

Press release

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For immediate release

High Speed Rail wrecks wildlife areas

The Government's High Speed Rail route announced yesterday (Monday) will rip through ancient woodland and devastate sensitive wildlife areas, says Philippa Lyons, Chief Executive of the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust.

"The new route for HS2 will be devastating for wildlife especially protected species such as bats, nationally-rare butterflies, water voles and otters in our most sensitive habitats such as ancient woodland and meadows," says Philippa Lyons.

"The route announced yesterday will irreparably damage several important wildlife sites including Calvert Jubilee Nature Reserve in north Buckinghamshire and the Colne Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest in south Buckinghamshire."

Stephanie Hilborne, Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts, adds: *"Whilst some consideration may have been given to noise and visual impacts for those people who live along the proposed route, Rt. Hon Philip Hammond MP made no reference at all to the impact on the natural environment.*

*"The proposed route will destroy or irrevocably damage a large number of important sites, dissect the landscape and fragment isolated patches of habitat. In the context of the recent **Making Space for Nature** report, the very last thing we should be doing is damaging existing wildlife sites and creating new linear barriers to the movement of wildlife".*

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust is one of seven **Wildlife Trusts*** affected by the High Speed Rail route between London and Birmingham. All of them will be campaigning through their memberships to stop the High Speed Rail project as it is currently proposed.

"We're here to stand up for wildlife," says Philippa Lyons. "I know that thousands of Wildlife Trusts members and members of the public will be writing to their MPs, lobbying Government, and collaborating with the many community Stop HS2 action groups to prevent such devastating effects on the UK's wildlife."

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Notes to editors

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- **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)** is one of 47 Wildlife Trusts across the UK working to achieve the shared aim of securing a better future for wildlife. BBOWT's vision is to create a region rich in wildlife and appreciated by all. BBOWT manages 80 nature reserves across the three counties, works with other agencies and individuals to help safeguard the wider countryside, and aims to inspire people to take action for wildlife. BBOWT has over 52,000 members. Find out more at www.bbowt.org.uk.
- **The Wildlife Trusts (TWT)** wildlifetrusts.org
There are 47 individual Wildlife Trusts covering the whole of the UK and the Isle of Man and Alderney. All are working for an environment rich in wildlife for everyone. We have more than 800,000 members including 150,000 members of our junior branch [Wildlife Watch](#). Our vision is to create [A Living Landscape](#) and secure [Living Seas](#). We manage around 2,300 nature reserves and every year we advise thousands of landowners and organisations on how to manage their land for wildlife. We also run marine conservation projects around the UK, collecting vital data on the state of our seas and celebrating our amazing marine wildlife. Every year we work with thousands of schools and our nature reserves and visitor centres receive millions of visitors. Each Wildlife Trust is working within its local communities to inspire people about the future of their area: their own Living Landscapes and Living Seas.
- **Seven Wildlife Trusts** affected by the High Speed Rail route announced today are:
 - London Wildlife Trust
 - Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust
 - Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
 - The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, Northants & Peterborough
 - Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
 - Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust
 - Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
- **Making Space for Nature.** Professor Sir John Lawton's report to the Government assesses the future of England's ecological network.
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf>