# Impact on people:

## Noise, fumes, disturbance:

- Around 1725 properties affected
- ....and 101 listed buildings
- Approx. 60% fewer houses on alternative routes
- A40 thru' West Wycombe is totally unsuitable

## Mitigation:

- HS2 Ltd - please assess alternative routes
- Or apply controls
- ..... and physical mitigation measures
- Please don't use A40 West Wycombe

**Witness: Katrina Wood**

**Leader: Wycombe District Council**

**Traffic congestion  
A40 West Wycombe High Street**



A1579 (16)

HOC/00423/0017



# A4010 route wide issues:

Congestion and blue light traffic

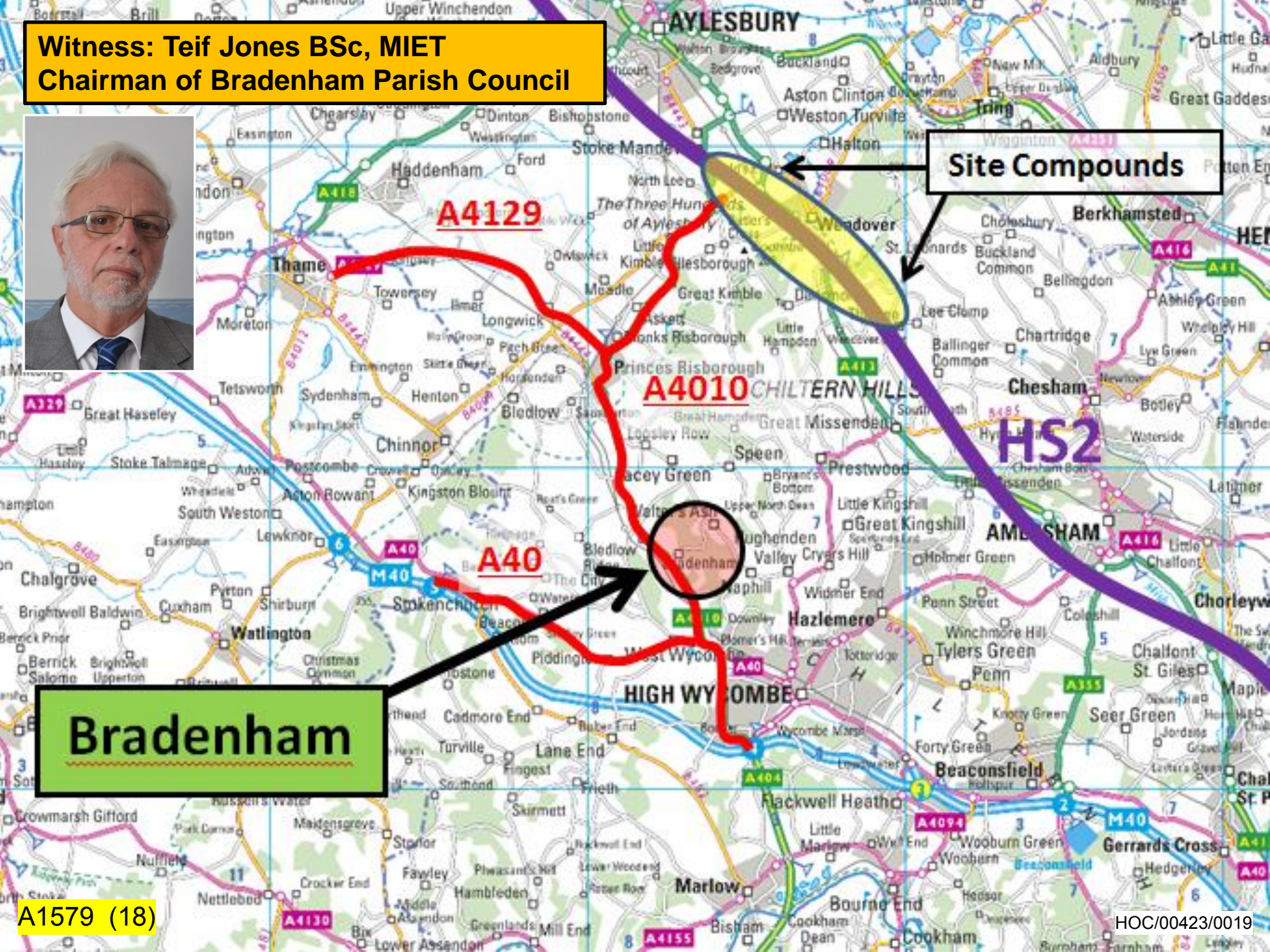


Traffic congestion  
A4010 Wycombe Road

HOC/00423/0018

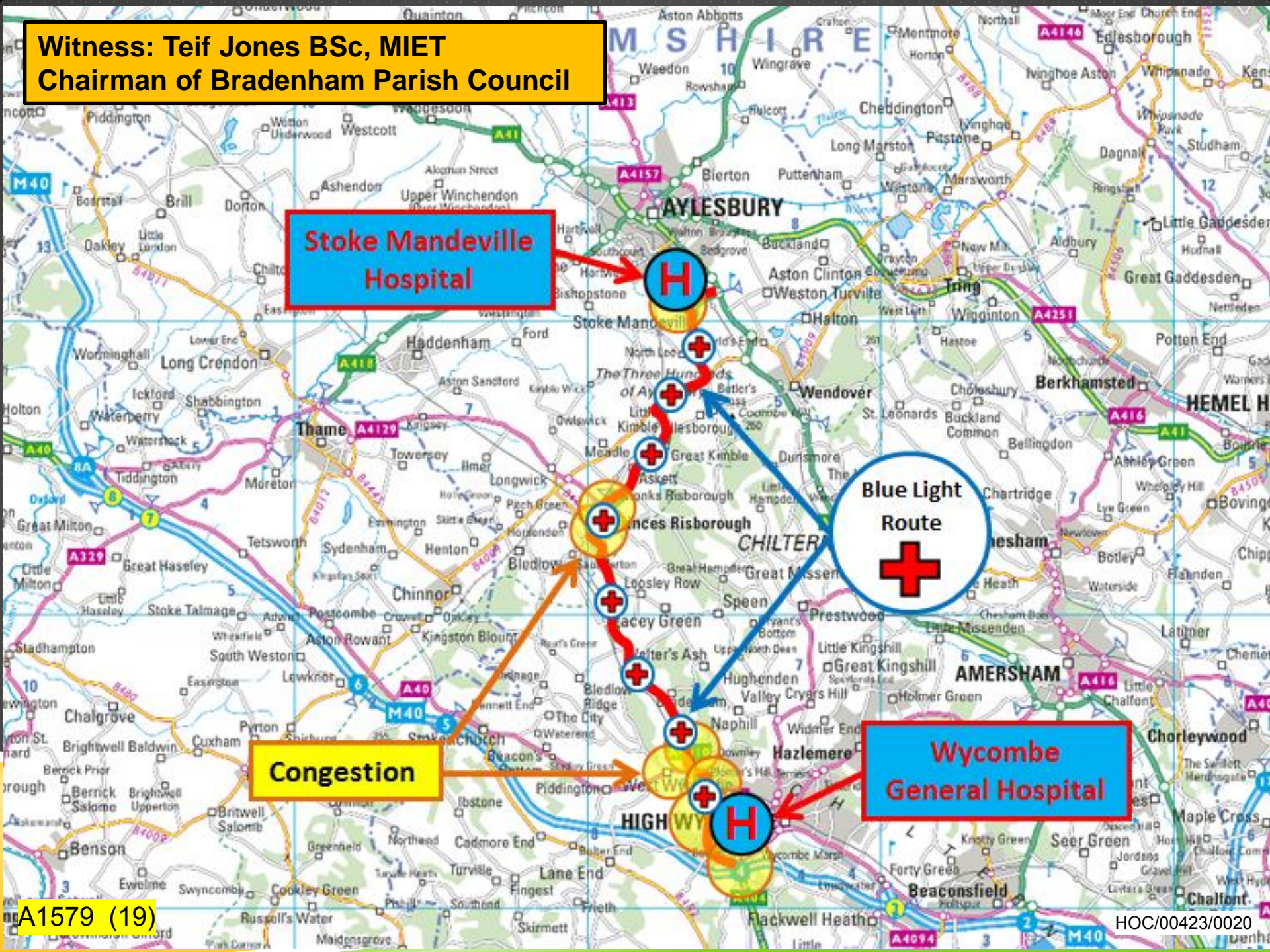


**Witness: Teif Jones BSc, MIET**  
**Chairman of Bradenham Parish Council**





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**A4010 narrows to 6.1 metres**

**7.3 metres is needed for two lorries to comfortably pass each other especially on the bends**

### **A4010:**

- Bendy, twisty
- Narrow – 6.1m (1.2m too narrow)
- Minimal improvements
- Minimal places to overtake
- Delays and congestion
- Steep gradient (H Wycombe) no room for HGV escape lane



***A4010 route***

**A1579 (21)**

### **Alternative Route - A355/A413**

- Generally straight
- Improved - 4 bypasses
- 50% dual carriageway or 3 lanes
- Overtaking opportunities
- Shorter and quicker (off peak)
- Steep gradient (Gore Hill) has an HGV escape lane



