

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

# HS2 Update

Solihull | Autumn 2024

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

## A452 Overbridge

The completion of the A452 Overbridge marks an important milestone for the realignment works to the A452.

The 185-metre-long bridge in Balsall Common will carry traffic over the new railway. Our approach to the design and construction of the new bridge has been to mitigate impacts on road users and local communities by building the bridge next to the existing A452. This has reduced traffic management impacts from 18 to 12 months.

Looking ahead to next year, we will progress construction of the new road and roundabout which will connect the bridge to the existing A452.

To complete these works safely, we will install traffic management to close a lane on the A452 southbound which will be followed by traffic being moved across to the northbound carriageway. This will enable the construction of the new southbound carriageway.

Once this is completed then traffic will be switched across to the new southbound carriageway, to allow us to complete work on the roundabout and the new northbound carriageway.

We will keep communities and stakeholders updated as we progress these works in early 2025.



Construction of the A452 overbridge

## Upcoming works

For more information about upcoming works in Solihull, please click [here](#) to view our 2024 Solihull Autumn Construction Look-Ahead.

[bit.ly/4dk62nC](https://bit.ly/4dk62nC)

Or scan the QR code below.



## Did you know?

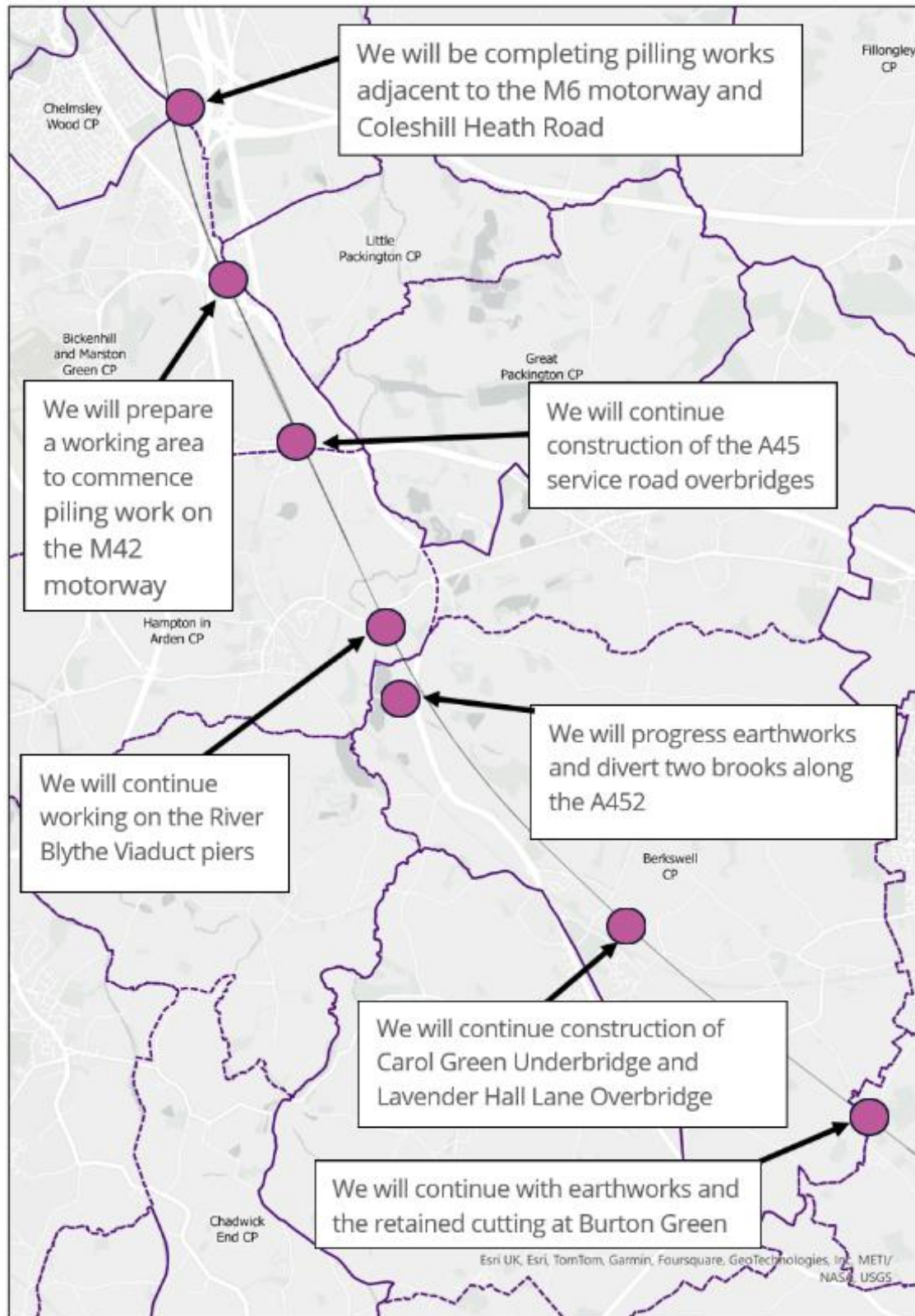
The bridge is made of 7,200 cubic metres of concrete, which is the equivalent of almost three Olympic sized swimming pools. 1,800 tonnes of steel have been used and the bridge stands 13.9 metres high and 19.5 metres wide.





