

HS2

Local Area Engagement Plan

**West Midlands – Crewe
(Phase 2a)**

2023





Department for Transport

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited has been tasked by the Department for Transport (DfT) with managing the delivery of a new national high speed rail network. It is a non-departmental public body wholly owned by the DfT.

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About this plan

Our Community Engagement Strategy outlines all the ways that we will engage with people and communities that are affected along the Phase 2a route. We have written this Local Area Engagement Plan to explain how we will deliver against the commitments in our Community Engagement Strategy. This plan sets out how we will engage with communities on Phase 2a, how we will make communities aware of the works we are doing, and how to contact us.

In 2022, we published our first Local Area Engagement Plan for Phase 2a. We described the works being carried out and how we would engage with the public throughout the duration of that work.

In March 2023, the Government updated Parliament on its transport capital investment programme. This included an update on the HS2 project, recognising significant inflationary pressures facing all parts of the UK economy. In line with direction from the Government, we are rephasing construction of Phase 2a as we develop the scheme further. The main civils works between the West Midlands and Crewe will be paused, although we will be continuing with some vital preparatory works already underway.

This Local Area Engagement Plan will provide information on that work.

This plan:

- provides an overview of work being delivered in 2023 and who is carrying it out;
- provides maps showing our land acquisition programme along the Phase 2a route; and
- informs you about the different ways you can contact us.

How we will engage

We are committed to working with communities affected by the building of the new railway and making sure you can easily find out about our planned works and activities in your area. We also want you to have the opportunity to give us your feedback and tell us your concerns. We will engage with you by:

Informing. We will keep you informed through clear, timely and tailored communication about issues that affect you. This includes:

- engagement events in your area;
- regular newsletters;
- sending you information sheets about our planned works before they start; and
- making sure we keep up-to-date information on the local community pages of our website.

Involving. We will create opportunities for you to get involved throughout the design and delivery of the Project. This includes:

- meetings and events; and
- local community investment.

Responding. We will provide free and accessible ways for you to contact us to answer your questions about the Project and help with any problems that may arise from our works. This includes:

- our Helpdesk team, who are available all day, every day via Freephone **08081 434 434**, Minicom **08081 456 472** or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk;
- holding regular online or in-person drop-in sessions with your local engagement team; and
- replying promptly to information requests.



Who we are

It is important for everyone working on HS2 to understand the impact that their decisions and actions have. This includes all the companies and people working on our behalf. Your local Community Engagement team is here to speak on your behalf and to act as your voice within HS2 Ltd and our supply chain. Your local team is made up of staff from HS2 Ltd and our supply chain. We all work together to listen and respond to local communities.

Who is working with us

In 2023, we will continue to deliver parts of our environmental habitat creation programme, we will continue acquiring the land we need to build and operate the railway, and National Gas (formerly National Grid) and Cadent will continue to deliver priority utility diversions.



