

From: [HS2 \(Jim C\)](#)
To: "Jim Conboy"
Subject: FW: [HS2Action] Greening cracks the ancient woodlands problem !
Date: 07 December 2021 20:44:22

Subject: FW: [HS2Action] Greening cracks the ancient woodlands problem !

On 25 April 2012 21:51, jimconboy wrote:

Letter from Justine Greening (SoS for transport) -

(Dear Cheryl)

"Your constituents raise concern about potential impacts on **ancient** woodlands... These features form an important part of our natural heritage... The EIA process will ... offer appropriate mitigation solutions, for example *transplanting woodland to an adjacent site..* "

Job Done !!

From: HS2Action@yahoogroups.co.uk [<mailto:HS2Action@yahoogroups.co.uk>] **On Behalf Of** kenyonbs
Sent: 26 April 2012 11:45

Subject: Re: [HS2Action] Greening cracks the ancient woodlands problem !

Excellent Joe - The Woodlands Trust press office must know. Greening is obviously ignorant & appalling and the Trust need to act fast! As Peter Delow of Cubbington says

- Please note that the policy of the Government's own statutory advisor, the Joint National Conservation Committee (JNCC), is that habitat translocation is "not an acceptable alternative to *in situ* conservation".
- As a self-appointed guardian of South Cubbington ancient woodland, the words "habitat translocation" tend to raise my blood pressure somewhat. For my views, please see my blog *The answer lies in the soil* (at <http://hs2andtheenvironment.wordpress.com/2012/03/08/the-answer-lies-in-the-soil>).
- The Secretary of State's comment about using narrower cuttings as a mitigation measure is also applicable to South Cubbington Wood and I discuss why I don't think that this will be of benefit in my blog *Doing it on the cheap* (at <http://hs2andtheenvironment.wordpress.com/2012/03/04/doing-it-on-the-cheap>).

- And as Steve Roddick says ...It is not possible to transplant ancient woodland successfully. You can transplant some of it but what you end up with won't be ancient woodland. Ancient woodland is special because over millennia it has evolved its own ecosystem including soils, root fungi etc etc which are lost when disturbed. It is absolute nonsense to suggest that any valuable habitat can simply be trans-located by scooping it up and replanting it.
- woodlandtrust.org.uk/hs2 Chris takes to the drawing board to explain the Woodland Trust's main concerns with High Speed Two. At least 19 ancient woods will be destroyed for this route - with so much ecological damage how can this be the 'green' transport solution it's made out to be?
- This video from the Woodland Trust explains the problems in a graphical way - <http://vimeo.com/40942525> HS2: Questions needing answers on Vimeo - and may be worth sending round to action group members.

From:

Date: Thu, 26 Apr 2012 09:08:41 +0100

Subject: RE: [HS2Action] Greening cracks the ancient woodlands problem !

Dear All

It is not possible to transplant ancient woodland successfully. You can transplant some of it but what you end up with won't be ancient woodland. Ancient woodland is special because over millennia it has evolved its own ecosystem including soils, root fungi etc etc which are lost when disturbed. It is absolute nonsense to suggest that any valuable habitat can simply be trans-located by scooping it up and replanting it.

I am not aware of any successful example, The idea of trans-locating large trees from an ancient woodland with roots, soil etc. intact isn't credible and, frankly, not even worth debating.

More greenwash from the greenest government ever.

Steve

Chief Officer

Chilterns Conservation Board

From: HS2Action@yahoogroups.co.uk [<mailto:HS2Action@yahoogroups.co.uk>] **Sent:** 26 April 2012 07:50

Cc: HS2Action@yahoogroups.co.uk

Subject: Re: [HS2Action] Greening cracks the ancient woodlands problem !

This video from the Woodland Trust explains the problems in a graphical way - <http://vimeo.com/40942525> HS2: Questions needing answers on Vimeo - and may be worth sending round to action group members.

Penny

On 26 April 2012 00:29, RAE SLOAN wrote:

I've spoken to BBOWT (Beds, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust. It simply doesn't work for vegetation and it certainly doesn't work for wildlife. Just digging the soil up disturbs the micro-organisms etc, the foundation step for life.

We were told they can easily put new plants in to maintain the mosaic vegetation and maintain connectivity. I'm not sure where they are going to buy 1,000 year old woodland from. Our B & Q and garden centres don't sell it. It's utter rot.

It really is frightening if this is what their environment and ecology people are saying.

Rae

From: Alex Nieora

To:

Cc: jimconboy <hs2@jimconboy.com>; "HS2Action@yahoogroups.co.uk" <HS2Action@yahoogroups.co.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 April 2012, 23:42

Subject: Re: [HS2Action] Greening cracks the ancient woodlands problem !

I was at the 'scientific' committee as well and marveled at the lovely slides they had of silent trains streaming through lush wildflower

meadow landscapes. With the obligatory oblivious cattle grazing near the line.

I actually found the scientific committee and all their stitched up bias, subjectivity and vested interests very depressing but this email about transplanting trees cracked me up. I sent it to a trustee of my local ancient woodland who said it was hilarious.

Alex Nieora

Sent: Wednesday, 25 April 2012, 23:25

Subject: Re: [HS2Action] Greening cracks the ancient woodlands problem !

At the "scientific" committee this week we were also told that flora would be protected because soil would be scooped up and stored with all the natural seeds still in it, then put back in place to grow as before. I know poppies can survive this kind of operation but had assumed SSI status was to protect the stuff that can't.

Doreen McIntyre

On 25 Apr 2012, at 22:49, Sue Yeomans wrote:

Has she tried transplanting a fully grown, ancient tree without killing it? I'd like to know how her woodland chaps plan to do this.

It's also interesting that JG mentions the 'imbalance of communities' if the property bond scheme went ahead which 'could mean the Government owning a great number of houses' - so she admits there will a large number of homes adversely affected - what happened to the 10 affected by noise of earlier statements?! Maybe someone could major on this!

Sue
CCG

Jim