



Notice of route wide ecological surveys

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High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. Balfour Beatty VINCI (BBV) is working in partnership with HS2 Ltd to build the new high speed railway in your area.

What ecological surveys are

Ecological surveys help to identify habitats and the species that use them in a given area, allowing appropriate mitigation to be implemented prior to construction. Our surveys include looking at ponds, ditches, hedgerows, trees, buildings and fields for creatures such as great crested newts, badgers, reptiles, bats, birds, otters and water voles.

Why ecological surveys are taking place

Most animals behave differently depending on the time of year and often we need to repeat surveys seasonally. The surveys help us to understand how the different species use the landscape and how they may be affected by our construction work for HS2. Ecology surveys have been conducted for nearly ten years on the project, but it is important to continue this as many species are very mobile in the landscape, meaning wildlife may now be present or absent from areas where they were not before. Frequently refreshing our understanding of species is important but access to survey areas was impacted by COVID restrictions, making surveys this year even more vital.

Why ecological surveys are important

The survey data we collect will be used to mitigate the impacts of our construction activities and to inform the detailed design of HS2. It also helps us to contribute towards the Green Corridor and to support our No Net Loss and Biodiversity efforts. The surveys are especially important for species that have additional legal protection because their populations are in decline and are increasingly rare making mitigation within our construction vital.

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

- Ecology surveys will continue to be conducted throughout the construction of HS2

What to expect

- Workforce in PPE in local area
- Our workforce accessing land at different times throughout the day, including early mornings and late evenings
- Most surveys are non-intrusive. We observe, measure, and take notes and photographs
- Most surveys only need a single visit. However, there may be some cases we may need to make repeat visits

What we will do

- Keep you up to date through HS2 community websites

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**

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.

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