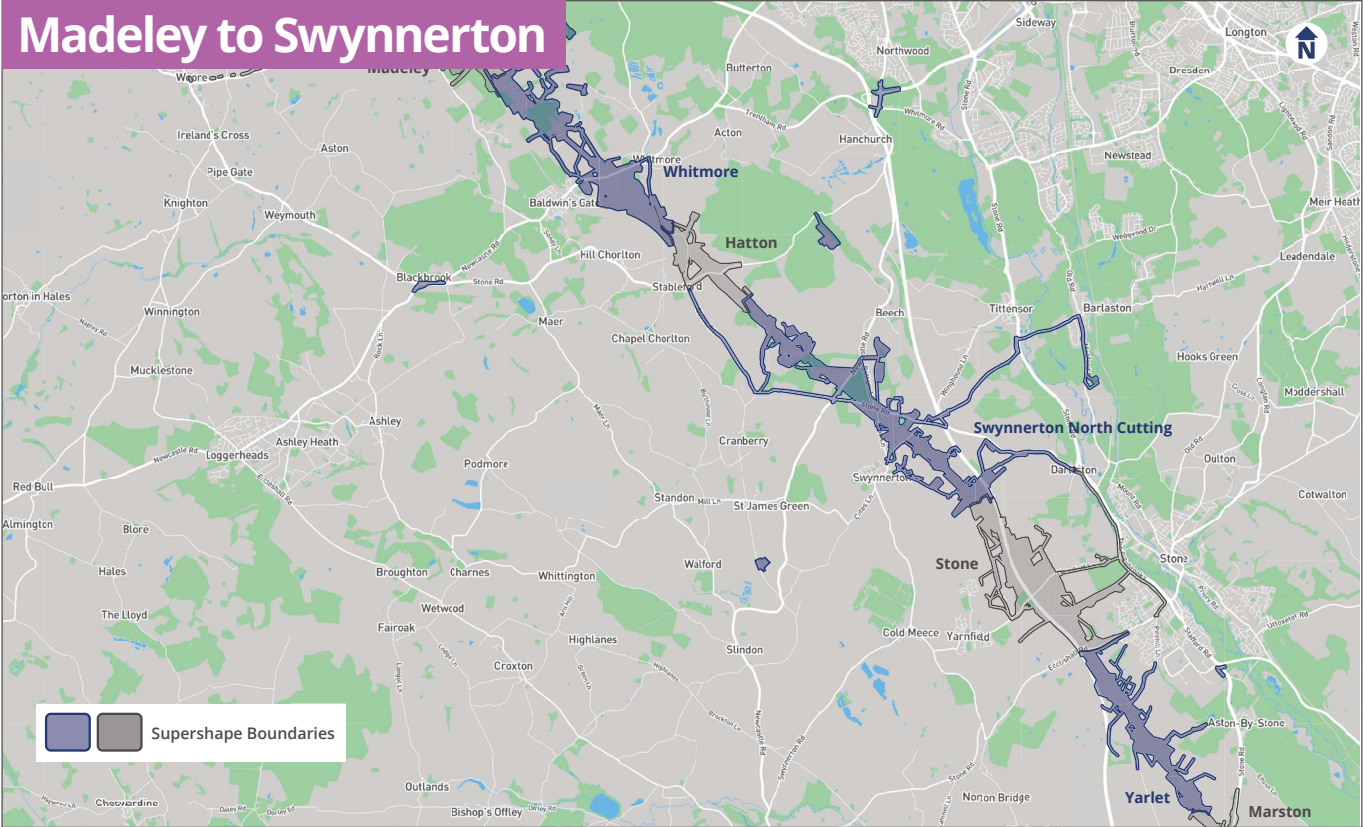
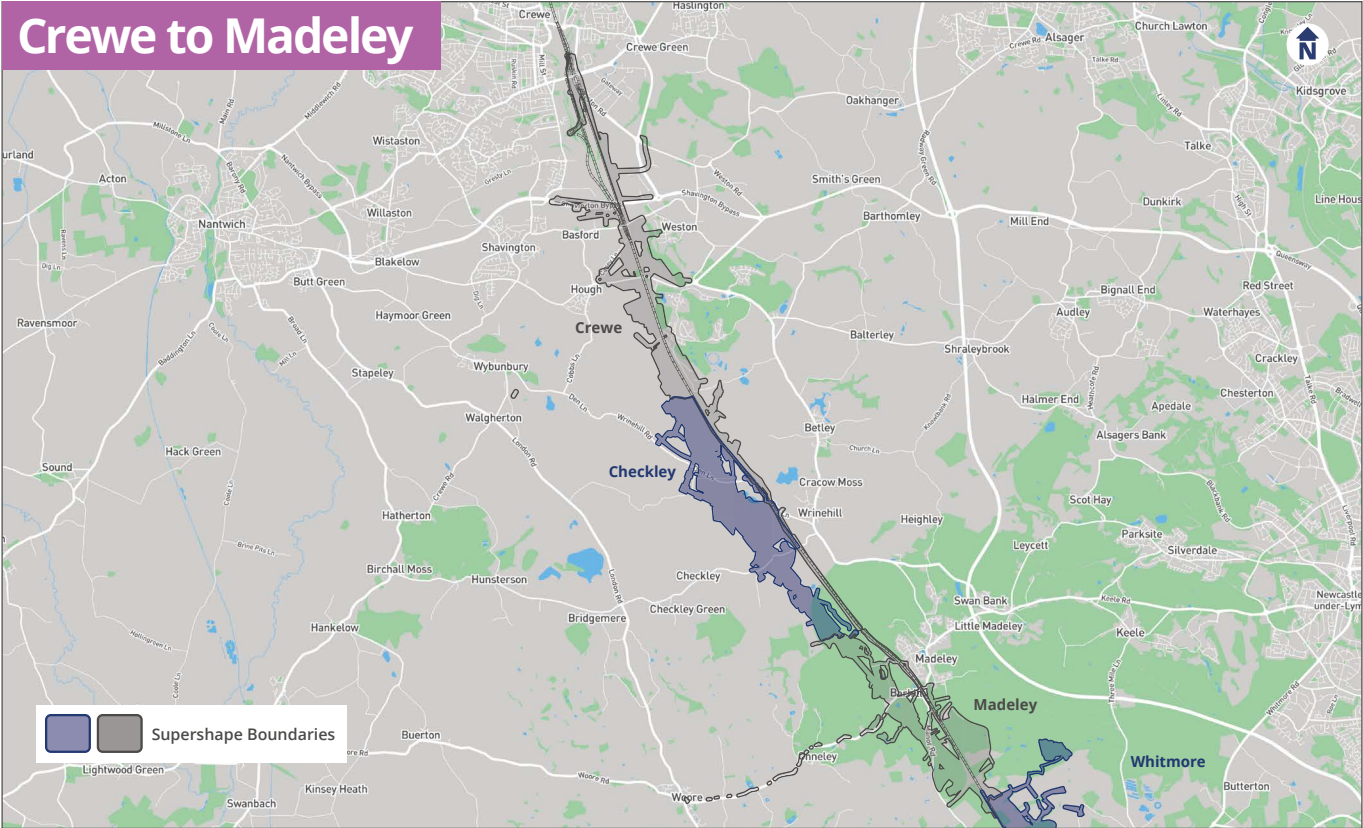
Balfour Beatty

