



Department
for Transport

From the Minister of State
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Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair, Public Accounts Committee

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Dear Chair,

HS2 Environmental publications

I am writing to inform you that I am today announcing that the Government is making a commitment to power our British built fleet of HS2 trains using zero carbon energy, to make HS2 an even cleaner alternative to long distance car journeys and domestic flights.

This commitment will support the Government's goal to decarbonise Great Britain's railways and Build Back Greener. It also forms part of a new Environmental Sustainability Vision and Net Zero Carbon Plan for HS2, published today, which will see carbon reduced further and faster as HS2 Ltd raises its ambition to support the Government's Net Zero Strategy.

The new Vision will also reaffirm our commitment to protect and enhance biodiversity as we build the new railway, including confirmation that on the Crewe-Manchester stretch of the route we will seek to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity for replaceable habitats. This will make a significant contribution to supporting the Nature Recovery Network envisaged in the Government's 25-year Environment Plan and the Environment Act 2021.

Alongside these new commitments I am also pleased to inform you that HS2 Ltd have published their first Environmental Sustainability Progress Report which provides a thorough and transparent account of how construction of the railway is impacting the environment, up to March 2021, as well as documenting the significant progress being made to minimise those impacts and deliver the railway in a cleaner, greener way, so that it is fit for the future.

ANDREW STEPHENSON MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT