5. Soil aftercare: Progress

• Further to petitioning an assurance, number 16, has been given on agricultural soils and how soils will be dealt with during construction and reinstated back into agricultural use.

• This now includes a schedule of aftercare maintenance which includes soil testing appropriate to the target specification for a period of 5 years and a further 5 years if there is proven need for further works to restore to the pre-agreed standard.
5. Soil Aftercare: Outstanding issue

• There will be a cost to a farmer to carry out the aftercare maintenance whether this is for 5 years or 10 years.

• All reasonable costs to carry out the aftercare maintenance which is essential should be met by the undertaker but that is not made clear within the assurance as currently drafted.

• Such costs may be recovered as part of any compensation payment but compensation may be agreed prior to expiry of any soil aftercare works and/or before the need for a further extension is known.
5. Soil Aftercare: Solution

• HS2 should include the following wording in the assurance:

   All reasonable costs incurred by the farmer in or related to meeting the target specification for the purpose of aftercare maintenance will be met by the Nominated Undertaker.