

James Conboy

HS2@chilternsociety.org.uk

Dear James Conboy,

FOI-22-4511

Thank you for your information request which was received on 12 January 2022. I have processed your request under the Environmental Information Regulations ('EIR') 2004 ('the Regulations') because the information you have requested concerns work affecting the environment according to the definition in Regulation 2. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act ('FOI') 2000 ('the Act') exempts environmental information from the Act but requires us to consider it under the Regulations.

REQUEST

A copy of your request is attached for ease of reference.

RESPONSE

Please find our response below where we address each of your questions in turn for ease of reference.

1. How many trees were inspected, and on what dates, during the 12 months prior to felling?

All trees within the limit of land to be acquired (LLAU) or used at Grim's Ditch have been subject to a Preliminary Ground Level Roost Assessment. Subsequently, 27 trees were found to be suitable for roosting bats and were subsequently undertaken between June 2020 and September 2021.

2. How many Potential Roost Features were identified during these inspections?

49

3. *How many trees were climbed to perform such inspections?*

24

4. *What licenses were in place, to cover the eventuality that bats or bat roosts were discovered in the course of these inspections, or the subsequent felling?*

All trees with suitability for roosting bats were surveyed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidelines and no roosts were found, therefore a licence was not required to fell the trees.

5. *What provision was made to deal with any bats discovered during the felling?*

If a bat had been found during the works, then all works would have stopped, and a licence to continue would have been sought from Natural England.

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. Please find below details of HS2 Ltd's complaints procedure which includes your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Please remember to quote reference number **FOI-22-4511** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely

J. Palmer

Briefings, Correspondence and FOI Adviser
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 40 working days of the date of this response 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