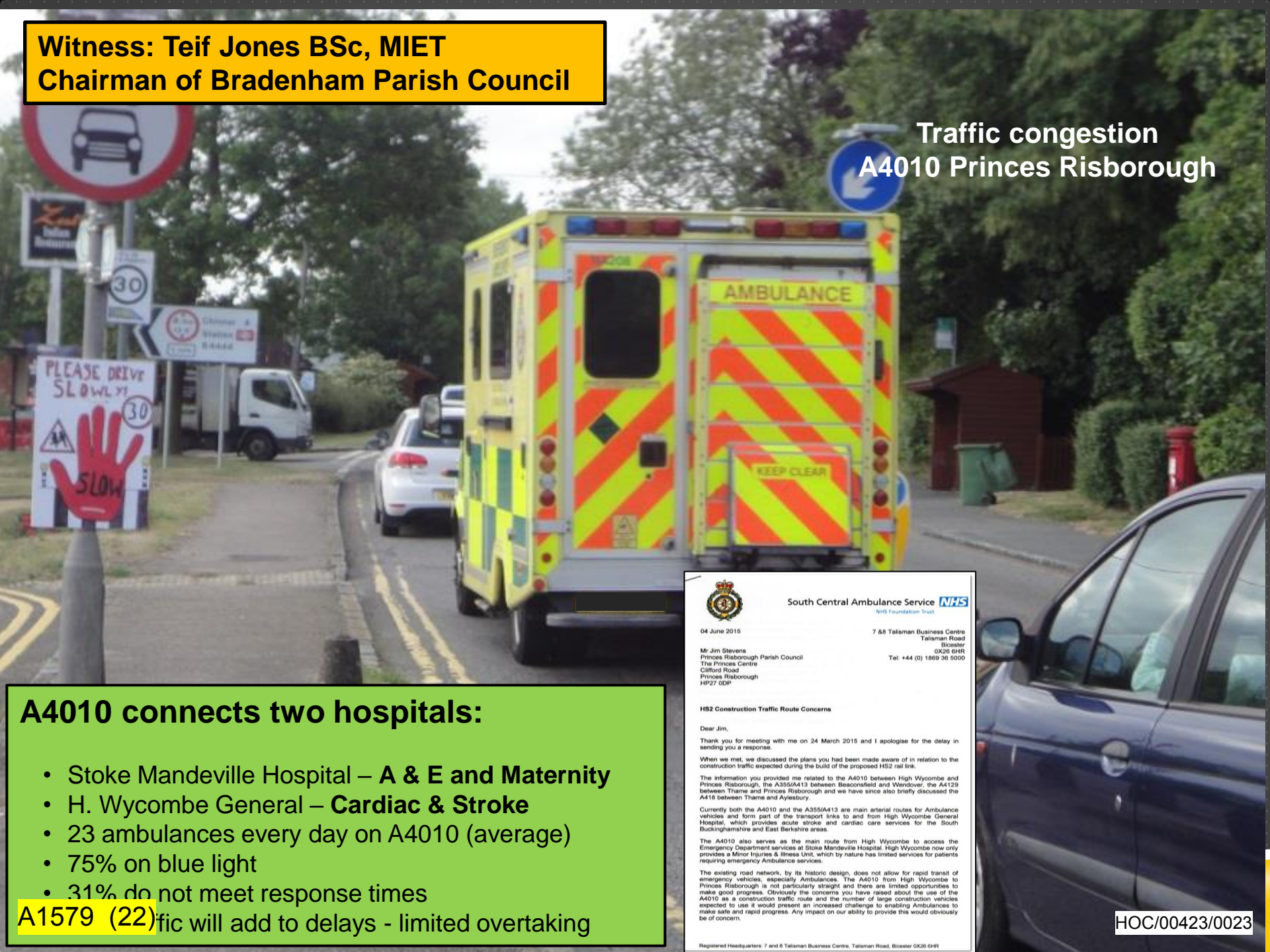
***A355 / A413 route***

HOC/00423/0022



**Witness: Teif Jones BSc, MIET**  
**Chairman of Bradenham Parish Council**

**Traffic congestion**  
**A4010 Princes Risborough**



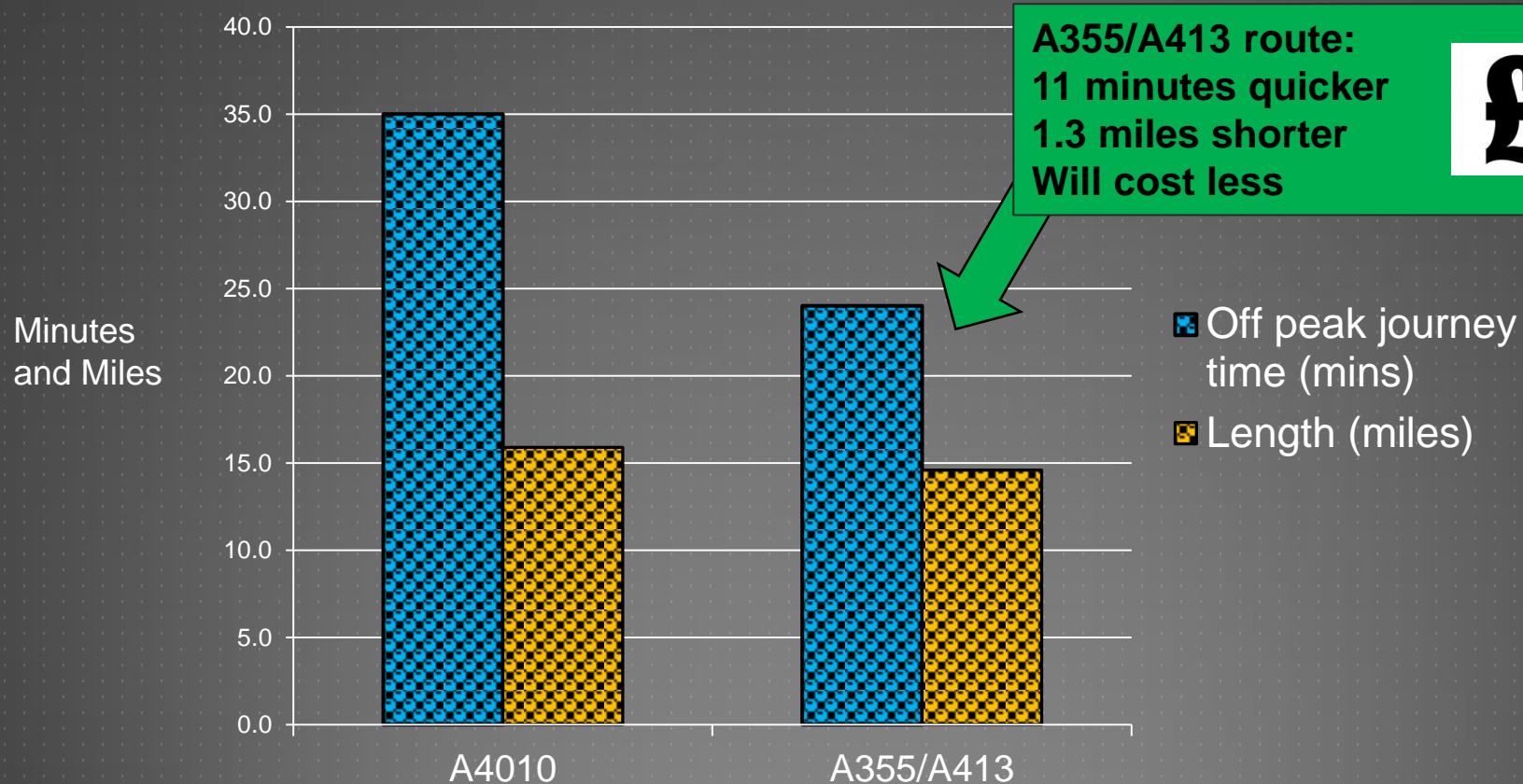
HOC/00423/0023

