

Mr Paul Davies

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[gov.uk/hs2](https://www.hs2.org.uk)

Date as email

Dear Mr Davies

FOI -20-3607

Thank you for your information request of 28 February 2020. Please accept our apologies for the delay. Due to an administrative error, your request was not responded to within the statutory guidelines. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information ('FOI') Act 2000 ('the Act').

In your email you requested the following information:

***How many Ancient Woodlands will be damaged due to the building of HS2?
How many Ancient Woodlands will be lost by HS2?***

I understand the HS2 website provides approximate information at the link below, and I do support the release of such information.

Finally, and for the avoidance of doubt, I support investment in public transportation, especially where there is a clear benefit to our environmental needs.

https://www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/environment-sustainability/hs2-and-woodlands/?fbclid=IwAR1Q00lhGrRnghbbbMpZhRvS4KBhP-kLb0Ts_qE_TYWDMQPbyqEqTW2Xrvc

RESPONSE

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you requested
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

I can confirm that HS2 Ltd holds the information that you have requested, and this is provided below.

There are 52,000 ancient woodland sites in England. Our published assessments are that 62 ancient woodlands will be affected by HS2's full route. Over 85 per cent of the 62 ancient

woodlands will remain intact and untouched by HS2. Where an ancient woodland is described as affected, in many cases this may mean a small section of an overall woodland is affected, for example on Phase One of the route, 32 ancient woodlands are described as affected but, in 19 of these, the total area of loss is less than one hectare.

This information is in the public domain and an HS2 wide summary of impacts to Ancient Woodland can be found in the HS2 Phase 2a Supplementary Environmental Statement 2 and Additional Provision 2 Environmental Statement, Volume 3 – Route Wide effects, Section 14: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/775957/J20_Volume_3_Route-wide_effects_web.pdf

Right to Review

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request, you may complain in writing to HS2 Ltd at the address below. Please also see attached details of HS2 Ltd's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Please remember to quote reference number **FOI-20-3607** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely

Carl Bird

Briefings, Correspondence and FOI Manager
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited

Your right to complain to HS2 Ltd and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain to HS2 Ltd within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF