

News story: £8 million of extra HS2 funding to benefit local communities and woodlands between Birmingham and Crewe

- HS2 Road Safety Fund extended by £6.5 million to provide a legacy of road safety improvements
- additional £2 million committed to HS2 Woodland Fund to create new native woodlands
- HS2 Minister helps launch 'Green Corridor' vision today to support British countryside

More than £8 million of government funding will create new woodlands and deliver safer roads on the route of Britain's new railway, HS2 Minister Nusrat Ghani announced today (25 June 2018).

Speaking at the launch of HS2's 'Green Corridor' in Kenilworth, the minister backed HS2's ambitious plan for connected wildlife habitats and native woodlands the length of the route, ensuring HS2 sets a new environmental standard for construction projects.

To support this vision, the minister announced an additional £2 million for the [HS2 Woodland Fund](#), to help landowners along the route between Birmingham and Crewe plant new trees native to the area.

HS2 Minister Nusrat Ghani said:

As we deliver the new high speed railway our country needs, driving forward economic growth and better journeys for passengers, it is imperative we set a new standard for protecting and enhancing our diverse woodlands and wildlife.

HS2's 'Green Corridor' is one of the most significant tree-planting and habitat creation projects ever undertaken in this country. That's why the government is backing it with an additional £2 million for the Woodland Fund to support the creation of native woodland and restore existing ancient woodland sites between Birmingham and Crewe.

We are also committed to putting in place a positive legacy of road safety improvements. An extra £6.5 million of funding for local authorities on Birmingham to Crewe route will ensure communities in the region see and share in the extraordinary benefits of Britain's new railway.

Committing £6.5 million to [HS2 Road Safety Fund](#) for the Birmingham to Crewe phase means that towns and villages on the route from London to Crewe will now share more than £35 million of cash to deliver improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

HS2's 'Green Corridor' will include 7 million new trees and shrubs on Phase One of the railway alone, comprising native UK species such as oak, silver birch, wild cherry, hornbeam and holly.

This will result in over 9 square kilometres of new native woodlands, alongside tailor-made habitats for species including bats, badgers and great crested newts.