



HIGH SPEED TWO PHASE ONE INFORMATION PAPER

E26: INDICATIVE PERIODS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF HABITATS CREATED FOR HS₂ PHASE ONE

This paper outlines indicative periods for the management and monitoring of habitats created for HS₂ Phase One.

It will be of particular interest to those potentially affected by the Government's proposals for high speed rail.

This paper was prepared in relation to the promotion of the Bill for Phase One of the scheme which is now enacted. Although the contents were maintained and updated as considered appropriate during the passage of the Bill (including shortly prior to the enactment of the Bill in February 2017) the contents are now historic and are no longer maintained.

If you have any queries about this paper or about how it might apply to you, please contact the HS₂ Helpdesk in the first instance.

The Helpdesk can be reached at:

**High Speed Two (HS₂) Limited
Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway
Birmingham, B₄ 6GA**

by email: HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

or by phone: 08081 434 434 (lines are open 24 hours)

Version 1.2

Last updated 23rd February 2017

E26: INDICATIVE PERIODS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF HABITATS CREATED FOR HS₂ PHASE ONE

1. Introduction

- 1.1. High Speed Two (HS₂) is the Government's proposal for a new, high speed north-south railway. The proposal is being taken forward in two phases: Phase One will connect London with Birmingham and the West Midlands and Phase Two will extend the route to Manchester, Leeds and beyond.
- 1.2. HS₂ Ltd is the non-departmental public body responsible for developing and promoting these proposals. The company works to a Development Agreement made with the Secretary of State for Transport.
- 1.3. In November 2013, HS₂ Ltd deposited a hybrid Bill¹ with Parliament to seek powers for the construction and operation of Phase One of HS₂ (sometimes referred to as 'the Proposed Scheme'). The Bill is the culmination of nearly six years of work, including an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the results of which were reported in an Environmental Statement (ES) submitted alongside the Bill. The Secretary of State has also published draft Environmental Minimum Requirements (EMRs), which set out the environmental and sustainability commitments that will be observed in the construction of the Proposed Scheme.
- 1.4. The Bill is being promoted through Parliament by the Secretary of State for Transport (the 'Promoter'). The Secretary of State will also appoint a body responsible for delivering the Proposed Scheme under the powers granted by the Bill.
- 1.5. This body is known as the 'nominated undertaker'. There may well be more than one nominated undertaker – for example, HS₂ Ltd could become the nominated undertaker for the main railway works, while Network Rail could become the nominated undertaker for works to an existing station such as Euston. But whoever they are, all nominated undertakers will be bound by the obligations contained in the Bill and the policies established in the EMRs.
- 1.6. These information papers have been produced to explain the commitments made in the Bill and the EMRs and how they will be applied to the design and construction of the Proposed Scheme. They also provide information about the Proposed Scheme itself, the powers contained in the Bill and how particular decisions about the project have been reached.

¹The High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill, hereafter 'the Bill'.

2. Context

- 2.1. The Environmental Minimum Requirements for HS2 Phase One include a commitment to maintain and monitor created habitats for an appropriate period to establish those habitats. Paragraph 4.8.5 of the draft Environmental Memorandum states that:

“The nominated undertaker will maintain or make provision to maintain and monitor the new or managed habitat for a sufficient period to ensure that the nature conservation objectives of the proposals are achieved.”

- 2.2. Further to this, in early 2014 the Environmental Audit Committee undertook a review of HS2 and the Environment. A report was published which included a number of recommendations. The Government’s response to the recommendations² included a commitment to identify appropriate management periods in consultation with Natural England.
- 2.3. This information paper identifies the appropriate management periods for habitats to be established for Phase One that have been developed in consultation with Natural England.

3. Approach to developing indicative periods

- 3.1. The successful establishment of habitats will be a crucial element for the project objective of seeking to achieve no net loss to biodiversity. Monitoring will need to be in place throughout the establishment periods in order to measure success, though at decreasing frequency during this period. Monitoring may also need to continue beyond the establishment period.
- 3.2. We expect that the process of agreeing an appropriate management, maintenance and monitoring strategy for ecologically-led habitat creation will consist of reaching agreement with Natural England on three interrelated elements as follows:
 1. Management, maintenance and monitoring approaches, durations and frequencies for the period during the establishment of new habitats;
 2. Management, maintenance and monitoring prescriptions, durations and frequencies beyond the point when establishment goals have been met (i.e. longer-term commitments); and

² Department for Transport 2014: HS2 and the Environment. Appendix – Government Response to the Environmental Audit Committee’s Thirteenth Report of Session 2013-14. Published 18 June 2014.