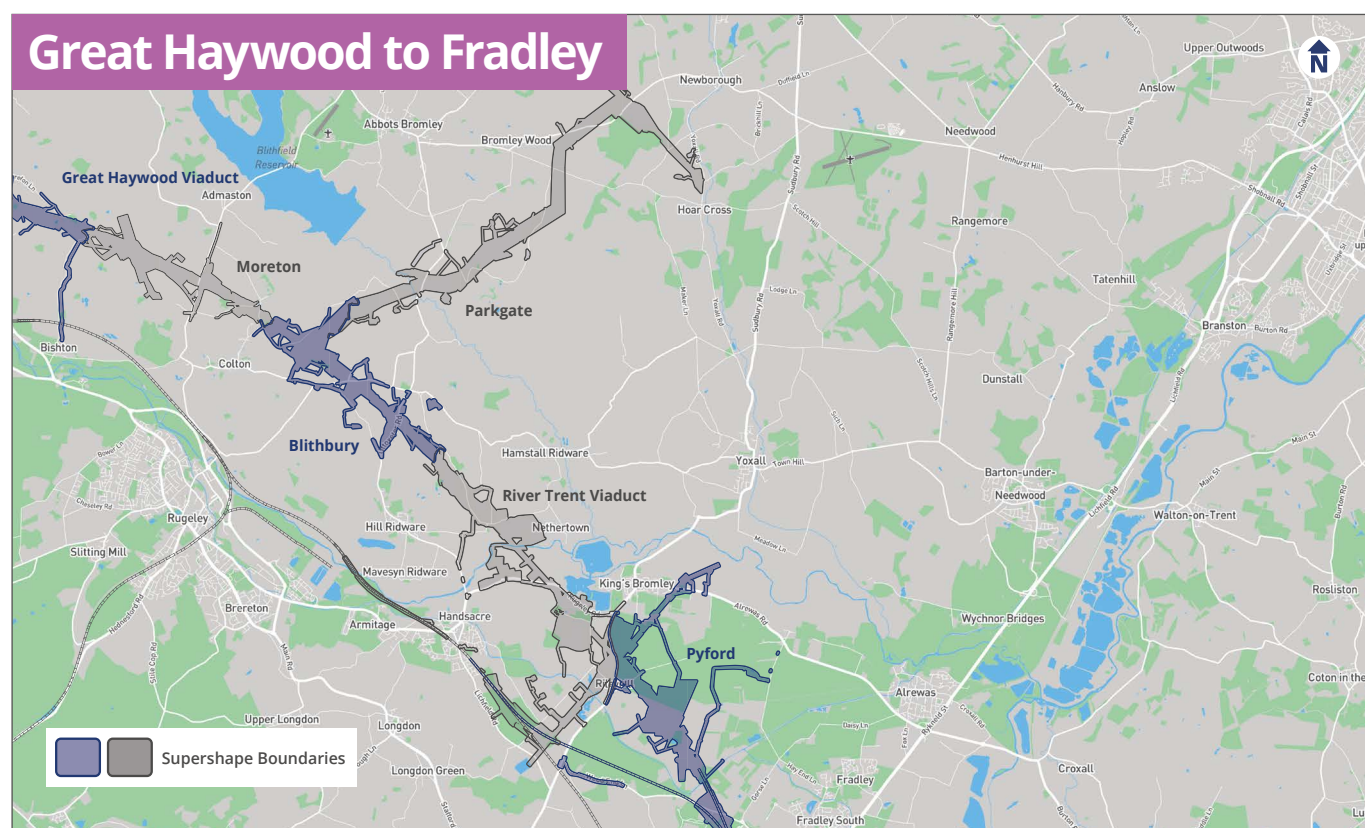
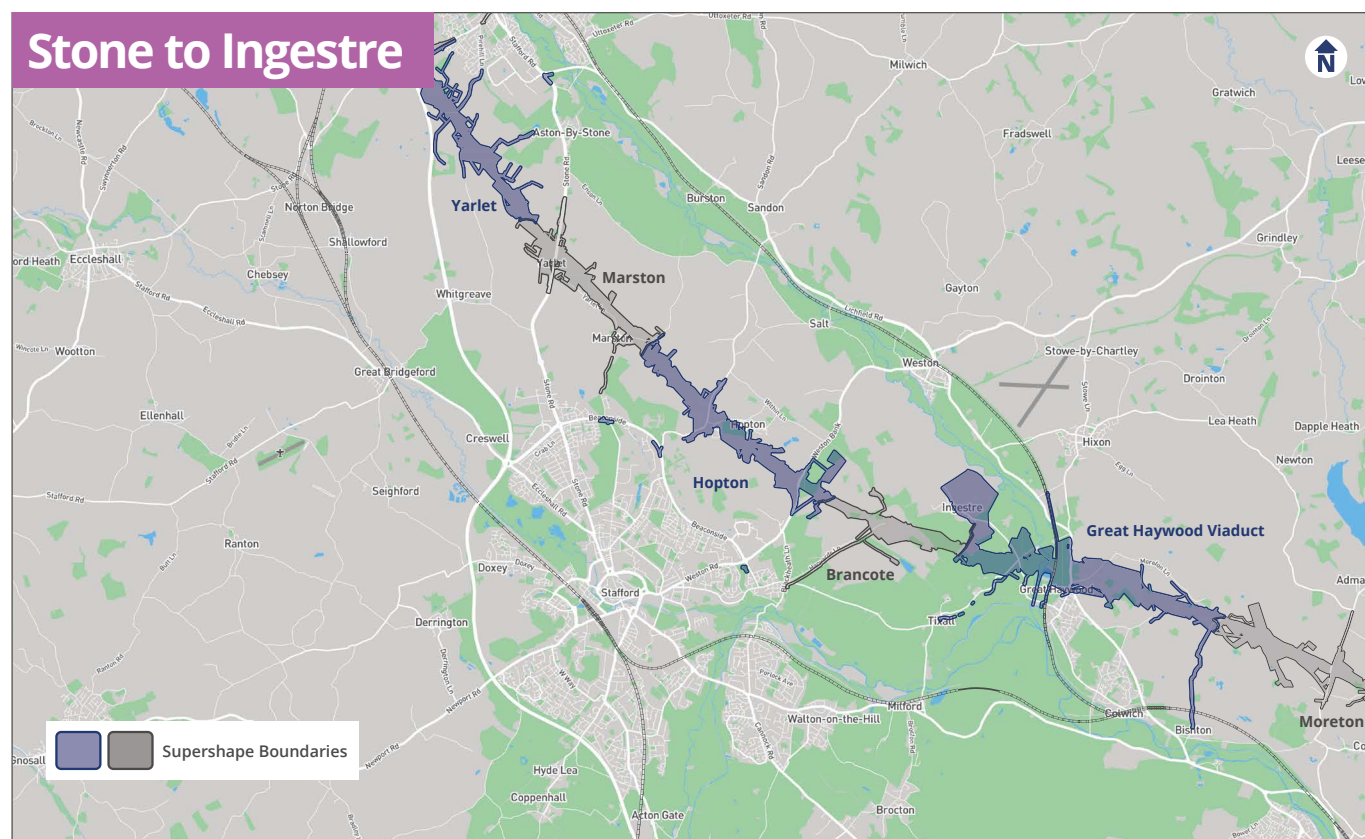
Balfour Beatty is continuing to deliver our environmental habitat creation programme on Phase 2a. Whilst most of the work is close to completion for this year, there is still further work that needs to be done to ensure that the wildlife infrastructure is in place to translocate species when main construction starts. Balfour Beatty will also be maintaining the land and new habitats by cutting grasslands, pruning trees and hedges, and looking after the newly built ponds.

