

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on **08081 434 434**

HS2 Update

Staffordshire construction update | September 2023

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. Balfour Beatty VINCI (BBV) is working in partnership with HS2 Ltd to build the new high-speed railway in your area.

Staffordshire programme update

In March 2023, the Government updated Parliament on their transport capital investment programme. The Transport Secretary's statement included an update on the HS2 project, recognising significant inflationary pressures across the economy. The Government has reaffirmed its commitment to delivering HS2 from London Euston to Manchester, including the completion of construction works on Phase One, north of Birmingham. We have been working closely with the Government and our supply chain on the details of any changes to the HS2 Phase One route.

The construction programme for 2023/24 on the 30km section of the Phase One route between Curdworth in North Warwickshire and Handsacre in Staffordshire has been reviewed by HS2 and BBV. While work is increasing, it will not be to the same degree as originally planned. This newsletter provides you with an update on the rephasing of Phase One. It includes information explaining which key construction work will continue. We will also provide you with an update on our works, engagement and some of the community projects that we are supporting. Construction works, critical utility works and works already underway that intersect major assets like A-roads, motorways and the conventional rail network will continue as planned, for example, works at the A38 at Streethay and the recent programme of works to create a box bridge underneath the West Coast Mainline, near Lichfield Trent Valley.

The maps overleaf show the construction activities that will continue, or be paused, over the next two years in your area.



Upcoming events

We are hosting drop-in events. Find out more [here](#) or scan the QR code.



Keep up to date with our employment opportunities [here](#) or scan the QR code.



Read about our upcoming works [here](#) or scan the QR code.



Read about updates for Phase 2a works [here](#) or scan the QR code.

