

I respond to each of your comments in turn.

"Trial holes of the subsoil at the receptor site were undertaken under the supervision of a qualified soil scientist. This identified some damage to the topsoil in the receptor site location. The surveys identified no damage to the subsoils at the receptor site. All receptor site topsoil was progressively removed prior to the ancient woodland soil transfer taking place with regular inspection of soils undertaken."

*Please show me the NPK levels you found on site. High residual NK from agriculture, even in subsoil, would result in an unwanted weed flush, which presumably does not equate to best practice?*

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"As works were undertaken outside the "translocation window" this was deemed a soil salvage. *So you accept you are no longer going for translocation as specified in the Environmental Statement? This is the same practice seen at Cubbington, Crackley and Broadwells? Is this now standard practice? Has this lowering of standards been made public? Has Parliament been informed?* Aside from the seasonal window all other works were undertaken following translocation best practice. In addition to this HS2 will install additional compensation planting. *In what way does this compensate for poor practice above? Timing is a critical issue for translocation and without adherence all those puffed up ideals are worthless.* Containerised planting (pot grown stock hedgerow) can be planted all year around and were watered to aid growth following planting. This is in line with Nursery stock - British Standard BS3936-1/4 Losses of stock planting is assessed and managed in the maintenance period."

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Existing Hedgerow was moved from the woodland edge to provide height and connectivity from the retained hedgerow and to retain soils within the root structure of existing hedgerow. *You killed it. All of it. Any response?*

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All monolith and existing trees are relocated to provide vertical diversity within the site. Existing trees are translocated with the intention of survival. Should trees not survive they along with monoliths provide important standing deadwood features with ecological value. *So you are content to provide nothing but standing deadwood resource?* 9% (600m<sup>2</sup>) of the woodland soils were not translocated as the woodland soils were found to be substandard following previous protestor habitation, *Please justify.* the required security operation *You mean the required security operation to secure the work you knew to be illegal? But thank you for accepting this responsibility!* or due to increased nutrient and intensity of weeds within the donor site. *Surely this should have been thought of first? How can you possibly adhere to best practice with such evident lack of forethought?* For clarity the woodland salvaged soils were placed at the same thickness and layer composition as per the donor site. The retained woodland facing the removed woodland forms the Woodland Edge Management Zone *(How many name changes? Is this Windsca...Seascale, sorry, Sellafeld?)* and falls within Act limits. *And is still trampled bare, full of your detritus and litter,*

*and as per photographic evidence shown, full of highly etiolated weak trees, some of which have already succumbed. And no response to eliminating the weather and light protection and immediate feeding habitat around the known bat roosts?* This zone will continue to be monitored and managed. An arboricultural survey was carried out and trees within this zone assessed to be wind firm and will continued to be monitored. *I want to see this report please. It seems Jones' Hill and Leather Lane might be getting special treatment with these surveys. Is it worth noting these are two sites of protester activity (non-violent, of course) Fallen trees outside of Act limits are the responsibility of the Landowner. They fell as a result of your work which will still very likely be proven illegal. Whose responsibility?*

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The bat flight line was installed as per License conditions and provides a continuous line. *A rather discontinuous line! They are dying!* Monoliths and larger relocated trees provide further ecological benefits *When? Now? Are you serious? Have you ever been here and seen this? What benefits a bat a box 40ft up a telegraph pole in the middle of a field on top of a hill?* in a random layout reflecting their position in the former woodland. *All through you seem to be saying nothing more than "we ticked the boxes". Is this best practice? Is this the level of workmanship that the Environmental Statement promised to Parliament?*

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Bat boxes were installed as part of the Licence and are supplementary to boxes placed within the *Hand on heart, tell me this is no more than box ticking. Bat boxes 40 feet up an utterly isolated telegraph pole? Bat boxes within metres of 200mph trains? Batboxes that had to replace illegally placed boxes? Does this work normally entail assault and theft?* Woodland Edge Management Zone and a mature tree group along Bowood Lane that falls within Act Limits.