Once this work is complete, we will have planted around 200,000 trees, it will also incorporate 4.5 miles of new hedgerows, and the equivalent of 110 football pitches of new grassland meadows which will encourage wildflowers and insects to flourish.

In January 2023, we started to permanently acquire the land we need to build and operate the railway using compulsory purchase powers provided in the Phase 2a Act. This programme of work is being managed by HS2 Ltd's Land and Property team in partnership with Balfour Beatty. We are not able to rephase or pause this programme of work because our land acquisition legal powers are time limited so we must acquire all the land we need for Phase 2a while they remain in place. The acquisition of land will also allow us to undertake relevant surveys and preparatory works before main construction works begin.

To manage this process, the Phase 2a route has been separated into 17 areas of land called 'super shapes' indicated in the following maps. We are working to acquire all these land areas in the shortest time period possible.







During 2023 and 2024, the National Grid Electrical Distribution team will undertake a number of surveys to inform the route and design of the power supply for the tunnel boring machines which will create the twin bored tunnels at Whitmore and Madeley. These tunnels will reduce the impact of the railway on woodlands and properties.



Work to Cadent's two remaining gas diversions on Phase 2a started in 2022. Cadent is working on land off Hanyards Lane, near Ingestre Park Golf Club, as well as on land off Tolldish Lane, near Great Haywood, and will complete the diversions in autumn 2023.

Cadent may need to carry out some work outside of usual HS2 working hours, although, wherever possible, it will try to limit activity to take place between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm. All works outside of normal working hours are subject to consents from the local authority.

There will occasionally be some increased vehicle movements, though Cadent will look to keep this to a minimum and outside of peak traffic times.

Once the pipelines are re-connected to Cadent's network and successfully tested, Cadent will begin the process of reinstating the land it has been working on at both sites.

