

Phase 2a Biodiversity Investment Fund



Working in
partnership with

HS2

What is HS2?

HS2 is the new high speed rail network for Britain, which is being delivered in different phases. Phase One is being built between London and the West Midlands, and preparations to build Phase 2a beyond to Crewe started in 2021. Later phases extending further north will follow.

What is the funding?

To improve biodiversity along Phase 2a, HS2 Ltd has launched a £2m Biodiversity Investment Fund to help projects that create or enhance wildlife habitats beyond mitigating or compensating for habitats affected by building HS2.

What support is on offer?

The Fund will provide funding for capital or revenue projects that primarily focus on creating and/or restoring ecological habitats.

Applications must be able to demonstrate appropriate long-term maintenance of the newly created or restored habitat. Funding will be available to support the creation of initial Ecological Assessment and Management Plans (EAMPs), capital works and certain maintenance works.

While this is not a requirement, the Fund will also encourage applicants to submit projects that can demonstrate a favourable cost benefit, such as by adding cash match funding or providing their own or volunteers' resources to support the project's outcomes.



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Am I eligible?

Each project will be assessed on its individual merits. For example, if there is a justified reason why a new habitat area needs to be created much further away from the Phase 2a line, this project can still be considered for funding.

Fully constituted, not for profit organisations can apply for funding. Applications should describe who will undertake the initial EAMPs and the person must be suitably qualified. For example through membership of an appropriate institute or previous experience of producing ecological reports. All works should be tendered or include three quotes. Ownership or management control of the land for the duration of the project will also be a requirement.

Full details of what is required when applying to the BIF will be publicised before the BIF application portal opens.

What are the benefits?

BIF funded projects will enhance biodiversity along the line of the Phase 2a route by restoring existing habitat and creating new habitat.

Applicants to the Fund will be asked to include, in their EAMP an outline metric calculation, in accordance with the Defra biodiversity metric guidelines.

The BIF will also include a broad range of secondary benefits to enable a diverse range of projects and benefits, including health and wellbeing, education and training.

How does the BIF link to the Green Corridor?

HS2's Green Corridor will run alongside the railway, creating a network of bigger, better-connected, climate-resilient habitats and new green spaces for people to enjoy. Projects funded by the BIF will contribute to and become an important part of the Green Corridor.

▶ hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/hs2-green-corridor

What about the HS2 Woodland Fund?

Another key element of the Green Corridor, the HS2 Woodland Fund, supports the creation of native woodland and the restoration of ancient woodland sites within a 25-mile zone surrounding the Phase One railway. We will make sure the BIF and the Woodland Fund programmes are delivered together to complement each other.

▶ gov.uk/guidance/hs2-woodland-fund

How do I apply?

Visit the HS2 Funds website:

▶ hs2funds.org.uk

Groundwork UK will update the site with more information about the BIF, including guidance for applications, by spring 2021.

To register your interest in the Fund, please email:

@ HS2BIF@groundwork.org.uk

