

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

# HS2 Update

Old Oak and North Acton | September 2024

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. Our contractors, Balfour Beatty Vinci Systra (BBVS) and Skanska Costain STRABAG (SCS) joint ventures, are continuing works in Old Oak and North Acton to build the new railway.

## Old Oak Common Construction milestones

We're making good progress on the new HS2 Station in Old Oak Common. After three years, we have completed the excavation of the underground box. This is the area where the high-speed trains will run and it is big enough to accommodate the equivalent of 300 Olympic sized swimming pools. HS2's 1500<sup>th</sup> apprentice, Miguel Jardim lifted the final shovel of spoil out of the box, completing the excavation of 1.3 million tonnes of London clay. Coinciding with the excavation of the box, HS2 has decommissioned the Old Oak Common station conveyor which has removed over 75,000 lorries from the road since its operation in November 2022 – you can read more and see some great footage of the station box on the HS2 website:

<https://mediacentre.hs2.org.uk/news/hs2s-old-oak-common-station-box-excavation-complete>

We've also now started steelwork prefabrication for the Old Oak Common concourse and platform areas of the conventional station, where the Great Western Main Line, Heathrow Express and Elizabeth line trains will run. The steelwork will be a visible architectural feature of the station, and installation is set to start early next year.



HS2's 1500<sup>th</sup> apprentice completes excavation of the station box.



Scan the QR code above to join our mailing list and receive emails from HS2 about the parts of the project that you are most interested in, including invitations to community engagement events, project updates and news about our works.



## Showcasing careers in construction

So far this year, BBVS has welcomed over 150 visitors to the Old Oak Common site, including members of the local community, children from local schools and Old Oak Primary School's nursery class.

### Inspiring young minds

Earlier this year, a group of 30 three-year-old children from Old Oak Primary School's nursery class visited Old Oak Common.

Select, who are responsible for providing the tower cranes at the station, spoke to the children about the role cranes play on the project.

Afterwards, the students were given the chance to control the crane themselves by speaking with a crane operator via walkie-talkie.

The next day, a team from BBVS visited the school to help the students build their own mini crane. This is now proudly on display at Old Oak Common.



### BuildForce Project Day

On 24 April, BuildForce hosted an Armed Forces Project Day at Old Oak Common. Military veterans had the chance to see the site, meet the site team, get an overview of the works and discuss job opportunities throughout the project.

HS2 has partnered with BuildForce to support ex-military forces personnel in building new careers in construction. This includes leavers from the British Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force.

HS2's construction requires a diverse workforce with a wide range of skills and talents, and 83 former service men and women have already moved into full-time roles on HS2 projects. By teaming up with BuildForce, HS2 has opened the doors to its 350 work sites and given ex-forces personnel the chance to apply their skills in a completely different setting.

HS2 Careers Portal: [https://jobs.hs2.org.uk/#en/sites/CX\\_1001](https://jobs.hs2.org.uk/#en/sites/CX_1001)



## St. Barbara's

On 20 March 2024, tunnelling contractor SCS invited Father Stephen Willis of Our Lady of Willesden Parish in Harlesden to bless the statue of Saint Barbara.

Saint Barbara is the patron saint of miners and tunnelling, and the blessing of the statue is a tradition believed to date back to the earliest mining practices. The blessing grants good fortune to the tunnelling works and the miners who work within them.

The statue of Saint Barbara will be placed at the portal entrance of the future Euston Tunnel for the duration of the works.

For more information about Saint Barbara, please visit [Saint Barbara | Orthodox Lives of the Saints \(livesofthesaintscalendar.com\)](https://livesofthesaintscalendar.com).



Father Stephen Willis with the SCS JV tunnellers at the Euston Stubs

# Underpass wall design

**HS2 recently invited the community to contribute to design of a new underpass.**



As part of the works for the new HS2 Old Oak Common station, the existing Network Rail bridges are being extended. These new bridges will span the London Underground Central line and Old Oak Common Lane.

The underpass walls of the bridges will extend approximately 100 metres and will surround Old Oak Common Lane, a pedestrian path and a dedicated cycle lane.

Between February and March 2024, HS2 sought input from the local community on the final finishes of the underpass wall. We held a drop in event at Old Oak Primary School on 12 March and a Community Open Day on 23 March.



As part of the design, HS2 aims to draw inspiration from Wormwood Scrubs. We gathered ideas from the community on how the nature, flora and fauna on the scrubs could be represented in the design finishes of the underpass.



## Underpass wall design

HS2 are now in the process of reviewing all the feedback collected across the engagement period. For more information about the events or to view the engagement materials, please visit

<https://www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/stations/old-oak-common/old-oak-common-lane-bridge/>.

HS2 would like to thank all those who took part – your thoughts and ideas will contribute to a design which reflects the community.

HS2 look forward to providing an update on the final design later this year.



## Wells House Road Street Party

This summer, the residents of Wells House Road celebrated their annual street party, bringing together past and present residents along with their families.

HS2 supported the event with several donations, including gazebos, power units and snacks. We also helped set up the event, managing the street closure on behalf of the residents.

In addition, HS2 built 20 birdhouses that were decorated by children at the party for their gardens.



# Tunnelling steams ahead

## Two TBMs launched

SCS have now launched both of the two Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) which will build the tunnel between the Victoria Road Crossover Box in Old Oak and Park Royal, and the Greenpark Way Vent Shaft near Greenford station. The first, named Emily, was launched in late February, followed by Anne in early March. These TBMs aim to complete their journeys by late 2025.

The TBMs are expected to take roughly 12 months to reach Greenpark Way. Once complete, the tunnel will be approximately 5.5km (3.4 miles) long and between 12 and 40 metres deep.

To view the location of all the TBMs, please visit <https://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/>.

The tunnelling is due to be completed by spring 2025.



## Lydia breaks through

As the tunnelling of the Northolt Tunnel East begins, the tunnelling of the Atlas Road Logistics Tunnel (ARLT) comes to an end.

On 23 January 2024, the TBM constructing the ARLT broke through at the Old Oak Common station site.

The ARLT is 853m long and will be used to deliver materials and remove spoil for the construction of Euston Tunnel.



## Tunnelling steams ahead

Following a longstanding tradition of naming TBMs after prominent female figures, members of the local community selected the name 'Lydia' for the TBM.

Lydia Gandaa is a former teacher at nearby Old Oak Common Primary School and a founding member of the Bubble & Squeak social enterprise in the area.

To find out more about the ARLT, please visit <https://www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/tunnels/tunnel-drives/euston-tunnel/atlas-road-logistics-tunnel/>.

You can watch the moment of the breakthrough here: <https://youtu.be/vad8bbYie8U>



The HS2 Community and Environment Fund (CEF) has been set up to support communities along the HS2 line of route that have been disrupted by the construction. For more information and how to apply, please visit <https://hs2funds.org.uk/home/community-environment-fund/>.



TBM Lydia breakthrough at the Old Oak Station site

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

Find out if you can claim compensation at:

[www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2](http://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/](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/contact-us/how-to-complain/)

**Reference number:** <Click here to insert text>

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.

Registered office: Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.

Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 888 8512 56

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

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

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