

24/7 Freephone Community Helpline **08081 434 434**

# HS2 Update

Hampton in Arden | Berkswell | Balsall Common | Burton Green | Kenilworth | **Spring/Summer 2020**

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. This update provides information about upcoming work on HS2 in your area.

## Work over the coming months

Preparations for main construction work on HS2 are now well underway. Over the coming months we will be continuing our work, including the creation of new wildlife habitats, site clearance, widening roads, building roundabouts, compound construction, and ground investigations. We will also be constructing a haul road and building a temporary greenway near Burton Green.

Across this part of the Phase One route these enabling works are being delivered by LM - a joint venture between Laing O'Rourke and J. Murphy & Sons.

The main construction work will be carried out in future by BBV - a joint venture between Balfour Beatty and Vinci.

## HS2 and the COVID-19 outbreak

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 still working, and they will remain under constant review.

We have postponed all face-to-face engagement events and meetings, and have put in place a number of channels to communicate with communities, such as letters and phone calls, as well as updates and alerts from each of the local community websites.

You can still sign up for updates in your local area at [hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk](https://hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk) and [hs2insolihull.co.uk](https://hs2insolihull.co.uk).



## Our commitment to you

Keep all sites safe and secure.

Keep disruption to a minimum.

Inform you of any works that may impact you.

Answer your questions via the 24/7 HS2 helpdesk.



# HS2 works during the next few months

This information describes works that we are carrying out near you during spring and summer 2020.

## Ecological work

Over the past few years, we have been creating a series of new wildlife habitats in Warwickshire and Solihull.

In order to construct these 'ecological mitigation sites', we have been conducting comprehensive surveys of local ecology to identify wildlife and protected species, with a view to designing our sites around their needs.

Across the Greater West Midlands, so far we have completed over 7,500 surveys, with a further 8,000 surveys planned for 2020.

We have created a number of new habitats, made up of 77,000 newly planted trees, 40 ponds and multiple acres of wetland, heathland and meadow.

In addition to this work, you may have seen our contractors constructing fencing and removing some existing vegetation near you. This is required to prepare the route of the railway for future construction activity.

In some areas, this will include the removal of some trees at a small number of ancient woodlands. This will be followed by the translocation of the existing ancient woodland soils to new woodland sites nearby. This will involve a specific and careful process designed to maintain the valuable biodiversity that currently exists in the soils. Once translocated, each site will be carefully monitored and managed over the next fifty years to encourage the regeneration of the woodland.

Crucially, the new woodlands will be part of an unprecedented 'green corridor' of new wildlife habitats and woodlands alongside the railway, including 7 million new trees and shrubs between London and the West Midlands.

We understand that the community has strong feelings about this work. Please be assured that we will continue to work within the necessary regulations, including licences from Natural England. In accordance with the law, qualified ecologists will be on site to ensure wildlife species are protected, including checking and monitoring the area for nesting birds, and taking action to safeguard them from any of our works.



*Ecological mitigation site created at Burton Green*



## Main compound development

The main works contractor for this area, BBV, will work from a number of different sized compounds while constructing the new railway. The construction of some of these compounds is already underway at a number of locations and will take approximately eight months to complete, subject to site and weather conditions.

These compounds will be used as bases for our staff and equipment as we construct HS2. Each site will have office space, welfare facilities and storage areas. Compounds will not be used for accommodation by workers during the construction of HS2.

Our main compounds will be located at:

