

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

HS2 Update

Curzon Street station | Winter 2024

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain.

Welcome to our winter newsletter for 2024 which is a landmark year for the Curzon Street station project.



Station Design

During August, September and October, we held public engagement events unveiling the latest station design. We held events at the Bullring, the Clayton Hotel and at the Chamber of Commerce Expo. We also hosted a webinar for people to speak to the design team and to gather their views about the station design. The latest design is a refresh of the scheme that was approved by Birmingham City Council

in 2019 and has eleven key modifications, which may not be that noticeable for those already familiar with the scheme.

Over 450 people attended the engagement events where they were able to view a 3D model and visualisations of the new station. The images give a flavour of the design and you can explore further on our webpage:

<https://www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/stations/curzon-street/>

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Artist impression of Curzon Street station from platform level

The vision for the station remains the same, with Curzon Street station poised to become a vibrant gateway and key destination on Britain's new high-speed railway. The design draws inspiration from the magnificent arched roofs crafted by Victorian railway engineers. It translates that legacy into a modern vision that prioritises accessibility and complements the surrounding open spaces and landscaping.

Key design changes include:

- Roof edge and materials changed to aluminium
- Buttress columns encased in precast concrete and rainwater pipes re-configured
- East gable brought forward 16m allowing for the creation of a dramatic void within the concourse giving views of the roof



Engagement event at the Bull Ring

We received positive feedback about the design changes with 78% of people saying they made the station look better. The feedback also pointed out the need to focus on other areas like accessibility, visual appeal, environmental sustainability and addressing safety and user experience.

Creating a positive passenger experience has been central to the design process, incorporating enhancements to the station's features, including:

- additional cycle parking;
- improved accessibility at pedestrian entrances;
- durable external ceramic tiling; and,
- simplified platform changes

This state-of-the-art station design embodies a commitment to accessibility and sustainability, proudly earning an 'excellent' classification from BREEAM, the world's foremost building sustainability certification provider. The station will adopt the latest eco-friendly design and sustainable technologies, including capturing and re-using rainwater and generating power from solar panels on its station canopies.

The next step is for the plans to be submitted to Birmingham City Council for approval. We are reviewing other elements identified during engagement, including public realm. These will be for future agreement with the City Council.



Mayor welcomes the start of piling works

The Mayor of the West Midlands, Richard Parker attended site in October to celebrate the start of the piling works.

We will install almost 2,000 concrete piles, the majority of which will form the foundations for the new station. Currently we have four piling rigs on site which look like giant corkscrews. The deepest foundation piles will be 20m and



Richard Parker (on the right) visiting HS2's Curzon Street site

are constructed of steel-reinforced concrete. Our piling contractor, Keltbray is making great progress with around 1,000 piles already completed by the start of December and we are on track to complete the piles in spring.

Did you know?

The Piling works will

- require **1,710 tonnes of steel**
- **11,000m³ of concrete**
- Removal of **18,000 tonnes of excavated material** the majority of which will be re-used across the HS2 route

The Mayor emphasised the importance the project will have for the regeneration of Digbeth and Eastside and pointed to investments such as those by the owners

of Birmingham City FC as being driven by the opportunity that HS2 creates.

'When it [Curzon Street Station] is here it will be attracting more jobs and more investment and is going to make a massive difference to the lives of people across the West Midlands' Richard Parker Mayor of the West Midlands

With piling well underway, the transformation of the Eastside and Digbeth is coming a step closer.



