

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

HS2 Update

Kenilworth | Stoneleigh | Cubbington | Offchurch | Southam | **Autumn/Winter 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

Work on HS2 in your area is progressing well, including for our enabling works and preparing for main construction work. Over the coming months we will be continuing with early works, including ecological work, site preparation, and redeveloping the B4455 Fosse Way.

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

The main construction work will be carried out by BBV – a joint venture between Balfour Beatty and VINCI.

What to expect during main construction work

In April, the Department for Transport gave approval for HS2 to issue Notice to Proceed to our main works contractors working on Phase One of the project.

The issuing of Notice to Proceed marked the point at which BBV started full detailed design and construction work. This includes ground investigation surveys, compound establishment, and final planning for the construction of a tunnel under Long Itchington Wood.

Please be assured that as we enter this period of main construction work, we remain committed to being a good neighbour to any communities affected by our work.

You can sign up to receive updates for your local area at [hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk](https://www.hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk).



Our commitments to you:

Keep all sites safe and secure.

Keep disruption to a minimum.

Inform you of disruptions ahead of time.

Answer your questions via the 24/7 HS2 Helpdesk.



HS2 work during the next few months

This information describes construction activity that we are carrying out near you during autumn and winter 2020.

Redeveloping the B4455 Fosse Way near Offchurch

To get ready for the main works phase of building HS2, LM will be redeveloping a small section of the B4455 Fosse Way near Offchurch.

This work will include the construction of two new roundabouts to replace junctions on the Fosse Way at Welsh Road, and at Long Itchington Road (National Cycle Route 41). You may see our teams on site preparing for these works in the coming months. This work includes:

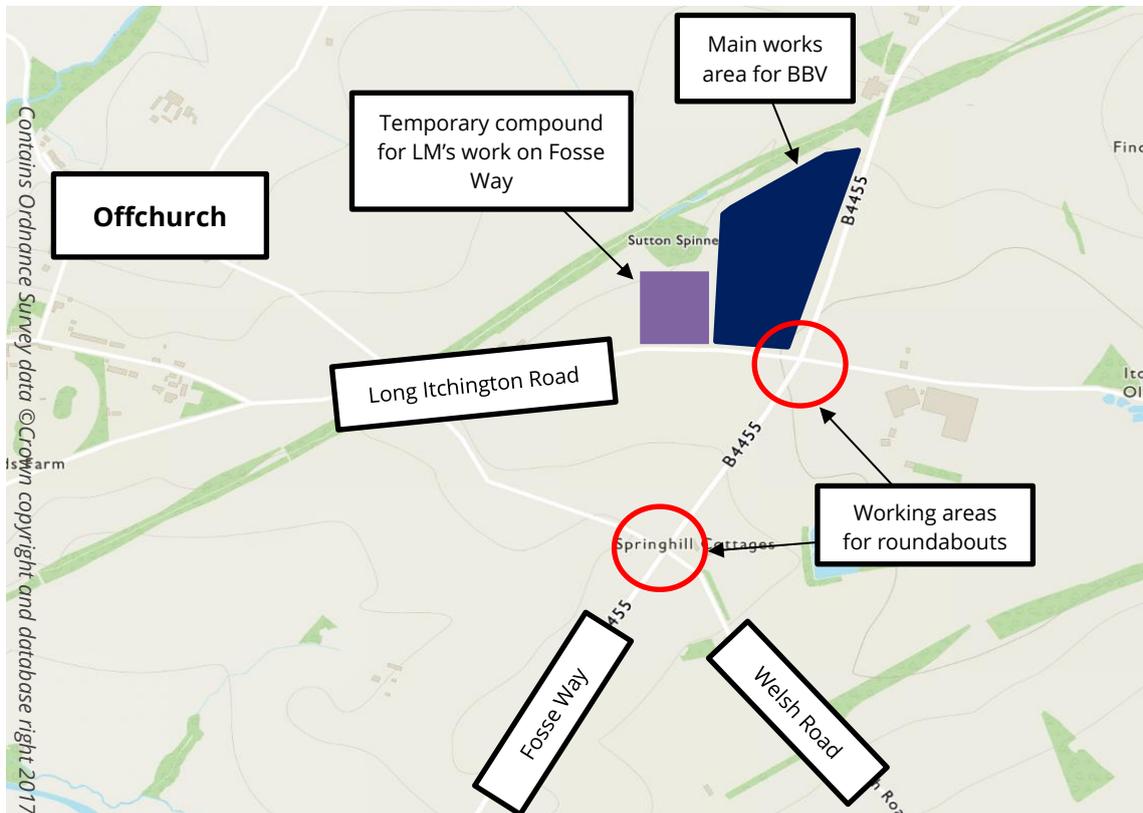
- Removing some existing fences and putting up new fences around our working areas.
- Setting up a temporary compound with site cabins to support us while we work.
- Diverting existing utilities into new trenches.
- Building the roundabouts next to existing roads, then switching traffic onto new sections of roads.
- Removing the minimum amount of trees and vegetation to safely build the railway and associated infrastructure.