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Herbicides have been used to control weeds to avoid impact to new planting within the planting site. The planting site is managed in line with the ecological site maintenance plan and performing in line with expectations *Please show me what those expectations are. Are they written down? Do they comply with the Environmental Statement?*

Trees transplanted into the ancient woodland soils are expected to supplement natural regeneration and weed growth is part of the regeneration phase and not artificially managed with herbicide. *Shame. Would be nice to see something alive.*

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Responded in Paragraph 3.5 and 4.2 (Below)

*Then I guess my response of minimum standards and box ticking holds true too. Have you compiled any reports of your mitigation works here or elsewhere? Do you monitor as you claim?*

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Any failure of planted trees will be replaced in the Optimum Winter 2021/2022 planting season. *Bit late to the party? Shouldn't this have been your primary working practice? Your lack of planning, your lack of engagement with legal requirements laid out in law and Environmental Statement, your lack of candour in Court, all led to the whole translocation process being one-timed, as was the case at Crackley, Cubbington and Broadwells. Not being a magician myself, and not being able to watch your hurried panicking work practices unfold over 140 miles, perhaps you might provide documentary evidence of everywhere you have and everywhere you haven't attained those much vaunted and legally binding values laid out in the Environmental Statement.* Ongoing upkeep of the Bat flight line is stated as a Licence condition. *On going upkeep of dead trees. Fine profession.* Substandard tree ties were identified and will be rectified this planting season (2021/2022). *But why? Tying trees is not a seasonally dependent operation, why should such shoddy workmanship (first omitted, then done woefully badly, then re-done equally badly and then again equally badly) not be rectified immediately to save a few trees and add one more year to effective mitigation? Perhaps I've already answered that. Maybe this demonstrates an acceptance of minimum box ticking standards?* A watering regime was established for the trees during the works. *Through our intervention I believe?* Upon demobilisation from the site watering ended. *Well that's useful!!! That really does demonstrate box ticking!!! Does demob exonerate you from all responsibilities?*

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Bat flight lines were required as part of the Bat Licensing condition. *Yes I remember. Wasn't there mention of some degree of maturity? Is that exemplified with 2, 3 maybe 4yr old trees?* Regarding watering please refer to 4.2 above. *See above.*

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[https://docs.google.com/document/d/18t2tvlRrDGhoYUYVm7YxNpd3\\_JP3V7oAloqWx5JqHB4/edit?usp=drivesdk](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18t2tvlRrDGhoYUYVm7YxNpd3_JP3V7oAloqWx5JqHB4/edit?usp=drivesdk) *Is this a pattern repeated elsewhere? How can you keep claiming 7 million trees when you're going to need approximately half as much land again? Is Parliament fully aware of this?* Subsequently 10,722 trees were planted on this site in the 2020-21 planting season, and 2,723 trees are planned *Can you prove categorically that this isn't simply a response to my observations, which I have been making public since December 2020?* to be planted in the 2021-22 planting season as well as any replanting requirement for failed trees.

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The requirement for the 3 no. waterbodies were identified through the approval of the bat licence, in discussion with Natural England. This required adaption of the planting design. Previously planted whips were removed for access and replanted within the site. Where

possible waterbodies were located within maintenance areas of the planting area to reduce removal of whips. Hedgerow planting is in accordance with the construction issued drawing and superseded by Bat Licence conditions. HS2 commitment is to create an unprecedented 'green corridor' *full of now isolated habitats owing to ripping out upwards of 500 hedges?* of new wildlife habitats *which will be divided by an equally unprecedented 140 mile long untransgressable barrier to natural connectivity, barring feeding and breeding patterns.* and woodlands which will include planting up to 7 million new trees *You see? There's that 7 million figure again. You've just shown that planting in this area is all but halved after Local Authority intervention (and I suspect that of those wonderful peaceful protesters). How can you justify this claim without expanding beyond Act limits?* and shrubs between London and the West Midlands which will support delicately *You're not kidding! Every ecosystem you come within a mile of will be quivering. "Delicately" is putting it very mildly. Deserts are balanced. local ecosystems running through the spine What happens if you're spine is broken?* of the country.

