

# HS2 Newsletter

June 2021



High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway for Britain. This newsletter provides an update of our progress in the Camden area, helping you find out what's going on and how you can get in touch with us.

## 'Discover Euston' hoardings

Since February 2021, Mace Dragados, HS2's construction partner for the new Euston Station, has been updating the artwork on construction hoardings around Euston. 'Discover Euston' is an overarching brand created in partnership with multiple organisations, including Network Rail, Transport for London, Lendlease, and others, along with HS2 contractors Mace Dragados, SCS and CSJV. We want people to know that Euston is still a destination as well as a home and a place of work, even while construction is taking place.

The vibrant and engaging designs include illustrations, photography, informative copy and clear, consistent wayfinding. The designs are focused on local people and businesses, local points of interest and walking routes, along with information about the HS2 project and Euston's history. Mace Dragados have had ongoing engagement with businesses and residents to develop designs that excite, guide, represent and inform all audiences in and around Euston.

Rollout of the construction hoardings will continue over the next few months, incorporating more illustrations and artwork designed by students from University of the Arts London, along with interactive QR codes providing more information about the area.

## Key works dates

- **To 9 July:** Parkway and Park Village East power cable installation works
- **To 23 July:** Doric Way ground investigations
- **June:** Prince Albert Road vehicle holding area begins operations
- **25 July:** Gower Place and Gordon Street works complete
- **17 July to 31 August:** Network Rail line closure and Camden Cutting 24/7 works at track level

For more information please visit [www.HS2inCamden.co.uk](http://www.HS2inCamden.co.uk). 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](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk).

# Community news

## Supporting local restaurants

Well known for its restaurants serving up tasty South East Asian cuisine, Drummond Street has also recently been the site of a trial lunch delivery service for hungry HS2 site workers.

Spotting an opportunity to support this local community, the HS2 Euston Station team has used the lockdown period to test a mobile app linking local restaurants to the growing workforce at Euston.

The trial has been a massive success, providing a boost for local restaurants during a particularly challenging time for the hospitality sector. It has also kept a hungry site well-fed, with workers keen to see more restaurants available on the app.

The team is planning a wider rollout involving more businesses and extending the scheme to other contractors working at Euston as more people head into our construction sites and offices.

## Historic drinking fountain restored



St Pancras New Church is the new home for a drinking fountain that has been in storage for almost a decade. After being badly damaged in an arson attack in St James' Gardens in 2012, work to conserve the fountain was funded by HS2 as part of our assurance with Camden to help protect heritage assets and improve open spaces.

## Netley Primary School



Over 400 students at Netley Primary School recently experienced a little of what it's like to be a lorry driver and learn about road safety at an event run by SCS, one of HS2's construction partners.

**“Thank you for organising such a fabulous day. Really amazing road safety and so practical for the children to understand.”**

Sitting in the driver's seat of a lorry parked outside their school was not only an exciting moment for the children, but also an opportunity to understand the road and visibility from a driver's perspective.

## British Sign Language screens

Network Rail in partnership with LB Foster and Clarion UK have developed new information screens which can show British Sign Language (BSL) messages to passengers.

Euston Station will host 28 of these screens, ensuring our hard of hearing/ deaf passengers get the information they need.



## Our space - Mixed Realities, Euston

Over the past ten weeks local young people have been working with artists Marie Walker-Smith and Mary Konstantopoulou from STORE to create five interactive installations across Euston.

Supported by HS2, a series of workshops have seen 13 young people create artworks that are a mixture of physical objects and augmented digital reality installations for underused and forgotten pockets of space in Euston. The group designed and made ceramic slip moulds to create their works, which envision alternative futures and invoke the rich histories of these spaces.

We also held a one-day workshop for students at the Regent High School. Led by artists Hannah Doucet and William Leach from ceramic studio, Rochester Square, the students used the slip moulds to cast ceramic objects.

