

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

HS2 Update

Water Orton to Coleshill | Spring 2024

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. This update will provide you with key updates and news on HS2 works happening between Water Orton and Coleshill.

Success for 300 tonne M42/M6 bridge push

An **84 metre, 300 tonne** steel viaduct section has been moved into place at HS2's Delta Junction in 11.5 hours

The first section of two 158 metre viaducts which will take high speed trains over the M42/M6 link roads in North Warwickshire has been moved. Last year, we constructed the piers and abutments for the M42/M6 Viaduct. The two viaducts will carry the new HS2 line over the M42/M6 motorway, connecting Interchange station and Curzon Street Station.

To minimise traffic disruption, most of the preparation works were carried out off-line and we are pleased to announce that we had successfully pushed the first viaduct into position. This installation will be completed in two phases with the next move in April will take it over the eastbound carriageway.

Using a 'push-pull' jacking technique to give greater flexibility during the launch operation. It was the first-time contractors had used their specially designed technique in the UK, meant we could install the viaducts during short, temporary closures of the M42/M6 motorway near Coleshill.

Upcoming works

For more information about upcoming works in Water Orton and Coleshill, please click [here](#) to view our 2024 Warwickshire Spring Construction Look-Ahead or scan the QR code below.



Chattle Hill Box and A446 Lichfield Road

The Chattle Hill Structure is in the northeast corner of the Delta Junction, which takes the HS2 line over the A446 Lichfield Road. The first phase of works will include building a temporary road offline to minimise disruption. We will switch traffic here when we close the A446 Lichfield Road.

The structure will allow pedestrians, vehicles and cyclists to pass underneath the line, mainly impacting the small residential area of Chattle Hill, to the southeast of the line. As a result, we will install a noise barrier by the track to protect local people from noise.

We will also realign the A446 Lichfield Road to ensure that it can be dualled in the future by Warwickshire County Council.

We expect to put in place traffic management measures during the period of construction. More information on overnight closures of the A446 Lichfield Road can be found [here](#).

Expected benefits

- The permanent realignment will be designed to enable the future dualling of the route
- We are creating the new 'Blossom walk' which will lead south towards Gilson (Hamlet). It will blend the orchard and allotments into the wider landscape creating a looping walk lined by trees and shrubs. It will also feature fruit and vegetables which can be picked enroute
- We have designed the structure to last for 120 years offering taxpayers the most value for money and reducing maintenance requirements that would lead to more disruption for local people.



Progress of works on the Chattle Hill Box

Birmingham's fourth and final tunnel bore

Did you know...

Saint Barbara is the patron saint of tunnelling and mining. Before the launch of the tunnel boring machine (TBM), a blessing ceremony carried out by a priest will take place. This practice is believed to date back to the earliest mining traditions and involves a statue of St Barbara, the Patron Saint of tunnelling, being blessed and placed at the entrance of the tunnel.



In March, 'Elizabeth' the second 125 metre long Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) started on its journey to dig the second bore of HS2's Bromford Tunnel, between the east portal at Water Orton in North Warwickshire and the west portal at Washwood Heath in Birmingham.

The 3.5 mile twin bore tunnel will take high speed trains in and out of Birmingham, with a series of viaducts between Washwood Heath and Curzon Street Station to the city centre.

Working as an underground factory, 'Elizabeth' along with the first TBM named 'Mary Ann' (launched in July 2023) will put a total of 41,594 concrete segments in place, creating 5,942 rings to make the twin bore tunnel, with each ring weighing 49 tonnes.

Following the tradition of naming HS2 TBMs after famous women from the local area, pupils from Paget Primary School in Birmingham chose to call the machine 'Elizabeth' after Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, who spent her life campaigning for the education and welfare of women in Birmingham. Together with her husband - George Cadbury, the chocolate manufacturer - she participated in the reform of industrial working and living conditions through supporting the welfare, health and education of women and children in Bournville.



The last HS2 tunnel boring machine in the West Midlands starts digging towards

Curdworth Box



Progress of the Curdworth Box

The Precast segmental Viaducts are a family of bridges built with a technology which will be first ever used in the UK.

They are composed of two 2,742 segments of between 50 tonne to 80 tonne each, which will compose the deck on which the train will operate. All the segments are precast in a state-of-the-art precast factory of 55 000 m² design and built specifically for HS2 near Lea Marston

The segments will then be transported on heavy trailer to the erection site, and then installed in a progressive cantilever, a span of 45m / 1500tons being temporarily held in the air by temporary cable stays anchored to a temporary mast of 25m high.

