

Construction of new bat habitat, Dews Lane

August 2020 | www.hs2.org.uk

Notification



High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. The Government's current strategy sets out that construction activity should continue as long as work can comply with Government and Public Health England guidance. We understand that some of the local community have concerns about the continuation of construction activity in the Colne Valley and along the route of the Chiltern Tunnel during the COVID-19 outbreak. We will be keeping our local website up to date with information on our works, and the measures we have in place to maintain the safety of the community and our workforce.

You can sign up for regular updates in your local area at <https://hs2inhillington.commonplace.is/>

To prepare for the construction of the Colne Valley Viaduct we will be continuing our works in the area.

What will we be doing in your area?

We wrote to you recently about the various works which are required to construct the viaduct through the Colne Valley, including ecological and environmental works around Dews Lane and the Hillington Outdoor Activity Centre.

As part of previous work and surveys carried out neighbouring Dews Lane we identified bats roosts. Ahead of the main construction of the viaduct we need to undertake some further work in your area, these works will consist of the construction of a bat house in the vicinity of Dews Lane.

Works will be programmed and monitored on site to avoid disruption.

All of these works are subject to the relevant consents and approvals being in place.

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

Duration of works

The works will start on the 31 August 2020 and will be completed by the end of October 2020

Working hours Monday to Sunday 24 hours a day

What to expect

Some additional traffic on local roads

Noise from equipment used for the works restricted to 08:00 to 22:00

What we will do

Manage any impacts such as traffic and noise with the aim of reducing disruption where we can.

Take care to respect your community and the environment

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Installation of a new bat house

Our ongoing ecology surveys identified that local properties are used by bats as a roost site. We need to demolish these buildings ahead of the construction of the viaduct.

The new bat house will be constructed before the demolition of the properties ready for the bat maternity season in Autumn 2020. This new bat house has been approved through consultation with Natural England and detailed within the European Protected Species Licence.

The construction of the bat house comprises of the following,

- single storey pitched tiled roof building
- approximately 10m length x 5 width
- brick construction
- The building is designed to mitigate for the loss of Brown Long-eared bat roost and both species of Pipistrelle bats roosts and will contain a variety of roost types for the bats to choose from

Specifically, the works will include:

- Excavation and installation of foundations for the bat house
- Construction of the building

Activities that generate the most noise will be done during the core working hours (08:00 to 18:00) or at the start of the night shift between the hours of (18:00 to 22:00).

Do we have licences for this work?

Yes, we will only undertake work with the necessary licences, where they are required. Other works will progress in locations where species constraints are absent, and where licences are not required.

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What works will be taking place?

Work being undertaken as part of the construction of the bat house is detailed below;

Activity	Detail
Foundations	Works to set out the area of the building, excavate and concrete the foundations
Construction of walls and structure	Day: Works to include building the exterior of the bat building and installation of the walls and floor. This includes brickwork, scaffolding and timberwork. Cutting of timbers and bricks using a powered saw will be required.
	Night: Works to be carried out each night between 18:00 and 08:00 would be bricklaying, installation of floor/roofing timbers, scaffolding and the servicing of these operations from the site compound / material laydown area. It is not expected that deliveries would take place out of hours.
Roof construction	Day: Planned works are to install the tiled roof of the bat building. Works would include transport of materials to the structure, fixing of underfelt and battens to the roof structure, laying of tiles including mortar work and cutting.
	Night: Planned works would be the same as during the day, however it is not expected that deliveries would take place between 22:00 and 08:00.
Internal work	Day: The internal elements of the structure include timber partitioning, internal slabbing and bat roost facilities. Materials will be delivered to the compound and transported to the bat house area when required. Most of the work is to be done by hand.
	Night: Planned works would be the same as during the day, however it is not expected that deliveries would take place between 22:00 and 08:00.

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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