The physical artworks will be installed in local spaces, along with augmented reality experiences, to be viewed on mobile phones, for a one-off exhibition on Sunday 27 June between midday and 4pm. To find out more and register for the event, please contact [school@storeprojects.org](mailto:school@storeprojects.org)



## Somers Town plant nursery



A small plant nursery is being developed at Global Generation's garden in the heart of Somers Town. The nursery will serve as a platform for a new horticulture training programme for young people, offering real-life practical opportunities with a focus on reducing plastic use, peat-free growing and using organic practices and wildlife friendly techniques.

Funded by Euston master development partner Lendlease, the nursery is part of long-term plans to support greening the area, developing skills to help local people into green jobs, and build local connections. A team of volunteers from blu-3, who are working on behalf of the HS2 Euston station team, installed the polytunnel.

In 2021 the partnership will explore the idea of growing plants and trees to eventually populate the streets of the Euston area, in order to ensure that they can be maintained every step of the way for long-term sustainability.

## Euston platform improvements

Since Christmas 2020, work has been ongoing to remove shops and widen the ramp to platforms 8-11, allowing more space for rail travellers to move from the concourse to trains.

The addition of shops and increasing passenger numbers over recent decades has led to bottlenecks and crowds forming when trains were announced. The cleared ramp will return passenger flows close to how they would have been when Euston was redeveloped in the 1960s.

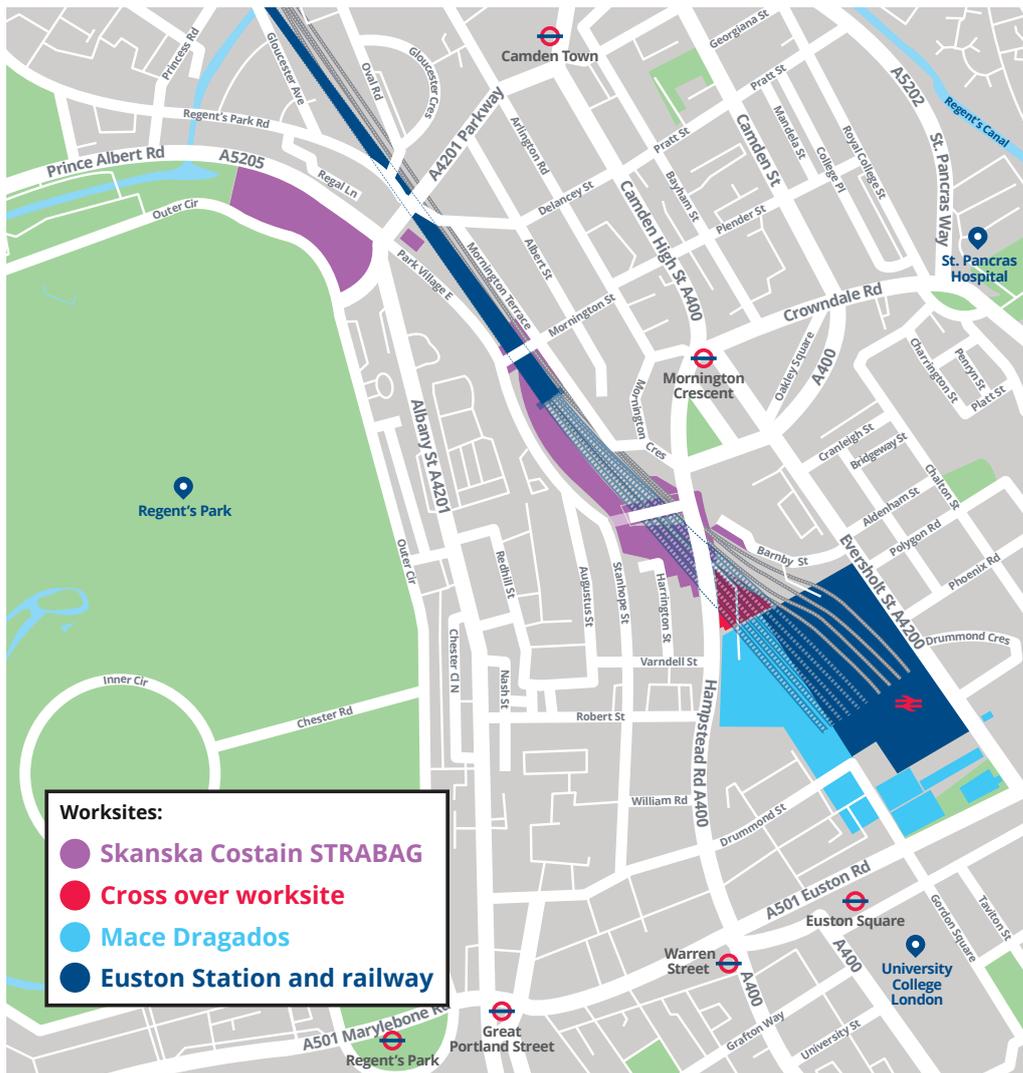
This major upgrade work to platforms 8-11 is due to be completed by autumn 2021.

