

Environmental Policy

Purpose

This policy provides a framework for environmental protection and management for HS2 and its operations. It acts to elaborate on the Sustainability Policy theme "respecting our surroundings: environmental protection and management" and our strategic goal of "HS2 will create an environmentally sustainable solution and deliver respectfully to people and places". This framework is underpinned by a comprehensive set of detailed policies contained in Information Papers¹.

HS2 Ltd. is committed to developing an exemplar project through seeking environmental enhancements and benefits whilst limiting negative impacts through design, construction and operation of the railway.

HS2 Ltd. commits to protecting the environment through the avoidance and prevention of pollution and meeting all compliance obligations. We seek to continually improve environmental performance.

Objectives

In order to guide and manage our potential environmental impacts, we will seek to achieve the following objectives:

Green Corridor

Create a resilient green corridor for both nature and people, that will conserve and enhance habitats, seek to achieve biodiversity gains through partnership working while designing mitigation to integrate into the character of the landscape

Climate Change

Minimise the carbon footprint of HS2 towards a goal of net-zero carbon emissions, build a network that is climate resilient for the long term, and deliver zero carbon journeys from day one of operation

Community Experience

Where reasonably practicable, minimise adverse impacts of HS2 construction and operation on people and the environment including effects from air pollution, flooding and noise & vibration

Historic Environment

Reduce harm to the historic environment and deliver a programme of heritage mitigation including knowledge creation through investigation, reporting, engagement and archiving

Responsible consumption and production

Promote circular economy principles, responsibly source and make efficient use of sustainable resources, reduce waste and maximise the proportion of material diverted from landfill

¹Phase One Environmental Information Papers: https://www.qov.uk/government/publications/hsz-information-papers-environment

[:] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hsz-phase-zb-information-papers-environment-e-series

Executive Owner

The Chief Railway Officer is the Executive Owner of this policy and is responsible for maintaining the accuracy and relevance of its contents and for periodic review and update to reflect changing circumstances.

Approved on: 14/02/2024

Sir Jon Thompson

Executive Chair /

Chief Executive Officer

HS2 Ltd