

## Q&A

### Site clearance works taking place between West Ruislip Station and Harvil Road this winter and spring

Contractors working for HS2 Ltd will be undertaking site clearance works at various locations between West Ruislip Station and Harvil Road this winter and spring in order to enable construction works to commence in 2019.

#### ***Does HS2 have the required permissions in place to conduct these works?***

Yes, on 23 February 2017 Royal Assent was granted for Phase One of HS2, which comprises of a new high speed railway between London and the West Midlands (the "HS2 Act") following three years of scrutiny. The HS2 Act grants HS2 Ltd and those working on behalf of HS2 Ltd the powers to construct the new railway.

Section 20 to the HS2 Act grants deemed planning permission under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 ("the TCPA") for works authorised by the HS2 Act. More information can be found at Information [Paper B1: Main provisions of the planning regime](#) and [Information Paper B3: Disapplication of legislation](#). Both can be found at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

As part of the HS2 Act, certain approvals need to be obtained from the relevant planning authority (London Borough of Hillingdon) for details on the following:

- Plans and specifications of certain works;
- Matters ancillary to development (construction arrangements)
- Road transport (lorry routes)
- Bringing into use
- Site restoration schemes

HS2 is continuing to work with London Borough of Hillingdon on these permissions where they are required for all works in the borough.

#### ***Do HS2 have permission to fell trees on site?***

The legal authority to clear the sites is contained within the HS2 Act. In this instance, no further planning approval is required for the preparatory works our contractors are undertaking between West Ruislip Station and Harvil Road. HS2 Ltd has all the necessary permissions to undertake these works.

HS2 Ltd will continue to work over the lifetime of the project with London Borough of Hillingdon on these permissions where they are required for works in the borough.

Aside from having these permissions in place, HS2 Ltd is committed to being a good neighbour and respecting the communities we impact and the environment in which they live.

### ***What ecological surveys have taken place?***

HS2 Ltd and our contractors have completed ecological and arboricultural surveys and inspections ahead of the site clearance works.

All works at the site clearance locations are being undertaken in accordance with the HS2 Environmental Minimum Requirements (EMRs) and the Act of Parliament permitting construction and operations of HS2, these requirements include undertaking the above mentioned surveys. For more information, please refer to [Environmental minimum requirements for HS2 phase one](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-minimum-requirements). (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-minimum-requirements>)

The HS2 approach to protected species mitigation is guided by the HS2 Act and its EMRs, and all works are subject to section 4.8.1 of the Environmental Memorandum document: *"Where effects on protected species are identified, the appropriate licenses will be obtained from Natural England prior to any works being undertaken. This includes species protected by the Habitats Regulations 2010 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981"*.

To ensure that section 4.8.1 of the Environmental Memorandum can be implemented, extensive surveys for protected species have been undertaken since 2012 (or as soon as land access arrangements could be agreed with a landowner) to provide the level of information required to inform mitigation measures necessary. Wherever protected species are identified as potentially impacted by the works then appropriate mitigation will be implemented to ensure all works accord with the relevant legislation.

Where a licence from Natural England is required to lawfully undertake the work then this will be applied for through the usual processes. HS2 has worked very closely with Natural England to put in place mitigation proposals for great crested newts and badgers, and have secured organisational licences (i.e. to cover the entire Phase One route) for these species, under which all works will comply with. All other protected species licences will be applied for based upon whether there is potential to impact a species (as defined by their legal protection) on a site by site basis.

We are utilising the organisational great crested newt (GCN) licence for the site clearance works at Ruislip Golf Course as a small population of GCN have been recorded in one of the ponds. No other protected species licences are required for the site clearance works. In addition, the site clearance works will not be in proximity to Newyears Green Covert Ancient Woodland.

### ***Are bats and badgers legally protected?***

Yes – badgers and all species of bat are legally protected in the UK.

### ***Badgers – do you have a licence?***

HS2 has been granted a route-wide licence for badgers by Natural England. This allows us to work in areas where badgers are present.

### ***Are there badgers on site?***

Badgers are present in the area, but active badger setts have not been recorded within or immediately adjacent to the site clearance locations to date.

### ***What are you doing to protect badgers on site?***

There is no requirement for a specific mitigation plan for badgers during the site clearance works as no active setts have been recorded within or adjacent to the site clearance locations to date.

Nonetheless, best practice measures will be implemented, e.g. covering any excavations overnight or providing an escape ramp to prevent any animals becoming entrapped.

As badgers are a mobile species, updated surveys will be undertaken as works continue to ensure that all works are undertaken in accordance with the legal protection afforded to badgers.

### ***Bats – do you have a licence?***

No - a bat mitigation licence is only required if there is evidence of bats roosting in the trees being felled.

As part of our preparation for the site clearance works, we have surveyed the site clearance locations, using a range of survey methods. No current evidence of roosting bats has been found in the locations that our contractors are clearing.

### ***How do you know bat roosts were not missed during the surveys?***

All precautions are being taken to reduce risk, including re-inspection by ecologists of trees with moderate or high potential to support bat roosts prior to felling. Should any bat roosts be identified then works in that location will cease and appropriate mitigation and licensing requirements followed.

We will also continue to update our surveys as works continue to ensure that all works are undertaken in accordance with the law.

### ***What will the site clearance works involve?***

The site clearance works will involve the clearance of vegetation along the line of the HS2 route from Ruislip Golf Course to Harvil Road. The works are required to be completed before construction commences for the HS2 main civil engineering works.

### ***What are the working hours?***

The core working hours for the site clearance works outside of Network Rail land will be from 8am to 6pm on weekdays (excluding bank holidays) and from 8am to 1pm on

Saturdays. A period of up to one hour before and up to one hour after the core working hours will be required for the start-up and close-down of activities.

Clearance works on Network Rail land may be required outside of the core working hours when trains are not operational with dates yet to be confirmed.

***What can I expect to see onsite?***

The work areas will be secured with fencing and will include site support facilities such as toilets. Site entrances for the works will be created at Ruislip Golf Course, Breakspear Road South and Harvil Road. A temporary bridge and haul road will be constructed across Ruislip Golf Course and the River Pinn to reduce the traffic movements