

[Press release: Mother Nature given helping hand by HS2's Green Corridor](#)

Situated on the banks of the River Tame adjacent to a sewage works in Hams Hall, the 1.65 hectare (16,500 square metre) site north of Coleshill contains a mix of grassland and wetland habitat. The area is to be used for the translocation of 5 rare plant species, including marsh willowherb, yellow loosestrife, great burnet and bog stitchwort.

Native species

The site was previously rife with non-native Himalayan balsam, which can reduce the pollination of native species. The invasive plants were cleared earlier this year before Five Rivers Environmental Contracting Ltd installed new shallow ponds, known as scrapes, which are also designed to attract amphibians, such as newts and frogs.

A popular public pathway skirts the boundary of the new habitat, ensuring it is visible to locals and commuters walking to and from the Hams Hall Distribution Park.

As well as transforming the UK's transport system, boosting the economy and unlocking new jobs and opportunities, HS2 aims to be one of the most environmentally responsible infrastructure projects ever delivered in the UK.

A new grassland and wetland habitat created by HS2 in Coleshill, North Warwickshire.

The Hams Hall site is one of more than 100 new wildlife habitats being created in the West Midlands and Warwickshire by HS2 Ltd, alongside landscape architects and ecologists, DJV (a joint venture of WSP and Ramboll) and the early works contractor, Birmingham-based LM JV (a joint venture of Laing O'Rourke and J Murphy & Sons Ltd).

Green Corridor

These sites form part of HS2's Green Corridor, consisting of new wildlife habitats, native woodlands and community spaces. They will help integrate the new railway into its surrounding landscape and environment, and leave a lasting legacy of high quality green spaces all along the route. With the tree planting season now at an end, more than 350,000 trees have already been planted along the Phase One route (Birmingham to London).

Peter Miller, Environment and Town Planning Director, HS2 Ltd, said:

Managing our impact on the environment during construction is a high priority, and we are committed to building a railway that supports new wildlife habitats, woodlands and community spaces

which future generations can enjoy.

Our Green Corridor programme, along with various funds available for affected communities along Phase One of the route have seen our work on the ground accelerate over the last 12 months as we prepare for the main works.

As work progresses on building the railway, this will continue and people will see new sites developed as we create a network of environmental and community projects along the route.

Covering 33 square kilometres, the Green Corridor will see HS2 plant 7 million new trees and shrubs on Phase One, with more than 40 different species of tree being grown in its nursery, including those native to each area the railway passes through.

Site in Coleshill, North Warwickshire before environmental mitigation works by HS2 took place

Other completed sites in the region include land near Stoneleigh Park where a training pond for otters has been created. The false riverbank includes an artificial holt and ensures that pups can safely adopt anti-predator behaviour and learn foraging and hunting skills, before they take to the waters of the nearby River Avon. Artificial burrows and perches are also provided for kingfishers for a similar purpose.

Roosting sites

The Stoneleigh Park habitat is also home to a bat house, which boasts a mix of roosting sites to attract different species. Ecologists predicted it would be 2 years before the building was occupied, but within weeks of it being installed, bats had already moved in.

Elsewhere, a new habitat near Burton Green in Warwick, will enable the relocation of a badger clan following the construction of a large artificial sett.

Andrew McPherson, Principal Landscape Architect, DJV, said:

Up and down the line of route we are creating new ecosystems that will allow native species to thrive. It may be Europe's largest mega-project, but HS2 is also giving Mother Nature a helping hand and proving that biodiversity is at the heart of the new railway.

It's not just plants and animals that we are focusing on, as much importance is being placed on preserving soil communities. Wherever possible, we are moving soil from the line of route to the new habitats to uphold the land's unique nutrients and biodiversity value.

LM JV's Ecology Manager, Dr Pamela Cramb, said:

Coleshill is an excellent example of the way new habitats have been established as we prepare the route for HS2. Across the West Midlands, we're working with specialists to construct these sites and whether they're in country areas or more urban locations, these initiatives are having a valuable and positive impact to the environment.