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HS2 have committed to replace the majority *Define majority?* of failed trees over a five-year period during the establishment of the woodland. A natural thinning out is planned as the woodland matures so a low level of attrition is accepted. Current assessments reflect a 25% failure rate, this is as expected for an exposed hillside site. *When you started this was a relatively sheltered site, there being an ancient woodland nicely placed in the prevailing wind.* Understorey woodland Management is being carried out as per Maintenance schedule. *Please send me a copy.* Weeds competing with planting are treated with herbicide. Weed treatment was undertaken in the Autumn and will continue to be managed. Assessment of wildflower mix indicates performance meeting expectation. *Please show documentary evidence. All I saw was an expected massive flush of agricultural weed which of course I am happy to concede is wild flower, but existed through lack of or poor and unplanned intervention on your part, and cannot be claimed as your mitigation.*

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The grassland *Grassland? The only grasses here are wheat left over from previous agriculture.* glades alongside controlled herbicide use and maintenance has established well *Of course, what you really mean is the massive flush of weeds you didnt plan for has established well. Odd that. It was there latent in the soil all the time and it established as if by magic.* and there is a diverse range of wildflowers *As much as oft repeated agricultural practices will allow. There's a huge diversity absent here.* which will colonise and in time thwart any weak annual weed *Do you so misunderstand weeds?* growth. The threat to further grassland establishment by weed seed will be treated following the maintenance plan *How? Herbicide? Grazing sheep? Please let me see this schedule. Does it really exist?.* The grassland rides will be cut in March and April 2022 to get rid of any prolific annual agricultural weed seed germination and arisings removed from site. *But you've already had people in there spraying the "grassland"!*

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Construction of the internal haul route has progressed north from the access point off the A413 at Great Missenden compound, up to and past the Jones Hill Wood area. If the Fusion clearance works at Jones Hill Wood were not completed until Autumn 2021, EKFB's access past Jones Hill Wood would have been severely impeded and this would have delayed internal haul route construction and Earthwork activities until Spring 2022.

*This is an out and out lie. Currently you have off road vehicles using a dirt track along 90% of the route as shown quite graphically here:*

<https://twitter.com/ilonatheoak/status/1465106321271922690?t=DSC6fEtIiaBS1kWXOys6gA&s=19>

*Traffic past Jones' Hill has been absolutely minimal with the only plant/HGV traffic directly attributable to the felling of the wood.*

*It is very notable that what you claim to be a haul road in use (mudtrack+) avoids the original footprint of Jones' Hill having been established prior to felling. Was it really necessary to fell the Wood and avoid due diligence? Did you lie in Court too?*



*Green shows corner of Jones' Hill, orange the present "haul road", dotted orange the proposed route for which Jones' Hill was so urgently felled.*

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Due to presence of personnel onsite during hours of darkness, lighting is required to ensure their safety and wellbeing. *But this lighting is all in the WMZ where you have no personnel. This lighting is directed upward into the canopy, not down to ground. Personnel are all equipped with headlamps and very powerful strong torches (some even have lasers!) which they have demonstrated frequently and illegally. This lighting all depends on the constant noise and pollution of diesel generators. Has this been factored in to mitigation plans? If you had followed procedures as laid out in the Environmental Statement none of this would be necessary.*

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Additional Bat roosts, both new boxes and potential roost features have been placed within the Woodland Edge Management Zone in favourable locations *Favourable? Are you now*

*estate agents for bats? Are you really saying a woodland bared to cold north winds, denuded of undergrowth, shade removed and within a couple metres of the massive construction work and then to trains hurtling by 14 times an hour is favourable?* as per the bat licence. Suitable roost features were identified prior to felling for reuse in this zone and have been attached to existing trees

*Possibly one of the most important paragraphs in the report has had no response from you....as yet. Perhaps you might do so now:*

6.5 Numbers of glis glis in the Wood seem much reduced, possibly many of them burrowed in the soil extraction area over winter. There may be a corresponding increase in grey squirrel numbers. Tawny owls have recently started moving back in. The bat population seems considerably less than prior to HS2 Ltd's engagement with this iconic Chiltern wood. Over all, Jones' Hill Wood now looks set for further serious deterioration.

*Can you supply any survey data to demonstrate the veracity or otherwise of above, or to demonstrate your ongoing concern?*

*There is little or nothing in your response that diminishes the concerns raised in the report. Indeed, quite the opposite. The falsehoods and evasion just keep tumbling forth, and add concern upon concern. Is there nothing we can trust HS2 Ltd on? Can Parliament trust what you say? Can the Courts? Can the Press? Can Natural England? Jones' Hill Wood should have been a call to arms of all the brilliance that HS2 could muster, instead we see shoddiness, evasiveness and dishonesty, some might even say criminality.*

*The level of concerns raised by protesters, locals, councillors and MPs just in the few miles that HS2 crosses the Chilterns urges a major reassessment. Is there anything here that is fit for purpose?*