

Canterbury Works site

Frequently Asked Questions

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway for Britain. We have produced this document to answer the most commonly asked questions we have had from members of the community about:

Site location and context

Where is the Canterbury Works site?

The Canterbury Works site is located in South Kilburn, behind Canterbury Road and Canterbury Terrace and next to the existing railway tracks.

The site sits within residential areas to the west and south and St Mary's Catholic Primary School to the east.



What are we building at the Canterbury Works site?

We are building a ventilation (vent) shaft and headhouse at the Canterbury Works site, which will connect to the HS2 tunnels below ground.

Vent shafts and headhouses are an essential part of building a new railway in a tunnel.

What is a ventilation shaft?

A vent shaft is a vertical opening that connects the tunnels to the surface and open air. It uses fans located in a fan house to regulate air quality and temperature in the tunnels, provides access for emergency services and allows smoke to be extracted in the event of a fire.

What is a headhouse?

The headhouse is the building on top of the vent shaft. It contains the fire control and ventilation systems for the railway tunnels below. The headhouse will include the fan room.

What works have already taken place at the Canterbury Works site?

Works to set up our Canterbury Works site began in summer 2021. Since then, the following works have taken place:

- Construction of new site entrance on Albert Road including a new access ramp
- Utility diversion works and sewer lining
- Works to build the vent shaft, including excavations, sprayed concrete lining and waterproofing
- Construction of base slab within vent shaft
- Installation of internal shaft structures (walls/floors/stairs)
- Works to build adits (horizontal passages below ground) that will connect the HS2 tunnels
- Installation of shaft attenuation tank (a storage system for rainwater and surface water)

Works at the Canterbury Works Ventilation Shaft and Headhouse site was brought to a 'safe stop' in September 2024. This was in line with the government announcement in March 2023 on the pause in work building the HS2 station at Euston.

Upcoming works at the Canterbury Works site

What works will be taking place at the Canterbury Works site?

Works at the Canterbury Works Ventilation Shaft and Headhouse site was brought to a 'safe stop' in September 2024, with the expectation that works would not resume until spring 2025.

However, as part of an ongoing review of the programme by HS2, we do not now expect works to resume in 2025.

The hoarding will remain in place, and there will be 24-hour security. Some site activities will continue taking place, such as monitoring, design and maintenance.

There may also be periods when we need to use the Canterbury Works site for storage and welfare facilities. We'll keep the local community informed on activities at the site.

What will I be able to see on your site?

You will be able to see our site office and welfare facilities within the site hoarding from Canterbury Road, Canterbury Terrace and Brondesbury Villas, as well as from some high-rise buildings nearby.

Other questions

Can you reduce the brightness of the lighting in your site?

We need lighting for the security team to safely carry out their tasks (including security patrols) overnight. The flood lights have been lowered and are down-facing to reduce the level of brightness coming from our site. We have also reduced the number of lighting towers being used overnight. We understand the local community's concerns about lighting and are continuously reviewing the lighting within our site overnight to minimise disruption.

Why are hoarding lights required?

The lighting on the Canterbury Works site hoardings is required to ensure the hoarding is clearly visible to road users for their safety and to make sure we have a safe construction site. The hoarding lighting must follow regulations in accordance with British Standards and other legal health and safety requirements related to site management. Hoarding lights have been agreed with Brent Council.

Will affected residents be eligible for noise insulation in their properties?

We do not expect our works to trigger any of the noise levels defined within the [E23: Control of Construction Noise and Vibration paper](#).

We recognise that there may be circumstances in which residents are more sensitive to construction noise, or their properties may not qualify for noise insulation. In such circumstances, specific noise trigger levels and/or alternative noise control measures will be considered on a case-by-case basis to protect residents. You can view more information at [Noise insulation scheme booklet CS1008a.pdf](#) or by contacting the HS2 Helpdesk on 08081 434 434 or email HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

I would like to sell my property, what support do you offer?

HS2 have a 'need to sell scheme' available to residents who need to sell their property but cannot because of HS2. Further information about scheme is available at [Need to Sell - HS2](#) or by contacting the HS2 Helpdesk on 08081 434 434 or email HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

Canterbury Works headhouse and compound design

What will the Canterbury Works headhouse look like?

The materials proposed in our current scheme design for the Canterbury Works headhouse are timber, steel, concrete and blockwork. We are also planning to install green roofs.

We are planning to use similar materials at all head houses between Euston and West Ruislip, but the combination of materials will vary depending on the area.

For further information on the design and to view the visualisations of the headhouse, please see the [Canterbury Works headhouse and compound design update](#).

What will the future lighting plans be like?

We will be illuminating various zones throughout the site with a mixture of lighting fixtures. When the site is unoccupied, a dimming factor will be applied to all lights to minimise lighting pollution. However, the lighting levels will increase in the following scenarios:

- emergencies, when switched on locally/remotely
- when vehicles are manoeuvring
- upon gate opening
- when intrusion is detected by the CCTV security system

For further information on the future lighting plans, please see the [Canterbury Works headhouse and compound design update](#).

What are the future landscape plans?

Our future landscaping plan for the Canterbury Works site considers local ecological and the vegetation requirements for next to a live railway. Our current future landscape design includes block / slab paving and woodland, scrub and grassland habitat planting. We're also planning to install a green roof on the headhouse buildings.

For further information on the future landscape plans, please see the [Canterbury Works headhouse and compound design update](#).

What engagement has taken place on the design of the Canterbury Works headhouse and compound?

Throughout summer and winter 2018, we showed you our scheme design for the Canterbury Works headhouse and compound. Following this, we showed you our detailed design for the Canterbury Works headhouse and compound in November 2020. During these consultations, residents and the community were encouraged to provide further feedback on the appearance and landscape of the headhouse and compound before we submitted our final design to Brent Council.

After consulting the local community on the designs of the future Canterbury Works Headhouse, we reduced the size of the vertical ventilation stacks to the minimum required dimensions and height. We also reduced the size of the chimneys.

In addition, we reviewed our landscaping plans to maximise the height of the tree screening between the headhouse and residential buildings on Canterbury Terrace and Canterbury House. We will plant trees in a zig zag formation to provide greater coverage between the residential and headhouse buildings. The green roofs have been adapted to maximise the aesthetic visual impact for residents in Canterbury Terrace and Carlton House.

For further information on this engagement, please see the [Canterbury Works headhouse and compound design update](#).

Planned engagement activity in 2025

Notifications about works and events in your area

As part of our commitment to keeping you informed, we will continue to send notifications about our works and events in your area throughout 2025. You can find our latest updates at [In your area map - High Speed 2 \(hs2.org.uk\)](#).

Monthly virtual drop-ins

You can book a 20-minute slot between 4pm to 6pm to speak with the community engagement team from HS2 and SCSJV on the third Wednesday of every month.

To register your attendance for one of our virtual drop-ins, please visit [HS2.org.uk/events](https://hs2.org.uk/events).

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

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: <http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner>

You can contact the Commissioner at: 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

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

Find out if you're eligible for 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 our HS2 Helpdesk team. For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website: www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain

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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