

HS2 Environmental Impact Assessment Factsheet

What is an EIA?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an evaluation of the possible positive or negative impacts that a proposed project may have on the environment. It is a legal requirement for certain types of development due to their size or nature. As a long-distance railway line spanning much of the country, HS2 is a prime example of a development that automatically requires an EIA.

A full EIA is likely to include sections on noise, air, water, archaeology, and nature conservation. The EIA is funded by the developer (in this case HS2 Ltd) but normally carried out on their behalf by a series of specialist consultants. Whilst no survey formats are specified it is expected that industry standards will be used.



WTML/John Tucker

Ashenbank Wood, a Woodland Trust-owned ancient wood which was partially destroyed by the construction of HS1.

Whitmore Wood,
under threat from HS2



WTML/Adrian Ashworth

What's the next step?

Unlike ordinary planning applications, the decision making process for HS2 will be via a Parliamentary Bill (in this case known as a Hybrid Bill) and thus the standard process for commenting on the EIA is different.

The final EIA was deposited in Parliament as part of the Hybrid Bill. There is now an eight week consultation on the EIA. This is the public's opportunity to assess the analysis that has been undertaken and the conclusions that have been drawn.

Whilst it is unlikely that any comments would result in a major change in the route, there may be further surveys undertaken or a different analysis of suitable compensation measures.

Responding to the consultation

To ensure your concerns are raised with HS2 Ltd, you can use this period of time to formally respond to the contents of the EIA. You can do this as an individual or as part of your community group.

For ancient woodland we recommend you look at the following:

- Have the ancient woods been identified as such?
- Does the habitat survey for the woodland accurately represent your knowledge of the woods, i.e. have the species been adequately surveyed?
- Are there species which are important in a local context that have not been considered?

- Have any structures such as culverts or access gates been placed inappropriately in relation to the ancient woodland? Can you suggest better placement?
- Do the conclusions drawn about the severity of the threat and the residential level of threat after mitigation look realistic?
- Have the mitigation and compensation suggestions adequately answered your concerns?

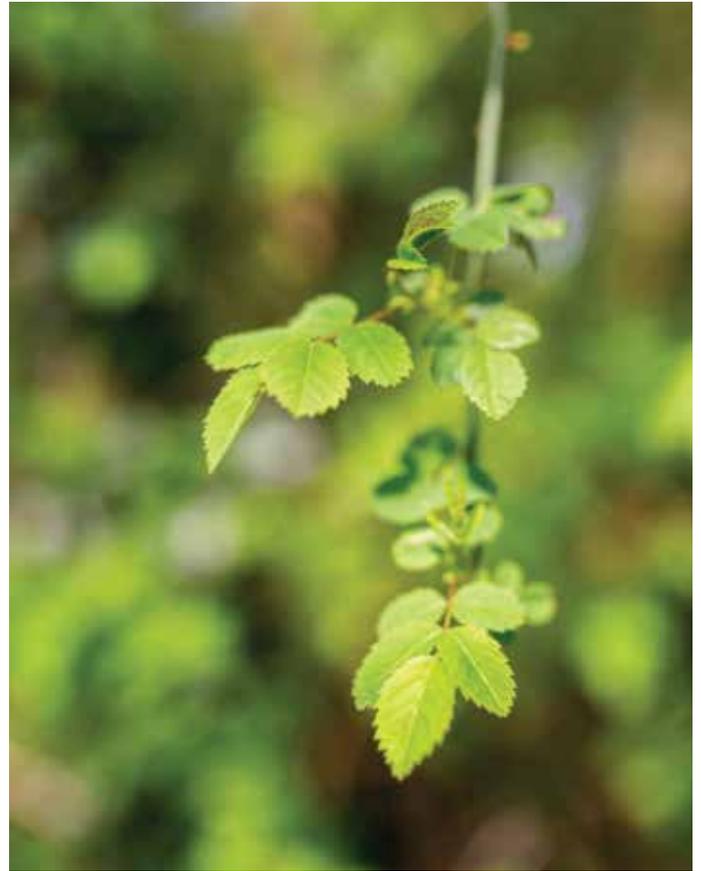
Key facts

An EIA looks at the effects of a project on the environment.

The findings of the EIA are summarised in the Non-Technical Summary.

High Speed 2 Ltd has now published the EIA for Phase 2a of the route. We have until 30 September 2017 to comment.

Go to the following website and use our action to send your response to the consultation:
woodlandtrust.org.uk/HS2



WTML/Phil Lockwood



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