You may have seen us already at work in this area, using traffic management to conduct these works safely.

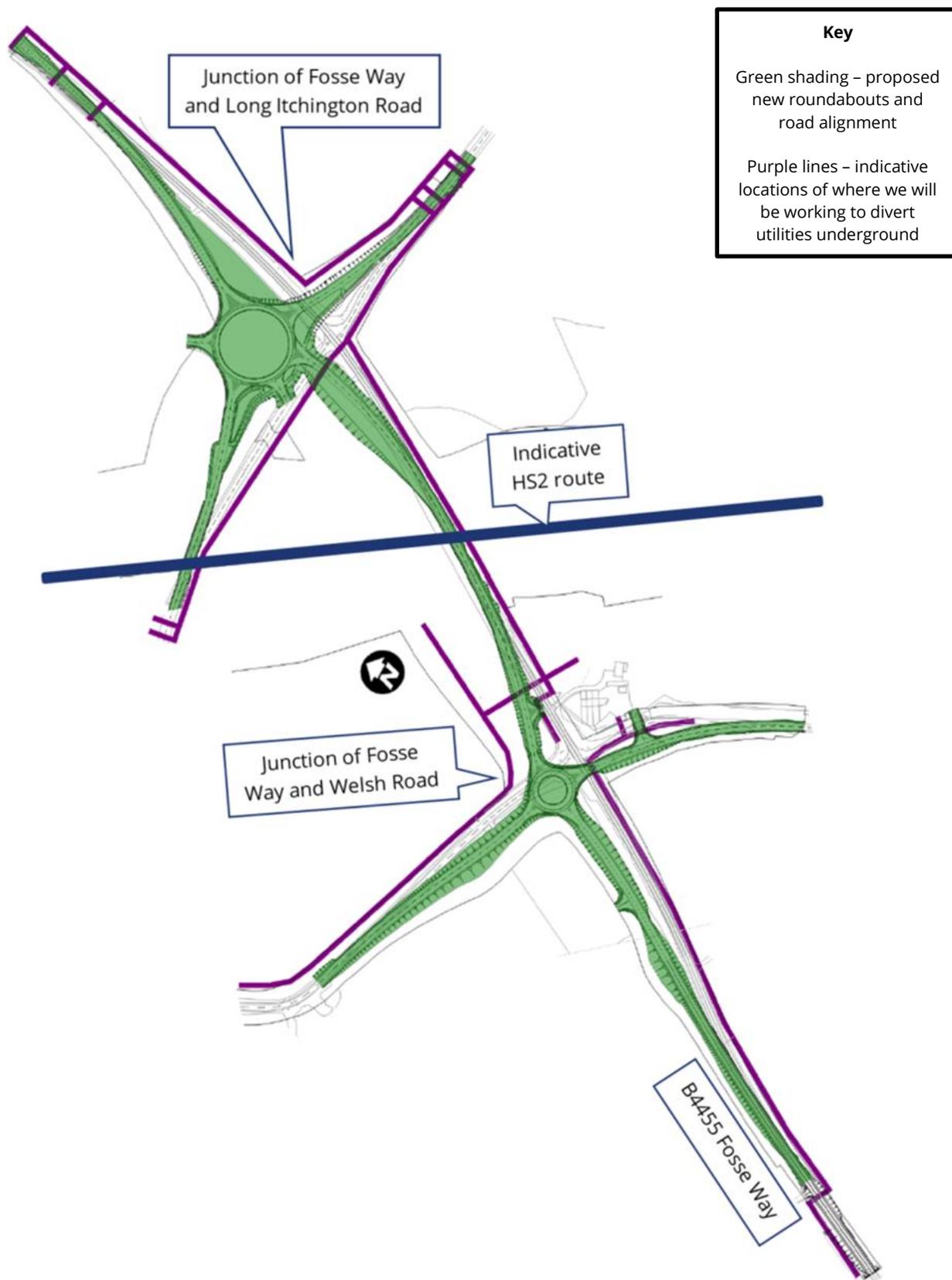
These two new roundabouts will increase safety for all road users as our works progress. The roundabout at Fosse Way and Welsh Road will be permanent, while the roundabout at Fosse Way and Long Itchington Road will support main construction work and may be removed at the end of construction.

