

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

# HS2 Update

Staffordshire | Summer 2024

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. This update will provide you with key information and news on HS2 works between Drayton Bassett and Handsacre

## Project update

Last Autumn we shared an update on the rephasing of Phase One HS2 works in and around Staffordshire. This was following the Government announcement in March 2023.

As a result, we have prioritised the progression of key works in the area including undertaking work on the A38, A5, A51 and other strategic roads.

Over the coming months we will be increasing our work in the area. With other works starting, we are fully committed to keeping you informed and involved every step of the way. This newsletter will provide you with an update on our upcoming works activity and traffic management. It also provides an update on the Community and Environment Funds we have awarded and other community work HS2 contractors have supported.



Current works showing the A38, Streethay

## Upcoming works

For more information about our upcoming works in Staffordshire, view our 2024 Summer Construction Look-Ahead by scanning the QR code below.



The Staffordshire Construction Look-Ahead can also be found here:

**[bit.ly/3Vijb6f](https://bit.ly/3Vijb6f)**

For more information on the A38 carriageway closures, please visit our dedicated information page by clicking

**[www.hs2.org.uk/streethay-cutting](https://www.hs2.org.uk/streethay-cutting)**



# A38 traffic management



One of our key works is the A38 overbridge. A key design of the railway at Streethay was changed to a cutting during the Parliamentary stages, to reduce the visual impact of HS2 in the area. The work on the A38 overbridge includes the construction of three bridge structures to enable the HS2 line to pass under the A38 in a retained cutting. This will require the need to implement lane closures to the A38 this autumn. We previously communicated that we would need to close the northbound slip road for 20 months. We have reduced this period and will now require the three phases mentioned below.

To construct the A38 Rykneld Street Overbridge we will first build a temporary diversion of a section of the A38 at Streethay. We aim to complete and switch traffic onto the new temporary road diversion by the 30 September 2024. There will be a 40mph speed restriction in place.

**Phase one:** We will have temporarily closed the northbound slip road until 30 September 2024

**Phase two:** We will temporarily reopen the northbound slip road from 30 September until November 2025

**Phase three:** 10-month closure of northbound slip road from November 2025 until September 2026.

## Northbound closures

12 August until 16 August, 9pm until 5am, overnight closure A38 northbound

16 August 9pm until 19 August 5am, full weekend closure A38 northbound

## Southbound closures

27 August until 29 August, 9pm until 5am, Overnight closure A38 southbound

30 August 9pm until 2 September 5am, full weekend closure A38 southbound

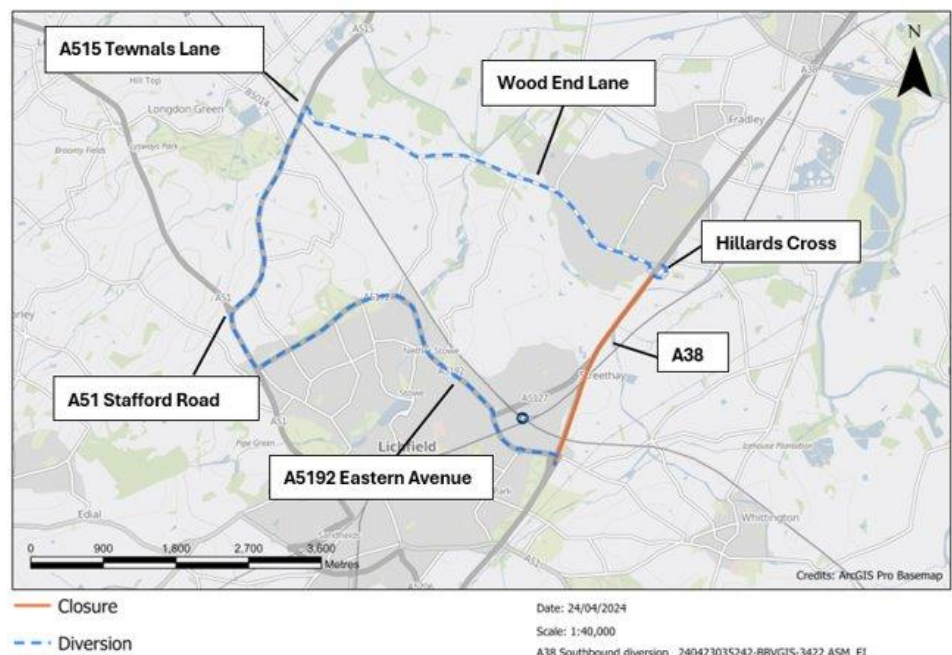
## Diversion route for overnight and weekend carriageway closures on the A38

This diversion will affect road users who would usually use the A38 northbound slip road.

