

HS2 in Hillingdon

July 2025

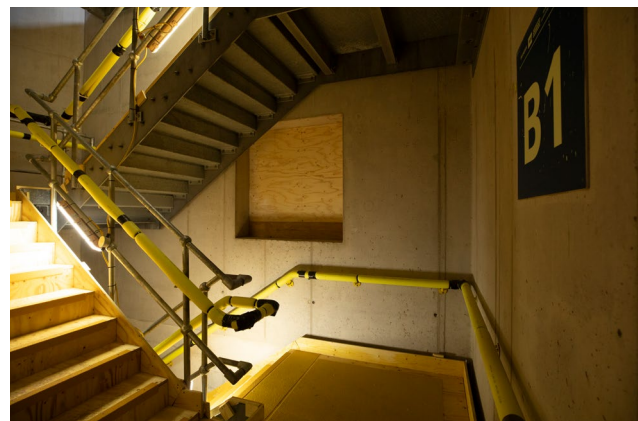
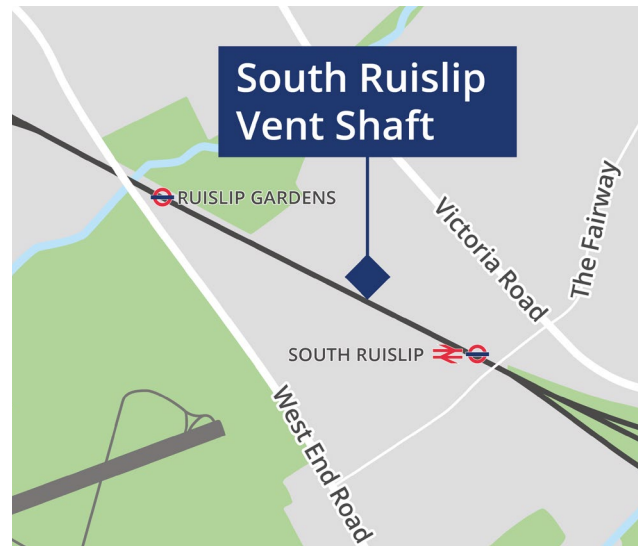
Welcome to the latest edition of our community newsletter. This edition contains an update on construction developments as well as an overview of our investment in local community initiatives.

Construction Update

South Ruislip Headhouse

We're building the headhouse and autotransformer station (ATS) buildings at our South Ruislip site. The headhouse is the building on top of the ventilation shaft. It contains fire control and ventilation systems for the railway tunnels below. The ATS will power the headhouse.

In spring 2025, we installed staircases and mechanical, electrical and plumbing services in the vent shaft. We also completed the steel plates and reinforced concrete for the headhouse building and the foundation for the ATS building. We've been building boundary walls along the southern, western and eastern site boundaries, and carrying out utility connections along the site boundary and within the site. Works to build underground reinforced concrete tanks and underground services are ongoing. During the summer and autumn, we will continue works to build the headhouse and ATS buildings. We'll install the brickwork façade, steel frame structures,



Internal staircases in South Ruislip Vent Shaft

reinforced concrete floors and fire protection on the headhouse. We finished building the steel frame structure for the headhouse and ATS in mid-July. During the summer and autumn, we will continue works to build the boundary walls and utility connections along the site boundaries and within the site, and the underground reinforced concrete tanks. You may notice construction noise during these works.