Our work on the Fosse Way started this past summer and will continue until mid-2021. At the same time, BBV will begin to construct a main works compound in the area (shown on the map below) which is expected to be completed within the year.

More information about our work, including planned traffic management, can be found on hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk.



Map of working areas for Fosse Way redevelopment works



Ecological work

Our work to create a 'green corridor' of new wildlife habitats and woodlands alongside the railway is progressing well.

This involves the planting of around 7 million new trees and shrubs between London and the West Midlands, as well as the creation of a series of new wildlife habitats. So far, LM have planted nearly 80,000 trees across the West Midlands and Warwickshire.

To show local communities how we are accomplishing this goal, we will host a series of webinars with our ecological experts. These will look into different aspects of how we are creating the green corridor.

This includes how we are creating a new network of woodland and wildlife habitats, how we are managing our impact on local wildlife, including protected species, and how our archaeology teams are analysing plant remains to recreate our past landscapes.

Our webinar programme started in September. Dates for upcoming webinars will be advertised on our local community websites.

In addition to our habitat creation work, you may have seen our contractors installing fencing and removing some existing vegetation near you. This is necessary to prepare the route of the railway for future construction activity and is being compensated by the introduction of new woodlands and habitats alongside the railway.

At any ancient woodland sites we affect, we will be relocating the existing soils to new woodlands nearby. This will involve a specific and careful process designed to maintain the valuable biodiversity that currently exists in the soils.

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.



Pond created near Southam

Building the Long Itchington Wood Tunnel

Work is continuing at pace for the north portal site on Welsh Road, Southam, where BBV is creating the launch site for the tunnel boring machine (TBM). As well as being the base for tunnelling operations, this site will become the north portal of the tunnel itself.

During the early part of 2021, the TBM will be delivered to our compound near Welsh Road along the upgraded Ridgeway Lane in Ufton. It will be transported in parts and assembled on site, limiting our impact on the local road network.

We expect the first 'drive' of the TBM to begin in the summer/autumn of 2021. BBV will bore two tunnels under Long Itchington Wood, emerging near the A452 and Dallas Burston Polo Club. The final breakthrough of the TBM is anticipated to be during autumn of 2022. Further work will take place after the TBM has been removed, so we will be on site for some time after. We will keep you updated on these proposed timescales.

The start of the construction of the Long Itchington Wood Tunnel is a significant milestone in the development of the new railway, and BBV will be running a competition to name the TBM in 2021 – keep an eye on [hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk](https://www.hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk) for more information.



Our community funding and legacy projects

HS2 offers two funds that are available to local communities and businesses to help create a positive legacy for the project in your area. 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 support local projects that aim to improve their local area.

In your area, we committed funds to upgrade the Cubbington Recreational Ground as well as the Asten Playground, both requested by the local parish council. The parish council worked throughout the summer and all the existing play equipment has been replaced or refurbished, including installing extra eco-friendly play equipment for younger children.

For more information about future funding opportunities please visit [hs2funds.org.uk](https://www.hs2funds.org.uk).

Traffic management on the A425

BBV will be closing a section of the A425 Leamington Road near Southam and public right of way (PRoW) SM24 to safely excavate a 15 metre-deep trench and build the 'cut-and-cover' section of the Long Itchington Wood Tunnel.

The road and PRoW are due to be closed from **26 October 2020** for a period of up to nine months. A diversion will be in place for cyclists and road users. A diversion notification for the PRoW will be placed at SM24 access points, providing details of the alternative PRoW routes available.

Access will be maintained for businesses and residents within the section of the road that is closed. We will be installing 'Businesses open as usual' signs leading up to the road closure.

You may see some LM and BBV works underway in the wider local area at the same time. BBV and LM are working closely together to plan ahead, and manage the sequencing of our most significant works, to minimise the impact on communities and road users.

