

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

HS2 Update

Old Oak and North Acton | Winter 2024



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

Our contractors Balfour Beatty Vinci Systra (BBVS) and Skanska Costain STRABAG joint Venture (SCSJV) are continuing works in Old Oak and North Acton to build the new railway.

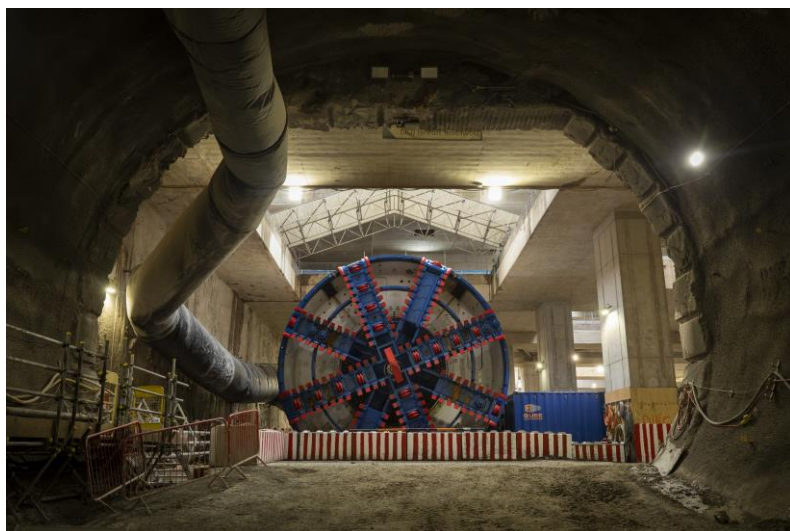
Tunnel Boring Machine Construction underway at Old Oak Common Station site

SCSJV continues construction on the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) at the eastern section of the Old Oak Common Station site.

The TBMs will excavate 4.5 miles (7.2 km) of twin tunnels linking Old Oak Common to Euston, reaching depths of 50 metres below ground.

Preparations at the site, which include building Spray Concrete Lined (SCL) tunnels and installing steel launching structures, have been ongoing for several months.

The custom-built TBMs, with a diameter of 8.5 metres, will navigate through complex ground conditions to connect the future Old Oak Common interchange with Euston Station.



TBM cutter head at the tunnel entrance

Christmas Break

HS2 sites in the area will be closed from 6pm on 24 December 2024, and will reopen from 8am on 2 January 2024

There will be no construction activities during this period, but all sites will maintain a security presence throughout, and there may be some deliveries and maintenance activities taking place

Some third parties may require access via our sites to reach certain assets such as rail tracks

Old Oak Common Station site

What's going on at the Station

The construction of the Old Oak Common Station and related works are progressing rapidly, with significant milestones being reached.

Scan the QR code below to view the latest construction video.



Column construction in the station box

Bubble & Squeak site visit

Earlier this year, BBVS welcomed a group of local children aged 5-12 as part of their Old Oak Community Centre holiday camp.

The theme of the visit was arts and crafts, and the group were able to practise their construction skills by making structures, inspired by the Eiffel Tower, out of matchsticks. They also had the chance to see the whole span of Old Oak Common station from our viewing gallery.

The holiday camp is organised by Bubble & Squeak, a local community organisation run by Lydia Gandaa. In January, HS2's Atlas Road Logistics Tunnel broke through into the station box, and the tunnel boring machine used to complete the works was named Lydia, in recognition of her contribution to the local area.



Local children from the Old Oak Community Centre holiday camp, enjoying the viewing gallery



Children's structures made from matchsticks

Future supply chain opportunities event

In October HS2 invited local businesses to the Future Supply Chain Opportunities event at Old Oak Common, in partnership with the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) and Hillingdon, Hammersmith & Fulham, Ealing and Brent councils.

During the event, HS2 covered the upcoming tendering opportunities at Old Oak Common, and the best way for businesses to access them. Attendees had the opportunity to meet Peter Gow, HS2 Project Client Director, who provided an overview of the station development and the contribution it has made to the community. They also met representatives from Kilnbridge, the subcontractor who will be landscaping the area around the future station and explained the opportunities available in their package of works.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have a vital role to play in HS2's construction, accounting for over two thirds of the supply chain across all projects. As the procurement of large-scale civil engineering packages is almost complete at Old Oak Common, HS2 have now been able to offer smaller works packages that are feasible for local SMEs. HS2 have already brought on local construction companies to join their supply chain, such as J Coffey Group and Pyramid Builders Ltd.

This event played a key role in HS2's wider goal of supporting economic regeneration in areas surrounding Old Oak Common, both during the construction phase and when the station is operational.



BBVS Collaboration and Stakeholder Manager, Tomos



Representatives from local businesses at the Future Supply Chain Opportunities event

In the community

Absolute Beginners lunch service

In September, Old Oak Common hosted a lunch service with 100 plates and bowls made from the London clay excavated from the underground station box.

The event was in partnership with local arts organisation, Absolute Beginners, led by artist Tom James and local young people who have been learning to use clay to make a variety of objects.

The project is part of HS2's commitment to working with local communities and supporting sustainable practices. The team from Absolute Beginners made the 'low speed plates' in their unique way, using off-grid power, local materials and simple tools. The new sustainable crockery will be used to celebrate construction milestones through annual meals with the



Young artist group Absolute Beginners with their clay creations



The Absolute Beginners lunch service at Old Oak Common

Little Library initiative

In autumn, SCSJV, following discussions with residents, installed a little library on Channel Gate Road for local people to share books. Following positive feedback, SCSJV are looking to place a more libraries within the local community.

This initiative would provide the community with easy access to books, encouraging them to borrow, share, and exchange their favourite stories. A little library not only fosters a love for reading but also promotes a sense of community and responsibility, as children and adults alike take turns contributing and caring for the books.



Little library placed on planter on Channel Gate Road

Victoria Gardens railing community project

Probation volunteers giving back

Throughout autumn, you might have noticed some activity around the Victoria Gardens and seen the freshly painted railings.

SCSJV have collaborated with Ealing Probation Service and their 'Pay Back' team of volunteers to carry out the work.

As a result of this collaborative work, some of the volunteers have been inspired to take up painting professionally.



Probation volunteers scraping old paint off Victoria Gardens railings

Season's Greetings

As the year concludes and we embrace the festive spirit, we wish to thank the local community for your understanding and patience throughout this year's works programme.

HS2 remains committed to working with you to minimise disruption and provide support where possible. We are dedicated to maintaining open lines of communication and collaboration that will contribute to many positive outcomes.

May this festive season bring you joy, togetherness, and the warmth of community, whether you observe Christmas, or another tradition.



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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