Please do not use Sat Navs but instead follow the signed diversion. We recommend planning an additional eight minutes of travel time to your journey.

Please visit

[hs2.org.uk/streethay-cutting](https://hs2.org.uk/streethay-cutting) for more information and diversion maps.



# Upcoming works

While most structures will be built offline to minimise disruption to road users, we may need to implement some traffic management. The dates below are subject to change and award of consents.

For more information about our upcoming works Staffordshire, view our Summer 2024 Staffordshire Construction Look-Ahead by visiting: <https://bit.ly/4fd3JF8> or by scanning the QR code.



	Dates	Traffic management	Description of works
<b>Drayton Bassett</b>			
<b>Bangley Lane Overbridge</b>	<b>July 2024 - 2025</b>	May require periods of traffic management to ensure a safe working area	Construction of feature to allow the railway to pass underneath Bangley Lane
<b>A453 Sutton Road</b>	<b>June 2024 - 2025</b>	May require overnight closures in 2025 to reopen previous alignment of the road	Construction of feature to allow the railway to pass underneath A453 Sutton Road
<b>Hints to Whittington</b>			
<b>Drayton Lane Overbridge</b>	<b>January 2024 - 2025</b>	May require closures on completion of bridge to tie in new road alignment	A new alignment of Drayton Lane which will allow HS2 to pass underneath the road
<b>Watling Street Overbridge</b>	<b>September 2024 - 2026</b>	May require closures on completion of bridge to tie in new road alignment	A new alignment of Watling Street which will allow HS2 to pass underneath the road
<b>A5 Hints Bypass</b>	<b>February 2024 - 2025</b>	May require closures of A5 in 2025 on completion of bridge to tie in new road alignment	Construction of feature to allow the railway to pass underneath A5
<b>Whittington Heath Embankment</b>	<b>May 2024 - 2025</b>	N/A	Construction of embankment to take railway through Whittington Heath golf club and across Lichfield Road
<b>A51 Tamworth Overbridge</b>	<b>September 2024 - 2026</b>	May require closures of A51 in 2026 on completion of bridge to tie in new road alignment	Construction of feature to allow the railway to pass underneath A51
<b>Darnford Bridge</b>	<b>November 2024 - 2025</b>	May require closures of Darnford Lane in 2025 on completion of bridge to tie in new road alignment	Construction of feature to allow the railway to pass underneath Darnford Lane

# Spotlight..... piling works



One of the first stages of construction of features such as bridges is the piling works. This is essential for any structure as this provides stability and structural support to the ground around the feature in order to carry the additional weight that the construction of a bridge will bring.

## FAQ's

### **Q. What method is used to install the required piling?**

A. Piling works are undertaken by drilling into the ground and filling the hole with steel or concrete. The deep insertion of these elements ensures that the structure will have a sturdier base for further construction works to take place.

### **Q. How are piling works monitored?**

A. During piling works there will be noise and vibration monitors placed at strategic locations nearby to monitor the level of vibration. Should the level of vibration be deemed excessive then works are paused and working practices are assessed on what further mitigation can be used. On completion of the piling works the columns will be structurally monitored for cracks and integrity to ensure they are fit for purpose for load bearing of the proposed new structure.

### **Q. Will piling work create excessive dust?**

A. As the drilling is underground it enables us to have a dust suppression operation in place on the surface that will include netting around the piling area and a water bowser in operation. We can confirm that the works in this area have been ongoing since 2021 and in accordance with all relevant legislation, guidance and local agreements, regular and widespread monitoring is carried out in relation to air quality, as well as noise and vibration activity.