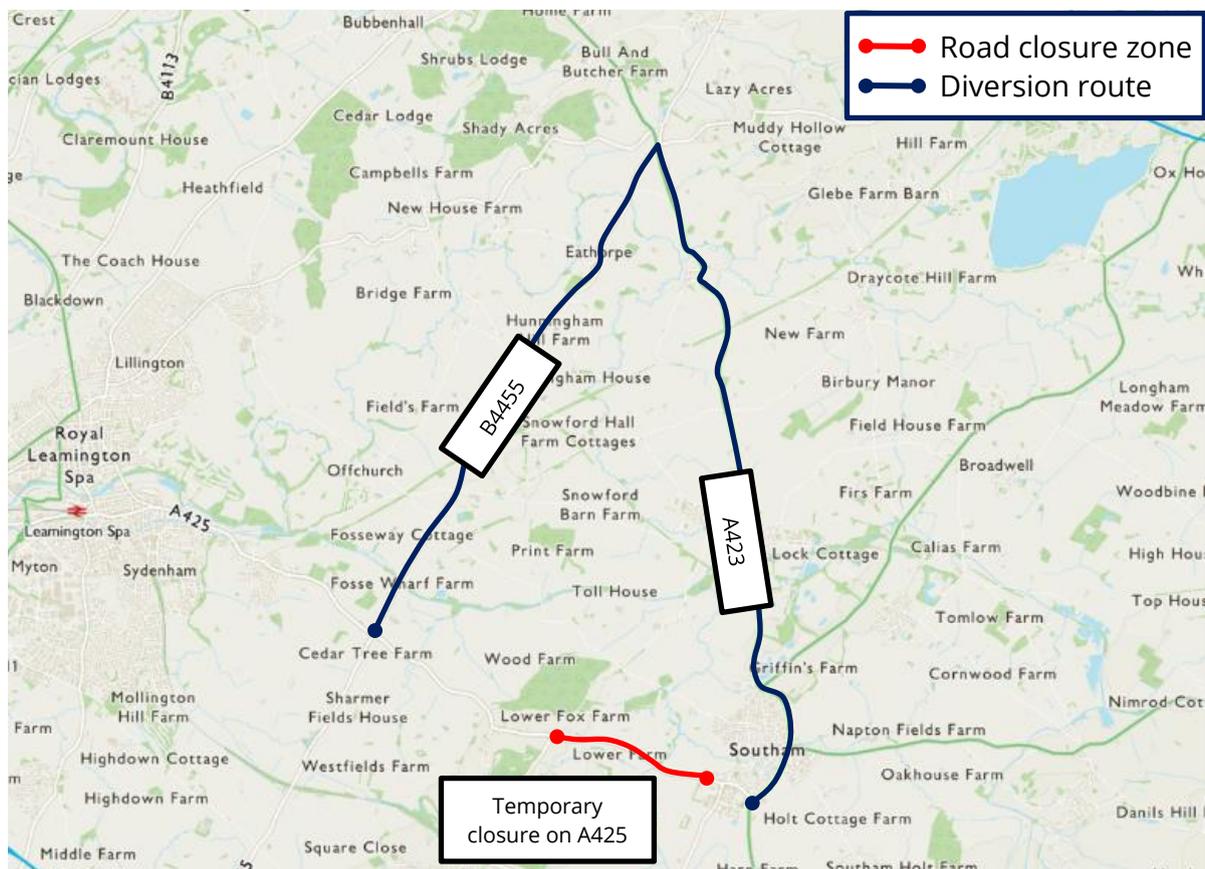
Improving pedestrian access and roads around Ufton

To ensure that our tunnel boring machine can safely move from the southern entrance of the Long Itchington Wood Tunnel to the northern portal, we need to make improvements to parts of the A425 near Ufton. This includes building a new pedestrian crossing and improving the roundabout in the village.

We expect to begin construction of the pedestrian crossing before the end of this year. We will then work to improve the roundabout in early 2021 ahead of transportation of the TBM components. Both of these works will improve safety for local road users and pedestrians in the long term.

As part of planning these works, we are assessing how best to phase activity to reduce their impact on local residents as much as possible. We will share more information on these works in the coming months.

BBV will host a webinar where you can find out more about the work on the A425 and at the Long Itchington Wood south portal. To register, visit hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk



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

Responding to the coronavirus pandemic

Following UK Government advice to stop non-essential social contact and avoid unnecessary travel during the coronavirus pandemic, we have taken the decision to modify our public engagements and events. We are looking at alternative ways of communicating with you over the coming months as our works continue, including through virtual events, meetings and webinars.

LM and BBV are continually reviewing work on construction and survey 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.

The health and safety of our workforce and the communities we affect is our key priority. Please be assured that those sites that are currently working are doing so because they can operate within PHE and construction industry guidelines.

The HS2 Helpdesk remains operational all day, every day, if you need advice or information from HS2. You can contact the Helpdesk on:

Freephone: **08081 434 434**

Minicom: **08081 456 472**

Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk



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.

For further information about Phase 2a and Phase 2b, visit: 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

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 via the helpline. For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website:
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**

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:

hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-two-ltd-privacy-notice>

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