

Notice of works update Halse Copse, Halse

September 2021 | www.hs2.org.uk

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?

We have a number of preparatory activities taking place over the coming weeks ahead of the future construction of the railway. We will now be carrying out the next phase of works which include ecology mitigation, vegetation clearance and the translocation of a section of woodland at Halse Copse near to Halse.

October to December 2021

- Ecology mitigation and vegetation clearance
- Halse Copse woodland/soil transfer
- Tree planting
- Important hedgerow translocation

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

Notification



Duration of works

Works will take place between October until the end of December 2021

What to expect

To complete this work, we need to undertake; ecology mitigation, planting, vegetation clearance, woodland soil transfer

You may notice some extra traffic on the roads and noise from the machinery. Our normal working hours are between 8:00am and 6:00pm Monday – Friday and Saturday 8:00am – 1:00pm

What we will do

We will be working hard to ensure any impact on residents is kept to a minimum during these work

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Ecology mitigation and vegetation clearance

We are continuing with our programme of ecological mitigation in the area. Where previous surveys and assessments have identified that there is likely to be an impact on roosting bats, 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 potential roost features, 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.

There will be further ecological and tree surveys undertaken of the vegetation that we need to subsequently remove.

Work will be conducted in compliance with all applicable HS2 and Natural England licenses for protected species. Before any vegetation is cleared it will be thoroughly inspected by qualified ecologists. Any protected species found to be present will be recorded, appropriate buffers established, and no vegetation will be cleared until the species have left the site, including any nesting birds. The vegetation clearance will be undertaken in accordance with:

Licensing applications to Natural England for bats.

Further details are available online.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-one-environmental-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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How will you ensure that you do not affect nesting birds and other ecology?

Our work is programmed to take place outside of the bird nesting season however, prior to any vegetation removal an ecologist will survey the area to be cleared and record any findings. Any vegetation that cannot be removed, due to the presence of protected ecology, will be left undisturbed with the appropriate buffer until further surveys confirm that the ecology is no longer present.

Halse Copse woodland/soil transfer

Ahead of the main construction works we need to prepare the line of route. This includes the partial clearance of Halse Copse. Details of the clearance areas, areas of soils translocation and planting can be found on the map in this notification. The vegetation and ancient woodland soils will be removed by a specialist team using machinery and handheld tools.

Ancient woodland clearance

Where effects on ancient woodland cannot be reasonably avoided, we have committed to provide a range of compensation measures, in line with advice provided by Natural England and the Forestry Commission, including ancient woodland soil transfer and new planting. The compensatory planting in our plans aims to join up existing ancient woodlands to deliver a more joined environment that will support biodiversity. We will maintain, monitor and manage these sites for up to 50 years to ensure they are established correctly.

We have published an Ancient Woodland Strategy, outlining each directly impacted ancient woodland and the specific compensation measures to be taken in response to any losses at these woodlands. This is based on the impacts identified in the Environmental Statement and taking account of the Supplementary Environmental Statements and Additional Provisions.

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Seasonality of ancient woodland soils translocation

Ancient woodlands are extremely important for the environment, typically, they are areas that have been continuously wooded since 1600 AD and provide complex and unique ecosystems. The aim of ancient woodland soils transfer is to create a woodland that replicates as much as possible the characteristics of ancient woodland, acknowledging that it will never be possible to directly compensate for ancient woodland loss. We will transfer the soil by excavating it from the area known as the donor site and moving it to a suitable new area known as the receptor site.

A suitable receptor site adjacent to Halse Copse has been chosen to allow this. The receptor site design has been informed by site surveys carried out by experienced surveyors. During this process the team has identified woodland items such as deadwood, coppice stools and saplings that are to be translocated to the new site. The site will now be cleared of trees and vegetation and the pre-identified key woodland items are to be translocated.

Soil is then carefully excavated and transferred to the receptor site. The new site will then be monitored and managed to ensure that new vegetation can become established.

We are working with a team of experienced habitat translocation contractors to ensure that protected species, deadwood habitats and the unique flora associated with these environments are transferred successfully.

The receptor site, ahead of the works beginning with deer and rabbit proof fencing to protect the planted saplings and soils that have been transferred.

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Important hedgerow translocation

Ahead of the main construction works we need to prepare the line of route. This includes the translocation of an Important hedge that currently connects to the Halse Copse Ancient Woodland. The hedge and soils will be transplanted by a specialist team using machinery and handheld tools, into the mitigation site North East of the Woodland. We will be using the compound location and access route installed for the Woodland soil works. Please see enclosed map.

