



Notice of archaeology and tree planting works, Rocky Lane to Leather Lane

December 2020 | www.hs2.org.uk

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. 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 operational. All sites will remain under constant review. We have postponed all face-to-face engagement events and meetings and have put in place a number of channels to communicate with communities, such as letters and phone calls, as well as updates and alerts from each of the local community websites. You can sign up for regular updates in your local area at www.hs2inbucksandox.co.uk

What will we be doing?

As part of our continuing works ahead of the construction of the railway we need to undertake some further work in your area, these works will consist of:

- Establishment of three small site compounds
- Utility surveys
- Archaeology test pit excavations
- Archaeology trial trenches and mitigation
- Tree planting

These works are planned to begin early January 2021 and are all scheduled to complete by spring 2021.

For the test pit works a small temporary compound will be established off Rocky Lane, accessed directly from the A413. Other test pit access points will be off Nash Lee Road, Bowood Lane and Kings Lane. These areas will be served with mobile welfare vehicles. The test pit works are expected to conclude in February 2021.

In September 2020 we issued a notice relating to archaeological works near Leather Lane. This notice provides an update on these works.

If you have a question about HS2 or our works, please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Duration of works

Works begin in January 2021 until spring 2021

Normal working hours:

Monday to Friday 8am – 6pm and occasionally Saturdays 8am – 1pm. We may also be on site for one hour's start up and shutdown outside of these times.

What to expect

Slight additional traffic on local roads.

Noise from the equipment used

Site storage and welfare vehicle operated with 24hr security and low level lighting.

Traffic management signage near our site entrance.

What we will do

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

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What we will be doing? (continued)

For the archaeological investigations to the north of Leather Lane a remobilisation to the site is required to undertake further investigations in January 2021. This requires the re-establishment of the earlier temporary compound. This work is expected to continue until spring 2021.

Part of the currently open field between Bowood Lane and to the south east of Jones Hill Wood is identified for tree planting. These planting works will consist of:

- Utility surveys
- Soil cultivation
- Establishment of a small site compound
- Boundary fencing
- Tree planting

Utility surveys

The utility surveys for each activity will involve the use of non-intrusive ground radar scanning of the area to detect the location of any services underground ahead of the works commencing.

Archaeological test pit site compound

To enable us to carry out the archaeological works, we will need to construct a small compound south of Rocky Lane and lay temporary field trackway matting to the site using the existing field access. To construct this compound we will initially use mobile welfare facilities. Once built, the compounds will include:

- Temporary trackway
- Office and welfare facilities alongside storage of machinery and materials
- Car parking and 24-hour security with temporary low level flood lighting

Test pit preparation works

A small workforce will use machinery and hand-held equipment to trim small areas of hedgerow and foliage around the access points and areas necessary for archaeological excavation if required.

Installation of boundary fencing

Boundary fencing will be installed around the works areas. This includes protective deer proof fencing to the new planting areas.

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Test pit archaeology

We will begin our investigations in the areas shown on the first map enclosed. This will require the excavation of approximately 550 test pits and 26 trial trenches. The investigations will be undertaken by teams of archaeologists using small vehicle towed mechanical excavators and hand tools. There will be archaeologists, plant operators and a management team on site operating out of mobile welfare vans. In addition, a small number of supervision staff will be visiting the site to ensure the work is progressing to plan and is being done safely. Once the work is complete, the soil will be backfilled.

Leather Lane archaeological mitigation works

The second enclosed map details the area required for further archaeological investigation. This follows investigations undertaken at the end of 2020. Investigations will be undertaken in accordance with all consents and licences required. We will re-establish the small site compound for these works and undertake further archaeology study from January 2021 to spring 2021. This will involve further excavations with the material arisings being retained on site and reinstated upon completion. Our works will include;

- Temporary trackway surfacing for access across the field and parking
- Office and welfare facilities alongside storage of a small amount of machinery and materials
- 24-hour security with temporary low-level lighting

Mitigation site access and establishment

In order to access the mitigation site we need to first take delivery of temporary track matting. This is then laid across the field from the existing field access on Kings Lane. The track matting, subsequent welfare units and excavators will be delivered to site from the A413 to the site using the following roads:

- B485 Chesham Road › Frith Hill › Potter Row › Kings Lane
- The return journey to the A413 will use the same route

This route was used previously when undertaking the earlier trial trenching works. The site establishment deliveries are expected to take one week in duration with a similar period required upon completion for site removal. We will monitor the roads and keep them clean.

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Planting cultivation preparation

In preparation for the tree planting, the ground will need to be cultivated. Cultivation work includes preparing the land for planting through ploughing and turning the land using cultivating machinery. This is to ensure that soil types are catered for effectively and produces the best conditions for the planting to be successful.

Tree planting site compound

The existing site compound near Durham Farm will be nominally increased in size to provide additional welfare facilities. The compound will be used for car parking, site storage of machinery and materials for the workforce completing all the works. The site will be secured with 24/7 security and have temporary low-level lighting. Existing track matting will be extended to access the works area from the compound. Local welfare facilities will be provided near to the planting site. Highway access for the planting programme will be via Bowood Lane direct from the A413.

How may this affect you?

We will be working hard to ensure any impacts on residents are kept to a minimum during these and all our future works. You may notice a little extra traffic on the road immediately around the sites with workers moving to and from the site, and occasional delivery vehicles. Deliveries will be closely managed and roads will be kept clean.

There may be some noise from the machinery. All machinery will be restricted to running between the hours of 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on a Saturday. For further updates about these works and HS2 in general, please visit www.hs2inbucksandox.co.uk where you can sign up to news alerts.

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Map of test pit works areas, site compound and access points



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Map of archaeological mitigation works between Leather Lane and Kings Lane



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Map of tree planting site with compound and access points



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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 by contacting our HS2 Helpdesk team. For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website: www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain

Contact Us

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

 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: **www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk**

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Reference number: FUS_AWN_0151

HS2-EWFusion -Ph1-Ar-Ce-C2-Eco-1-25/11/2020

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

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Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 888 8512 56.