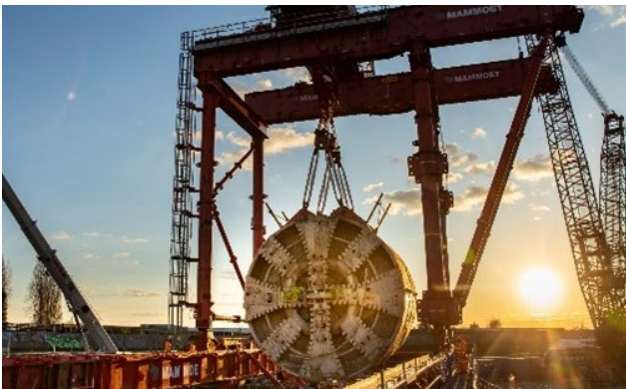




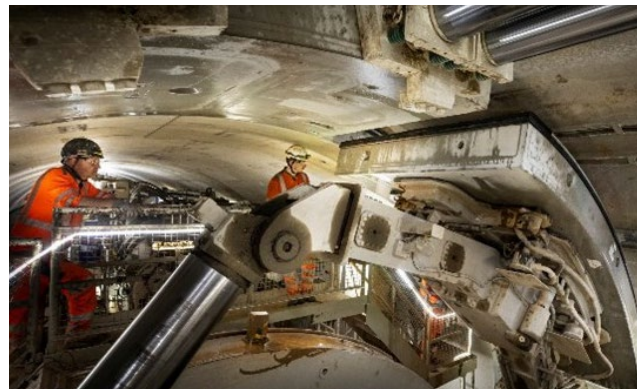
Tunnelling completed between Hillingdon and Ealing

Our Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs), Sushila and Caroline, have now completed their tunnelling journeys. Sushila (the downline TBM) has built the tunnel for trains travelling from London to the West Midlands, and Caroline (the upline TBM) has built the tunnel for trains travelling from the West Midlands to London.

Sushila has been taken apart while still in the Green Park Way Ventilation Shaft in Greenford. We carried out 'The Big Lift' (see photos below) on 15 March using a 750 tonne gantry crane. Following completion of the five mile drive by Caroline on 3 April, the TBM was taken apart and lifted out of the shaft on 25 May.



The Big Lift: TBM Sushila lifted out of the Green Park Way Ventilation Shaft



TBM Caroline installing final tunnel ring segments

We will continue to remove the tunnelling support equipment from inside the tunnels and at West Ruislip Portal over the coming months. Works have now begun to build the walkways inside the tunnel. There will be a wider walkway

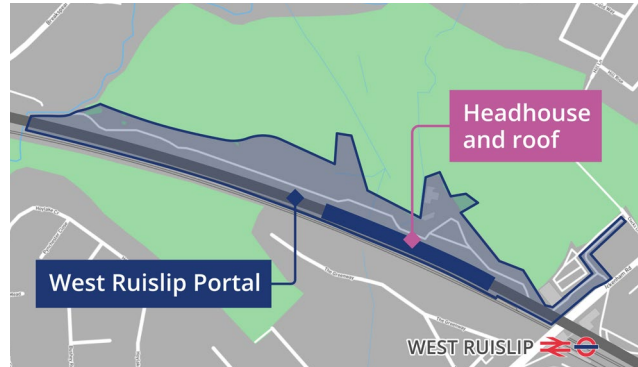
which will allow passengers to safely evacuate a train and walk to the nearest cross passage and rescue train should there be an emergency. The narrower walkway, built on the other side, will be for maintenance access in the tunnel.

West Ruislip Portal Headhouse and roof construction

Following the successful completion of the TBM drives from West Ruislip to Green Park Way Vent Shaft, we have been hard at work dismantling equipment that supported the TBM operations, including the conveyor belts and ventilation infrastructure.

Work has begun on constructing the reinforced concrete structures within the former launch chamber and portal - the area where the two TBMs began their journey over two years ago. These concrete works mark a significant phase of the project and will continue steadily through to mid-2026.

Meanwhile, preparations for the next major milestone, the construction of the headhouse superstructure, are progressing well. Pre-construction activities are currently underway, with construction expected to begin in 2026.



Constructing the reinforced concrete structures within the former launch chamber and portal

Removal of Conveyor Bridges: River Pinn, Breakspear Road South and Chiltern Line

With tunnelling completed, we have begun to dismantle the conveyor and treatment infrastructure. This includes the removal of: the scaffold roof; four muck bins that stored the material produced from tunnelling; four lime storing silos; three spoil treatment conveyor lines (each 26m long); and the lime treatment system. Lime was used to dry the soil so it could be reused.

We used the treatment conveyor line (180m long) to place all the treated TBM material in the muck bins. This conveyor line will be removed later this summer. Two Chiltern conveyor lines (each 39m long) that cross over the Chiltern Line will be removed overnight in July using a 800 tonne mobile crane. We will remove the Breakspear Road South Conveyor bridge

(24m long), that crosses over the road with an 800 tonne mobile crane or using mechanical dismantling with excavators. This work will need a full road closure. Provisional dates are from 8pm on 3 October to 8pm on 5 October. We will let people know when the dates are confirmed.

