

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

HS2 Update

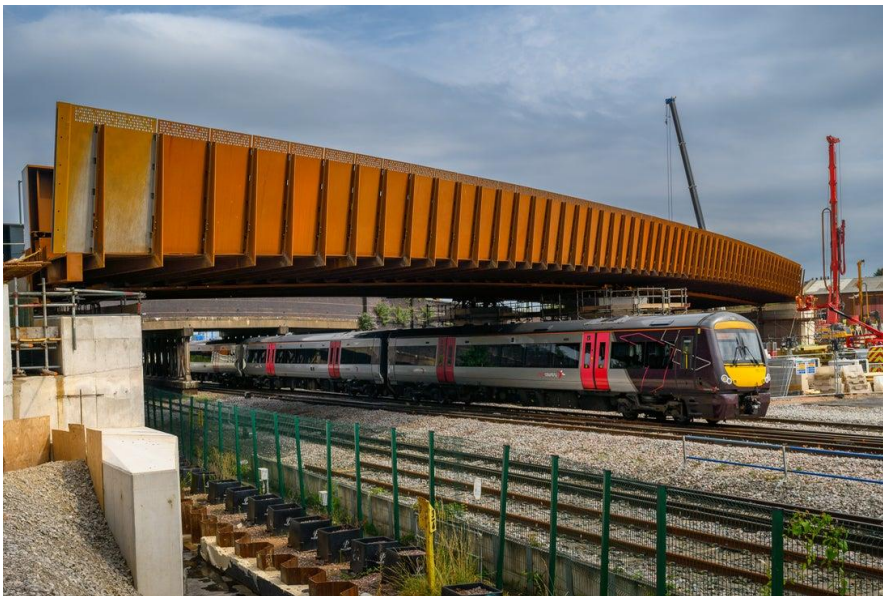
Birmingham | Winter 2024

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

Aston Church Road.... You said, we did

The 14-month closure of Aston Church Road started in October this year. Shortly after the closure was put in place, we became aware that local residents were experiencing increased traffic. This was due to motorists not following the designated diversion route. Recognising that the impacted road was not wide enough to safely accommodate vehicles traveling in both directions, we took immediate action.

After visiting residents in the area and listening to their concerns, we identified further mitigations to help reduce the impact. As a result, Balfour Beatty Vinci (BBV) installed additional signage along the affected street to discourage motorists from using the road. These signs will remain in place until the road reopens in December 2025. Since their installation, the signage has proven effective in significantly reducing traffic in the area.



Aston Church Overbridge

Upcoming works

For more information about

our upcoming works in Birmingham, view our 2024

Winter Construction Look-Ahead by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code below.



Washwood Heath brook diversion

The Washwood Heath Brook diversion is a significant environmental and engineering element of building the new high-speed railway. The first phase of work to divert the brook started in 2021 and the current phase of the diversion involves enlarging the open channel with work due to be completed early next year.

The original course of the brook ran through the Washwood Heath site, meaning a diversion would be required to allow space for key structures which include the Washwood Heath depot - A maintenance facility for HS2 trains.

The diversion was also essential to mitigate flood risks associated with the construction and operation of key assets. This has allowed us to integrate flood defences into the design and construction due to the nature of the flat land of the site.

Over the next three to six months, we will be constructing the reinforced concrete structures and preparing earthworks for landscaping.

The diversion will consist of a mixture of open channels and underground culvert and will connect the brook into the River Tame. The width of the channel will be 16 meters at its widest point and three metres in depth.

Did you know?

A total of 2,200m³ of concrete has been used for the concrete reinforcement. Plus 800 tonnes of steel which is the equivalent to 16,000 bags of cement.



Work on the brook diversion at the Washwood Heath

Spotlight... Piling caps

With over one million cubic metres of concrete used so far to build HS2 structures in the region, piling work continues on our Washwood Heath site.

Why are piling works important?

One of the first stages of construction of features such as bridges is the piling works. This is essential for any structure as this provides stability and structural support to the ground around the feature in order to carry the additional weight that the construction of a bridge will bring.

What method is used to install the required piling?

Piling works are undertaken by drilling into the ground and filling with steel or concrete into the soil of the ground. The deep insertion of these elements ensures that the structure and surrounding area will have a sturdier base for further construction works to take place.

How are piling works monitored?

