

Early Works Notification – Fleet Marston

November 2020 | www.hs2.org.uk

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. We are continually reviewing the works on our construction sites in line with Government and Public Health England (PHE) advice on dealing with COVID-19. The Government's current strategy makes it clear that construction activity can continue as long as it complies with this guidance. Please be assured that only sites that can operate within the guidelines are operational. All sites will remain under constant review. You can sign up for regular updates in your local area at www.hs2inbucksandox.co.uk

What are we doing?

We are setting up a construction compound in a location along the route of the new railway along the A41 Aylesbury Road near Fleet Marston. The map included in this notification shows the location and layout of the compound. The construction compound is made up of temporary offices, welfare facilities, car parking and HGV and access. Once the railway is built the compound and associated facilities will be removed.

This activity will include:

1. Ground Investigation and utility works
2. Localised clearance of vegetation and fencing
3. Forming the access from the existing road and set up of works compound
4. Earthworks operations including access and haul roads.
5. Preparation works for the Batching Plant within the compound

When will these works take place?

We are looking to start these works from November and continue into 2021 while we develop the compound. We will continue to keep you updated with further information as the works continue.



If you have a question about HS2 or our works, please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

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Duration of works

Works will commence in November 2020

Normal working hours:
Monday to Friday
8.00am – 6.00pm

Saturdays
8.00am – 1.00pm

Our contractors may be on site for one hour's start-up and shutdown either side of these times.

What to expect

Varied activities with both quiet and busier periods.

Traffic management on some local roads and some additional traffic.

Diversion of a Public Right of Way

Noise from equipment used for the works.

What we will do

Manage any environmental impacts, such as traffic and noise.

Respond promptly to any complaints and take appropriate action.

Take care to respect the community.

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What does the work involve?

Ground investigations

We will continue to carry out Ground Investigation surveys throughout 2020 and into 2021. These activities will give us more information about the type, strength and details of the land where the new railway will be built. To understand the ground conditions, we need to collect a variety of test samples from carefully selected areas of soil. In most cases, access will be from existing public rights of way or agreed with local landowners.

Creation of haul roads and access roads

Throughout the latter part of 2020 and into 2021, we will begin creating a dedicated haul road and access roads along the line of the HS2 route. In order to construct these roads, we will need to carry out localised vegetation clearance, drainage work and fencing. Once built, these roads will help move materials along the line of the route, keeping lorries off the local road network as much as possible.



There will be specific points at which our HGVs are permitted to gain access to the haul road. Lorry routes have been set out in agreement with the local authority. Localised traffic management and vegetation clearance may be required in order to carry out this work.

Compound set up

The compound works will commence on the 16th November. One of our first activities will be to create the temporary access to the site which will also involve laying track matting into the compound area and will assist with the construction of the main access point from the existing A41 off Lower Blackgrove Road. There will be a need for temporary traffic management in the area when the break from highway is being constructed. We will provide an update with exact dates on closer to the time.

We will then clear vegetation in the areas that we need to do the construction works. A small team will use machinery and hand-held equipment to clear existing vegetation. We will also need to clear some vegetation outside the compound in the areas along the route of the railway. Traffic management will be needed with the localised clearance of hedgerow along the A41 to the south of the compound area.

Detailed surveys of local wildlife and habitats have been undertaken, and this information will ensure that wild birds, nests bats and roosts are not disturbed during the works. Ecologists will be on site while early works are taking place. Exclusion zones will be put in place around areas where nests or protected species are found until they can be moved.

Once the access has been established, the construction of access roads, haul road and the compound will take place. Topsoil will then be removed and a hardstanding area will be constructed. Finally we will install the offices, along with car parking and associated drainage and attenuation ponds.



