

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

# Bat surveys update

Various locations | 2021

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. These procedures have been endorsed by Public Health England. We will be keeping our local website <https://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area> 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?

We have built a number of new habitat sites along the HS2 route. These new habitats will support a wide range of species, including several protected ones such as great crested newts and barn owls. We are translocating areas of special interest such as meadows in order to protect them for the future.

Some of the key features that have been put in place include:

- Wildlife ponds with aquatic planting
- Hibernation features for reptiles and amphibians
- Bat boxes
- Reptile basking banks
- Seeding of wet and dry grassland
- Planting of native tree species
- Planting of corridors of trees to connect existing woodlands providing a range

of habitats for a diverse range of wildlife

- Provision of nest boxes for barn owls.

We will continue moving species to their new habitats.

As part of this mitigation work, we need to find out more information about the bats in your area this includes their foraging, commuting and roosting activities. To understand this, we need to complete bat surveys, the following information explains how we do this and what you may see happening locally.



## Bat surveys

Structures and tree inspections take place during the day

Bat activity surveys take place between dusk and dawn

A pre-planned route is walked, this may include listening stops to sample the bat activity

Emergence surveys generally involve standing next to the tree or structure to monitor activity

A minimum of two people carry out the night time surveys.

During these surveys torches may be seen



# Bat surveys update

## Bat surveys

In order to ensure that no bat roosts are damaged and to update the knowledge of known bat roosts we need to complete two types of bat surveys

- Structures and tree inspections – daytime
- Bat activity surveys – dusk and dawn

## Structures and tree inspections

Structures and tree surveys are carried during the day in order to check for potential bat roosting features or evidence of roosting bats.

### Structures

The entire structures will be checked for bats with particular attention being paid to the loft or roof spaces. This is a simple check by the ecologist who will search the structure, looking for the signs that would reveal the presence of bats; such as bat droppings. Internal and external inspections and may need ladders or mobile working platforms or other access facilitation depending on the structure such as buildings or bridges.

### Tree surveys

Trees are checked for a variety of features, such as holes, crevices, crevices beneath ivy, broken branches, loose bark and dark stains around the entrance to a hole. Based on the features observed the tree will be assigned a bat roost potential category ranging from negligible to high.

The tree inspections may be carried out both from the ground and by climbing trees and using equipment such as endoscopes (small flexible cameras) which are put into crevices and holes to check for habitats.

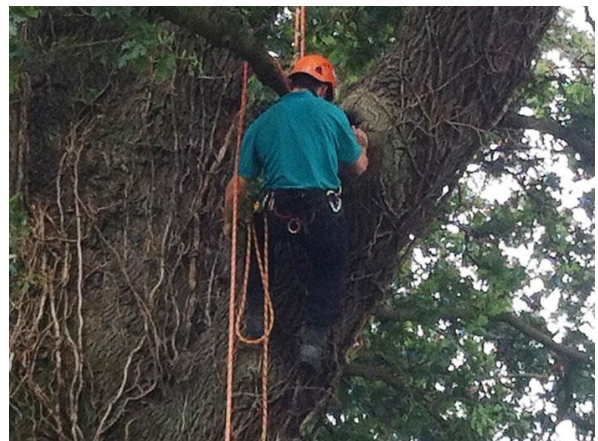
Trees with moderate and high potential for roosting bats may have further surveys such as a dawn and/or dusk survey carried out.

## Bat activity surveys

Once a potential bat roosting site has been identified a bat activity survey may take place. This will depend on the category of bat roost potential the feature is given.

These surveys are carried out either at dusk or dawn or both and last between 2 – 3 hours and will begin 15 minutes before dusk or dawn.

Generally, a pre-planned route is walked this may include listening stops to sample the bat activity. Two people carry out night time surveys. During these surveys' torches may be seen, but generally we try not to use them.



Example of ecologist checking tree for a bat roost

# Bat surveys update

## Bat radio-tracking surveys

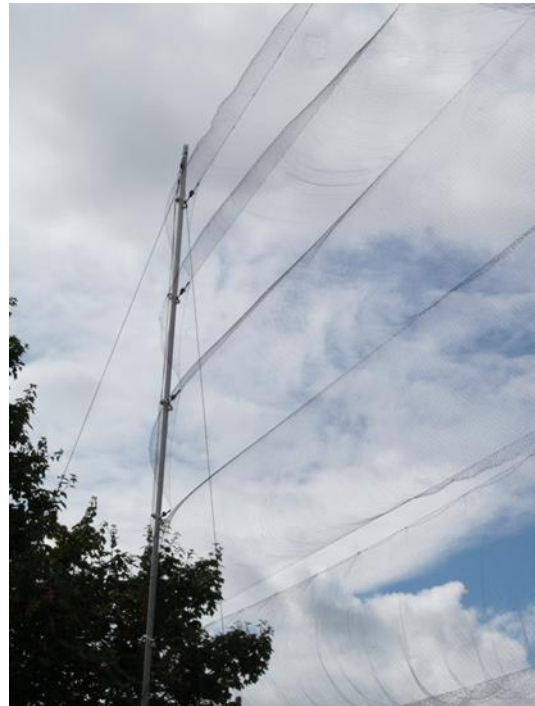
In some locations, bats will be caught in specialist nets by trained and licensed ecologists. These are very specific surveys related to Advanced Bat Survey Licensing Techniques. Once the bats are caught, they are examined, weighed and notes taken such as whether they are male or female, adult or juvenile. Some bats captured will then have a small area of fur removed on its back so that a radio tag can be fitted. The tag weight will be less than 5% of the bats weight, this is to ensure that there is no loss of flight capability, the tag will naturally drop off over about 5 days or so. The bat is then released. The bats movements can then be followed using a directional antenna, this can either be done during daylight if the object is to locate bat roosts or at night if the goal is to identify foraging areas and commuting routes. During night surveys the team may use torches.

The results of the surveys are then used to determine how bats use the landscape, which in turn will help to inform the mitigation that is required.

## Licensing and Mitigation

Where surveys and assessments have identified that there is likely to be an impact on roosting bats, then we will apply for a bat licence to Natural England. Once the licence has been granted the trees in the licence area will have a pre fell-tree inspection usually via a tree climb. When the further inspection is complete, and the tree is found to be free of any bats the feature, such as a tree limb containing a hole, will be removed before the rest of the tree is felled. Any bats found during the inspections will be safely relocated to a pre-installed bat box.

Example of mist netting



Example of suitable tree for bat roosts



Mitigation for the effects on bats is identified in the approved licence area. This can include installation of bat boxes on nearby retained trees to provide roost habitat and creation of habitat for bat foraging and commuting.

# 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](mailto: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.**

HS2 Ltd is committed to protecting personal information. If you wish to know more about how we use your personal information please see our Privacy Notice  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-two-ltd-privacy-notice>

**Reference number: FUS\_NL\_0023**

**HS2-EW-Fusion -Ph1-Ar-Ce--Eco-32-20/05/2021**

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.

Registered office: Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.

Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 888 8512 56

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