## Key structures

The map below indicates the location of some of the key works we are progressing around Solihull. These include bridges, viaducts and earthworks, which over the coming months may require some traffic management, which we have outlined on the next page.





## Upcoming works

To ensure that the local road network is compatible with the new railway, we are remodelling and improving existing roads in addition to constructing bridges on motorway and trunk roads.

While most structures will be built offline to minimise disruption to road users, we will need to implement traffic management during the construction phase. Please note the dates below may change and are subject to consent being obtained from the relevant authorities.

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



	Dates	Traffic management	Description of works
<b>M42 Box</b>	1 – 4 November	Weekend closure of both carriage ways of the M42 motorway from junction 6 to junction 7	Sheet piling and cutting a trench in the motorway to install a channel for the transference of bentonite and concrete
	6 - 9 December 2024		
	13 - 16 December 2024	The motorway will be closed at 9pm on Friday and will reopen at 5am on Monday	
<b>Lavender Hall Lane</b>	21- 25 Oct 2024	Full closure 9:30am – 3:00pm	The closures will allow vegetation clearance to take place and must be done now so that bats and other wildlife can roost and hibernate in their newly created habitats
	4 – 8 Nov 2024	A fully signed diversion will be in place from 9:30am – 3:00pm	
<b>Waste Lane</b>	26 Oct – 1 Nov 2024	Full closure	Utility work and road realignment ahead of bridge demolition
<b>A452 (Stonebridge Island)</b>	In place until December 2024	Northbound lane closure	Utility works will be carried out
<b>A452/A446</b>	January 2025*	Southbound lane closure	Vegetation clearance works in preparation for the A446 bridge demolition in Spring 2025
<b>A452 (Balsall Common)</b>	Jan 2025*	Full weekend closures (over three weekends)	Existing utility works and diversions
<b>A45 (above Stonebridge Island)</b>	April 2025*	Series of overnight closures	Install traffic management with lane realignment
	June – August 2025*	Full weekend closure	
<b>Truggist Lane</b>	July 2025*	Full weekend closure	Installation of beams on Balsall Common Viaduct
<b>Meriden Road</b>	Sept 2025*	Full weekend closure	Installation of beams on River Blythe Viaduct

\*Dates to be confirmed. These works are subject to consents and dates may change.



# Spotlight... M42 box structure

Jorge is the Senior Project Manager for the major structures team in the North Solihull area. He talks us through his work on the M42 box structure.

**Q. Jorge, can you tell us about the M42 motorway box structure and what makes this structure different to other motorway crossings on the HS2 route?**

A. The purpose of the box is to carry the new railway over the M42 motorway and connect two embankments, one of which leads to the new Interchange Station and the other towards Birmingham and Staffordshire. It is a structure consisting of two boxes and for the road users it will feel like entering two short tunnels rather than passing under a bridge. We will be building this structure while the motorway remains in operation.



An arial view of the M42 box structure

**Q. What will be the main challenges during the construction process and what are you doing to resolve them?**

A. The safety of road users and our workforce will be a key challenge as we will be working around a live motorway. To enable us to work safely we have narrowed the lanes and imposed a 50mph speed limit and will be creating a safe working area in the central reservation.

**Q. What do the next six months look like for the construction of the bridge?**

A. Over the next six months we will complete preparatory works to create a safe working area in the central reservation of the motorway. This will be followed by piling works to create the base for the walls of the M42 Box.