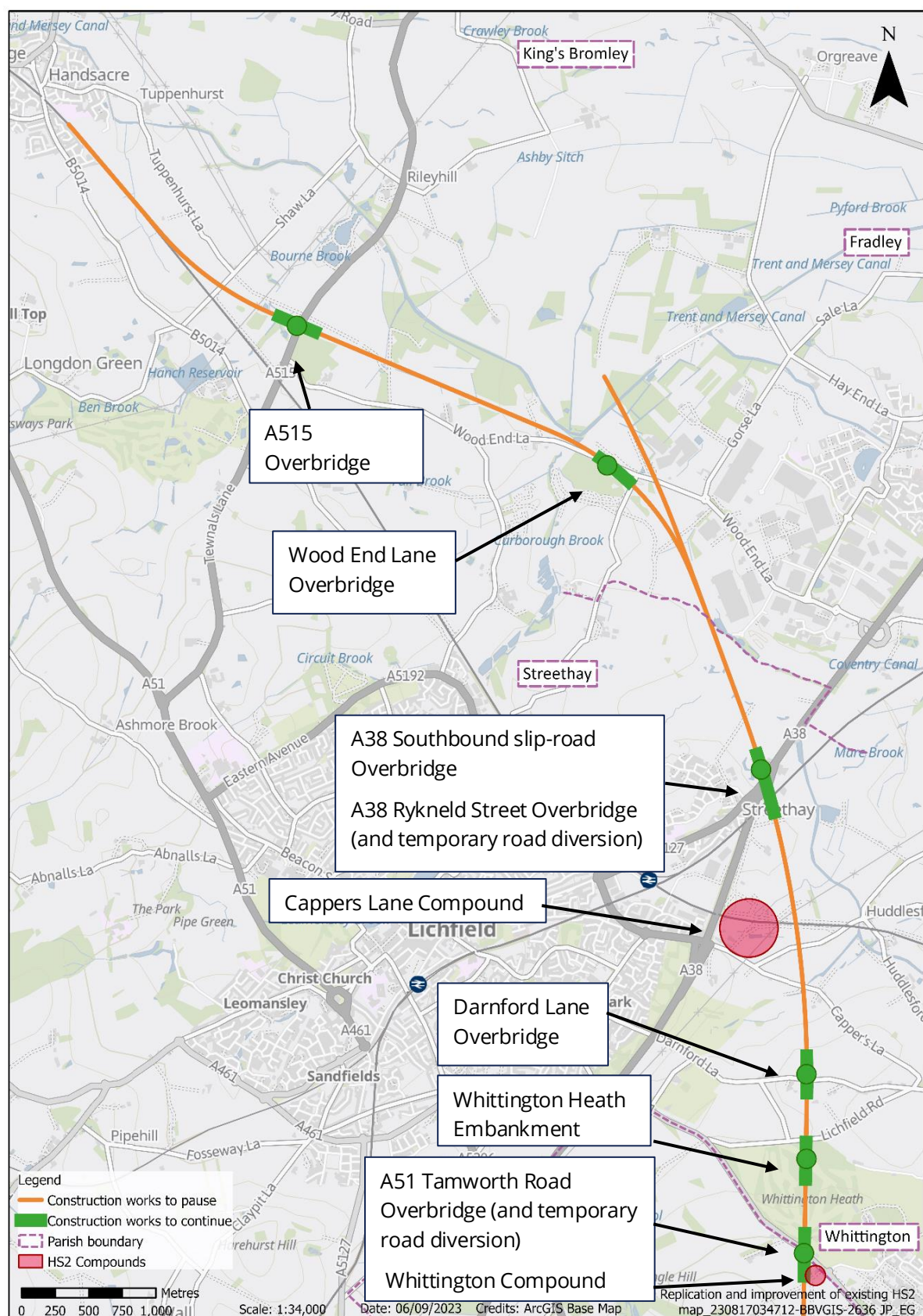


Areas: Whittington to Armitage and Handsacre

The **green** line on the map below illustrates the construction works that will continue.

The **orange** line on the map shows the construction works that will be paused.

The **red** circle on the map shows the compounds in the area.

