

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

HS2 Update

Autumn/Winter 2019

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

Work over the coming months

Preparations for main construction work on HS2 are now well underway. Over the coming autumn/winter, we will be continuing this work with a range of activities, including archaeological investigations, removing some vegetation, setting up site compounds and diverting some existing utilities. This will take place along Phase One of the route across Warwickshire, Solihull, Birmingham and Staffordshire.

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.

Why we're doing this work

In order to deliver Phase One of HS2, connecting London Euston to the West Midlands, we need to prepare as much of the route as possible between October 2019 and March 2020. This will ensure that our main construction work can commence on time in future. It is also important to complete this work during this time of year as it is outside of key periods in the ecological calendar, such as bird nesting season, minimising our impact on local wildlife.

Stay in touch

HS2 teams will be hosting events across your area, with a number of activities planned over the coming months.

You can sign up for updates in your local area through your local community website:

hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk or
hs2instaffordshire.co.uk



Our commitment to you

Keep all sites safe and secure.

Keep disruption to a minimum.

Answer your questions via the 24/7 HS2 helpdesk.



Route wide early works across the next few months

This information describes works that we are carrying out along the length of the route during autumn and winter 2019/2020.

Habitat creation and vegetation removal

We need to prepare a number of sites along the route over the next few months.

You may see fencing being constructed in your area in order to help us remove some of the existing vegetation safely. These fences will be made from post and wire or stock-proof fencing used by farmers, depending on the requirements.

The removal of some vegetation is due to take place between October 2019 and March 2020. We need to prepare the route in this window to ensure that we can start constructing HS2 on time.

We have already undertaken detailed surveys to inform us of the local wildlife and habitats in the area and we will continue to ensure wild birds, nests, bats and roosts are not disturbed during the work. A full time Ecological Officer will carry out checks on the ground, in hedges and in trees, prior to any work taking place. An exclusion zone will then be put around sites where nests or protected species are found and this remains in place until the wildlife has been moved.

We have taken steps to minimise the amount of land we affect, as well as replacing any habitats affected. Replacement habitats, including new ponds as well as new woodland, will support local wildlife including protected species such as bats and great crested newts. We are creating new habitats at various sites along the route, including Drayton Bassett and Streethay.

Collectively, they will form part of a 'green corridor' of habitats, woodlands and community spaces along the railway, including up to seven million new trees and shrubs, as well as newly created wetland, ponds, heathland and meadow.



New habitats created by HS2 in Warwickshire

Compound preparation

We will be setting up a series of compounds along the length of the route. These compounds will act as hubs for future engineering, planning and construction works, as well as an office base for staff.

Some minor vegetation clearance may be required at these sites as part of their establishment. We will then transport welfare facilities to the site as well as equipment for use by our staff.

We will make sure that the local road network is disturbed as little as possible through using haul routes to remove work vehicles from regular routes.

For further details on compounds in your area, visit hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk or hs2instaffordshire.co.uk

Archaeological investigations

HS2's archaeology programme is a once-in-a-generation opportunity that will allow us to reveal over 10,000 years of British history.

Across Warwickshire and Staffordshire, there are a number of archaeological sites that we will be exploring. This includes the medieval and Tudor Coleshill Hall and a Romano-British farm settlement in Streethay.

At Coleshill, archaeologists have an opportunity to explore the remains of the medieval and Tudor Hall, complete with a moat and possible remains of landscape gardens, set within a wider deer park.

To find out more about our archaeological activity, visit: hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/archaeology/.

Utilities diversions

As our work progresses we may need to redirect some existing utilities.

This could be to better service our compounds, or avoid disruption to the local electricity, gas, broadband and water networks.

We are currently undertaking such work along Coleshill Heath Road, Lichfield Road, Drayton Lane and Water Orton.

We will continue to keep any affected communities informed about work in their area. For the most up to date information regarding our work across the next few months, visit

hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk or hs2instaffordshire.co.uk



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

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High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.


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Contact Us

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

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