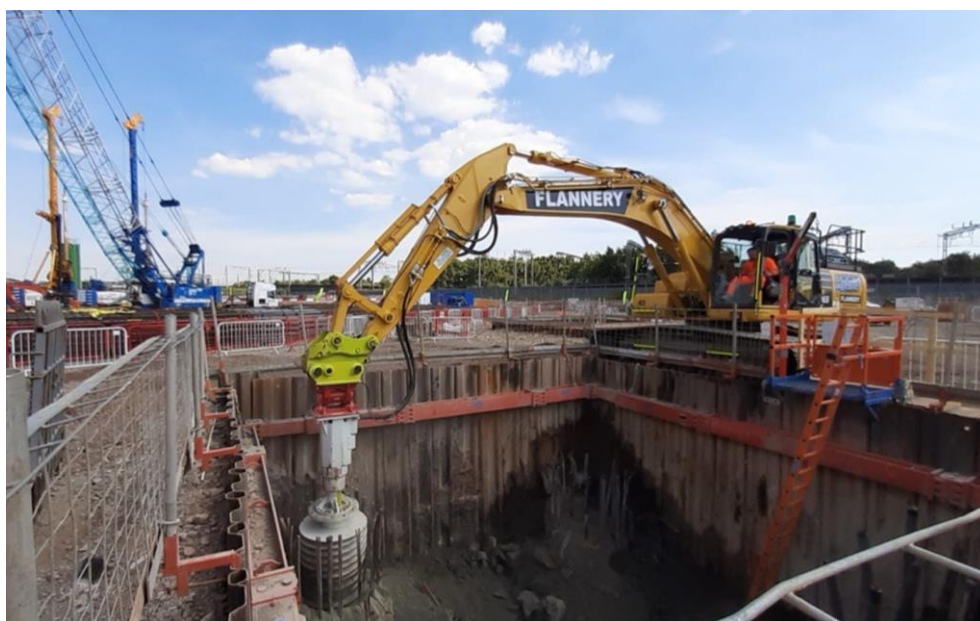
During piling works there will be noise and vibration monitors placed at strategic locations nearby to monitor the level of vibration. Should the level of vibration be deemed excessive then works are paused and working practises assessed on what further mitigation can be used.

On completion of the piling works the columns will be structurally monitored for cracks and integrity to ensure they are fit for purpose for load bearing of the proposed new structure.

Will piling work create excessive dust?

As the drilling is underground it enables us to have a dust suppression operation in place on the surface that will include netting around the piling area and a water bowser in operation. Additional to this we will also have dust monitors close by so we can monitor the levels of dust in the air and act accordingly if required.

A further 450 m³ of concrete will be used at the Washwood Heath site to fill the pile caps and piers will be erected in by Spring 2025. The concrete is made from low carbon content as part of our strategy to reduce carbon in construction.



The construction of pile caps at Washwood Heath

Thousands set to benefit from specialist travel support across the West Midlands

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) is encouraging businesses to apply for the latest discounted ticketing scheme for bus travel.

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) is encouraging businesses to apply for the recently launched discounted ticketing scheme for bus travel.

TfWM in collaboration with all regional bus operators are incentivising new and lapsed bus users to assess their travel habits, save money and travel more sustainably.

This Government funded initiative provides a period of free bus travel, followed by the option to purchase further bus travel at discounted rates.

From an organisational perspective, this is a powerful tool in terms of recruitment and retention, and scheme data that we can share, will feed into your ESG/CSR plans.

Please note that you can only register an interest as a decision maker on behalf of an organisation and not as an individual.

Should you require any further information or would like to sign up to the scheme, please email BehaviourChangeHub@tfwm.org.uk



CEF & BLEF

A combined total of £40m has been made available to help offset the disruption on local communities and businesses – the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF).

Work has officially started on a new lighting scheme designed to create brighter streets in Digbeth – close to HS2's flagship Birmingham Curzon Street Station.



Work begins on Digbeth lighting scheme following an HS2 grant

The Birmingham City Council project – funded in part through a £210,140 investment from HS2's Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) – will see the installation of 75 new LED, high performance lighting columns along two walking routes through Digbeth. For more information on the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) including how to apply, please visit: groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds

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.

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



**Connecting you to a world
of jobs in construction**

- Office roles
- Site-based jobs
- Work experience
- STEM Careers sessions
- Summer placements
- Pre-employment training
- Graduate roles
- Apprenticeships

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

- 1** Scan the QR code or use the link below:
<https://forms.office.com/e/pk4aWbEeCH>
- 2** and send us your CV:
see.team@balfourbeattyvinci.com



Community Investment

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



Supporting our communities through Christmas initiatives

Community Actions for Local Opportunities (CAFLO) is a community-focused charity operating a community centre in Bromford, Hodge Hill, under which our Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Mary Ann, passes.

Serving a community in the top one percent of deprivation for Birmingham, CAFLO provides spaces for meetings, lectures and classes, various sports, recreation and leisure-time, food bank, mental wellbeing and chat clubs with the object of improving the conditions of life for those in need.

We had previously support CAFLO through community impact initiatives such as a 'refresh' project that focused on the renovation, restoration, and rejuvenation of CAFLO's community garden through the help of our hard-working site and office teams who donated their time.

This winter we have looked for other opportunities to support this community hub, first engaging with through the donation of pumpkins for CAFLO's Halloween events, and then more recently through the donation of six desks and chairs for use in the centre. We partnered with CAFLO's Christmas initiative by donating toys for the centre to distribute to local families. Together we want to celebrate the good work of CAFLO along with the generous donations of our supply chains.



Christmas gift donations



Office supply donations

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

Find out what engagement events are coming up in your area at:

www.hs2.org.uk/events

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 >



Follow us



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

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