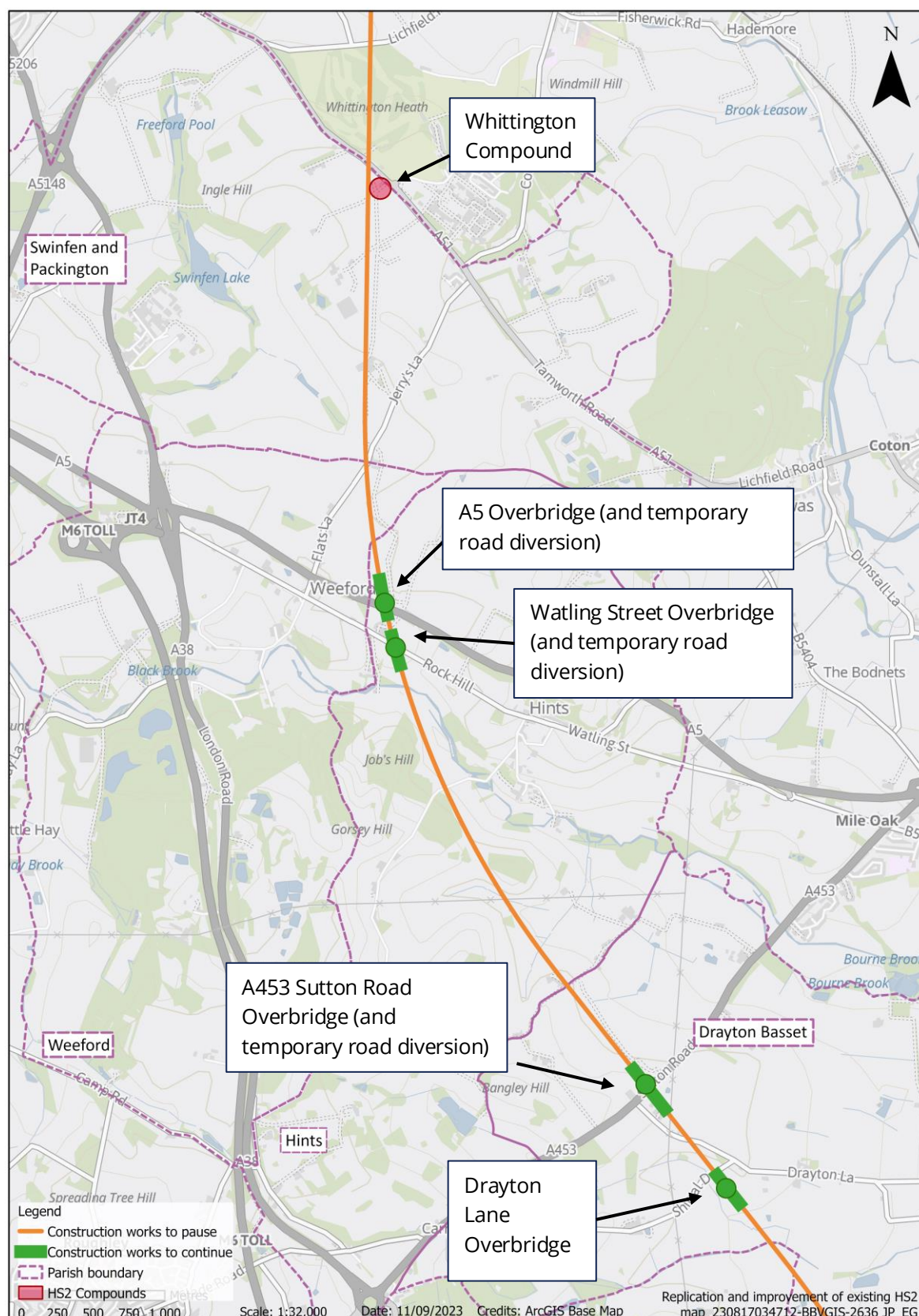


Area: Drayton Bassett to Swinfen and Packington

The **green** line on the map below illustrates the construction works that will continue.

The **orange** line on the map shows the construction works that will be paused.

The **red** circle on the map shows the compounds in the area.



Utility diversions

It is important that, before any major construction begins, we locate, protect or divert existing utility supplies in the area.

We will deliver a programme of utility works that will include utility surveys which we will use to check for any below-ground wiring or pipes and to locate water, power, fibre optics, drainage, sewage, gas and telecommunications.

Once we have located the utilities, we will protect these or introduce diversions to enable construction in each area.



Utilities diversion are a key part of the construction process

Compounds

We will continue to use the Cappers Lane Main Compound as a base for our teams and utilise satellite compounds located near our works. We will assess and utilise satellite compounds located near to the construction works that will continue. All the other compounds in the local area will either be temporarily closed and secured or relocated.



We will continue using Cappers Lane compound as a base for our teams

Security

We will be securing and monitoring the sites that we are temporarily closing to prevent any illegal trespassing activity and for the safety of the public. We will install entry barriers and security fencing at each site and we will ensure that there is clear signage to communicate that the sites are not publicly accessible. You will also continue to see our mobile security teams monitoring sites in the local area.



We will ensure our sites are secured and well maintained.

Grounds Maintenance

We will be delivering regular grounds maintenance requirements in Staffordshire in-line with seasonal cycles. We will give special consideration to safety and security, including the conditions of paved areas, paths, trees and fences. We will prioritise public safety in areas where we are using grass-cutting machines, strimmers and chippers.



We will continue to undertake regular ground maintenance where required

Environment

In Staffordshire, we will be undertaking non-intrusive environmental surveys where we observe, measure and take notes and photographs of the local environment and ecology in woodlands, waterways, buildings, agricultural land and archaeological or heritage sites. We will assess and monitor water levels in our balancing ponds and may occasionally use pumps to manage seasonal increases. We will additionally be hydroseeding areas of our sites where we have paused earthworks to control soil erosion. Hydroseeding is a planting process that uses a combination of seed and mulch. It is an alternative to traditional methods like sowing dry seeds.

Traffic management

We will need to introduce traffic management to deliver our programme of works. This could include temporary traffic lights, lane closures and full closures. We will communicate any traffic management in advance of works commencing.



Completing works safely with traffic management.

Demolitions

Our demolition works are progressing, and we have safely dismantled most buildings within the HS2 land boundary. We will now temporarily pause our remaining demolition programme.



Public Rights of Way (PRoWs)

We will be continuing our Public Rights of Way temporary closures to ensure the safety of both our team and the public. We will also continue to comply with any undertakings and assurances until the PRoWs can be reopened.

Community Funds

We are offering two funds that are available to local communities and businesses between the West Midlands and London, 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).

For more information about each of these funds, including how to apply, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code.





HS2 'marathon' bridge construction completed near Lichfield.



The 'marathon' bridge structure that was constructed near Lichfield.

We have completed a huge construction operation to build and move a 2,600 tonne bridge under the South Staffordshire railway line near Lichfield.

