

# Notice of works near Mixbury (phase 2)

October 2021 | [www.hs2.org.uk](http://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](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area)

## What will we be doing?

We wrote to you in March 2021 informing you on phase 1 of the ancient woodland transfer works between April and May 2021. This included the clearance for the site access road. This access road helps us keep HGVs (heavy good vehicles) within our working areas and it will reduce the need for transporting large loads on the local road network. We now need to update you on phase 2 of the works.

### Phase 2: October to November 2021

Phase 1 has now been completed as planned, we are now looking to commence phase 2 works which will include the further part removal of the woodland area within Mossy Corner Spinney required for the construction of the railway. This is required to enable the main works contractor to carry out permanent works in the area. Similar to Phase 1, a further licence approval has been granted by Natural England. Clearance works will be undertaken in accordance with the licence conditions.

Once all trees have been carefully mitigated, as per ecological guidelines, we will be progressively transferring the ancient woodland soils and identified saplings to the receptor site, which will continue to be secured with fencing to protect from damage by animals. Please see map enclosed.

**If you have a question about HS2 or our works, please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434**

## Notification



### Duration of works

Phase 2 works will begin in early October 2021 until end December 2021

### What to expect

To complete this work, we need to; complete ecology surveys, clear vegetation, transfer woodland soils and undertake planting.

You may notice some extra traffic on the roads and noise from the machinery. Our normal working hours are

8:00am - 6:00pm  
Monday – Friday

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 works.

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## Site compound

As previously advised, a site welfare and lay down area will be re-established off Featherbed Lane to facilitate these works. The size and location will be similar to the earlier arrangement. This area will be used for welfare vehicles, staff car parking and the site storage of machinery and materials. The site will be secured with 24/7 security and have track matting and temporary festoon lighting.

## Ecology surveys

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

## 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.

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.

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## 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. We have subsequently further developed the design for Mossy Corner Spinney based upon further surveys of the site: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-one-ancient-woodland-strategy>

## 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.

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## Ancient woodland soils translocation continued

A suitable receptor site adjacent to Mossy Corner Spinney has been chosen to allow this, and these works are scheduled to take place during the optimum season.

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 Phase 2 site will now be cleared of trees and vegetation with the pre-identified key woodland items 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, will be surrounded with deer and rabbit proof fencing to protect the planted saplings and soils that have been transferred.

We believe that translocating ancient woodland soils will provide a better outcome for these important soil resources which have developed over many hundreds of years compared to, for example, the disposal of this material to landfill. The area where the soil is moved from is known as a 'donor site' and the area where the soil will be moved to is known as a 'receptor site'.

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## What is the benefit of transferring woodland soils, continued

Soil survey data has been used to design soil transfer by:

- designing and plan the work, including the selection of the most suitable transfer process;
- guiding the overseeing soil scientist and ecologist;
- providing a permanent record of the original woodland soil against which soil development in the receptor site can be compared; and,
- helping replicate the soil profile from donor to receptor site (along with other data such as hydrological conditions and topography).
- considerations such as low value and/or unsuitable soils for transfer are assessed by a soil scientist and ecologist.

Once the soils have been transferred, daily soil checks are required during the transfer programme of both donor and receptor sites to check if soils can be transferred and whether any remedial measures are required, such as watering or shading due to seasonal changes in climate.

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

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



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

Location of receptor and donor sites



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](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)**

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

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