

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

HS2 Update

North Warwickshire | Staffordshire | **Spring/Summer 2020**

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. This update provides information about upcoming work on Phase One of the railway in your area. Further information on Phases 2a and 2b of HS2 will be shared at a later date.

Work over the coming months

Preparations for main construction work on HS2 are well underway. Over the coming months we will continue delivering a number of activities including archaeological investigations, vegetation clearance, utilities work and preparing main construction compounds. This will take place across North Warwickshire and Staffordshire.

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

In April, the Department for Transport gave us the approval to proceed with the full detailed design and construction of the railway, in a process known as 'Notice to Proceed'. This means that our contractors and their supply chains have the reassurance they need to confidently commit to building HS2, generating thousands of skilled jobs across the country as we recover from the pandemic.

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 we are exploring new ways of keeping communities informed and involved. We have been keeping residents informed on the latest status of construction work in their area through 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 and hs2instaffordshire.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 to progress Phase One of HS2.

Ecological work

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

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. These works will be part of an unprecedented 'green

corridor' of new wildlife habitats and woodlands alongside the railway, including seven million new trees and shrubs between London and the West Midlands.

In addition to this work, you may have seen our contractors constructing fencing and removing some existing vegetation near you. This includes the removal of invasive non-native plant species, which are weeds that are harmful to the local ecosystem. These works are required to prepare the route of the railway for future construction activity.

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.



Pond and hibernaculum constructed at Coleshill Manor ecological mitigation site

Diverting utilities

Our utility partners will continue with their programme of work across North Warwickshire and Staffordshire. These include Cadent, Severn Trent Water and National Grid among other companies.

They will be diverting their assets along the route of the railway to support main construction work once it begins later this year. This will include some vegetation clearance, pipeline diversions and underground tunnelling.

Water, power and other utility services will be diverted to the main compound locations to support the workforce once construction begins.



HS2 compound in Warwickshire

Compound creation

To support the building of the railway, Balfour Beatty Vinci (BBV) is constructing a number of compounds along the route. These will act as bases for construction staff and will include areas to prepare the equipment and materials we need for construction.

The main compounds in your area will be found in the following locations:

- Cappers Lane, east of the A38
- Kingsbury Road, north of Lea Marston
- Coleshill Heath Road, near junction 7a of the M42

We will keep you informed of any potential disruption as we construct these compounds.

Archaeological events

HS2's archaeology programme is continuing to unearth discoveries across our sites.

Within Staffordshire we have found traces of the 19th century in the landscape, represented by field boundaries, trackways and farms. In North Warwickshire we have explored early settlements at Coleshill, dating back over a thousand years ago to the Anglo-Saxon period.

We recently held a 'Meet the Expert' archaeology event in Coleshill, where attendees were shown what we have found, and had the opportunity to learn more using virtual reality headsets. Over the coming months we are looking to hold online events in both North Warwickshire and Staffordshire.

We are also continuing our archaeological investigation work at various points across the route. We will share further information about these works and any finds throughout construction.



Photo from our 'Meet the Expert' event in Coleshill

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 update, please get in touch.

 24/7 Freephone **08081 434 434**

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 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 or

hs2instaffordshire.co.uk

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