

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

# HS2 Update

Middleton to Coleshill | 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 between Middleton and Coleshill.

## UK-first on River Tame West Viaduct

A specialist cantilever process has been used for the first time in the UK to build the first section of the 472-metre-long River Tame West Viaduct HS2's Delta Junction

The viaduct, which will eventually carry three rail tracks, is a precast segmental viaduct at the northern tip of the Delta Junction, crossing the River Tame near Water Orton and joining the Curdworth Box which will take high speed trains over the existing Birmingham to Derby railway.

Construction of the viaduct's piers started in 2023, with the first spans of the three-track section completed earlier this Spring. This initial phase involved placing the segments onto two 42 metre truss beams, moving them into place with a skidding trolley, and securing them by post-tensioning techniques.

Please [click here](#) to read more on this engineering feat.



The River Tame Viaduct at Delta Junction

## Upcoming works

For more information about our upcoming works in North Warwickshire, please click [here](#) to view our 2024 Winter Construction Look-Ahead by scanning the QR code below.



## Did you know...

A total of 2,500 concrete segments will be moved into place using this specialist cantilever technique.



# M42 Link Road

An impressive weekend operation in September marked the completion of the four 'pushes' to move the two parallel viaducts into place over the M42/M6 link roads, making them the first viaduct structures to be built at Delta Junction.

Throughout 2023 we constructed the piers and abutments for the M42/M6 Motorway Link Road Viaducts. There are two 158m long composite viaducts that will carry the HS2 line over the M42/M6 Motorway Link Road - the 'East Link Viaduct' and 'West Link Viaduct'. Most of the preparation work was done off-line to minimise disruption, where possible, on the live road network.

In February 2024 BBV launched the first section of the 'East Link Viaduct', pushing first 84 metre section of the viaduct to its halfway position over the westbound link road. In April 2024 the second section was pushed across.

In June, the first 84 metre section of the composite viaduct was moved to its halfway position. Since then, three further steel girders were welded to the back of the first section and 38 precast concrete slabs were installed to complete the 158-metre-long structure, which has now been moved over both link roads.

The four operations were delivered by a team of 25 people from specialist steelwork company Victor Buyck Steel Construction (VBSC), working on behalf of BBV, using a push-pull jacking system which gives greater flexibility during the launch operation.

The 'push' to move the 158-metre-long 'West Link Viaduct' into its final position over both westbound and eastbound motorway link roads took a total of 11 hours over one weekend and was completed quicker than planned, allowing the motorway link roads to be reopened 6.5 hours ahead of schedule.



Completion of the first Delta Junction structures



# Faraday Avenue... What's next?

We talk to Neil Kennard, BBV's Senior Construction Manager about the work on Faraday Avenue. Neil has 32 years experience in the construction industry and has worked on infrastructure projects such as the widening of the M25 and the 2012 London Olympics.

## **Q. What was the most challenging part of the works to construct the new Faraday Avenue alignment?**

A. The most challenging part of the works was the installation of a 21way utility multi-duct crossing. Each utility asset has operational conditions, polarity constraints and offsets. With these constraints the dimensions required to receive the 21way ducts became unsuitable for trenchless techniques. So, working with the local, national and international businesses on Hams Hall industrial estate we had to amend our proposed working methodology and ensuring that businesses were able to carry out business as usual. This required extensive planning and communications with the businesses so that we had their support in amending our work proposals and ensuring that all consents and agreements were upheld through the course of our works.

## **Q. What works were required to ensure that the new road alignment was up to the required standard?**

A. The construction of the tie-in from the old alignment of Faraday Avenue to the new alignment was a key element of the project, requiring careful phasing. We executed the work in two stages:

1. A temporary contraflow was implemented on the existing road to enable the construction of the northern tie-in.
2. Once this was completed, we shifted the contraflow to the new diversion to facilitate the construction of the southern tie-in.

This methodical approach ensured the road alignment met all required standards and enabled a flow of traffic to and from Hams Hall.

## **Q. What are the immediate plans for Faraday Avenue?**

A. The road diversion is now fully operational, providing a 2x2 lane configuration for traffic.

## **Q. What works are planned for the next year on Faraday Avenue?**

A. There will be no physical site works next year along Faraday Avenue (former or new temporary alignment). Design of underbridges "Faraday Avenue & Newlands Farm" will continue, whilst delivery of the viaduct sections into subplot Delta nears completion. That said, there will however further works within the HS2 site at the rear of the Hams Hall sub-station This will involve earthworks for future work activities to ensure site drainage is adequate.



