

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

# HS2 Update

Kenilworth | Stoneleigh Park | Cubbington | Offchurch | Southam | **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, ground investigations and preparing for construction of the Long Itchington Wood tunnel.

Across 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. Some of these habitats are detailed on the next page.

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*

## Green Corridor progress

The construction of ecological mitigation sites is part of our aim to create a 'green corridor' of new woodlands and wildlife habitats along the length of the HS2 route.

In your area we have completed the creation of new wildlife habitats in Burton Green, Stoneythorpe near Dallas Burston and Finham Brook.

We are also constructing further sites at Longhole near Ridgeway Lane, Burnt Furs, Ash Beds Woodland and Stoneleigh Road among others.

We will keep you informed as we continue to construct new ecological mitigation sites, designed to support local wildlife including birds, bats and great crested newts.



*Finham Brook mitigation site*



*Finham Brook mitigation site*



*Dallas Burston mitigation site*



*Burton Green mitigation site*

## 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:

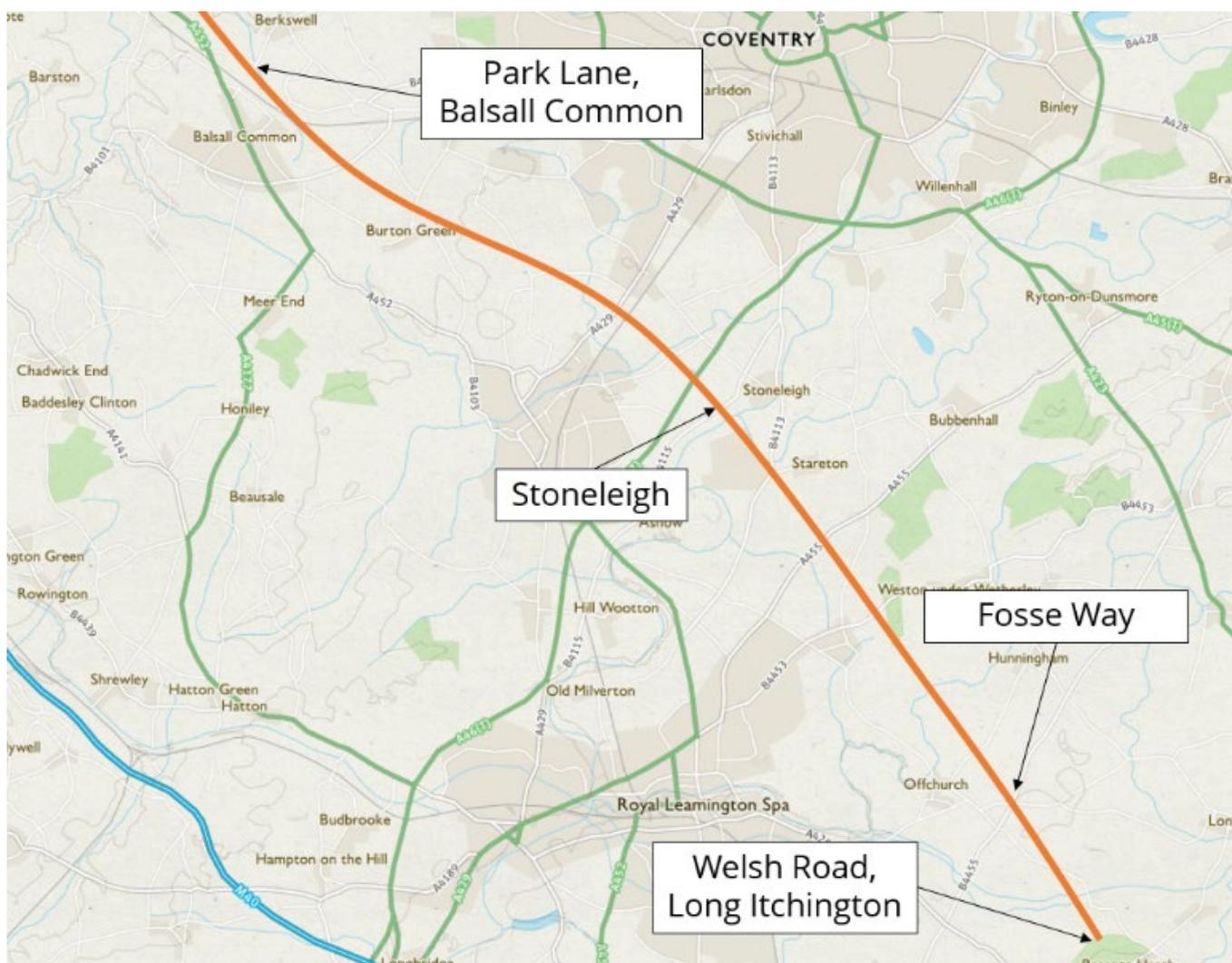
- Welsh Road, Long Itchington
- Fosse Way
- Stoneleigh (between the A46 and B4115)
- Park Lane in Balsall Common

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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Call our HS2 Helpdesk team on **08081 434 434**



## 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, working efficiently and taking any traffic management off local routes as soon as possible.

In the next few months, we will be continuing our work on the A429 Coventry Road/Kenilworth Road in Crackley to finish utility works, widen the road and create new accesses and turning points.

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.

We also 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.

## Directing utilities to the Welsh Road compound

LM is continuing to connect utility supplies to the Long Itchington tunnel compound, off the Welsh Road. We will be installing cables between a substation in Harbury and the compound, and will need to excavate pits within the carriageway to join the cables.

Roads affected include Bascote Heath Road between the Welsh Road junction and across the A425 junction, which we will close to install the cable. The B4452 road will then be closed between the A452 junction and Deppers Bridge. We will also close a section of Welsh Road to divert the gas main.

We will keep you informed of the updated schedule for these works and any further expected disruption as we prepare for the future construction of the Long Itchington tunnel.



## Long Itchington Wood Tunnel

BBV plans to start creating the tunnel under Long Itchington Wood at the end of 2020. LM and BBV are working together to prepare for this work to take place. This includes the creation of a compound and upgrading Ridgeway Lane to support the future transportation of the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM).

We are due to start all of these activities by spring 2020.

In autumn, the TBM will be delivered to the Welsh Road main compound via the upgraded Ridgeway Lane. It will be transported in parts and assembled on site, limiting our impact on the local road network.

Following assembly of the TBM, tunnelling will start in December 2020. BBV will bore two tunnels under the wood, emerging near the A452 and Dallas Burston Polo Club. Once completed the TBM will be removed from site.

Once the tunnels are bored, there will still be some significant work to complete at both tunnel entrances, which are known as portals. At the northern portal we will build a viaduct across the Grand Union Canal and install support services for the tunnel. To the south, we will complete the structure supporting the tunnel entrance while installing service facilities to complete the installation.



Tunnel boring machine © Vinci



Map of proposed route for Long Itchington Wood Tunnel

## 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 a project to refurbish the Southam United Bowling Club to the improvement of play facilities at Long Itchington Park. We have also awarded funding to Cubbington Parish Council to upgrade the local Recreational Ground and Asten Court Playground, including the installation of eco-friendly play equipment for younger children.

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 Commonplace 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 Commonplace sites currently serve Birmingham, Buckinghamshire 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 Commonplace 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-](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/high-speed-two-)**



# 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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