

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
hs2insolihull.co.uk



Drop-in events

Burton Green

23 September

Harbury

26 September

Stoneleigh Village Hall

8 October

Balsall Common

15 October

Kenilworth

15 October



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.

Vegetation clearance and habitat creation

As part of preparations for the railway, we need to clear a number of sites along the route.

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 requirements.

Vegetation clearance is due to take place between October 2019 and March 2020. We need to prepare as much of the route as possible 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 clearance 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 have to clear, as well as replacing any habitats cleared. Replacement habitats, including new ponds as well as new woodland, will support local wildlife including protected species such as bats and great crested newts. Our new habitat created at Finham Brook, near Kenilworth, can be seen in the picture opposite.

Collectively, these works 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 along the route

We will continue to keep communities up-to-date about any works in their area. For more information on the 'green corridor' and our activity in your area, please visit our website at

hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk or hs2insolihull.co.uk

Ancient woodland relocation

Some of our activity will also affect limited areas of ancient woodlands.

We understand that these habitats are very important and are working with our contractors to minimise our impact as much as possible. We are working hard to reduce necessary tree removals, so that we're only clearing the absolute minimum required to safely build the railway.

We are also undertaking an ambitious project to relocate ancient woodland soils to nearby sites. This will enable us to recreate the conditions of ancient woodlands and create new habitats for local wildlife. In addition, our £7 million Woodland Fund is helping local landowners to restore existing ancient woodlands and create new native woodlands.



New habitat created at Finham Brook

Compound preparation

In order for our workers to work throughout the winter, we will be setting up a series of compounds along the length of the route. Across Warwickshire and Solihull, these will be located at:

- Park Lane
- Stoneleigh
- Fosse Way
- Long Itchington Wood near Welsh Road

A map locating these compounds can be found below.

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 hs2insolihull.co.uk

Utilities diversions

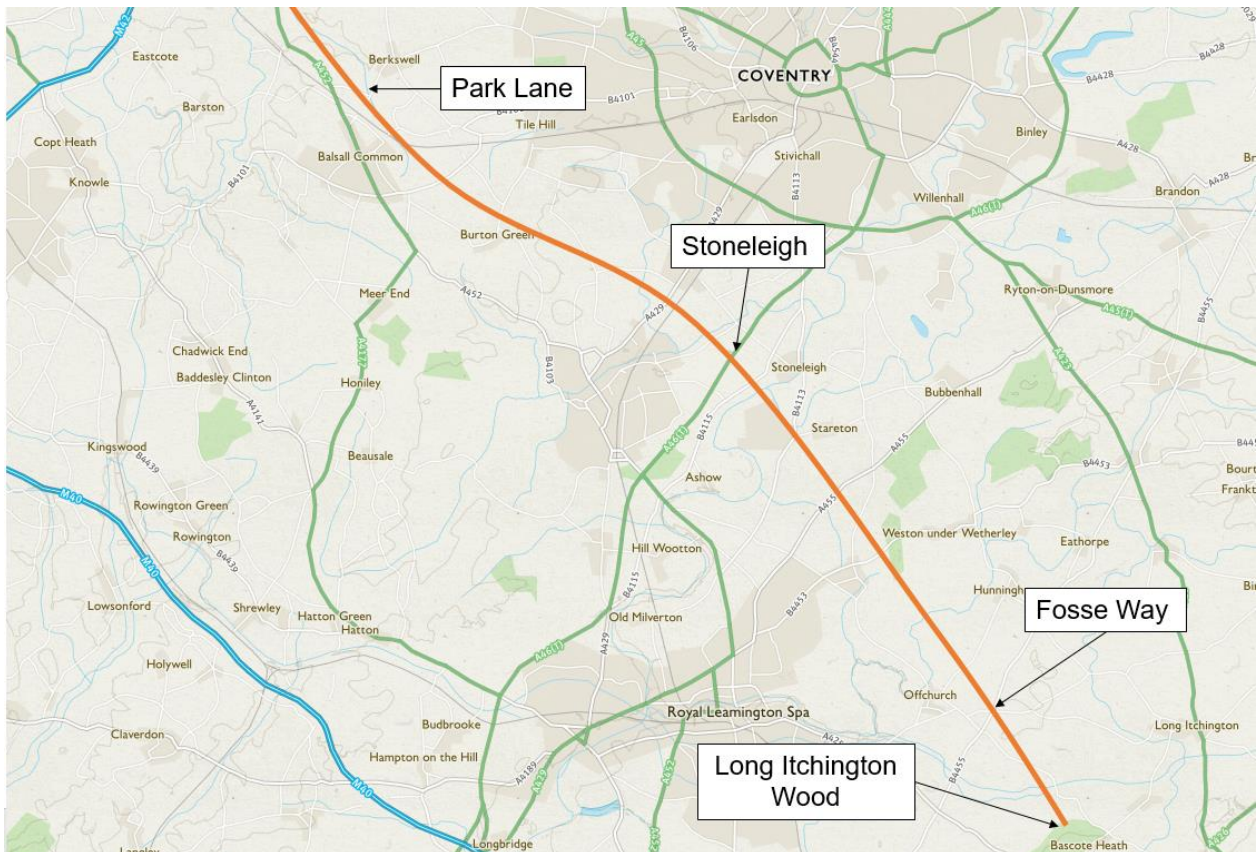
As our work progresses we may need to redirect existing utilities.

This could be to better service our compounds such as at Fosse Way or along Welsh Road, or otherwise avoid disruption to the local electricity, gas, broadband and water networks.

We are currently undertaking such work along Welsh Road to service the Long Itchington Wood compound.

For any such activity, we will keep any communities affected informed through notifications. For the most up to date information regarding our work across the next few months please visit

hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk or hs2insolihull.co.uk



Map showing compound locations along HS2 route

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, there are a number of archaeological sites that we will be exploring. These include:

- A prehistoric and Romano-British settlement in Offchurch
- The Roman Fosse Way road

Near Offchurch, archaeologists are hoping to discover more about a late prehistoric and Romano-British settlement that has been identified during initial surveys.

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



About 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.

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



About 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, 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 Commonplace website, visit:
hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk or **hs2insolihull.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

Reference number: 1EW04-LMJ-CO-NTE-NS01-070001

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

Registered office: Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.

Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 181 4312 30

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 or

hs2insolihull.co.uk

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