Community and business projects

In addition to the mitigation works, HS2 has a number of different funds and projects to support the environment and communities.

Community and Environment Funds and Business and Local Economy Funds have already contributed £2.5 million across 47 projects in 14 constituencies along the Phase One route.

A further £1 million has been allocated under the Woodland Fund, which will see 18 projects deliver 85 hectares of new woodland and 50 hectares of ancient woodland restoration.

[News story: VMD Survey of Controlled Drugs Disposal 2018 – Summary of responses](#)

Vets involved in the prescribing, supplying, recording, storing and disposing of Controlled Drugs (CDs) must comply with the law on the misuse of drugs and veterinary medicines.

When disposing of unused CDs listed in Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations, vets must ensure that they are destroyed in the presence of and as directed by any one of the following:

- an inspector appointed under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations
- a vet, independent of the practice where the destruction takes place
- a person legally authorised to witness the destruction of CDs such as a Police CD Liaison Officer (CDLO)

We commissioned a survey of vets on issues relating to the use and disposal of CDs to better understand the extent of the issues that they face in complying with their legal obligations. The survey ran for 5 weeks from May to June 2018 and contained 10 questions.

We received 511 responses to the survey and this document provides a summary of the comments received.

The views expressed in the survey will be used to inform our policy in relation to the destruction of controlled drugs in veterinary practices.

Q1 What area is your practice based?

Answered: 507 Skipped: 4

Region Choices	Responses
Scotland	38
Northern Ireland	5
North East England	30
North West England	53
West Midlands	41
East Midlands	37
East England	44
South Wales	16
South West England	80
South East England	91
Greater London	72

Q2 What type of practice do you work at?

Answered: 510 Skipped: 1

Region Choices	Responses
Mixed	56
Companion	436
Equine	3
Farm	15

Q3 Who do you use as a first option to witness the disposal of controlled drugs?

Answered: 503 Skipped: 8

Region Choices	Responses
Police Controlled Drugs Liason Officer (CDLO)	148
VMD/RCVS Inspector	97
Independent Vet	258

Q4 If your first option is unavailable, who would

you use to witness the disposal of controlled drugs?

Answered: 491 Skipped: 20

Answer Choices Responses

CDLO	118
Inspector	131
Independent Vet	242

Q5 How often do you routinely dispose of controlled drugs?

Answered: 509 Skipped: 2

Answer Choices Responses

Once a month	26
More than once a month	7
Ever 3-4 months	132
Every 6 Months	102
Less than once a year	138
Once a year	104

Q6 Have you ever experienced any difficulty getting someone to witness disposing of Controlled Drugs?

Answered: 511 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices Responses

Yes, often	267
Yes, occasionally	114
Yes, but very rarely	36
No difficulty at all	94

Q7 If you answered yes to question 6, please could you explain what the issue has been?

Answered: 401 Skipped: 110

Finding an independent vet. The reasons given were:

- the location of the practice being too isolated
- the nearest practice is a competitor
- that they are part of a chain of vet practices, therefore other vets aren't deemed independent
- time spent finding a vet that is willing to take time out to witness the

disposal

Getting CDLOs to witness disposal. The reasons given were:

- not enough local CDLOs or none at all in their area
- police are reluctant to come out to witness disposal and this is low on their list of priorities
- the police are not always aware of the regulations for controlled drugs disposal

No local RCVS or VMD inspectors which results in practices stockpiling drugs and waiting until their next inspection to dispose of them, causing lengthy delays.

Answered: 419 Skipped: 92

Answer Choices Responses

CDLO	119
VMD	176
RCVS	124

Q9 Please list the most commonly used controlled drugs used in your practice using either the active substance or trade-mark name?