## A4010 connects two hospitals:

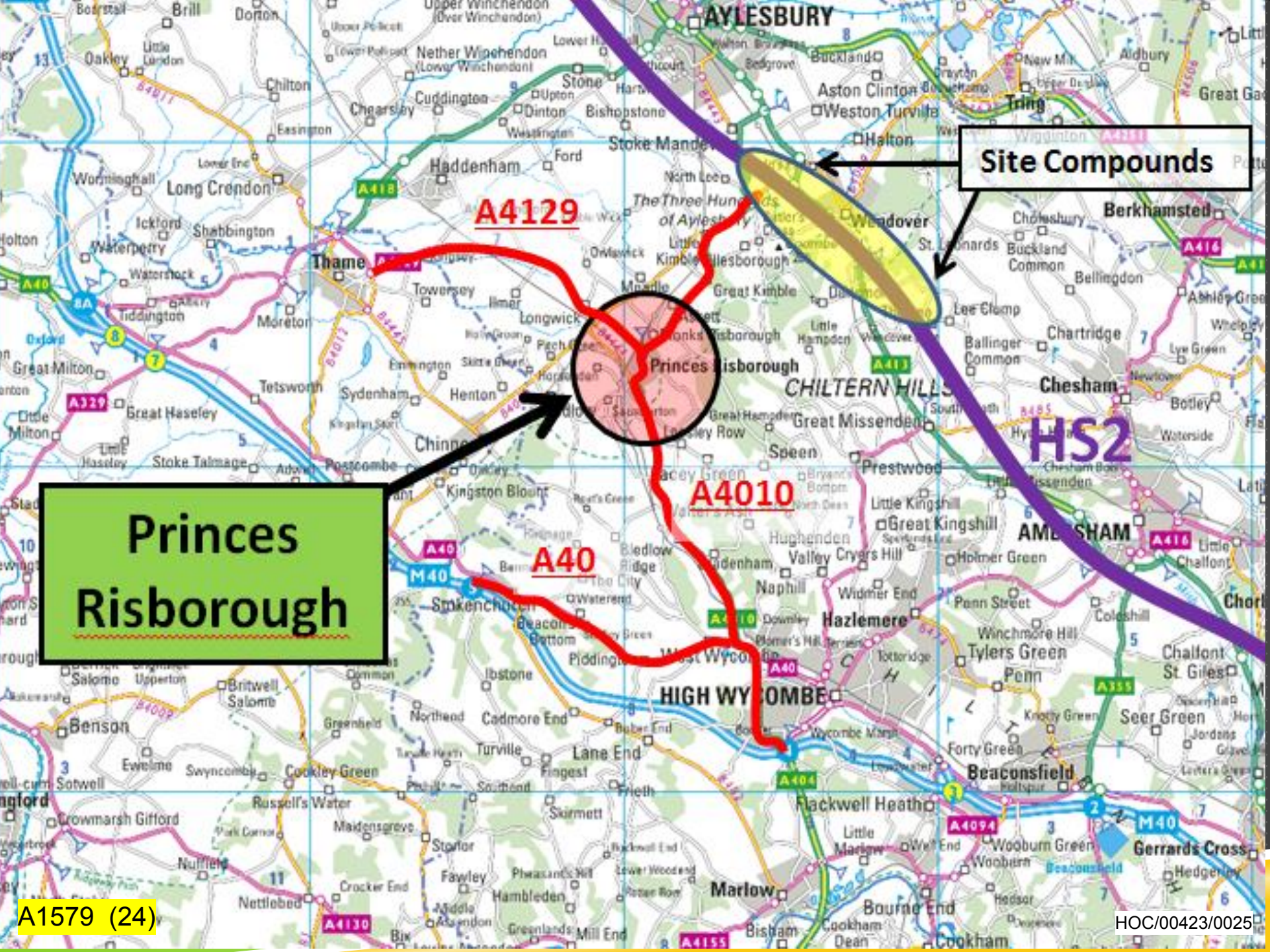
- Stoke Mandeville Hospital – **A & E** and **Maternity**
- H. Wycombe General – **Cardiac & Stroke**
- 23 ambulances every day on A4010 (average)
- 75% on blue light
- 31% do not meet response times