To enable us to create a safe working area we will require some temporary weekend closures of the M42 motorway.

The motorway will be closed between:

- 9pm on Friday 1 November until 5am on Monday 4 November 2024.
- 9pm on Friday 6 December until 5am on Monday 9 December 2024.
- 9pm on Friday 13 December until 5am on Monday 16 December 2024.

A fully signed diversion route will be in place.

For further details please [click here](#) or visit: [hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/viaducts-and-bridges/m42-box/](https://hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/viaducts-and-bridges/m42-box/)

**Q. When do you expect that this structure will be completed?**

A. We plan to complete these works in Spring 2027 (date is subject to change and consents).



# Skills, employment and education

We are committed to ensuring local communities have priority access to jobs and training opportunities.

Our Recruit Local First strategy aims to empower the communities we serve. This approach guarantees that employment opportunities within our business are initially extended to local unemployed jobseekers, offering skills and development opportunities to those who struggle to secure sustainable and meaningful employment.



## Two easy steps to register your interest in our current opportunities



Scan the QR code or use the link below:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/pk4aWbEeCH>



and send us your CV:  
[see.team@balfourbeattyvinci.com](mailto:see.team@balfourbeattyvinci.com)



Training courses are available for candidates that meet the eligibility criteria and are in receipt of state benefits. If you are looking for work, please get in touch to register your interest and send your CV to: **[see.team@balfourbeattyvinci.com](mailto:see.team@balfourbeattyvinci.com)**

## Case study: Charlotte's story

Charlotte's interest in construction stems from her childhood.

Initially wanting to be a Quantity Surveyor, Charlotte switched her field of study to Civil Engineering after gaining a more thorough understanding of the roles through her BBV placement.

An apprenticeship was the logical next step, as Charlotte recognised that the role would allow her to contribute to society and create a legacy. "This selected career choice will enable me to work in a dynamic environment to create stronger and multifaceted living conditions and relationships with both the internal and external community," she said.

"The most rewarding aspect of the role is seeing the tangible impact of your work and the real-world experience you gain is far more valuable than learning in a university classroom. The exposure of working on one of the largest projects in Europe will not only assist with networking but will provide great insight into the various opportunities on the project."



Charlotte Gibberson,  
Apprentice Civil Engineer

# Community Investment

HS2's Community Investment programme enables us to support those communities most impacted by our works.



## Restoration project sees the return of Berkswell bench



Andrew Burrow and Ann Marshall in memory of her husband

Councillor Andrew Burrow reached out to our Community Investment team to see if anything could be done about a much-loved memorial bench which was unfortunately struck by a car. The circular bench surrounded an acorn tree on Berkswell Village Green and the damage meant that the popular seating area had to be temporarily cordoned off.

When BBV joiners arrived at the site to take the bench apart, it was noted the bench was made with top craftsmanship and quality wood. The team concluded that a

restoration of the bench may be possible and the dismantled bench was carefully transported for a full restoration.

"The village green in Berkswell is iconic with its stocks and bench around an oak tree. We are glad that BBV were able to restore the bench using most of the existing wood because of its huge sentimental value" – Cllr Andrew Burrow

## Beagle Woods Nursery

Beagle Woods Nursery in Balsall Common was affected by the adverse weather conditions at the start of the year. Our teams supported the nursery by improving the ground surface of their 10-acre woodland play area so the children are now able to use it year-round.

With the help of our supply chain, we also helped to construct a brand-new play cabin allowing children and staff to stay warm and dry. The new cabin was built by sub-contractor Keltbray and includes boot lockers and a kitchen area. Additional materials were also provided by our supply chain partners.



The new cabin will offer shelter to all children instead of small groups

"The level of amenities are truly life changing and to be able to offer shelter to all children instead of a small group will ensure Beagle woods is sustainable far into the future" – Rachel at Beagle Woods.

# 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)

## Pick your own fruit

In August, The HS2 Community and Environment Fund awarded The Berkswell Society with £2,000 to create a community orchard in Lavender Hall Park.

Visitors will be able to pick the complementary fruit, thanks to trees supplied by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. The orchard will be located next to a key footway for easy access. Society members and volunteers will plant the trees in Autumn 2024 or Spring 2025 to ensure the best chance of survival. We're excited to see this project blossom and benefit the community for years to come.

For more information on the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) including how to apply, please visit: [www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds)

## 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**





# 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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