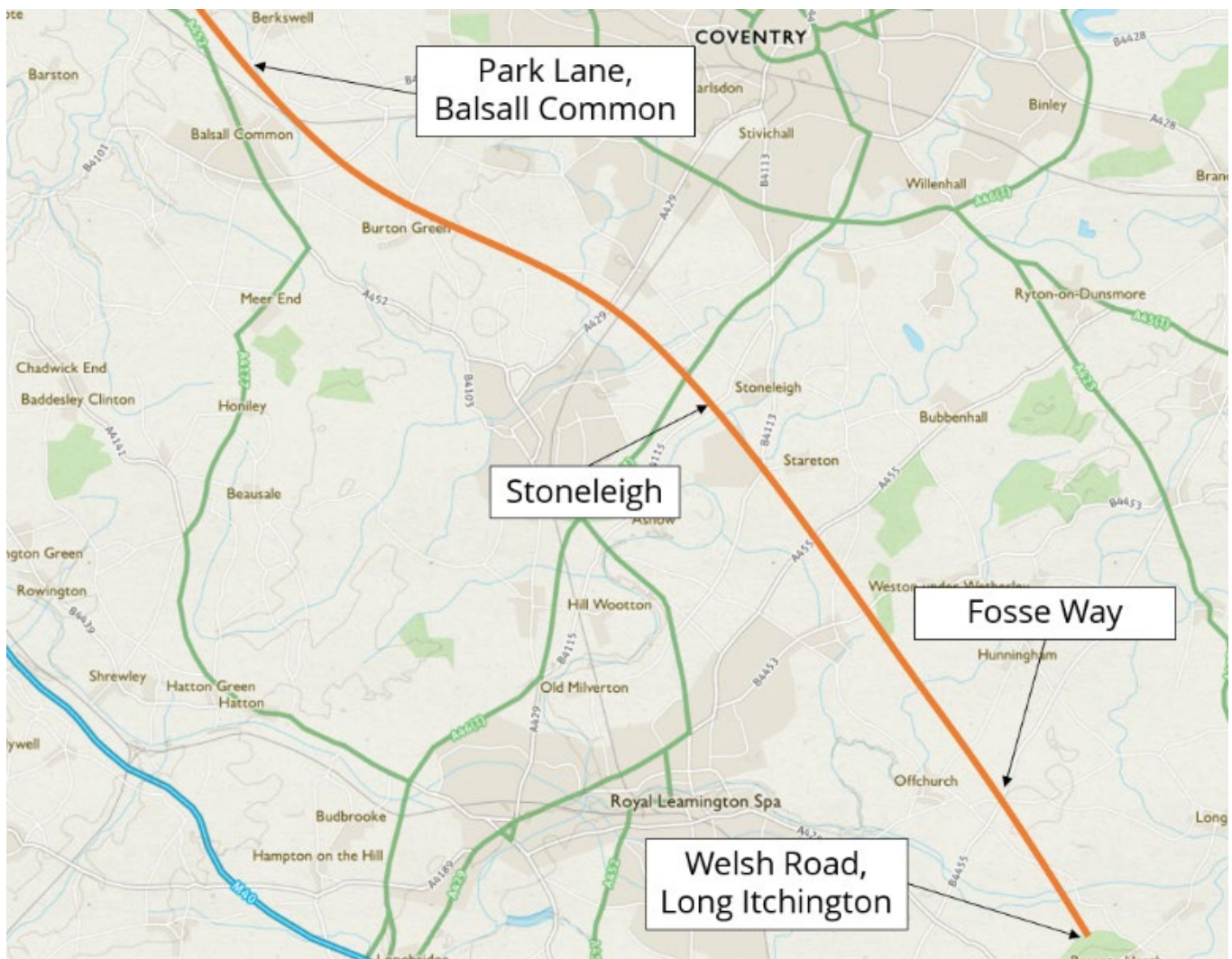
- Welsh Road, Long Itchington
- Fosse Way
- Stoneleigh (between the A46 and B4115)
- Park Lane in Balsall Common

Please see the map below for more information.

As part of constructing these compounds, we will erect hoardings or fences around each site for safety and security. There will be some vehicle movements as we transport equipment, machinery and welfare facilities onto site.

On occasions we will have to work on underground or overhead utilities in the areas around the compounds to connect them to power, water and other utilities. This may involve some impact on local roads that we will tell you about beforehand.

We will provide more information about the compound operations in future editions later this year.

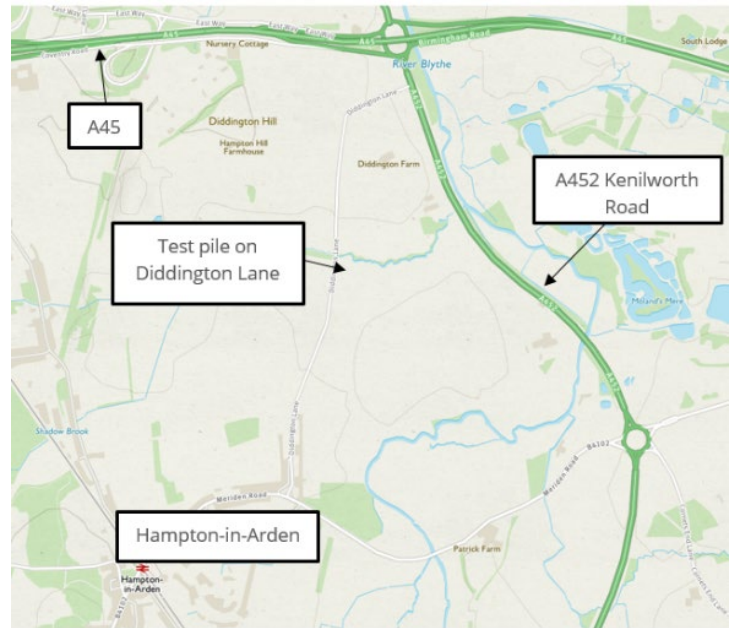


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## Test piling near Hampton-in-Arden

BBV will also be carrying out test piling near Hampton-in-Arden, beginning in late spring 2020. The test piling will begin with preparatory works to set up the site, including site clearance and widening the access point of the A452 and Diddington Lane.

These works will enable us to understand what the ground conditions are like in this area. Once we have completed these works we will use the results to inform our detailed design for the railway in this area, ensuring it is being constructed in the safest and most effective way.



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Image of construction worker

## Haul roads construction

Along the route of HS2 we are constructing a number of temporary roads dedicated to HS2 construction traffic. Known as a 'haul road', this route will take our works vehicles away from public highways to reduce our impact on local roads during construction.

The construction of haul roads has already started. In your area you can see this work between Berkswell and the A429 Coventry Road/Kenilworth Road near Crackley. As we progress towards main construction work later this year we will be constructing more of the haul roads.