3. The mechanism for providing all management, maintenance and monitoring.
 - 3.3. This document sets out our proposed position in relation to item 1 above. It takes account of Natural England's advice on appropriate generic durations for the maintenance, management and monitoring during the establishment of ecologically-led habitat creation. Table 1 provides broad generic indications of the likely durations of monitoring, maintenance and management during the establishment period for those habitats affected by the project.
 - 3.4. The durations quoted draw upon current Defra guidance³ and our consultants' experience of typical management durations negotiated with stakeholders for other large-scale projects, as there are no published industry standards.
 - 3.5. The broad habitat categories in Table 1 (e.g. grassland, woodland) are those habitats found within the hybrid Bill limits (November 2013). During the detailed design phase, the design of these areas will be developed and habitat mosaics will be required to include a number of these types of habitat in many cases.
 - 3.6. The duration, exact nature and frequency of maintenance, management and monitoring works for individual locations will be developed during detailed design. The durations shown in Table 1 will be used as a guide and in exceptional cases (e.g. where there is reason to believe that a habitat will be particularly difficult to create) there may be deviation from the figures provided in Table 1. In consultation with Natural England, HS2 Ltd intends to identify measurable goals (or 'success criteria') for all habitat areas to be created. Monitoring during the establishment of new habitats will track progress towards these goals. If monitoring shows that these goals have not been achieved within the indicative monitoring and maintenance periods stated in Table 1, the duration may need to be extended, for example in response to unusual weather conditions such as prolonged drought. Similarly, if it can be confirmed that the required goal has been met earlier than expected, the standard monitoring period may be shortened. The frequency of monitoring will generally decrease with time where establishment towards the agreed objectives is progressing in line with expectations. This principle is shown with indicative times in Table 1.
 - 3.7. The durations shown in Table 1 cover only the management, maintenance and monitoring proposed during the period of establishment. Further discussions are in progress with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Natural England regarding an appropriate approach to on-going management, maintenance and monitoring beyond the establishment period. An information paper on this topic will be published in due course.

³ Defra (2012) Biodiversity Offsetting Pilots: Technical Paper: the metric for the biodiversity offsetting pilot in England.

- 3.8. Further consultation with Natural England will be required in relation to Phase Two, which may affect additional habitat types.

Table 1 – Indicative management, monitoring and maintenance durations for habitats to be created during HS2 Phase One

Habitat type	Generic duration of monitoring, management & maintenance during establishment	Indicative monitoring intervals ⁴ during habitat establishment	Comments
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	5 years	Annually for 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A standard duration is likely to be applied to all habitats of this type.
Watercourses	5 years	6 months & Years 1, 3 and 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A standard duration is likely to be applied to all habitats of this type.
Ponds	5 years	6 months & Years 1, 3 and 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A standard duration is likely to be applied to all habitats of this type.
Grasslands	5-15 years	Years 1,2,3,4,5 and, 8, 11 and 14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas of grassland with the primary purpose of landscaping are likely to fall under a 5 year regime; Majority of grassland provided as compensation for losses is likely to be subject to a 15-year regime.
Hedgerows	5-10 years	6 months & Years 1, 3, 5, 7 & 10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerows provided specifically for ecological purposes (e.g. to provide connectivity between other areas of planting, or those translocated due to their ecological value) may be subject to a regime of up to 10 years; Majority of hedgerows will be subject to a 5-year regime.

⁴ Where the duration of monitoring is provided as a range, this column indicates the monitoring intervals that would be expected for the longest monitoring period covered by that range.

Habitat type	Generic duration of monitoring, management & maintenance during establishment	Indicative monitoring intervals ⁴ during habitat establishment	Comments
Young heathland/acid grassland	15	6 months & Years 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, 15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All areas of this habitat affected by the proposed scheme are fragmented lowland heathland; • 15 years is considered appropriate, as the aim is to create similar or better habitat than that lost.
Woodland (including screening planting)	10-50 years	6 months & Years 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration of 10 years for areas provided for primary purpose of landscaping; • Duration of up to 50 years during establishment for those areas that are created specifically for ecological mitigation/compensation. The 50-year period would be provided for all locations where the translocation of ancient woodland soils is proposed.

4. More information

4.1. More detail on the Bill and related documents can be found at: www.gov.uk/HS2