Answered: 498 Skipped: 13

Controlled drug listed in descending order of use:

Methadone
Ketamine
Morphine
Fentanyl
Buprenorphine
Phenobarbital
Pentobarbital
Tramadol
Diazepam
Secobarbital
Midazolam
Pethidine
Etorphine
Clenbuterol
Codeine

The following products listed by respondents were not CDs:

- Butorphanol
- Torbugesic

- Cinchocaine
- Gabapentin (Although Gabapentin was placed in Schedule 3 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 from April 2019)

Q10 Please let us know if you have any other suggestions or concerns in relation to controlled drugs being used as veterinary medicines?

Answered: 173 Skipped: 338

The concerns raised followed these themes:

- General concerns around the destruction of controlled drugs with practices in rural areas experiencing more difficulty. Practices reported stockpiling CDs awaiting destruction because of the difficulty in finding a person to witness.
- The 28 day broach rule which some feel results in the unnecessary amounts of wastage. Some practices do not follow the 28 day rule and reported carrying on using products until the vial is empty.
- Insufficient guidance on recording CDs and wastage, with too much regulation and red tape making it difficult to comply.

The suggestions followed these themes:

- Increase the pool of people able to witness the destruction by allowing staff from the same practice or corporate group to witness disposal. Instead of an external vet two internal vets could sign and witness the disposal.
- Encourage manufacturers to produce 2ml or 5ml vials for drugs like Ketamine that would lead to less wastage.
- Put measurement markers on bottles which would help to carry out stock checks.
- Introduce longer broach dates to minimise waste and financial loss.
- Make disposal procedure easier and provide clearer guidance on storage and disposal of CDs.

[News story: Invasive Species Week: American skunk cabbage creates a stink](#)

American skunk cabbage is a colourful plant posing a difficult challenge at [Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest](#), where it is now blocking drainage channels.

Biosecurity Minister Lord Gardiner visited the area today (Tuesday, 14 May) to see first-hand how this plant has had an impact on the woodlands. He then assisted [Forestry England](#) and volunteers in digging out this invasive non-native plant.

Woodlands are a crucial part of our landscape and cultural heritage and home to some of the country's rarest wildlife, but the biodiversity they support is threatened by a number of invasive species.

Recent reports on international nature have put the issue of species loss high on the nation's agenda. Last week, the [UN's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services report](#) showed nearly a million species are in danger of extinction and tackling invasive non-native species can make a difference for the UK's native fauna and flora.

Biosecurity Minister Lord Gardiner said:

The government is taking strong measures to ensure non-native invasive species are not allowed to become established in the UK and stopping the spread of those already here – this is critical to tackling wider environmental threats such as biodiversity loss, climate change, food security and our resilience to flooding.

Tackling invasive non-native species is important for protecting our country's native plants and animals and is vital for safeguarding our environment, economy and health. Meeting this threat will help us to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.

The work here at Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest by Forestry England staff and volunteers is making a vital difference to remove a non-native invasive species. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved.

American skunk cabbage was first recorded in the wild in 1947 in Surrey and was originally introduced to the UK from Western North America as an ornamental plant in 1901. Since then it has spread across Britain, particularly in southern and western areas.

Once established the plant can spread quickly. Infestations can dominate large areas and crowd out native species in important habitats such as wet woodlands. Its name is fitting as this plant has a characteristic pungent scent.

In 2016, American skunk cabbage was banned from sale in the UK. Now gardeners are being urged to make sure that they [Be Plant Wise](#), dispose of plants correctly and ensure they do not discard this species in the natural environment.

Forestry England have been working hard to remove the plant from Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest over the last few years, and the Kent High Weald Partnership have volunteered to lend a hand during Invasive Species Week.

Dr Niall Moore, Head of the [GB Non-Native Secretariat](#), said:

Invasive Species Week highlights the importance of this issue and the role of the Be Plant Wise and [Check, Clean, Dry](#) campaigns that help boaters, anglers, gardeners and those travelling abroad to ensure they take the right biosecurity action and prevent any visitors from hitching a lift to the UK.

Advice to gardeners is to [Be Plant Wise](#) when planning a clear out of your garden, pond or aquarium, dispose of plants responsibly and don't dump them in the wild.