A team of over 150 people and 18 different companies delivered the complex project using the latest low-carbon design, in line with HS2's environmental priorities. Innovation from the HS2 team on the design of the railway in this area means that the total length of wall structures required for Streethay Cutting is reduced from 1.6km to 420m, meaning 80% less concrete is needed, in turn saving 420,000 tonnes of carbon.

The bridge, which was cast on land next to the railway, was moved using self-propelled modular transporters. Since it was put in place, each side of the bridge has been backfilled and the rail track reinstated, meaning the line was handed back to Network Rail in mid-August, with it now reopened as normal after a 10-week blockade where works took place. The Streethay overbridge is 25 metres long and 18 metres wide and will enable HS2 Trains to travel under the existing South Staffordshire railway line. You can read more about the story [here](#), or scan the QR code.



Did you know?

The operation included excavating 14,000 tonnes of earth and building a 140-metre retaining wall, as well as moving the 2,600 tonne bridge deck 130 metres, under the South Staffordshire freight railway.



HS2 complete the UK's heaviest ever bridge drive



The HS2 team celebrating the incredible achievement

The HS2 team has successfully completed the UK's heaviest bridge drive to install an intersection bridge structure beneath the West Coast Main Line (WCML) at Fulfen Wood near Lichfield. The structure comes in at a huge 6,200 tonnes, 56 metres long and 19 metres wide.

Over the past few months, we have been constructing the huge structure next to the WCML, before it was slowly moved into place using self-propelled modular transporters, similar to the techniques used for the bridge under the South Staffordshire railway line near Lichfield, (see page 4). The transporters are specially designed for heavy lifting, and feature 840 wheels, whilst being controlled by a remote steering system.

The bridge took around six months to build and required 61,000 cubic metres of earth to be moved. In the two days before the move alone, the team excavated over 15,000 cubic metres of material to allow space for the structure to be moved into.

You can read more about the feat of engineering by clicking [here](#), or scanning the QR code. Through that link, you will also find a video showing you the work, with a timelapse demonstrating the size of the operation.



Community Investment

BBV's Community Investment programme enables us to support those communities most impacted by our works. BBV and our supply chain partners can give back by volunteering our time, providing resources and sharing our knowledge and skills. Please contact us at **communityinvestment@balfourbeattyvinci.com** to request support.

Bowbrook Care Home gardens

The HS2 and BBV teams spent a day volunteering and supporting Bowbrook Care Home in Fradley, Lichfield in its gardening and management of green spaces for residents to enjoy. The morning was spent doing ground clearance and turning over soil, ready for flowers to be laid. Much of the Bowbrook gardens were overgrown and required a lot of work to restore to a usable condition, but our volunteers got stuck in and engaged with staff, visitors and residents. The care home manager, Lucie Willday said, "Thank you to your team for the works completed at Bowbrook. Our carpark and entrance is much more inviting and it has made a huge difference. It was a pleasure to have you with us for the day".



HS2 and BBV teams volunteering at Bowbrook

Delivering STEM workshop at Manor Primary School

We delivered STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) sessions to pupils in two classes that included a careers presentation and a bridge building competition. Opportunities to teach budding generations of young people about STEM are designed to inspire the engineers and rail professionals of the future. They are an incredibly important tool through which we can empower local young people.



Refreshing the outdoor area at Manor Primary

In line with both our environmental and community investment commitments, we have also been using upcycled wood from the project to build six picnic tables, six bird tables, a playhouse and planters for the school. The benches were used to host a Father's Day event for the school and the playhouse quickly became a pupil's favourite. We have recently followed this up by sending our volunteers in to paint classrooms at the school, enhancing the teaching environment for when the children return after the summer break.

Participating in Lichfield Charity Run

We provided volunteers to help during the day and some staff participated in the Cathedral to Castle Run in Lichfield which supports several local charities and worthy causes via the four Rotary Clubs in Lichfield and Tamworth. In total, the race organisers raised a huge £10,500 which is distributed to charities in the local area.

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 you.

The Residents' Commissioner

The independent 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 (<https://bit.ly/3oOA25j>).

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 on: complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out about HS2 and properties along the route by visiting:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property

Find out if you can claim 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 the HS2 Helpdesk. For more details on our complaints process, please visit:

www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/contact-us/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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