The River Pinn Conveyor bridge (30m long) that crosses over the river will be removed in August with an 800 tonne mobile crane.

We have started to remove the overland conveyor (900m long), which spans between the launch portal at West Ruislip to the treatment area at Harvil Road. This is taking place during our core working hours (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm and Saturday, 8am to 1pm). We'll use excavators for this activity.

You may notice periods of increased noise during these works. However, noise monitoring will take place throughout the works.

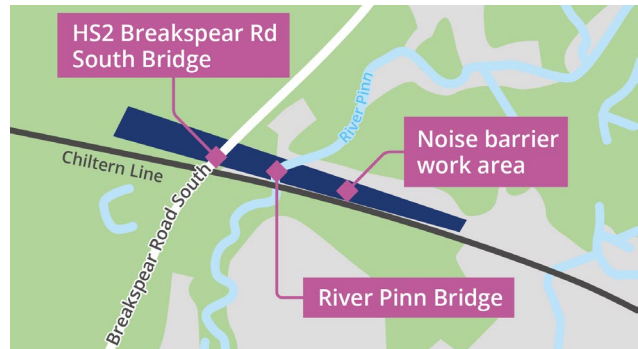
Installing noise barriers

The aim of the noise barriers is to reduce the noise of the train experienced by residents. We aim to achieve this by containing, deflecting and absorbing the sounds that are produced by the train.

We will install noise barriers west and east of Breakspear Road South, south of the Ruislip Golf Course and north of the Chiltern Line.

We started construction works in June 2025 to install the noise barriers along the HS2 route from the Copthall Tunnel to West Ruislip Portal site.

The works will be carried out in phases and are due to be completed in July 2026. The first phase will be the installation of concrete piles and drainage systems. We will then install the noise barrier panels,



West Ruislip River Pinn Realignment
Future visualisation, showing Noise Barriers

acoustic sound barriers and access doors to allow maintenance to take place once the railway is operational.

Landscaping on Sustainable Placement Areas

The landscaping of the Southern Sustainable Placement Area has progressed well. We have planted 3,727 whips and shrubs, and completed the seeding of the mounds and the aquatic area in April this year. We are now maintaining these areas.

Since completing the earthworks at the Northern Sustainable Placement Area in late summer 2024, we have made good progress landscaping the area. We've successfully seeded most of the mounds and have now planted approximately 45,000 trees across the site, a key milestone in delivering the long-term environmental legacy of this area.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for the next planting season in 2025-26, which will see a further 65,000 trees planted. In parallel, we're removing the construction site and offices in the area and turning our attention to the haul road, which will be topsoiled, seeded and planted as part of the final landscape reinstatement works.



Tree planting at the Northern Sustainable Placement Area

Harvil Road resurfacing by the London Borough of Hillingdon

The London Borough of Hillingdon will be resurfacing Harvil Road between the junction with Swakeleys Road and HS2 Gate 1 this summer. A full road closure will be in place 24/7 from 11 to 29 August 2025 to complete this work.

Community investment

First Aid Training Session

We have run two First Aid training sessions for a total of 113 pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 and their teachers at Lady Bankes Primary School. The sessions provided essential lifesaving skills for pupils. They learned how to recognise dangerous situations, when and how to call for help, and how to manage medical conditions like asthma, allergic reactions, and anaphylaxis. The Year 6 sessions also included CPR and defibrillator training. The pupils gained hands-on experience by using medical equipment such as blood pressure cuffs, pulse oximeters, and stethoscopes.

Feedback from the school was very positive and we look forward to continuing this important project across 2025.

Sacred Heart Primary School



One of the improved areas at Sacred Heart Primary School

We've completed a renovation project at Sacred Heart Primary School in Ruislip. Located just 140 metres from the HS2 line of route, the school serves over 800 primary-aged children.

The project included:

- constructing and installing three large raised-bed planters at the entrance to the outdoor learning space;
- clearing vegetation and debris from the footpath leading to the area, and fitting fencing and wooden borders on both sides;
- building a sensory ladder that pupils can customise with different materials to enrich their sensory garden experience;
- repurposing existing wood to create seating for the outdoor learning space.