The first segments will be erected in June with this unique machine currently under assembly on Faraday Embankment.

Did you know...

In this complicated section of the Delta Junction, there are six tracks of the railway running alongside each other as they join the southern end of the Curdworth Box. The River Tame West Viaduct carries three tracks, the River Tame East Viaduct carries one track and the Water Orton Viaducts carry two tracks.

Community Investment

Father Hudson daycare centre

As part of our Community Investment work, we have supported Father Hudson Daycare Centre in Coleshill with initial steps to revive their outdoor sensory area. Father Hudson's offers high quality, person-centred care for older people, including those living with dementia, and adults with physical, sensory and learning disabilities.

While staff do their best to maintain the area, keep it tidy and plant flowers, they had requested our support as the ground was unfit for wheelchair users due to tree stumps, uneven grounds and obstacles. The council have granted consent to for the removal of trees.

Tarmac had resurfaced the outdoor space, paving the way for us to further enhance the space later this Summer. We look forward to sharing the progress with you later in the year.



The sensory garden before



The sensory garden after it had been newly tarmacked

Spotlight... Haul roads and lorries

We continue to carefully plan how the railway will be constructed, including the way that we transport machinery, materials and our workforce, to and from our construction sites. We understand that traffic and transport management during our construction work is a key issue for local communities. Our work will lead to more vehicles being on the roads in some locations.

In the Water Orton area, we've built an access off the M6/M42 link roads which connects with our dedicated haul roads. The haul we have built in this location – carrying our vehicles directly off the nearby M6/M42 link roads to the works site – which means the majority of HS2 construction traffic doesn't travel through Water Orton or other local villages.

Permitted HGV movements through Water Orton Village

BBV can use up to 40 HGV movements along Watton Lane and the B4118 Birmingham Road westbound to our sites on the B4118 Birmingham Road; these movements should enter through Water Orton from the A446 and exit via Castle Bromwich or the M42 M6 link road via our access point. However, our main delivery access is from the M42 M6 link road access point that we have created directly off the motorway. This will help reduce movements as much as we can through Water Orton and Castle Bromwich by using internal haul roads.

To find out more about HS2's approach to traffic management, please click [here](#).

Recruitment Hubs now live in Birmingham and Solihull

HS2 has joined forces with The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to invest in three new dedicated Recruitment Hubs for the project in the West Midlands.

Over a third of the entire workforce helping to deliver HS2 are based at worksites in the West Midlands, and thousands more jobs are still to be created locally as work to build Curzon Street Station, Interchange Station and the Washwood Heath campus gathers momentum in 2024.

HS2's construction partner for Interchange Station, Laing O'Rourke, has confirmed they will need up to 1,000 people to deliver the project, while Mace Dragados, building Curzon Street, estimate over 1,000 jobs – including an estimated 150 new entrant roles, including apprenticeship positions and opportunities earmarked for unemployed people.

Given the scale of opportunity, the new HS2 Recruitment Hubs are co-located within the Washwood Heath, Birmingham Summer Row and Chelmsley Wood Job Centres - close to the three key sites where HS2 will be bolstering its workforce. The Hubs will be used to advertise new jobs on the HS2 project and provide prospective candidates with the opportunity to meet face to face with recruiters. The Hubs are available to everyone interested in finding out more about HS2 opportunities, not just those claiming benefits. For more information visit [New government-backed Recruitment Hubs will help more unemployed people into work on HS2](#)



How we support local communities



Community Engagement is a key aspect of our work as we strive to build strong relationships with the communities we are working in. Our Community Engagement team are on hand to serve the communities, businesses and local stakeholders impacted by our works. We have specialists working across each section of the route who will be able to answer your questions.

We hold various events and drop-in meetings to provide updates on the project and gather feedback from the community. We also work closely with community groups and local authorities to find ways to mitigate any potential disruptions caused by the construction of HS2.

Please [click here](#), for more information on upcoming events or by visiting the HS2 website: hs2.org.uk/events. We also invite you to take part in our feedback survey below.

Tell us what you think

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.

We invite you to complete our short survey. Your answers will be anonymous and will help us in improving these updates.



Take the survey >



Follow us



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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