

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on **08081 434 434**

# HS2 Update

Planting | October 2020

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. In response to the covid-19 virus we have worked hard to ensure that our working practices are fully aligned with the Site Operating Procedures produced by the Construction Leadership Council. We will be keeping our local website [www.hs2inbucksandox.co.uk](http://www.hs2inbucksandox.co.uk) up to date with information on our works, and the measures we have in place to maintain the safety of the community and our workforce.



## What are we doing?

As part of our continuing works ahead of the construction of the railway, we will be planting a large quantity of small and large trees. These sites will form part of the green corridor that provides connectivity for wildlife alongside the future railway.

We will be planting small trees at 0.4 -0.6 meters in height and larger trees up to 2.5 meters in height to establish a new bat flight path for the Bechstein bat. We will be planting a mixture of trees planted in the area shown on the map on page 2. They will include Field Maple, Silver Birch and English oaks. The trees planted will reflect the current species that exist.

The newly planted trees will be protected with temporary deer proof fencing to ensure they are not damaged or destroyed by wildlife.

There will be maintenance and management visits throughout 2021 to ensure the trees are growing and maintained.

All trees will be dug and positioned by hand and undertaken by our arboricultural teams.

There will be a maximum of two teams on site and supervision staff visiting the site, ensuring work is progressing safely.

## Public rights of way

No public rights of way will be affected by this works.

## Duration of works

Works will take place from November 2020 until March 2021

Normal working hours:

8am to 6pm Monday to Friday

8am to 1pm Saturday

The site will be open an hour either side of these times for the workforce to start up and shut down.

## What to expect

You may notice some extra traffic on the roads, immediately around our sites or when workers are moving to and from sites with occasional deliveries.

## What we will do

Manage any impacts, such as traffic and noise.



## HS2 Update

We have designed numerous planting sites to help offset the loss of vegetation caused during construction and to provide screening of the new railway. We have committed to achieving no net loss in biodiversity through new woodland creation and tree planting.

We will be undertaking planting in the local area. New tree planting is important for increasing the connectivity of existing woodland and hedgerow features. This plays an integral part in the flight paths of bats, helping them to navigate whilst foraging routes and flight lines. By doing the planting in this way, we can encourage the bats to be directed away from what will become the HS2 route.

The aim of tree planting within this area is to:

- Increase the connectivity of the existing woodland and hedgerow features
- Enhance existing routes and bat flights

The planted trees will range in height and it is anticipated that they will increase in height towards the green bridges. This will help integrate them into the landscape.



### Bernwood Forest

Bernwood forest is a large area of woodland located between Quainton and Steeple Claydon.

The area is inclusive of ancient woodlands including five Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The woodlands support a diverse mix of ecological features some of which are responsible for their special designation, including; native plant species, butterflies, wet woodland rides, ancient woodland, protected bird species, ancient semi natural woodland and bats.

The following species have been identified within each of the mentioned woodlands and are responsible for its special designation.

Sheephouse wood, purple emperor butterfly, woodpecker, woodcock and nightingale.

Grendon and Doddershall wood, black hairstreak butterfly.

Home-cum-Hamgreen wood and Finemere wood, breeding bird species including woodpecker wood, woodcock and nightingale.

Decoy pond wood, Grendon and Doddershall Meadows are designated areas which include; grassland, scrub and pond habitats.

Three of the SSSIs listed above, provide habitat for the nationally important Bechstein's bats (*Myotis bechsteinii*) species, which are very rare in the UK. Other woodland bat species include Brandt's, Natterer's, brown long-eared, Daubenton's and whiskered."





## Red areas indicate where we will be carrying out the planting



# Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes ensuring you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help.

## Residents' Charter and Commissioner

The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter)

We also have an independent Residents' Commissioner whose job is to make sure we keep to the promises we make in the Charter and to keep it under constant review. Find reports at:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner)

You can contact the Commissioner at: [residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk](mailto:residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk)

## Construction Commissioner

The Construction Commissioner's role is to mediate and monitor the way in which HS2 Ltd manages and responds to construction complaints. You can contact the Construction Commissioner by emailing: [complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk](mailto:complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk)

## Property and compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the line of route by visiting:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property)

Find out if you're eligible for compensation at:

[www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2](http://www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2)

## Holding us to account

If you are unhappy for any reason you can make a complaint by contacting our HS2 Helpdesk team. For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website:

[www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain](http://www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain)

## Contact Us

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

 Minicom **08081 456 472**

 Email **HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk**

Write to:

**FREEPOST**

**HS2 Community Engagement**

Website [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)

To keep up to date with what is happening in your local area, visit: [www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk](http://www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk)

**Please contact us if you'd like a free copy of this document in large print, Braille, audio or easy read. You can also contact us for help and information in a different language.**

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