

Inadequacy of compensation

Woodland Trust before the House of Commons HS2 Select Committee – transcript of the morning session held on Wednesday 3 February 2016

- “...ancient woodland, when it is lost to development, cannot be subject to successful mitigation or compensation” (paragraph 308)
- “We believe that HS2 has fallen woefully short of adopting best practice towards ancient woodland by poor assessment, little avoidance, continued indirect effects and poor compensation with no transparent rationale” (paragraph 375)
- “[compensation planting] should be at a high ratio – namely 30:1 [by area]” (paragraph 336)
- Promoter unable to offer a planting ratio except to say that “in some cases it will be more than 1:1” (paragraphs 409 to 414)
- “translocation cannot recreate ancient woodland” (paragraph 349).



The inadequacy of the compensation proposals emphasises the importance of avoiding loss wherever possible