Public rights of way

The public rights of way in this area will not be affected by any of these works and shall remain open as usual.

How will this affect you?

We will be working hard to ensure any impact on residents is kept to a minimum during these and all works. You may notice some extra traffic on the roads immediately around the site with workers moving to and from the site. You may notice some noise from the machinery while our work is taking place. Our normal working hours are between 8:00am and 6:00pm Monday – Friday and 8:00am – 1:00pm Saturdays. The site will be open an hour either side of these times for the workforce to start up and shut down.

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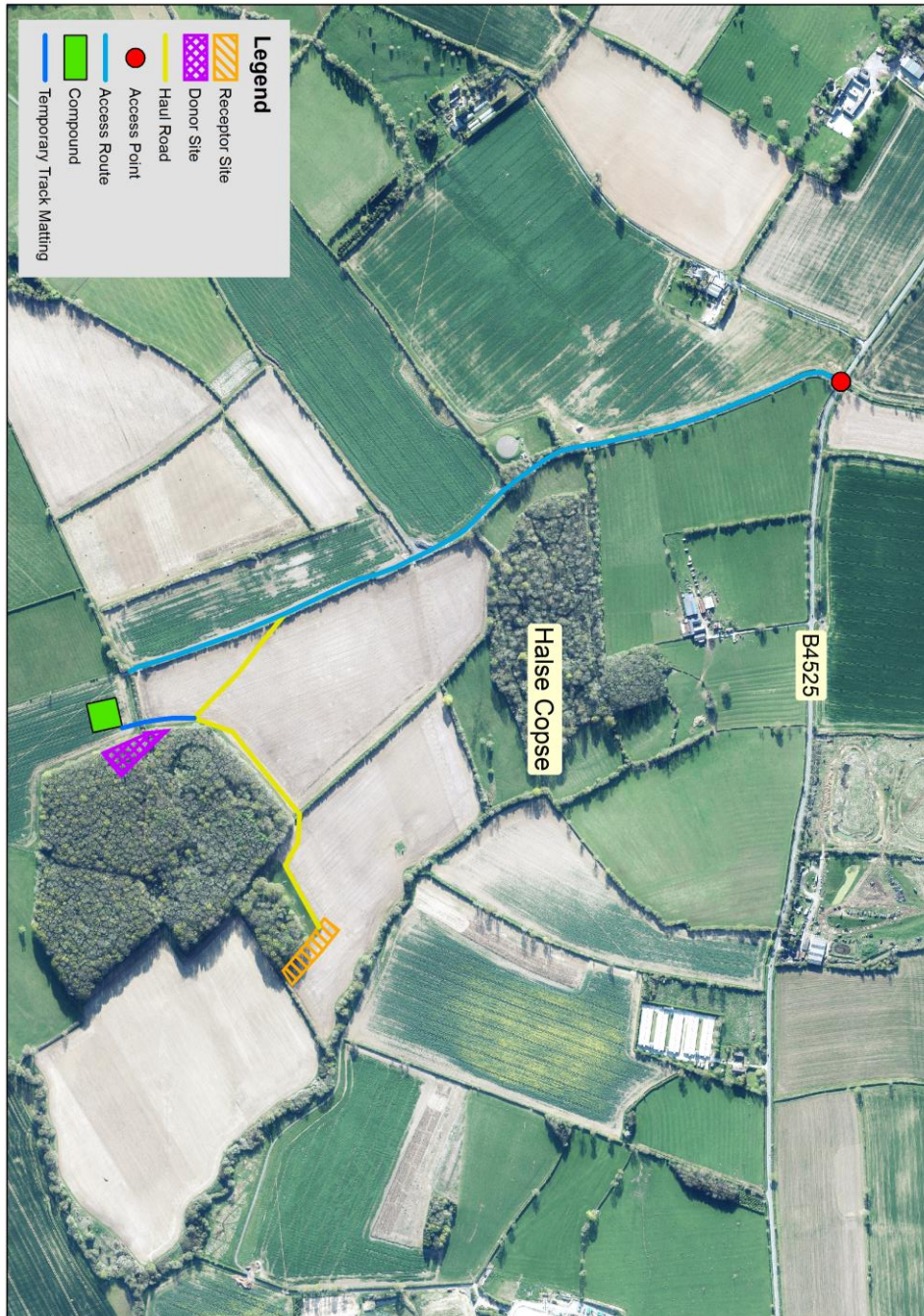
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www.hs2.org.uk

Location of works



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

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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