

Notice of works – Frith Hill

August 2021 | www.hs2.org.uk

Notification



High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. We are continually reviewing the works on our construction sites in line with Government and Public Health England (PHE) advice on dealing with COVID-19. Further to the Covid-19 restrictions being relaxed we are now beginning to plan for future face-to-face engagement events and meetings. Whilst we continue to move forward we will still continue to communicate with communities via letters, online meetings and phone calls. You can sign up for regular updates in your local area at www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area

What are we doing?

Works are continuing at the North Portal in preparation to receive the ALIGN JV's tunnel boring machine in 2024. EKFB earthworks have continued to progress in the area and are moving from Rocky Lane towards the location of the Chiltern North Portal. EKFB continue to excavate the cutting for the internal haul road as communicated within the August 2021 update on the earthworks at the North Portal. Ahead of EKFB earthworks activities at the North Portal Fusion will be carrying out seasonal mitigation work for great crested newts.

Ecology translocation

As great crested newts and reptiles are active during the summer season, we will be moving populations to the established habitat sites that have been prepared for them and is suitable to support the population of newts and reptiles. The translocation works will take place this over the next few weeks.

If you have a question about HS2 or our works, please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Duration of works

Late August 2021 to
Autumn 2021

Monday to Friday, 8am
to 6pm

What to expect

Some additional traffic
on local roads.

Some noise from our
equipment and lighting
around our worksite

Presence of operatives
for the works

What we will do

Manage any impacts,
such as traffic and
noise with the aim of
reducing or removing
them

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Ecology translocation (cont.)

We will move the newts and reptiles from an area scheduled for future works to an established habitat site. Ecologists use pit fall traps and mats which are set along the line of the fencing (please see the below images). Collected newts are then taken to an ecology approved mitigation site that has been prepared for them and is suitable to support the population.

Newt fencing consists mainly of a plastic membrane which is buried into the ground and supported by stakes. This is to prevent newts entering the work area, and to allow our ecologists to collect and translocate the newts.

When the newts move from the breeding pond, they move towards the line of the fence until they either fall into the trap or hide under a mat. All traps are checked daily by experienced ecologists who are accredited under the HS2 Great Crested Newt Licence.

If it is found that the area is clear of ecology, then subsequent works will be allowed to take place.

A small workforce will use machinery and hand-held equipment to cut sections of grass and hedgerows. Hedges will only be removed if required for the access route around the site.



Access to work areas

Access to the work areas will utilise existing internal routes across HS2 possessed land via the North Portal compound direct from the A413 Link Road Roundabout.

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Maintenance of sites

Areas that have been cleared will then be maintained in a condition that makes it unsuitable for newts and reptiles to return. The area will be checked by an ecologist and any suitable hibernation or vegetation that may provide habitat for newts and reptiles will be hand searched and then strimmed / removed down to 15 centimetres. A second cut will be undertaken following a recheck of the area by the ecologist. The second cut should take the vegetation down to 5 centimetres above ground level, the vegetation will then be maintained at this height to discourage newts and reptiles from entering the area.

As part of the ongoing maintenance and ahead of the main construction works, we will need to remove some further vegetation in this area and around the former Weights and Measure pub site. We are still reviewing the requirements in this area and will write to you once this has been confirmed.

How will you ensure that you do not affect nesting birds and other protected and non-protected ecology?

Prior to any vegetation removal, an ecologist will survey the area to be cleared for ecology and record any findings.

The findings from these surveys, along with data from surveys from the previous five years, are used to identify those areas that can be cleared and those which cannot yet, due to the presence of protected ecology. Any vegetation that cannot be removed due to the presence of protected ecology will be left until further surveys confirm that the ecology is no longer present.

Tree climbing – this takes place during the day time, and between the months of May and September. This activity will take place twice for each identified tree.

The vegetation clearance will be undertaken in accordance with:

HS2 Organisational European Protected Species Great for Crested Newt Licences WML025. First issued March 2017.