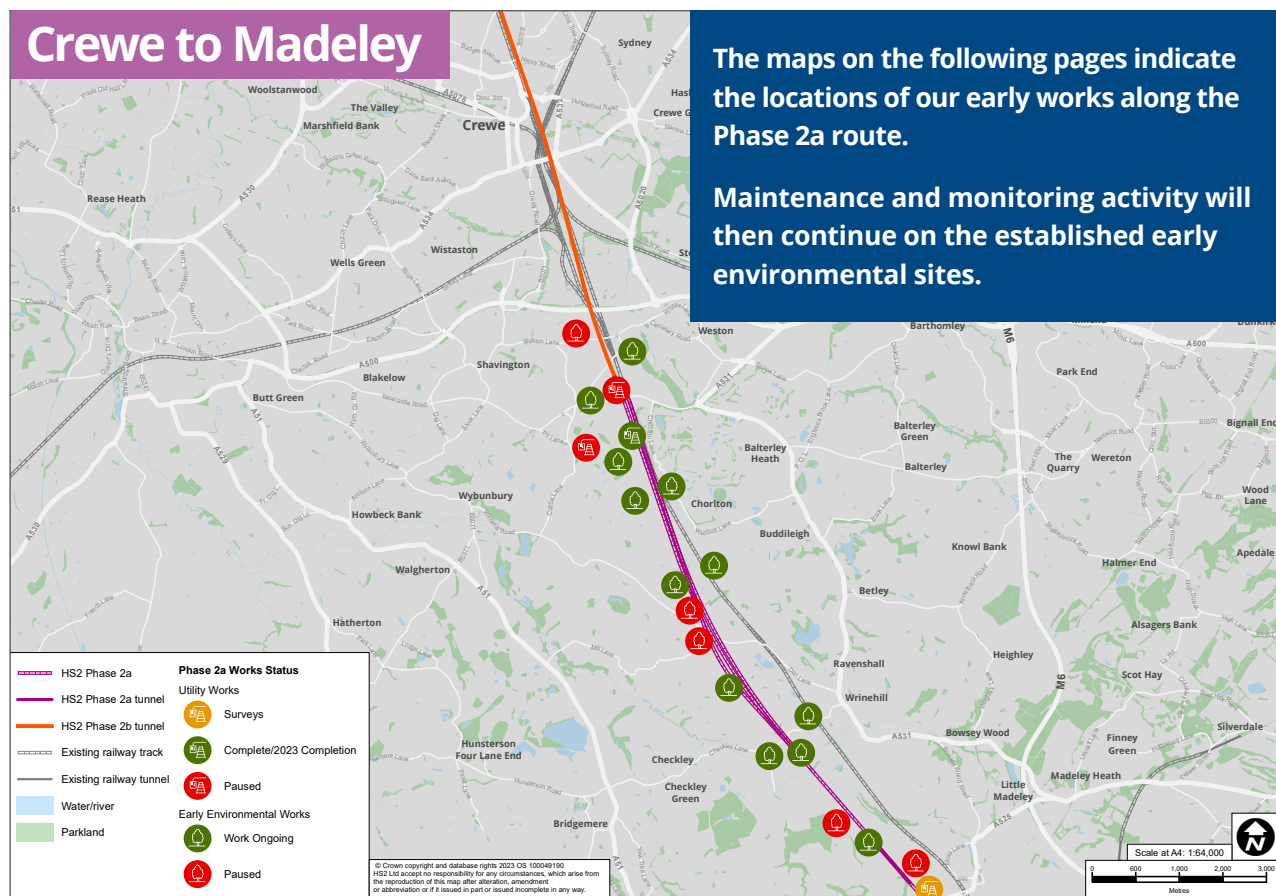


Work to divert a gas pipeline around five miles south of Crewe, near Chorlton, is already underway. To ensure the pipeline continues to operate safely and reliably, a 370-metre section needs to be moved.

National Gas' specialist contractor, United Living, started this main diversion work in June. This included using an 18-tonne tunnel boring machine (TBM) to create a 1.5m wide, 220m-long tunnel 20m below the ground. From the launch shaft near Chorlton Lane, the TBM started boring underneath the West Coast Main Line railway to the east of Hough and travelled north towards Heath Farm excavating around 210 tonnes of material, which National Gas will reuse on-site.

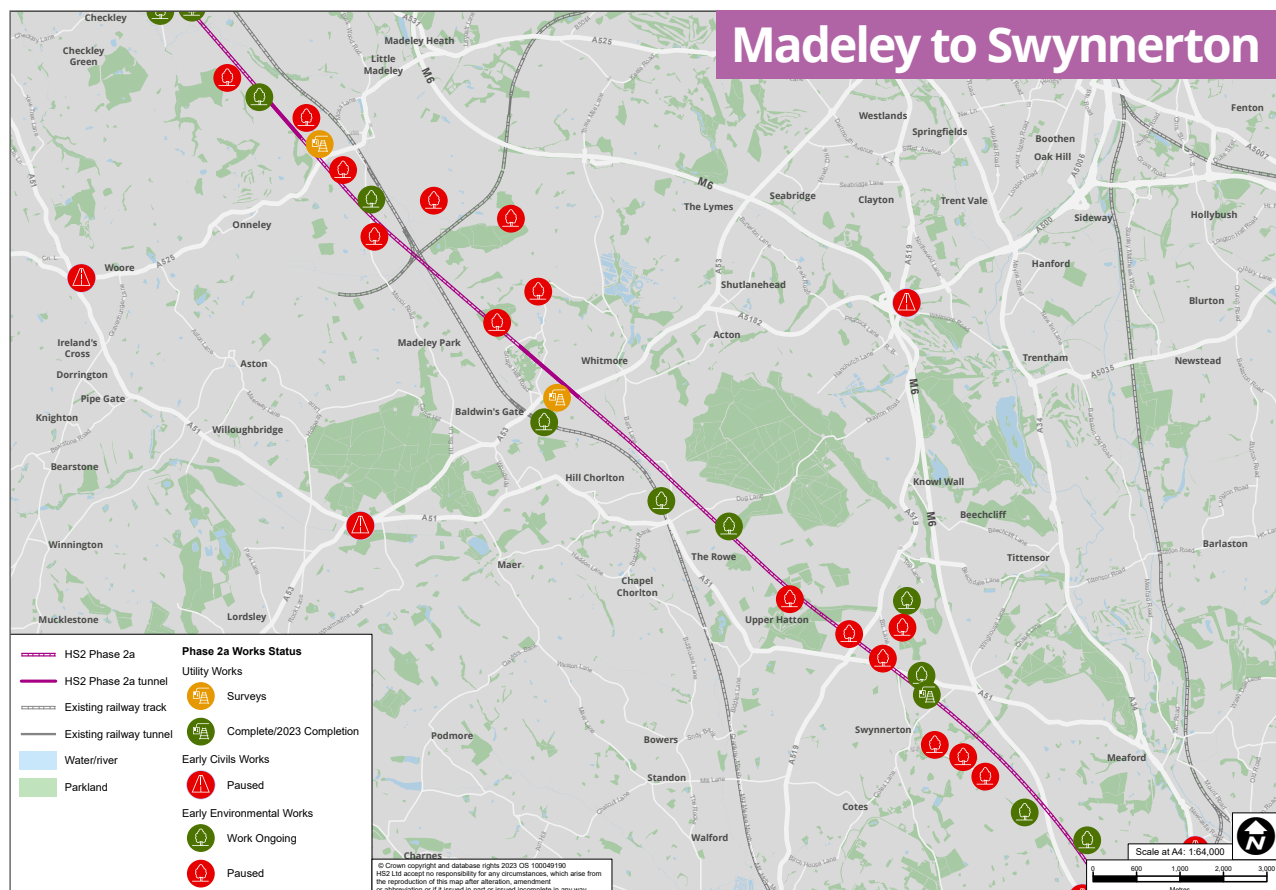
With the permission of Cheshire East Council, the team used the TBM 24-hours a day for around three weeks to keep the machine running.