If you're an angler, canoeist, boater or similar, [Check Clean Dry](#) your kit after leaving the water to avoid spreading invasive species between waterbodies. It's even more important if you're abroad as you could bring back new plants and animals.

Take care of pets, never release them or allow them to escape into the wild. It's cruel and could harm other wildlife.

Asian hornet

Last year there were nine confirmed sightings of Asian hornets – an individual hornet in Lancashire (April) and Hull, three in Cornwall, two in Hampshire, one in Surrey (all September) and the latest in Kent (October).

It is important to remember: The Asian hornet is smaller than our native hornet and poses no greater risk to human health than a bee. However, they do pose a risk to honey bees.

These incursions to the UK were successfully contained by government action. However Defra remains vigilant, working closely with the National Bee Unit and their nationwide network of bee inspectors, as well as partners APHA and Fera, to monitor the situation.

[The latest updates about Asian hornet sightings in the UK can be found here on Gov.uk](#)

Government has launched an innovative free app – called Asian hornet watch – to enable people to quickly and easily report possible sightings of the invasive species and send pictures of suspect insects to experts at the National Bee Unit.

If you suspect you have seen an Asian hornet you should report this using the 'Asian Hornet Watch' app:

Lord Gardiner's visit comes as part of a wider push by government to promote Invasive Species Week, an annual awareness-raising campaign led by the GB Non-Native

Species Secretariat (NNSS) and Defra to get members of the public thinking about simple steps they can take to stop the spread of invasive species which threaten Britain's plants and animals. Find out more on the website: [Invasive Species Week](#).

Background

Invasive Species – Why it matters for the UK?

- Biodiversity loss: Invasive species are one of the biggest causes of global nature loss and species extinctions. For example, floating pennywort, originally introduced as a pond plant, rapidly forms dense mats which reduce oxygen levels in the water, crowd out and kill off native wildlife and damage habitats.
 - Climate change: Through warmer temperatures, climate change may allow the spread of invasive species and turn previously benign plants and animals into invasive species. For example, Argentine ant is occasionally recorded in warmer parts of UK cities but climate change could help it establish more widely, disrupting ecosystems of plants and insects, and cause problems in households.
 - Food security: Invasive species are estimated to cost British agriculture and horticulture over £1 billion per year. For example, the most destructive species of slug pests to UK agriculture are three non-native: Spanish slug, Sicilian slug and Budapest slug.
 - Resilience to flooding: Invasive species can increase the risk of flooding by clogging waterways, undermining flood defences and impeding drainage. For example, Signal crayfish erodes banks by digging burrows which can be up to two metres deep, with interconnecting tunnels.
 - What can I do? [Be Plant Wise](#) when planning a clear out of your garden, pond or aquarium, dispose of plants responsibly and don't dump them in the wild. If you're an angler, canoeist, boater or similar, [Check Clean Dry](#) your kit after leaving the water to avoid spreading invasive species between waterbodies.
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[News story: Tylan 200mg/ml Solution for Injection – Product defect recall alert](#)

Tylan 200mg/ml Solution for Injection – Product defect recall alert – GOV.UK

Product defect recall alert for Tylan 200mg/ml Solution for injection – Vm 00006/4098 by Elanco UK AH Ltd



We wish to make wholesalers and veterinary surgeons aware that Elanco UK AH Ltd has issued a recall of Tylan 200mg/ml Solution for Injection (Vm 00006/4098) due to a failed periodic revalidation (media fill test) that may affect the level of sterility assurance of certain products. This only affects the batch mentioned below:

Batch No.	Description	Expiry
C967336A	Tylan 200mg/ml Solution for Injection	Use before 07/2020

Elanco UK AH Ltd is contacting wholesale dealers and veterinary surgeons to examine inventory immediately and quarantine products subject to this recall.

This issue only applies to the batch listed above. Any other batches of Tylan 200 Injection are not impacted and may continue to be distributed.

For further information regarding the recall, please contact Ms Victoria Haslingden 01256 779519 or email elanco_orders@lilly.com

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Thank you for your feedback