Piling works taking place in Streethay

# Community Investment

HS2's Community Investment programme enables us to support those communities most impacted by our works. BBV and their supply chain partners can give back through volunteering their time, providing resources and capacity building through transfer of knowledge and skills.



Easter 2024 charity donations to Pathways Project and St Giles

## An egg-cellent cause

Over Easter staff across Main Line North donated over 100 Easter Eggs to charitable organisations based in Lichfield.

One of these charities was 'The Pathway Project', a domestic abuse organisation who support adults and young people experiencing or affected by domestic abuse. Their vision is 'to build a future where adults and children affected by domestic and sexual abuse live in safety and free from fear'. In the last 12 months they have received 840 referrals for refugee space and were able to accommodate 76 families but had to turn away 764.

In light of the generous Easter egg donations, we were able to donate the remaining eggs to St Giles Hospice, a charity who provide end of life care for cancer patients. We have worked with the hospice previously and have colleagues whose relatives have spent time there. Their dedicated team provides tailored care either at the hospice or in patients own homes across the communities, their services are free of charge to those who need it.

The easter eggs they received meant the patients, their relatives and the staff that work there would all be able to enjoy one over the easter weekend!



# HS2 funds for the community

A combined total of £40m has been made available for local communities affected by the construction of HS2 via the Community and Environment Fund (CEF). This funding was designed to give communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of HS2, through the funding of local projects that aimed to improve the local area. Please visit [hs2funds.org.uk/about/](https://hs2funds.org.uk/about/)

## New chapter for Lichfield Canal restoration

Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust (LHCRT) has completed construction of a 120-metre section of canal restoration thanks to a £75,000 grant received from HS2's Community & Environment Fund. LHCRT started their wider restoration project in 1996, aiming to create a green and blue corridor to help connect the local community with the national canal network.

The funding from HS2 has enabled LHCRT to build a new section of canal and improve habitats around the Darnford Brook wetlands, including restoring the existing woodland and hedgerows. Now filled with water, the area is quickly becoming an established and diverse habitat for local wildlife, with a nature trail alongside the towpath which will be open to the public.

The new section also incorporates ducts for electric boats, which will help reduce the carbon output from diesel boats using the canal in the future.



Peter Buck (Engineering) and Carole Mills (Chair) celebrating the grant award in November last year

***Graham Duxbury, Groundwork's UK Chief Executive, said: "During a turbulent year for the HS2 project, it's fantastic that communities have been provided with continuous and stable support through the funds, which are ensuring a rich variety of community assets and activities are being created for those effected by the works."***

All projects including those that have been supported through the HS2 Community and Environment Fund and the Business and Local Economy Fund can be viewed here:

[hs2funds.org.uk/home/projects-funded-by-hs2-funds/](https://hs2funds.org.uk/home/projects-funded-by-hs2-funds/)

# Engaging with local communities



We know that planning and building the railway disrupts the lives of local people. We will always try to do the right thing and reduce disruption as much as we can.

Our specialists work across each section of the route and will keep you informed. They will also respond to any question you may have.

Drop-in sessions are held regularly and provide important updates on the project. We encourage attendees to share feedback so we can understand the views of our communities.

We work closely with community groups and local authorities to find ways to mitigate any potential disruption caused by the construction of HS2.

Our teams also support community and school projects to benefit the areas where we work. These include giving back to communities by volunteering, fundraising, or providing materials, labour or investment. Our helpdesk is open 24/7 – ring us on 08081 434 434 if you would like to discuss an idea with our team.



## Keep up to date on HS2 activity in your area

To receive notifications of our upcoming activity, sign up for email notifications:

**<https://engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list/>**

To view more detail on what work is happening near you, visit our interactive map:

**[www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map)**

Find out what engagement events are coming up in your area at:

**[www.hs2.org.uk/events](http://www.hs2.org.uk/events)**

# 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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property)

Find out if you can claim compensation at:

[www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2](https://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/](https://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](https://www.hs2.org.uk)**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your local area, visit: **[www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk](https://www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk)**

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