

Old Oak Common Lane

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ	Response
Road Closure	
Why are you closing the road?	<p>HS2 has a requirement to lower Old Oak Common Lane to enable double decker buses to pass under the rail bridges. This is a legal commitment that has been provided to Transport for London (TfL).</p> <p>To make the road lowering possible, HS2 will need to move all of the utilities out of the road and run them through the new mini tunnels already in place under the side of the road under the railway.</p> <p>New bridges must also be built to accommodate the railway lines needed for Great Western Mainline and Elizabeth Line into the new station.</p> <p>Other work required include a new retaining wall that will have to be built for the Hitachi North Pole Maintenance Depot and new cycle and pedestrian pathways, as Old Oak Common Lane will be widened so that the pathways are able to run along both sides of the road.</p>
Why are you moving the utilities in the road?	<p>As part of the future design to enable double-decker buses to pass under the rail bridges, Old Oak Common Lane must be lowered by up to two metres in certain areas. As a result, all underground utilities, such as communication cables, sewers, electrical cables and gas pipes, need to be moved out of the way so the work can take place.</p> <p>This also gives utility providers an opportunity to upgrade their existing networks.</p>

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How long will Old Oak Common Lane be closed for?	We are currently exploring a number of options to undertake the works on Old Oak Common Lane, and we're at the very beginning of this process. No decisions have been made and we will be working closely with the local authorities, TfL, emergency services, local communities and businesses, utility companies and others to plan these works.
When will the road closure start?	We don't have a start date for the road closure yet as we are still at an early stage of planning the works, but we will keep you informed as soon as we have further information on this. However, we won't be closing the road until early 2025 at the earliest.
When will a decision be made?	We're working hard to gather additional assessments and modelling to help us make our choices and hope to share the plans for the works in summer 2024.
Where will the closure stop and start?	Closure points will be confirmed once we have done completed assessments and the traffic modelling has been finalised.
Is there a possibility the road closure would be lifted early?	<p>We are committed to easing disruption as much as possible. Our work needs to be done safely, and to a high and compliant standard.</p> <p>If there is an opportunity to complete elements of the work and open the road early, we will do that where possible.</p>
What does a hard closure mean?	A hard closure means that no vehicles can pass through because there will be open excavations in the road.
What does a soft closure mean?	A soft closure means that only local access will be available for residents, guests, businesses and deliveries in vehicles.
Why do double decker buses need access to the station via Old Oak Common Lane? Could double-decker buses enter the station from another access point?	It will give TfL options for planning appropriate services for the future in the local area. There are no plans to establish a new bus route into an alternative station entrance point.
Noise and disruption	
How much noise will this work generate?	We are still subject to all the same laws and regulations under which the remainder of the HS2 works are undertaken, and we

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	will work to remain within those limits and keep noise, vibration and light impacts as low as possible.
Works outside of Old Oak Common Lane	
Can you promise not to do work on Victoria Road, while Old Oak Common Lane is shut?	<p>We will work to coordinate the works on Old Oak Common Lane with other HS2 works in the area.</p> <p>At present, we have no planned works on Victoria Road at the same time as Old Oak Common Lane. However, work could take place by other contractors if given permission by Ealing Council.</p>
Bus Service Impacts	
What impact will this have on the bus services in the local area?	We continue to engage with TfL, and they are considering the impact and any alterations to the existing 228-bus route. We will work with TfL to make sure any changes are communicated in advance to bus users.
Will the site shuttle bus continue to run?	This will be reviewed as part of our planning process.
Compensation	
Will residents receive compensation for this extended closure?	<p>We understand that the works required on Old Oak Common Lane will have a big impact on local residents and businesses and we are doing all that we can to try and minimise these impacts as much as possible as we start the early planning for these works. This will include keeping noise, vibration and light levels from the works to a minimum.</p> <p>As part of this planning we will be developing further support measures for residents. We have started discussions with Ealing Council and OPDC on this and will keep residents and businesses informed about the development of the proposed support we will be offering.</p>
Traffic, pedestrian, and access impacts	

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How will emergency services be impacted?	Throughout our planning, we will continue to engage with the local branches of the blue light services to ensure they are fully aware of the work.
Will the footpath remain open?	The footpath will remain open for pedestrian and accessible access (such as wheelchairs and prams). However, occasionally it will be closed to allow for work to take place where it would be unsafe to allow people to walk along. We anticipate this will only be for short periods of time (e.g. when we crane in the new bridges). We will make sure that any closures are well communicated in advance.
What does local access mean?	While drivers won't be able to drive through the hard closure area, vehicular access will still be possible within the local access area for Wells House Road residents, local businesses, delivery services, repair services, guests etc.
Will delivery drivers and resident's guests be permitted through to Wells House Road?	Yes. Delivery services, repair services, guests and similar will be permitted local access.
Will the extended road closure result in 'rat running,' or traffic cutting through residential zones such as, Wells House Road, Old Oak Estate and the wider Old Oak area?	We will ensure all diversionary routes are sign posted along main roads, however, we cannot always account for individual driver behaviour.
Will Ealing Council give Wells House Road residents permits, so they can park south of the closure and leave their vehicles in this location?	We are open to liaising with Ealing Council on this matter, however it is at their discretion to grant residents permits.
How will my children get to school with the closures in places?	Footpaths will remain open as far as safely possible. We are working with the local authorities and TfL to find alternative travel solutions for residents impacted by the closure. Access to local schools will be part of that consideration. We are carrying out desktop surveys and stakeholder engagement to understand the scale of the impact on school commutes.
Can you open the Wells House Road staircase as this will allow better access for residents?	Opening the staircase is a priority. We are waiting for Ealing Council to carry out safety assessments on structures adjacent to the staircase.

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<p>Bicycles and e-scooters use the existing pavement, how will you make this safe for pedestrians as well? Will they be banned during the road closure?</p>	<p>Pedestrian and cyclist safety is an important factor. Cyclists and e-scooter users will be asked to dismount when using the footpath along Old Oak Common Lane, and this will be enforced by our traffic management teams on the road. Our security and logistics team are prepared to manage the parking of Lime hire bikes and e-scooters around footpath areas to prevent hazards for pedestrian traffic.</p> <p>Advisory signage will be put in place, and we will engage with the community and local authorities to ensure clear communication.</p>
Engagement to date	
<p>Who have you engaged about these proposals?</p>	<p>We work closely with stakeholders such as local authorities and utilities companies to plan this work. We have engaged with Hammersmith & Fulham and Ealing councils, OPDC, TfL, and Network Rail.</p>
<p>Who will need to approve the proposal to close Old Oak Common Lane?</p>	<p>Once we have finished all of the assessments we will make what's called a schedule 4 application to Ealing Council for the disruption to the public highway. Ealing Council will consult adjoining boroughs and stakeholders on the application.</p> <p>TfL will need to approve the plan for disruption to their services.</p> <p>There is also likely to be a Schedule 4 approval required from London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham for signage required on the proposed diversion route.</p>
<p>Are you engaging residents about the extended closure.</p>	<p>We understand that this work is disruptive to the local community, and we are being open with them as we look at the various options to carry out this work.</p> <p>We will be engaging closely with the local businesses, communities, and stakeholders over the next few months, as well as having updated information readily available on the HS2 website.</p>