

## HS2 in Hillingdon

November 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of our community newsletter. This edition includes a construction update and examples of our community investment in the Hillingdon area.

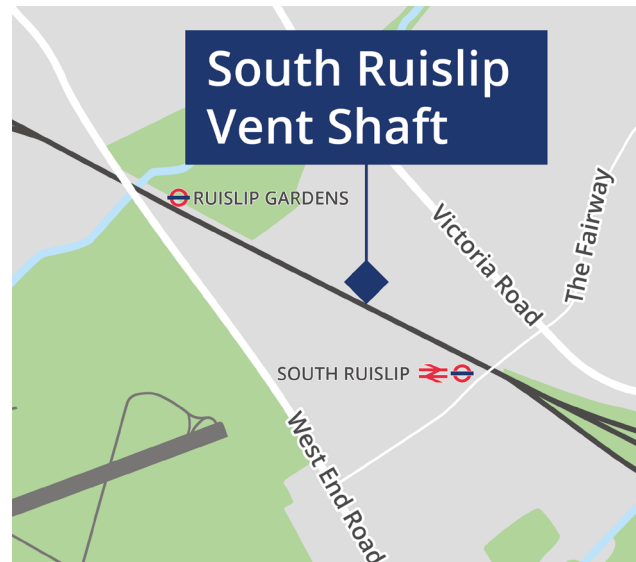
### Construction Update

#### South Ruislip Vent Shaft and Headhouse

We are continuing to build the South Ruislip Vent Shaft and Headhouse. This site is located between Ruislip Gardens and South Ruislip underground stations, on the Chiltern Line embankment.

The vent shaft will act as a vertical opening, connecting the tunnels thirty-five metres below the surface to the open air. It will also regulate air quality and temperature and allow smoke to be extracted in the event of a fire. We are also building the headhouse, which will sit on top of the vent shaft and will contain fire control, ventilation and signalling systems for the rail tunnels below. We are making good progress and are currently working on linking the satellite shaft to the main shaft as well as installing a perimeter fence.

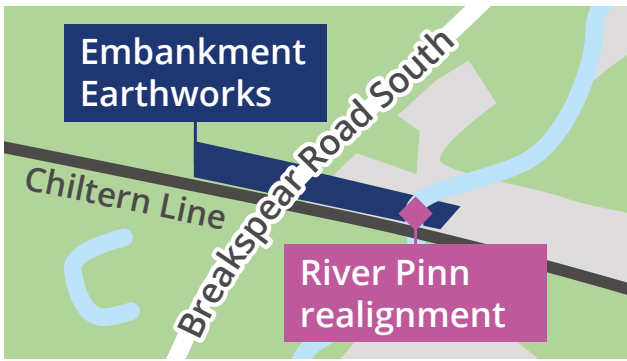
The landscaping design includes a green roof on the headhouse, and a mix of vegetation around the vent shaft which



Our site team in action building the South Ruislip Vent Shaft

will help it blend in with the natural environment. We will integrate the vent shaft and headhouse into the green corridor, leaving a lasting legacy along this crucial part of the HS2 route.





## River Pinn Realignment

We are now at the final stages of work on the River Pinn realignment. Previously, we dammed and over-pumped the river to create a dry working area. We have also excavated a new river channel and added in new riverbed material.

We have had specialist geomorphologists (scientists who study the earth's physical features) onsite to assist the construction team with the realignment process.

## Retained Embankment Earthworks

We are continuing to make good progress with the Retained Embankment Earthworks. The embankment starts from east of the River Pinn HS2 bridge and continues through to west of the Breakspear Road South HS2 bridge.

The embankment ties into the Copthall Tunnel. We are now at the final stages of the fill operation between the River Pinn underbridge and the bridge over Breakspear Road South, which we expect to finish by December 2024.

We are currently testing noise barriers in the section between the bridge over Breakspear Road South and the Copthall Tunnel. This involves a hydraulic rig pushing and pulling existing columns, and should not create a noticeable noise.



The new riverbed is now in place as part of the River Pinn realignment works

Our goal is to create the best natural habitat possible and our work has focused on creating the conditions for a more diverse channel. We are also continuing our work on the new footbridge.

The realignment will be completed soon. We will then focus on improving the footpaths and landscaping the area.



Noise barrier testing

## Southern Sustainable Placement Area

The Southern Sustainable Placement Area (SSPA) is located south of the Chiltern Line railway, between Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South. We have made significant progress on the mounds at the SSPA, completing the topsoiling and subsoiling. We will keep temporary drainage in place along with associated pumps and silt-busters through the winter. We will remove these in spring 2025, once the mounds are fully covered in vegetation.



We have been seeding the mounds through the autumn months, and by spring 2025 residents should expect to see the mounds become a rich green. At this point, we will remove temporary drainage.

We are grateful to residents for their patience during the works, and are confident they will start to see improvements in the landscape. We expect to finish work on the site's southerly fields by the end of 2025.

## Tunnelling Progress

Our tunnel boring machines (TBMs) Sushila and Caroline have now built nearly eight miles (13km) of tunnels and will reach the end of their tunnelling journeys at Green Park Way Vent Shaft in Greenford this winter.



Our TBMs have now built nearly eight miles of tunnels

We will then dismantle the TBMs and lift the cutterheads out via the shaft opening. Between the completed tunnels, we are building cross passages approximately 500 metres apart along the route. We have now completed eight out of twenty

to be built between West Ruislip and Greenford. Cross passages play a key role in providing a safe operational railway. In an emergency, they allow the safe evacuation of passengers into the other tunnel.