The site team carried out the work during half-term to minimise disruption and ensure the space was ready for the children's return to school.

Donation to heritage railway



The Bluebell Railway

We have donated 4,000 tonnes of ballast to Bluebell Railway as part of celebrations to mark 200 years of the railway in Britain. The Bluebell Railway is a popular tourist attraction and connects Sheffield Park and East Grinstead in Sussex. It was one of the first preserved heritage lines in the country, starting train services in August 1960.

The ballast will be used to reopen platform one at Horsted Keynes station (better known as Downton Abbey station), which has been out of use since 1914.

The ballast comes from decommissioned railway sidings used to bring in materials by rail to our West Ruislip site. It was officially handed over to the volunteer led heritage organisation, which runs steam trains across 11 miles of track, on 29 April. Reusing the material eliminates the need for treatment and transport of the material for waste disposal.

Bourne Primary School



Installation of astro turf in the play area at Bourne Primary School

In collaboration with our subcontractor Dawson WAM, HS2 has supported Bourne Primary School in South Ruislip by repairing and improving facilities, including restoring areas affected by flooding.

Working closely with the school, we helped identify a range of improvements that would benefit both staff and students. These included:

- installation of astro turf in the play area;
- construction of fencing area for younger children;
- replacement of two ageing garden sheds with a new shipping container;
- providing a second shipping container to expand storage capacity;
- weeding and re-shingling of the school's gardening area;
- pruning of overgrown trees and bushes in the car park;
- relocation of the main school sign at the front entrance.

Headteacher Michelle Green expressed her appreciation, stating: "Your dedication and hard work have made a tremendous difference in the lives of both staff and children. We are incredibly grateful for your commitment."

Community & Environment and Business & Local Economy Funds

We continue to offer two funds which are available to local communities and business between the West Midlands and London, to help with the disruption caused by our construction work. These are the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF).

The CEF is designed to give communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of HS2. It is a distributed fund which communities can apply for, to help to support local projects that aim to benefit their local area.

The BLEF is designed to support local economies that may be disrupted by the construction of HS2. BLEF grants are for local business support organisations and local authorities to help support business activity in local communities. To find out more, use the QR code on this page.

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please use the QR
code on this page.



Public drop in sessions

Visitor Information Centre

We continue to run our drop-in sessions every Monday and Wednesday, 2-4pm. You can find us to the right of the entrance to the HS2 West Ruislip Portal site. From the West Ruislip tube station entrance/exit, cross the road and turn right until you reach the 'West Ruislip Portal' sign.

Community Event at Ickenham Village Hall

We hosted a community event at Ickenham Village Hall on 15 May 2025. Seventy-three visitors attended the event and feedback was very positive.

We were pleased to have the opportunity to present information to residents on a wide range of topics. These included: construction of the headhouse at West Ruislip; an update on tunnelling progress; and information on HS2 Rail Systems works that will take place after construction, such as the design and installation of the track, power supplies and signalling equipment. We also



Residents attending the public event

showed recent drone footage of all major work sites which provided a construction overview.

Please look out for further events in your area by regularly checking this link: <https://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages/hs2-in-hillingdon/>

HS2 defibrillators awareness

As part of HS2's ongoing commitment to maintain the highest standards of health and safety, over 28 defibrillators have been strategically deployed throughout our Hillingdon sites.

Between Breakspear Road South and Ickenham High Road in West Ruislip, portable defibrillators are positioned at all primary HS2 site access points. In addition to these fixed units, seven site vehicles are equipped with both defibrillators and trauma kits. Each mobile supervisor also carries a portable defibrillator unit.

While these devices are primarily intended for use within HS2 construction sites, in the event of a nearby emergency, site gate personnel can be alerted and

will respond with a defibrillator. However, it is essential to emphasise that the first course of action should always be to contact the emergency services.

Beyond our sites, additional defibrillators are available to the public at West Ruislip Station and the local Tesco Express on the High Road.

The Newsletter: Have your say

We strive to make our newsletters informative, interesting and inclusive. We are always looking for ways to improve the content, so would welcome your feedback. If you have any views on the newsletter or if there are topics you would like to see covered in future editions, please contact us with your suggestions at: communities@scsrailways.co.uk

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: www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltdresidents-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

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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.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages/hs2-in-hillingdon

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