**A1579 (22)**fic will add to delays - limited overtaking

# Length and journey time (off peak) A4010 compared with A355/A413







**Princes  
Risborough**

**Site Compounds**



**Witness: Alan Turner, Chairman and Mayor  
of Princes Risborough Town Council**



**Traffic congestion during School half term  
A4010 Princes Risborough**



**PRINCES  
RISBOROUGH**

**A1579 (25)**

**HOC/00423/0026**



**Witness: Alan Turner, Chairman and Mayor  
of Princes Risborough Town Council**

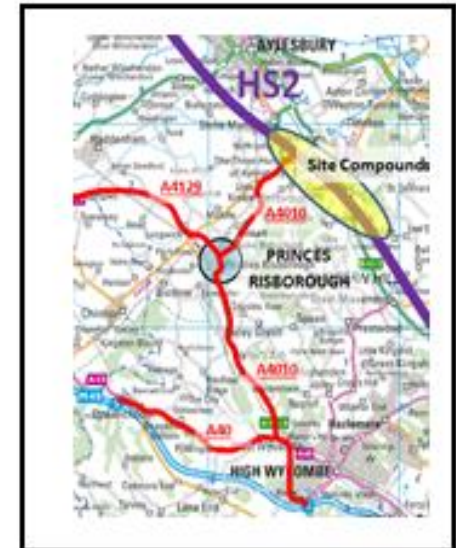
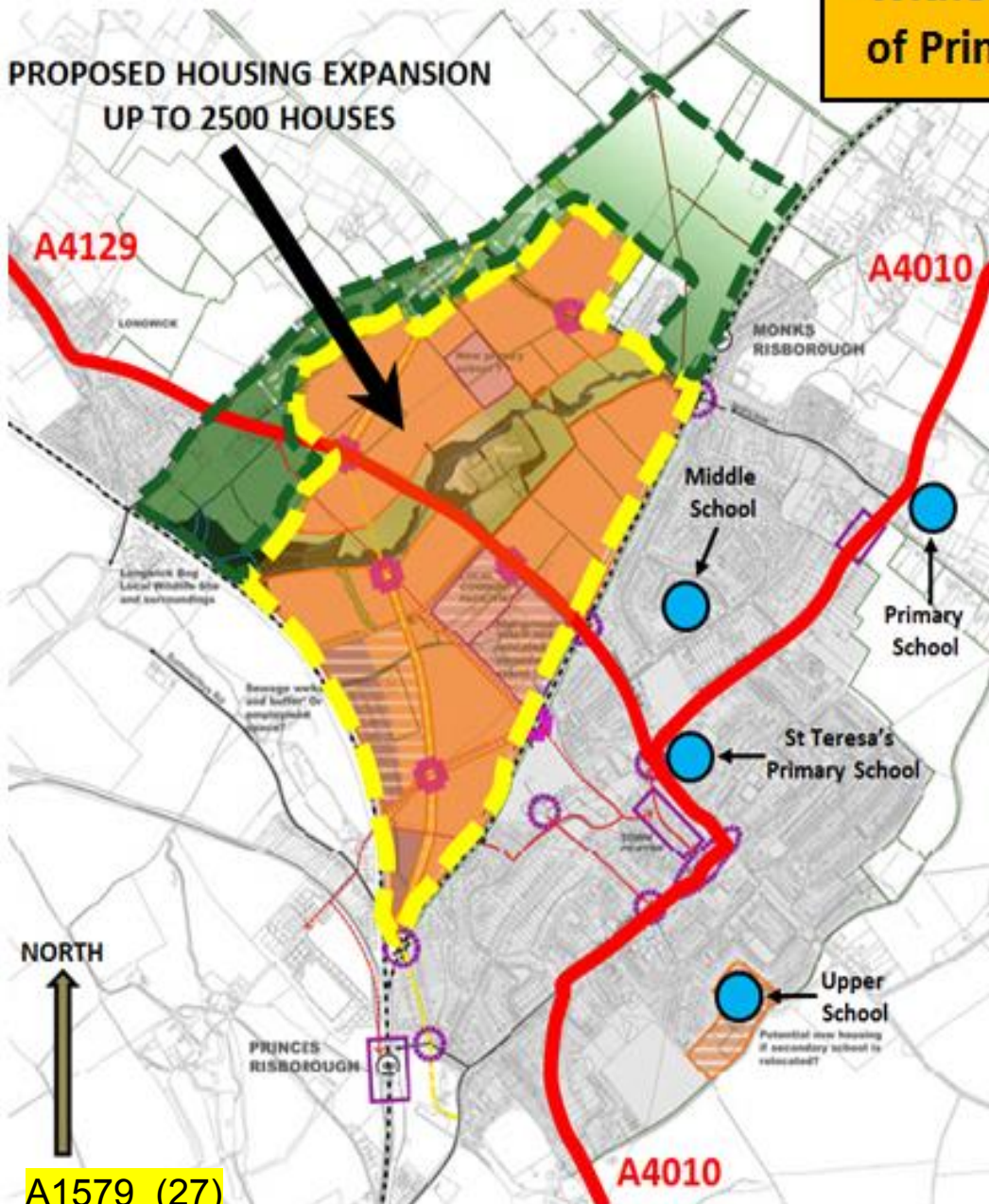
**Daily traffic congestion  
A4010 Princes Risborough**

### **A4010 Wycombe Road:**

- This is daily congestion on A4010
- Traffic queues extends for 1.3km (just under 1 mile)
- Happens daily from 3.30 till 6pm



## Witness: Alan Turner Chairman and Mayor of Princes Risborough Town Council



### Housing Expansion at Princes Risborough

- Up to 2500 houses
- Likely start in 2018
- Disruption to A4129 and A4010
- HS2 traffic starts 2018
- The 'Perfect Storm'



**Witness: Alan Turner, Chairman and Mayor  
of Princes Risborough Town Council**

*Road safety sign outside St  
Teresa's School A4010*

### **Difficulties for pedestrians:**

- Crossing the road is difficult
- Two schools front the A4010
- School playing field is on opposite side of road
- Accidents have occurred
- Footways are narrow
- Ridgeway National Trail footway very narrow

**HS2 Ltd have stated severance will get worse :**

***“significant increase in severance to non-motorised users  
on:***

- A4010 (A4129 Longwick Road to site compounds).
- A4129 (A4010 to Thame)