Further details are available online.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-oneenvironmental-statement-volume-5-ecology>

The work on HS2 is guided by High-Speed Rail (LondonWestMidlands) Act 2017. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/7/contents/enacted>

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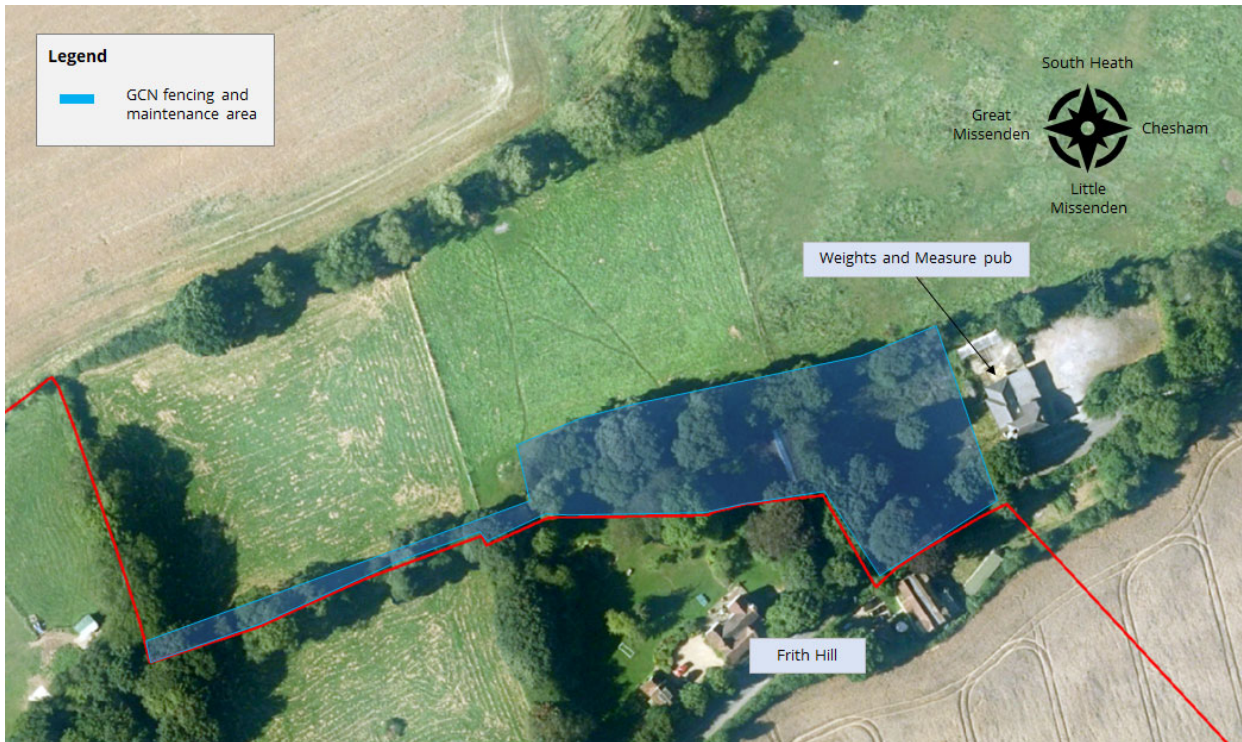
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Location of ecology and fencing works



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

What else is happening in your area?

www.hs2.org.uk

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team

Our team is here to listen and respond to your enquiry, complaint or feedback to help us be a good neighbour.

You can contact our Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

Freephone: **08081 434 434**

Minicom: **08081 456 472**

Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Keep up-to-date with your local community website

To find out more about what's happening in your area and receive regular email updates, you can sign up to our local community websites at: www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk.

About our Community and Business Funds

We are offering two funds that are available to local communities and businesses between the West Midlands and London, to help with the disruption caused by our construction work. These are the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF).

The CEF is designed to give communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of HS2. It is an allocated fund that communities are able to apply for, to help to support local projects that aim to improve their local area.

The BLEF is designed to support local economies that may be disrupted by the construction of HS2. BLEF grants are for local business support organisations and local authorities to help maintain business activity in local communities.

For more information about each of these funds, including how to apply, please visit: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds>



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

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

You can contact the Commissioner at:
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

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
Find out if you're eligible for compensation at:
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

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**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your local area, visit:
www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-two-ltd-privacy-notice>

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