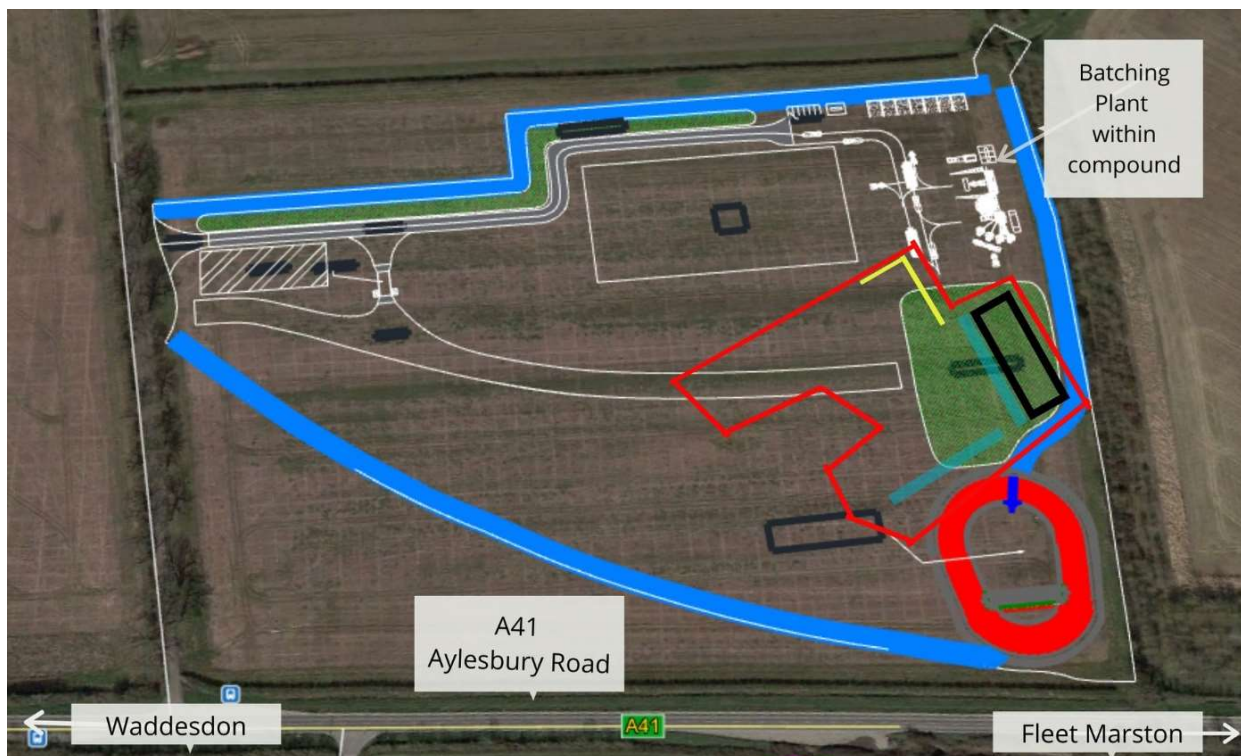
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Where will the works take place?

We will be working in the area off the A41, Aylesbury Road as illustrated on the map below. You can see from the map the indicative outline of the initial compound as well as the highlighted area where the break from highway for the site access will be located.



Batching Plant

This compound layout indicates the intended site of one of our internal Batching Plants. The inclusion of this will see concrete being created onsite and distributed up and down our internal access roads. For the communities, this dramatically reduces the amount of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) that would otherwise be on the local road network. The Batching Plant itself is due to be delivered to site in Spring 2021. Once on site, it will then take 10-12 weeks to erect and be fully operational. Before this date, we will have to complete the associated earthworks and the hardstanding area in the North East corner of the compound.

We intend to keep you further informed on the Batching Plant and the detail surrounding this in future notifications.

The whole construction operation should be completed by June 2021.

What else is happening in your area?

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What are we doing?

Alongside the traffic counting in the area, as the works increase you can expect to see a number of other activities from around the Aylesbury area.

Ground investigations and Utility Trial Holes

We will continue to carry out Ground Investigation surveys that are associated away from the requirements of the compound around the Aylesbury area. As detailed previously these activities will give us more information about the ground which we are building on.

The methods that will be used are:

Rotary drilling – this is a tracked machine that allows us to drill conventionally to any depth. Samples will be taken as we drill through the rock. The drill will be lubricated with either water, air or mud throughout the process. The drilling machines we use are the same size as a small excavator.

Cable percussive drilling – uses a winch which lifts and drops a cutting head into the borehole, which normally will stop around 25 metres below ground surface. The drill is lubricated using water. The team will continue to take samples as they drill through the rock.

Cone Penetration Test – Uses a truck mounted machine which pushes a long rod with a cone mounted on the end into the ground and measures various parameters

Geophysical Surveys – this is a non-intrusive test using a variety of equipment to measure resistivity, magnetic response, microgravity and continuous surface wave

Trial pitting – using an excavator to dig a pit approximately 4 metres deep and take samples. Sometimes there is a need to dig a trial trench which will be 4 metres deep and 10 metres in length, taking samples as we go. The pits are then back filled on completion of sampling.

Vegetation clearance

To construct the railway, it is necessary to remove vegetation to enable highway works to commence and to allow access to sites and compounds. We will be working at several locations across the coming months from Stoke Mandeville and into the surround Aylesbury area.

All clearance works are undertaken under the instruction of the ecologist on site, who decides the appropriate method of clearance based on the vegetation present. This involves a detailed hand search to determine if any ecology is present. If the area is found to be clear, then vegetation clearance will take place.

A small workforce will use machinery and handheld equipment to clear sections of vegetation. This will involve the use of brush cutters, chainsaws and tractors, employing different methods to remove the area of vegetation. There will be little or no disruption to traffic in the area.

If you have a question about HS2 or our works, please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk



Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes ensuring you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help.

Residents' Charter and Commissioner

The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter

We also have an independent Residents' Commissioner whose job is to make sure we keep to the promises we make in the Charter and to keep it under constant review. Find reports at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner

You can contact the Commissioner at: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Construction Commissioner

The Construction Commissioner's role is to mediate and monitor the way in which HS2 Ltd manages and responds to construction complaints. You can contact the Construction Commissioner by emailing: complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the line of route by visiting:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property

Find out if you're eligible for compensation at:

www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2

Holding us to account

If you are unhappy for any reason you can make a complaint by contacting our HS2 Helpdesk team. For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website:

www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain

Contact Us

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

 Minicom **08081 456 472**

 Email **hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk**

Write to:

FREEPOST

HS2 Community Engagement

Website **www.hs2.org.uk**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your local area, visit: **www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk**

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