If any of the works to build the haul roads result in temporary disruption to the local road network we will notify communities in advance through a range of methods, including putting up road signs in the area, and putting information on your community website.





## Major traffic works in your area

As we undertake our works we may need to impact regular traffic routes across Warwickshire and Solihull. We intend to minimise our impact as much as possible, working efficiently and taking any traffic management off local routes as soon as possible.

In the next few months, we are working on the A452 Kenilworth Road in Balsall Common to create a new roundabout at the junction of Park Lane. We will also be working on the A452 Kenilworth Road at the junction of the B4115 in Ashow, known as 'Chesford Junction'. Our work in this location will widen the local roads to create safer access onto our work sites and reduce the long term impact on local traffic.

Our work on the A429 Coventry Road/Kenilworth Road will continue in Crackley to finish utility works, widen the road and create new accesses and turning points.

## Public rights of way

Some elements of our work will sometimes result in temporary changes to public rights of way including footpaths, bridleways and cycleways.

To help minimise these impacts, we will put diversions in place where it is possible and safe to do so, and install signs to notify users of any changes to these routes.

We recently published a collection of upcoming public rights of way impacts between Burton Green and Southam. Please visit your local community website for more information.



## Burton Green tunnel and temporary Kenilworth Greenway

We will build a 'green tunnel' near Burton Green, with one entrance near Broadwell Oaks and the other by the Burton Green Village Hall and National Grid sub-station.

As the tunnel closely aligns with the current Kenilworth Greenway corridor, we have developed proposals for both its temporary and permanent route.

We have worked closely with local stakeholders to ensure the temporary diversion of the Kenilworth Greenway best suits the needs of local people. Thank you for your input so far. We are looking to finalise our design soon, ahead of construction later this year.

For the permanent Greenway route, we are using HS2's Landscape Design Approach principles to guide our design.

This is focused on:

- **Conserving** the remaining sections of the Kenilworth Greenway where possible to ensure environmental and historical connectivity;
- **Enhancing** the environmental features of the realigned Greenway, notably in the protection and enhancement of ancient woodlands;
- **Restoring** the character the of Greenway so that in time it re-establishes its linear tree lined characteristics; and
- **Transforming** the usage of the Greenway by providing enhanced connectivity for users and local wildlife.



*Artist impression of the Kenilworth Greenway after construction*



## Our Community and Business Funds

HS2 offers two funds that are available to local communities and businesses in Birmingham and the West Midlands, to help with the disruption caused by our construction work. These are the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF).

The CEF is designed to give communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of HS2. It is an allocated fund that communities are able to apply for, to help to support local projects that aim to improve their local area.

Over £5m has already been awarded to projects along the route, including a number in your area. This ranges from helping to repair the roof at Berkswell & District Royal British Legion Social Club to supporting the West Midlands Ringing Group to monitor bird species activity at Marsh Lane Nature Reserve.

The BLEF is designed to support local economies that may be disrupted by the construction of HS2. BLEF grants are for local business support organisations and local authorities to help maintain business activity in local communities.

**For more information about each of these funds, including how to apply, please visit: [www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds)**

## Our community websites

The planning and construction of HS2 is a huge operation – it is currently the largest infrastructure project in Europe.

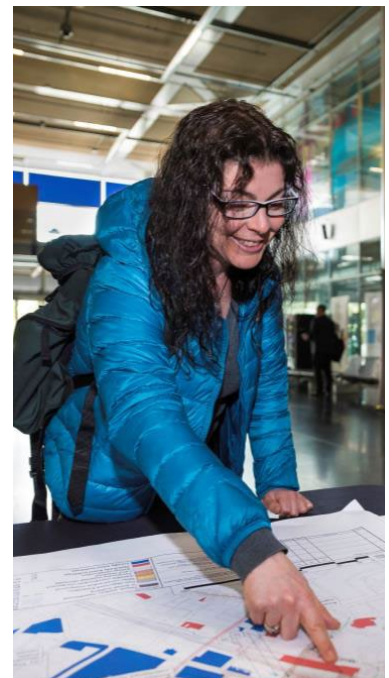
It's important to us that you are kept up to date about the progress of the Project and any work that may impact you or your community. We have a series of community-focused websites where you can find out what is happening in your local area and sign up for updates about our activities.

Our sites currently serve Birmingham, Bucks and Oxfordshire, Cheshire, Euston and Camden, Hertfordshire, Hillingdon, Northamptonshire, Old Oak, Solihull, Staffordshire and Warwickshire.

More sites are being prepared to serve other areas.

To find your local community website, visit:  
**[hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk](http://hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk)** or **[hs2insolihull.co.uk](http://hs2insolihull.co.uk)**

For further information about Phase 2a and Phase 2b, visit:  
**[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/high-speed-two-limited](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/high-speed-two-limited)**



# 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](http://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](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 by emailing:

[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 via the helpline. 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)

## Contact Us

If you have any questions about this newsletter, please get in touch.

 24/7 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 local area, visit:

**[hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk](http://hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk)** or

**[hs2insolihull.co.uk](http://hs2insolihull.co.uk)**

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