**A1579 (28)**



HOC/00423/0029



**Witness: Alan Turner, Chairman and Mayor  
of Princes Risborough Town Council**

**Low bridge on A4129 Longwick Road**



**A1579 (29)**

## **A4129 Longwick Road:**

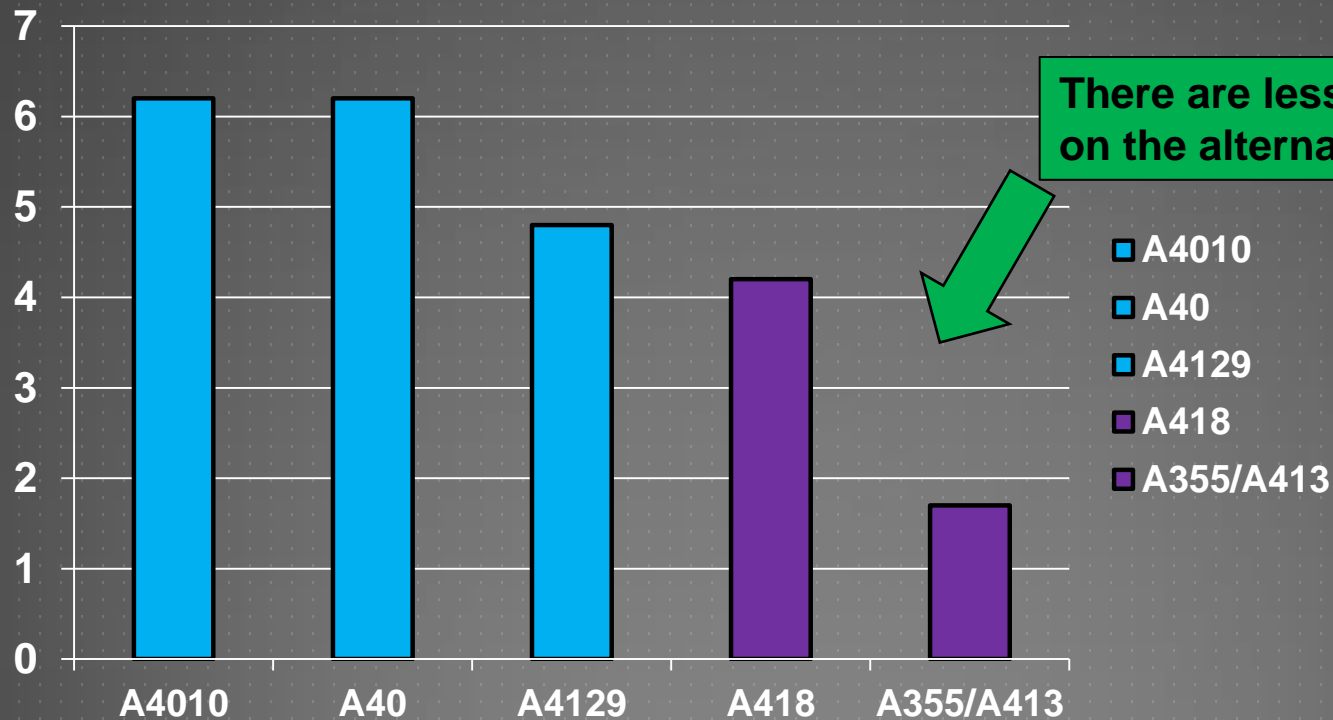
- Three low bridges in this area
- This bridge was hit by lorry 6 months ago
  - Road was closed all day
- Severance issues for pedestrians
- Longwick village affected

HOC/00423/0030



# How safe are the routes?

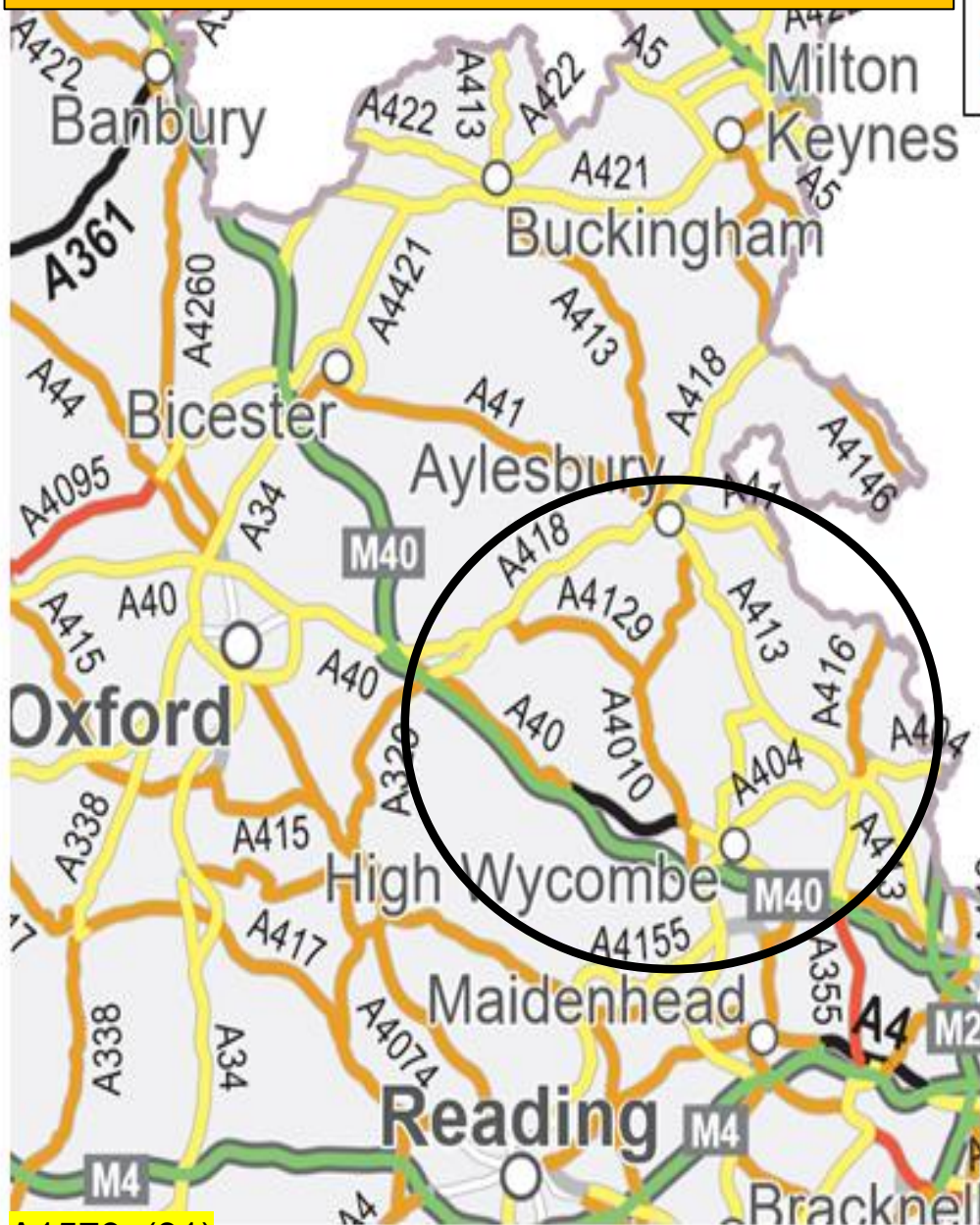
Crash rate 2010 - 2014  
Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI)