## Community investment in your area

Our community investment takes several forms, from financial funding for entire projects to material donations and workforce volunteering. Our community investment plan ensures that we create sustainable opportunities for growth for years to come. We are committed to ensuring that the project provides benefits to the local community through community investment initiatives and funding local projects and activities.

We work in partnership with local authorities, schools, religious groups, and voluntary organisations in the community near to the HS2 route or those affected by road and utility works.



### Community and Environment and Business and Local Economy Funds

Two types of fund are available to local communities and businesses between the West Midlands and London to help with the disruption caused by our construction work. These are the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF).

The CEF is designed to give communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of HS2. It is a distributed fund that communities can apply for to help to support local projects that aim to improve their local area.

The BLEF is designed to support local economies that may be disrupted by the building of HS2. BLEF grants are for local business support organisations and local authorities to help support business activity in local communities.

To find out more,  
please use the QR  
code on this page.





## Hillingdon projects funded through the HS2 Community and Environment Fund



The healing and peace gardens at Harefield Hospital

We have announced just over £17.3m of funding to 312 CEF and BLEF projects across the Phase One and Phase 2a line of the HS2 route. Sixteen of these awards are for Hillingdon-based initiatives.

In total, over £1m of funding has been awarded to organisations in the London Borough of Hillingdon:

- We have awarded £74,380 to Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust: The largest specialist heart and lung centre in the UK, treating teenagers to adults and performing 100+ transplants per year. The funding has helped create healing and peace gardens at Harefield hospital to support patients, family and staff to relax and find moments of peace in times of stress and anxiety.
- We have awarded £75,000 to Ruislip Northwood Old Folks Association: A registered charity that is located in Ruislip, Hillingdon. The charity provides lunch and social clubs for older residents in Hillingdon. The funding helps provide nutritional meals as well as offering weekly activities such as quizzes, bingo and arts and crafts.
- We have awarded £75,000 to Home-Start Hillingdon: A registered charity located in Hillingdon who provide a volunteer network to offer emotional and practical support to parents and families with young children. The project will provide a combination of direct family support and bespoke support packages to improve the quality of life of families in need living in disrupted communities in the area.





We were pleased to welcome 97 local residents to our community event at Ickenham United Reformed Church on Tuesday 23 July 2024

## Community Event at Ickenham United Reformed Church

On 23 July 2024 we held a community event at Ickenham United Reformed Church. This was an informal event, inviting members of the community to drop in and ask questions of our team about current and future works.

The event featured:

- drone footage of all HS2 works across Hillingdon;
- a presentation from our site team on the progress made at Copthall Tunnel;

- an overview of tunnelling progress in Hillingdon; and
- a presentation of our environmental commitments.

97 residents attended the event. We welcomed the opportunity to meet local people face to face and discuss their thoughts on the project. We encourage all residents to check the HS2 website for regular updates on planned events.

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





SCS community engagement team presenting drone footage to local residents at Harefield Community Centre on Tuesday 17 September 2024

## Community Event at Harefield Community Centre

On 17 September 2024 SCS Railways and Align Joint Ventures held a community event at Harefield Community Centre. We gave an overview of the HS2 works currently underway in the Hillingdon area and stretching over to the Colne Valley Viaduct and beyond.

We were pleased to have 21 local residents attend and to be able to present to them on a range of important topics, including:

- progress on the West Ruislip Portal and Copthall Tunnel;
- progress on the Colne Valley Viaduct; and
- a summary of landscaping plans for all key sites.

## Visitor Information Centre

### Do you have questions or comments about the project?

Drop into our Visitor Information Centre for a chat with our Community Engagement team on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 - 4pm.

On Monday 25 November and Monday 2 December we will be opening the Visitor Information Centre at the later times of 6-8pm. This is in addition to the normal Monday opening times of 2-4pm. We hope this will give more people the chance to attend.

You can find us to the right of the entrance to the West Ruislip Portal HS2 site. From the West Ruislip tube station entrance/exit, cross the road and turn right until you reach the 'West Portal' sign.

# 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.

## Residents' Charter and Commissioner

The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route. [www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter)

We also have an independent Residents' Commissioner whose job is to make sure we keep to the promises we make in the Charter and to keep it under constant review. Find reports at: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltdresidents-commissioner](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltdresidents-commissioner)

You can contact the Commissioner at: [residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk](mailto:residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk)

## Construction Commissioner

The Construction Commissioner's role is to mediate and monitor the way in which HS2 Ltd manages and responds to construction complaints. You can contact the Construction Commissioner by emailing: [complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk](mailto:complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk)

## Property and compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the line of route by visiting: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property)  
Find out if you're eligible for 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 our HS2 Helpdesk team. For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website: [www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain](http://www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain)

Reference number: HS2-EW-SCS-Ph1-Ar-So-S2-CR-1-12/11/2024

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: 181 4312 3

## 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](mailto: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.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages/hs2-in-hillingdon](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages/hs2-in-hillingdon)

**Please contact us if you'd like a free copy of this document in large print, Braille, audio or easy read. You can also contact us for help and information in a different language.**

HS2 Ltd is committed to protecting personal information. If you wish to know more about how we use your personal information please see our Privacy Notice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-two-ltd-privacy-notice>