# Spotlight: road realignments

## What is a road realignment?

A road realignment is changing the path of a road to improve traffic flow. In North Warwickshire and Staffordshire, you may have seen examples of roads being realigned by HS2.

## What is the purpose of road realignments?

The aim is to lessen the impact on road users and local communities. When building a new railway, the challenge is figuring out how to cross busy roads without causing significant disruptions. By reconstructing the road alignment next to the current road, we can avoid closing roads for more than 12 months.

## Construction process

The new road alignment is usually curved to create space for constructing assets for HS2 to pass over or under the road. This may involve building on previously unused land like a roadside verge. Essential to this process is creating a new drainage system to prevent flooding.

## Quality and safety

New road alignments are designed to last at least ten years before needing maintenance. Before opening to the public, they undergo a safety audit by authorities. These roads are used for 2-4 years during railway construction before being reverted to their original layout.

## Benefits of road realignment

- Saves 6 months to 2 years of road closures
- Maintains traffic flow
- Increases safety for workers and road users
- Reduces costs by avoiding frequent lane closures
- Minimises impact on surrounding areas from diversion routes

Road realignment is essential for ensuring smooth traffic flow during construction. By strategically planning and implementing new road alignments, HS2 can efficiently build the railway while minimising disruptions to road users and communities.



The image shows where the road has been taken out of use and a new road constructed. The working area will allow the new railway to go over the road whilst maintaining traffic flow.

# 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.



## 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](mailto:see.team@balfourbeattyvinci.com)



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](mailto:see.team@balfourbeattyvinci.com)**

## Early careers intake

HS2's recent intake of future talent includes 26 graduates and 18 apprentices. The future talent pool have joined the company across multiple sites and offices between London and the West Midlands and will be placed in project management, engineering, cyber security, procurement and engineering.

The early careers courses are designed to provide the participants with a breadth of business knowledge and construction-based experience.

HS2 Ltd's annual early careers recruitment drive will begin again in January 2025. For more information about the career opportunities available with HS2 and its supply chain partners, visit **[www.hs2.org.uk/jobs-and-skills/](http://www.hs2.org.uk/jobs-and-skills/)**



Early careers, class of 2024



# Community Investment



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

## Grass joy at High Meadow School

At High Meadow School in Coleshill, the children had very limited green space to play on. The existing grass area was not safe for them to use. The school reached out to HS2 and Balfour Beatty Vinci for help, and the response was amazing. Balfour Beatty Vinci, along with their supply chain partners, donated and installed 375m<sup>2</sup> of new turf over two days. This generous donation transformed the school playground, providing a safe and beautiful area for the children to enjoy. Volunteers from companies like EH Smith and Lynch also got involved, donating £1,500 worth of turf to further enhance the outdoor space.



The new playing field at High Meadow School

"Thank you all for the tremendous job you have done of transforming the outdoor area at the back of our school, over the summer; it is fantastic! It has made a huge difference to the look of the school and will change the playtime experience, drastically, for the children. The children love it and can't wait until they are allowed to play on it. Thank you again for your support in making our school better for the children"- Headteacher at High Meadow school.

## Autumn refresh at St Catherines Garden

Back in October BBV and the supply chain supported St Catherines gardens by sweeping leaves, vegetation clearance, hedge cutting and a general tidy of the outdoor space. With 16 hours of work carried out by 15 volunteers across BBV, VMS, VMG and Hercules, the staff at Father Hudson were extremely happy with the end result.



Volunteers clearing the outdoor area at Father Hudson Day Care Centre

"The garden's look incredible. We are so grateful for all your support in making our gardens look better. Thank you so much" - Father Hudson's manager.

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

## Community Funding

On the 25th October 2024, HS2's latest CEF/BLEF awards were announced via the online interactive map ([hs2funds.org.uk/home/projects-funded-by-hs2-funds/](https://hs2funds.org.uk/home/projects-funded-by-hs2-funds/)). 312 projects worth over £17.3m across Phase One and Phase 2a have been funded to date. This comprises of 5 CEF Strategic projects 9 BLEF projects & 298 CEF Local projects.

For more information on the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) including how to apply, please visit: [www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds)

## 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](#)



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

Find out if you can claim compensation at:

[www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2](https://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/](https://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](https://www.hs2.org.uk)**

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

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