# Construction news

We appreciate that construction can be disruptive for our neighbours and want to reassure you that our Helpdesk remains available to listen and respond to your questions and concerns. The majority of works in the Euston area are being carried out by our partners:

- Mace Dragados, who are building the HS2 Euston Station; and
- Skanska Costain STRABAG, who are constructing 26.4 kilometres (16.4 miles) of new high-speed railway between Northolt and Euston.

The worksite boundaries for these two main works partners are outlined on the map below.



## Parkway and Park Village East

UK Power Networks began cable installation work on Parkway and Park Village East on 14 June. Running until 9 July, the works include the start of substation installation in the area between Parkway and Mornington Street bridge.

There will be temporary lane and footway closures on Parkway and Park Village East. Access to properties will be maintained.

## Park Village East hoardings

Feedback from local residents was instrumental in designing the recently installed hoarding graphics reflecting the character of the Park Village East area. A big thank you to everyone for their input.



## Camden Cutting

HS2 contractor, Skanska Costain STRABAG, will be carrying out 24/7 works at track-level within the Camden Cutting from 17 July to 31 August 2021 during a planned Network Rail line closure.

Works include surveys of structures within the rail cutting and strengthening works to the track-level railway bridge in preparation for tunnelling. Noisy works will be carried out during the day, while minor works will be carried out overnight to limit the impact on the local residents. For safety reasons, due to the proximity of the works to the tracks, these works can only be carried out during a rail closure when trains are not operating.

## Doric Way ground investigations

We are carrying out ground investigation surveys to help us understand more about the current ground conditions and determine the locations of utilities in the local area. To support these works, we need to use a series of temporary road closures and parking bay suspensions on Doric Way between early May and 23 July 2021. This will require temporary traffic management measures, such as diversions and traffic lights, as well as temporary changes to pedestrian routes.

The works involve drilling and taking soil samples to investigate ground conditions and this will create low levels of noise, although we are managing our activity to minimise disruption as much as possible.

## Prince Albert Road Vehicle Holding Area

We are now nearing the completion of the Vehicle Holding Area (VHA) located on Prince Albert Road at the southern end of the London Zoo car park.

The VHA will hold lorries in a safe location until our worksite is ready to receive their deliveries, preventing lorries from parking on local roads or obstructing roads while queuing to enter or exit worksites.

In advance of the opening, we held an event with North Bridge Prep School, The Royal Parks, and the Metropolitan Police to show how the VHA will operate and to demonstrate the safety features of the lorries that will use it. Members of our engineering, logistics and security teams, along with representatives from haulier companies Lynch and Tarmac, were on hand to discuss all elements of operations.



We will begin using the VHA from June, building up to full capacity by August.

Operational hours will be Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm and Saturdays 8am to 1pm. There may be occasions where we need to use the Vehicle Holding Area outside these core hours to receive large load deliveries or to facilitate 24/7 work programmes.

## Adelaide Road

During summer 2021, we will be carrying out piling works within the Adelaide Road site. Dates for these works are yet to be confirmed, however we will provide more information to local residents as soon as possible.

If you would like to talk to the team about works at the Adelaide Road site, we are holding monthly virtual sessions for residents. Taking place on Microsoft Teams, you can sign up for a 20-minute session by visiting [hs2.org.uk/events](https://hs2.org.uk/events). Sessions are available between 3pm and 6pm on:

- Wednesday 21 July
- Wednesday 18 August

Please note, registration to sign up for the virtual sessions will open two weeks before the event.