# How safe are the routes?

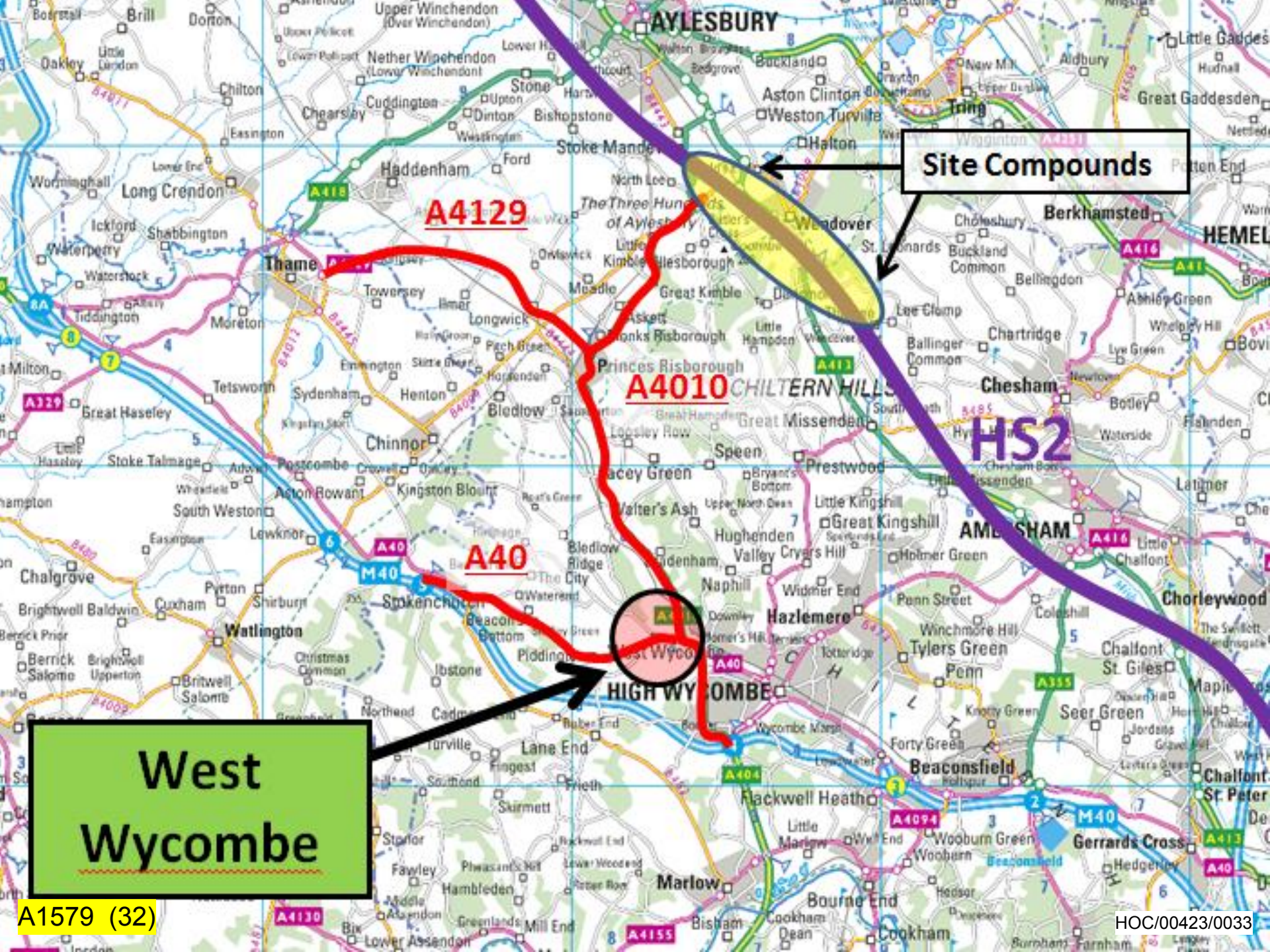
## Risk Rating of Britain's Motorways and A Roads South East Region



### Road Assessment Programme Risk Rating

-  Low risk (safest) roads
-  Low-medium risk roads
-  Medium risk roads
-  Medium-high risk roads
-  High risk roads





Site Compounds

West  
Wycombe

A1579 (32)

HOC/00423/0033



# National Trust Properties West Wycombe Village

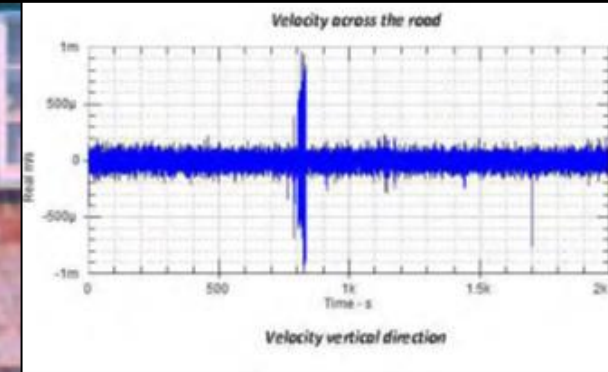




## A40 West Wycombe Village

### Historic fragile village:

- Noise, Vibration
- Vibration measurements
- Un-mitigable impacts
- Due to listed building constraints



Listed Building wall collapse  
A40 West Wycombe High Street

A1579 (34)

