Notice of archaeology work in Stoke Mandeville

August 2018 | www.hs2.org.uk

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain.

On or shortly after 22nd August we will be starting archaeological works on the former St Mary’s Church site in Stoke Mandeville at the location shown in red on the map. This is a historically and archaeologically significant site where we hope to learn more about the history of your local area and the people who lived there.

What will we be doing?

The initial works at this site will focus on preparations needed to remove the materials of the old church which were left there when it was demolished in 1966. This includes the removal of the vegetation and the railings around the burial ground to allow us to safely access the site. The railings will be stored and reused elsewhere.

Once the first stage of works to prepare the site is completed in September we will be starting the process of removing all the architectural stone and other materials that made up the church building as well as all the grave markers and memorials. These will be carefully taken to an area adjacent to the main site where they will be sorted, analysed and recorded. The material will then be taken away to an archaeology store for further study.

During different stages of the works we will also be taking drone photography of the site to record our progress and to form part of the historical record of the works.

These works are being done by our contractor LP Archaeology.

The removal of the architectural material is the first step in excavating the church and its burial ground.

It is anticipated that archaeological excavations at the site will continue throughout the year and last until the end of 2019.

Duration of work

The works will start on 22nd August and will continue to the end of 2019.

Normal working hours: Monday to Friday 8am-6pm.

What to expect

Some additional traffic on local roads.

Noise from machinery used for the works.

What we will do

Manage any impacts, such as traffic and noise with the aim of reducing or removing them.

Take care to respect your community and the environment.

Respond promptly to any complaints and take action where appropriate.
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How might this affect me?

We will be working hard to ensure any impacts on residents are kept to a minimum during these and all our future works.

There will be operational noise from the machinery used to excavate and move the stonework. Chainsaws and strimmers will also be used to clear trees and shrubs from the site. All machinery will be restricted to running between the hours of 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

HGVs will make visits to the site to take away materials but this will be kept to a minimum and no more than 5 visits in any one day. Where possible these journeys will be scheduled in off-peak hours.

You may notice a small amount of other traffic on your roads with workers moving to and from the site and occasional delivery vehicles. We do not expect our works will impact any of the Public Rights of Way around the site.

Want to learn more or get involved?

We are currently planning a Heritage Open Day on 9th September to tell you more about these works. This will be held at the Community Centre on Eskdale Road and will run from 12:00 – 17:00.

We are developing other opportunities for local people to find out more about these works and to have some hands-on opportunities to take part.

If you would like to be notified of any opportunities to learn more about, or participate in, these works then please email community@fusion-jv.com giving us your contact details.

If you have a question about HS2 or our works, please contact our helpdesk on 08081 434 434 or email HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

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Location of the former St Mary’s Church archaeology site
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

Contact us
If you have any questions about this notification, please get in touch.

24/7 freephone 08081 434 434
Minicom 08081 456 472
Email HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Write to:
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