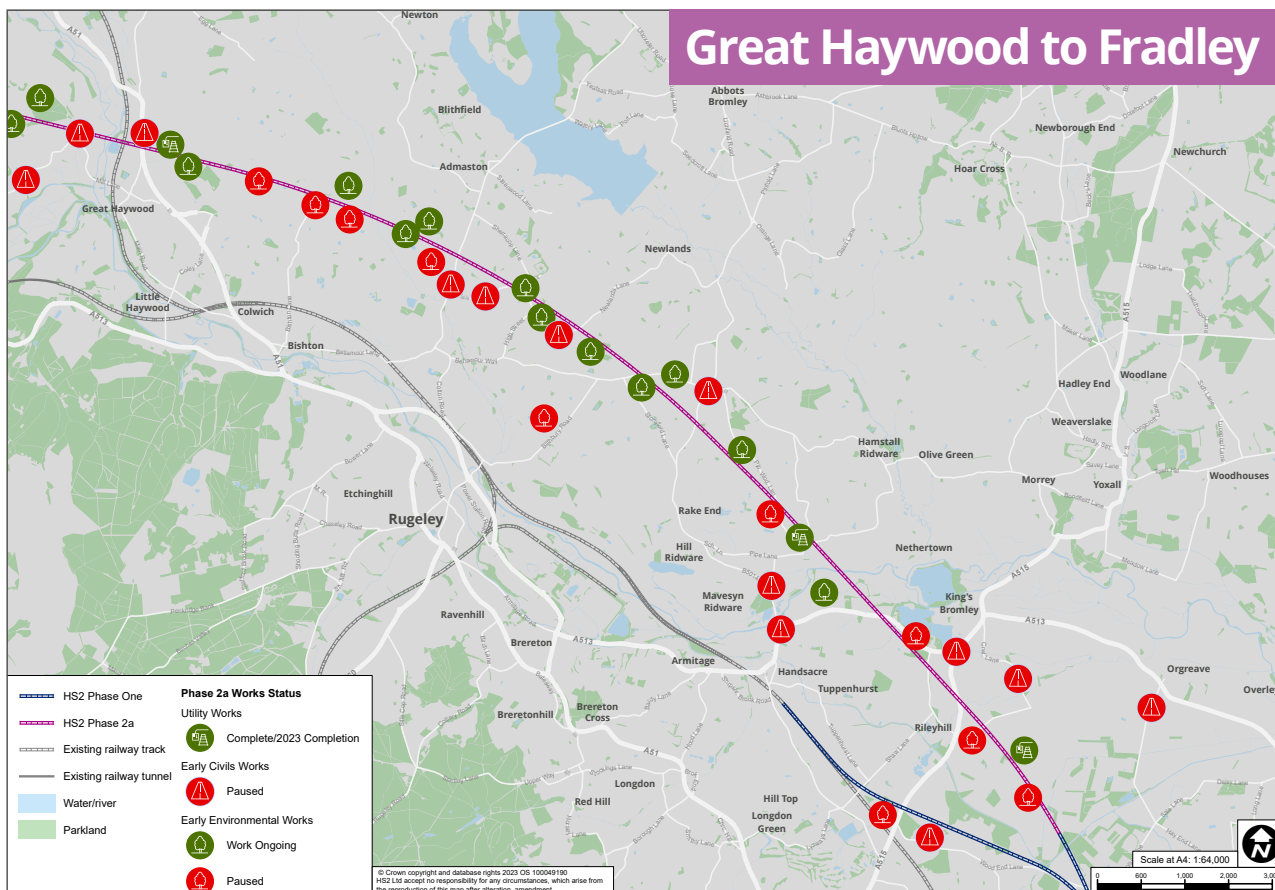
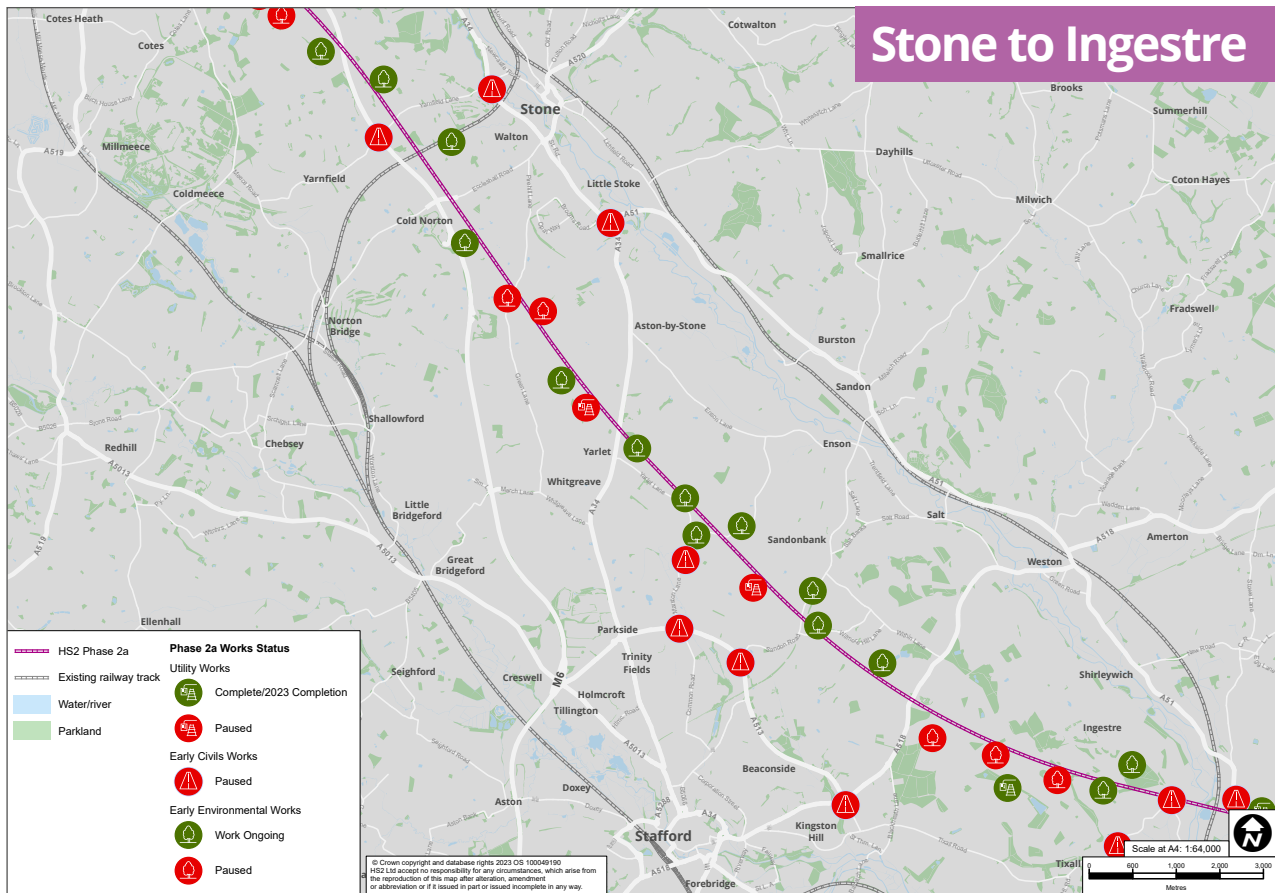
National Gas expects to complete the gas pipeline diversion works in Chorlton and reinstate the land towards the end of 2023.