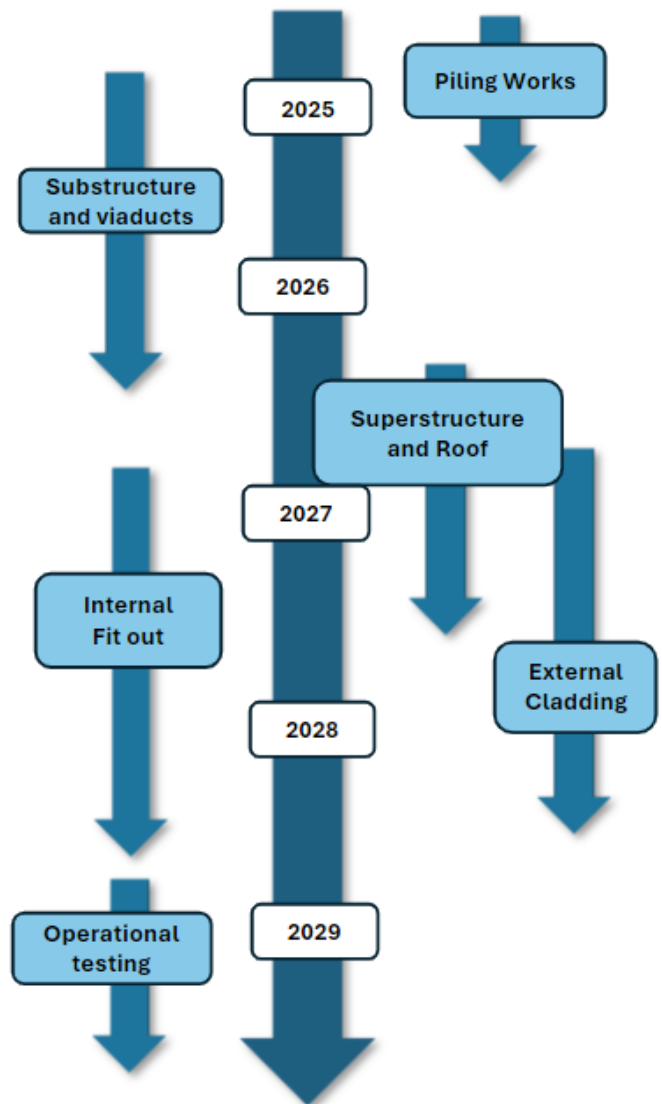
Piling rig on site

Christmas closedown dates

Most of our site work will shut down at 6.00pm on 23 December and start up again at 8.00am on 2 January 2025. Network Rail will be carrying out works next to our site on the mainline into New Street Station over the Christmas period. If you need any further information, please call the Network Rail 24/7 national helpline on 03457 11 41 41.

The long view – planning the works

Planning is key to delivering a project the scale of HS2's Curzon Street station. The indicative timeline below provides an overview of work taking place over the next few years.



Changing attitudes to working in construction

Ever thought that working in construction wasn't for you? That is the challenge that we are trying to address at Curzon Street. While there are many traditional construction jobs available, we are keen to highlight the variety of roles that exist on a big construction project like ours and the range of skills these roles require.

HS2 is an investment in Britain's future. We want to support and upskill young people, including attracting people who have not previously considered working in the sector. Our recruitment campaign for local apprentices focuses on some of the most important aspects of working in construction - working in high-performing teams to deliver the job safely and efficiently. To do that, we must create a welcoming and respectful

environment which allows everyone to thrive and participate.

Our work experience students certainly get thrown in at the deep end. In July, we set students from Aston University Engineering Academy, Hodge Hill and Hamstead Hall schools the task of identifying a location for a new station. The students had to produce a preliminary design, taking into account all the constraints that you would expect on an infrastructure project. They had one week to prepare their pitches before presenting them to our senior managers at a 'Dragons den' style event. The task aimed to show that a successful career in construction isn't just about building. It also needs great communication skills as well as planning and problem-solving abilities. We wanted to spark their interest by giving them a glimpse of the challenges they may face and thinking how they overcome them.

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Work experience students presenting to Mace Dragados Senior staff in our Control Room

Mace Dragados joint venture, our construction partner, has now recruited six local apprentices to the project all undertaking post-18 apprenticeship qualifications. Amongst these is Caitlin, who back in March had no idea that she would be working in the construction sector. She is relishing the opportunity as a Construction Management apprentice. 'I joined the project as an apprentice in September having decided not to take the university route into employment. It is early days, but I am enjoying getting involved in different work packages and contributing to the planning of these tasks'.

If you are interested in working on HS2 visit the HS2 Jobs Board:
<https://job-brokerage.hs2.org.uk>

Also look out for training opportunities with local training providers and colleges if you are looking for site work.

Careers day at Victoria College

In September, a team of volunteers from across the project attended a careers day at Victoria College in Northfield. The College provides specialist support to young people aged between 19 and 25 years with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties.

Working with our supply chain partners Keltbray and Arcadis/WSP, we held together a series of activities to reflect the College's motto *Motivate, Develop, Inspire*. The young people took part in a range of activities including using virtual reality headsets to see construction

Want to know more? Join a web chat

If you would like an update on our construction work, have a question or wish to discuss any topics that interest you about the project, you can book a slot at one of our virtual web chat sessions.

To book a session please visit www.hs2.org.uk/events and scroll down to the Curzon Street

The sessions will be held on Microsoft Teams. Once you register we will send you a link to join on a laptop or mobile device.

Upcoming sessions:

Date: Wednesday 29 January
Time: 3pm and 5.50pm

Date: Wednesday 26 February
Time: : 3pm and 5.50pm

Date: Wednesday 26 March
Time: : 3pm and 5.50pm

Registration will close 24 hours before the event to allow us to send you dial-in details ahead of your appointment.

design in 3D; trying out construction Personal and Protective Equipment (high – vis jackets, hard hats, etc); and a project fly-through focussing on accessibility issues for disabled people.

The students really enjoyed the hands-on experience. We are already planning a visit for the students to see our Millennium Point offices, as well as a design project around accessibility to public spaces which is an issue close to the hearts of the students and their families.

Open Doors

Are you interested in finding out more about the HS2 Curzon Street project and what goes into building an iconic station? In March 2025, we will be running a series of events as part of the Open Doors initiative in the construction sector. We are keen that local residents and businesses come and see what is happening on the other side of the hoardings. To register an interest, email EmploymentCurzon@macedragados.com

We will provide more details closer to the time.

Upcoming works

The success of the piling work means that we will start the construction of the station substructure – which marks the start of construction of the station building. This work is due to start in February 2025 and will go on until the autumn.

Later in March 2025, we will also welcome the arrival of four tower cranes

which at 40m tall will add to the City's skyline.



The project offices were dressed in pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Week in October. The global event is designed to raise awareness about the importance of prevention and early screening for the early diagnosis of breast cancer.

In order to raise funds for the charity, the project held a cake sale, with our amateur bakers creating an assortment of delicacies reflecting the range of backgrounds of our team.

In total £1,855 was raised whilst a few pounds were put on waistlines.



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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