## Key Issues –

Temple, working as part of the ETM consortium with ERM and Mott Macdonald, prepared the Environmental Statement for approximately 55% of the HS2 Phase 1 scheme, from London to Lower Boddington (Areas 1-15, see map overleaf). This involved co-ordination of a large multi-disciplinary team that supported scheme development and carried out the EIA to support the hybrid Bill application. Key issues included:

- A single ES for a large geographical area;
- Scale and logistical complexity of survey requirements;
- Route through sensitive areas, including the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Colne Valley (see photo above);
- Managing impacts on communities in diverse locations; and
- Management of large volumes of excavated material.

## Purpose of the project

HS2 is a proposed new North-South rail link, with Phase 1 to link London to the West Midlands. The HS2 rail network will release space on crowded existing lines and bring the whole country closer together. It will also provide for direct links to Europe from the major cities of the north, as well as to Crossrail and Heathrow Express.

## Description of the project

HS2 Phase 1 comprises approximately 160 miles of railway, four stations and two new depots. Temple worked on two stations (a rebuild of Euston Station and a new station at Old Oak Common), one depot (Calvert) and about 90 miles of route. Construction is due to commence in 2017 and the scheme to be operational in 2026.
Lessons learnt -
Many lessons about the management of EIA for mega-projects have been learnt – for example, the following actions benefited the project:
- Early attention to EIA methods and policies for mitigation;
- Exploration of mitigation ideas as early as possible, to ensure that the implications of mitigation policy can be tested and policies refined;
- Tailored mitigation proposals in any given area; commensurate with the sensitivity of the resources and likely impacts;
- Early alignment of scheme-wide and local construction strategies as these can be key drivers for mitigation for a range of topic impacts;
- Data management systems that handle the survey lifecycle, including land identification, landholder interactions, health and safety and survey records;

Lessons learnt cont. -
- Early engagement with key stakeholders and local communities to ensure open dialogue about local issues and concerns;
- Early programming of survey effort, due to the large volume of these and the need to arrange access with a diversity of land owners; and
- Early development of model reports to maximise consistency and confirm intent.

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