The maps on the following pages indicate the locations of our early works along the Phase 2a route.

Maintenance and monitoring activity will then continue on the established early environmental sites.





Our key documents

We have a range of documents on hand to help you understand our approach to community engagement and keep up to date with our works in your area.

Community Engagement Strategy

Our Community Engagement Strategy explains all the ways that we'll engage with people, businesses and communities along the route. It also includes our 10 Community Commitments.

You can read our Community Engagement Strategy here:

www.hs2.org.uk/about-us/documents/community-engagement-strategy



Residents' Charter

Our Residents' Charter sets out our 10 Community Commitments. It explains the roles of the independent Residents' Commissioner and the Construction Commissioner in ensuring that we're held to account on these Commitments.

You can read our Residents' Charter here:

www.hs2.org.uk/documents/hs2-residents-charter



Land and Property guidance

We have several guidance documents about our different property schemes. These documents help you to understand the different types of compensation that's available if your property is affected by the HS2 route. These documents include specific booklets about the Need to Sell scheme, Rural Support Zone and safeguarding and compensation guidance.

You can find these at:

www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/assistance-for-property-owners



How to get in touch and find out more

Our HS2 Helpdesk team are available all day, every day of the year

You can contact our Helpdesk team with any questions you may have, to request copies of documents, to register and track complaints, and to coordinate incident responses.

Our Helpdesk team are available via:

Freephone 08081 434 434

Minicom 08081 456 472

Email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Keep up to date with the Project and sign up to notifications

You can find out more about HS2 in your local area and sign up to receive updates on upcoming work by visiting your local community webpage at:

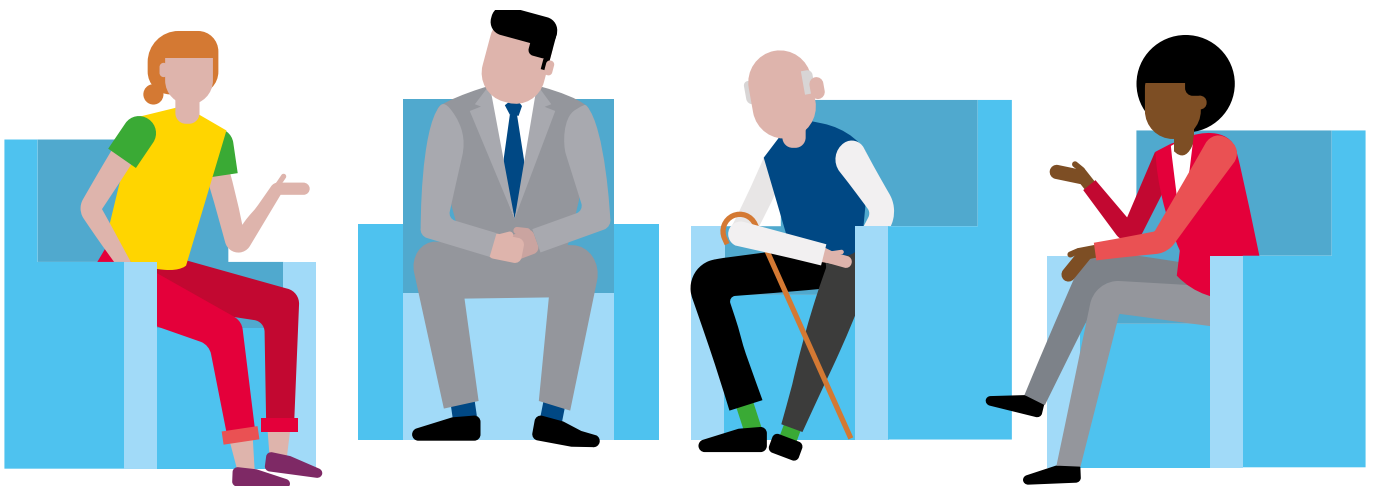
www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages

You can meet us at our drop-in sessions

This year our engagement team are holding regular drop-in sessions, which may be in person or virtual. These are hosted by your local engagement team and will be supported by our specialists should you wish to discuss specific topics. To find out more, including the times of your next drop-in, visit www.hs2.org.uk/events or contact our Helpdesk team.

We'll also hold engagement events and webinars to inform you about work in your area. All our events are published on the the HS2 website at www.hs2.org.uk/events. You can also receive alerts about events by signing up at <https://engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list>

Our engagement team also attend Parish Council meetings and other local forums. If you would like the team to attend a community meeting in your area to give an update on HS2 please contact our Helpdesk team.



Apply for funding for a local project through the community and business funds

We're offering two funds which are available to local communities and businesses – the Community and Environment Fund (CEF), and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF). Both funds give local communities and business organisations the opportunity to receive funding of up to £1 million for projects that aim to improve their local area or economy. To find out more and how to apply, visit www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds. You can also contact Groundwork UK by calling 0121 237 5880 or emailing hs2funds@groundwork.org.uk. Groundwork UK is an independent charity that assesses applications and manages the funds on our behalf.

We have more printed materials available

If you would prefer to have more information in a printed format, or you don't have access to the internet, we can provide printed copies of any of our publications. Please come and meet us at an in-person event, or get in touch with our Helpdesk team to request printed copies of information.

We are available via:

Freephone 08081 434 434

Minicom 08081 456 472

Email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Alternative formats

If you need any of our printed materials in large print, Braille, audio or easy read please contact us. You can also contact us for help and information in a different language.



Keeping your information safe

If we ask for your personal information, we will:

- let you know why we need it;
- only ask for what we need and not collect excessive or irrelevant information;
- make sure nobody has access to it who should not;
- not share it with other organisations unless we have told you in advance or unless we are obliged to do so by law;
- only keep it for as long as we need to; and
- not make it available, or sell it, for commercial use, such as marketing.

We do share information with our contractors to enable robust and informed responses to queries.

In dealing with your personal information, we will:

- value the personal information entrusted to us and make sure we respect that trust;
- abide by the law when it comes to handling personal information;
- consider the privacy risks when we are planning to use or hold personal information in new ways, such as introducing new systems; and
- provide training to staff who handle personal information and respond appropriately if personal information is not used or protected properly.

To help us keep your information accurate and up to date, we ask you to give us accurate information and tell us as soon as possible of any change of circumstances.

You can find out what personal information, if any, we hold about you by making a 'subject access request'.

If we do hold information about you, once we have confirmed your identity, we will give you a description of it, why we are holding it and who it could be disclosed to. We will also provide you with a copy of the information in an intelligible form.

It will help us to locate any data we might hold about you if, in making your request, you could state what dealings we have had with you and why you expect us to hold information about you.

It is not the policy of HS2 Ltd to charge for subject access requests. If you wish to make a subject access request, please contact us via the details below. Our HS2 Helpdesk team is available all day, every day of the year.

They're available via:

Freephone [08081 434 434](tel:08081434434)

Minicom [08081 456 472](tel:08081456472)

Email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Write to us at:

FREEPOST

HS2 Community Engagement

To read our privacy policy regarding your personal information, go to:

www.hs2.org.uk/privacy-notice

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' Commissioner

The Residents' Commissioner oversees and monitors our commitments to you. The Commissioner's reports and our responses can be found at www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner

The Residents' Commissioner makes sure we fulfil the commitments in the [HS2 Community Engagement Strategy](#). The Residents' Commissioner can be contacted on: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Construction Commissioner

The independent Construction Commissioner regularly meets our Chief Executive Officer to raise any concerns or emerging trends across HS2. The Construction Commissioner's role has been developed to monitor the way we manage and respond to construction complaints.

The Commissioner mediates on disputes about construction, involving individuals and organisations, that we can't resolve. The Commissioner advises members of the public about how to make a complaint about construction.

The Construction Commissioner can be contacted at: 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

Our HS2 Helpdesk team are available all day, every day. You can contact them via:

 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 area, visit:

www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk

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