HOC/00423/0035



**Witness: Sharon Henson**  
**Clerk to West Wycombe Parish Council**



**Skew Bridge**

### **Main issues:**

- Skew Bridge on A4010
- Noise / road safety for residents and visitors
- Delays to blue light traffic

### **West Wycombe Village:**

- Unique / historic village dominated by the A40 and A4010
- Major traffic disturbance / severance exists now
- HS2 traffic will make this worse



**Witness: Sharon Henson**  
**Clerk to West Wycombe Parish Council**

## **A40 West Wycombe High Street**

### **No relief from traffic:**

- Gets worse when M40 closed
- Daily congestion and blockages

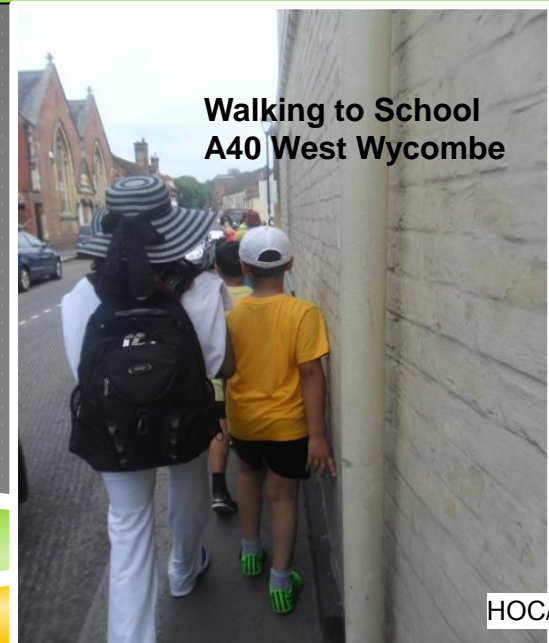
### **Lorries – intimidating:**

- Houses – VERY close to road
- Footways – VERY narrow
- Lorry - wind turbulence
- Lots of school children walking
- Lorries often block the road when trying to pass each other



**Lorry intimidation**

**A1579 (36) West Wycombe High Street**



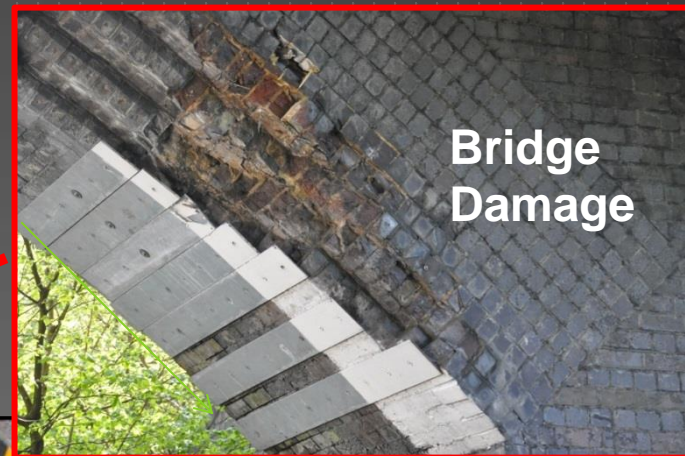
**Walking to School**  
**A40 West Wycombe**

HOC/00423/0037



## **Skew Bridge at West Wycombe:**

- Victorian Bridge - carries Chiltern Mainline
- Low headroom with arches
- Narrow road and 'S' bend
- Lorries have to use middle of road
- Head on collision risk
- Footways narrow – and difficult to cross road



**Lorries have to use middle of the road**

**A1579 (37)**



HOC/00423/0038



**Witness: Sharon Henson:  
Clerk to West Wycombe Parish Council**



**WEST WYCOMBE**

IN 1929 THE GREATER PART OF THIS VILLAGE  
WAS PURCHASED BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS  
AND LARGELY RE-CONDITIONED OUT OF MONIES  
RAISED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION.

IN 1933 IT WAS ACQUIRED BY THE  
NATIONAL TRUST WHO COMPLETED THE WORK  
TO PRESERVE THE PROPERTY  
TO THE BENEFIT OF THE NATION.

**2005 Wycombe District Council  
Conservation Area Character Survey:**

*"one of the most important conservation areas and historic  
landscapes in the county, and indeed in England; a perfectly  
preserved microcosm of a traditional English rural idyll."*



# Summary:

- ▶ The A4010, A4129 and A40 are unsuitable because:
  - ▶ Will be affected by major development / traffic disruption
  - ▶ Already congested
  - ▶ More residents front these routes (than the alternatives)
  - ▶ More listed buildings
  - ▶ Narrow, twisty and difficult to cross
  - ▶ Less safe than other routes
  - ▶ Used by 'Blue Light' ambulances between 2 large hospitals (A4010)
  - ▶ Un-mitigable problems in West Wycombe High Street (A40)
- ▶ We believe our 'Asks' are pragmatic, realistic and reasonable.



# Our 'ASK' (the same as being requested by BCC):

1. Don't use A4010, A40, A4129 for HGV's > 3.5 tonnes (other than in exceptional circumstances)



2. But first, technically assess if alternative routes (A355 / A413 and A418) can take this traffic
  - ▶ If yes, then use these routes instead for HGV's >3.5t.





## If the alternative routes cannot take more traffic: Then our 'ASK' is:

- ▶ No HGV's >3.5t on A4010 and A4129 during peak hours.
- ▶ Fund and install permanent road safety measures on A4010 / A4129.
- ▶ We have identified a number of low cost measures that will help:
  - ▶ vehicle activated signs
  - ▶ pedestrian islands
  - ▶ footpath widening
  - ▶ coloured surfacing, road lines and signs
- ▶ BUT still don't use A40 West Wycombe Village at all for HGV's >3.5t



Select Committee Interim Report March 15:

***“...the project should endeavour to leave a legacy of reduced risks and improved road safety in areas that receive no other benefit from HS2.”***



Thank you for listening.....