For more information on these works, please visit [www.HS2inCamden.co.uk](https://www.HS2inCamden.co.uk). 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](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk).

## Granby Terrace Bridge

Over the past couple of months we have been working hard to remove one of four spans of the existing Granby Terrace Bridge, in preparation for the HS2 bridge extension over the new railway lines.

Careful planning in collaboration with Network Rail made sure the remaining bridge structure, which will continue to run over the rail lines, was not damaged by the work. The last beams were removed in the early hours of Sunday 30 May.



## Reducing piling noise



A new technique that will significantly reduce piling noise for residents and businesses near to our construction sites has been successfully tested on an HS2 site in Euston. The new technique also reduces carbon emissions and cost and could have massive benefits for the wider construction industry in the UK and abroad.

The “zero trim pile technique”, developed by HS2 contractor Skanska Costain STRABAG joint venture (SCS JV) and Cementation Skanska, involves sucking out excess concrete whilst still wet using a new vacuum excavator technique. Traditionally in piling, concrete is overpoured and then workers must break out the excess concrete. This can cause health problems for workers, including hand-arm vibration syndrome, hearing loss and silicosis. By removing the need to break out excess concrete, this new approach is safer for workers, faster to complete, and better for neighbours and the environment.

The zero trim technique is being used on HS2 worksites near Euston, where we estimate it will save 60,000 manhours installing over 2,000 piles in the area. We plan to extend it to other sites across London where SCS JV are working and discussions are also taking place with other HS2 contractors to see how it can be used more widely along the route.

Lee Piper, Site Superintendent for Skanska Costain STRABAG joint venture said:

**“I have worked in the construction sector for over 20 years, and the same piling techniques have been used throughout that time. Working with colleagues I saw an opportunity to try a new approach and was supported to do so by HS2. This technique should be attractive for the whole sector to use going forward.”**

# Skills, employment and education

New opportunities are always available with HS2 and its partners. Visit the HS2 Jobs Board at [hs2.org.uk/supply-chain-jobs](https://hs2.org.uk/supply-chain-jobs) to find the latest vacancies by region or specialism.

The Jobs Board has been developed as part of a Job Brokerage Partnership model backed by the London Borough of Camden. Support for people who want to apply for vacancies advertised on the Jobs Board is available from the London of Borough of Camden. For more information on the support available, go to: [goodwork.camden.gov.uk](https://goodwork.camden.gov.uk).



## We're moving your local website within the HS2 website

This summer we will be moving the contents of [HS2inCamden.co.uk](https://HS2inCamden.co.uk) over to the 'In your area' section of the main HS2 website ([HS2.org.uk/in-your-area](https://HS2.org.uk/in-your-area)). We are also changing the way that we issue email updates about the project and are giving you more choice about how you would like to receive information from us.

We have published local community landing pages for each section of the route between London, the West Midlands and Crewe. These provide information about HS2 within each area, with more information being added in the coming weeks.

You can continue to visit [HS2inCamden.co.uk](https://HS2inCamden.co.uk) for all information about our works in your area.

### Please sign up for notifications to continue to receive updates from HS2

As part of the move, we will stop issuing email updates through Commonplace. However, we will continue to send out regular email updates about the project, including notifications of our upcoming works, how HS2 is being constructed and what we're doing to make it less disruptive.

If you are signed up to receive updates from us or would like to, please sign up for email notifications at [engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list](https://engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list).

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](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter)

The independent Residents' Commissioner's 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](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner)

You can contact the Commissioner at: [residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk](mailto: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 at: [complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain)

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High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.

Registered office: Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA. Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 888 8512 56.

## Contact us

Our HS2 Helpdesk team are available all day, every day. You can contact them via:

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

 Minicom **08081 456 472**

 Email **[hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)**

Write to

**FREEPOST  
HS2 Community Engagement**

Website **[www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your area, visit:

**[www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk](http://www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk)**

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