

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

HS2 Update

Solihull | Autumn 2025

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 Solihull.

M6 south viaduct

HS2 engineers have reopened the M6 motorway near Birmingham Airport ahead of schedule after sliding a 230-metre section of the new East Deck viaduct across the busy motorway.

The operation took place during a planned closure of both northbound and southbound carriageways, over the M6 Junction 4 slip road.

This second phase followed a successful first phase in June.

For the first time in the West Midlands, a 'fully restrained' sliding technique was used. This is where sections of the viaduct are built beside the motorway and pushed into place in stages to minimise disruption for motorists.

For more details on upcoming works in Solihull, view our look-ahead — [click here](#) or scan the QR code:



Plans to use this technique were developed in collaboration with National Highways to minimise disruption on the motorway and reduce the closure period.

The twin 320-metre viaducts will carry HS2 trains between London and Birmingham, with the West Deck, the third phase of the works, scheduled for installation next year.

We are currently planning this phase and will share details with you ahead of works commencing.



M6 South viaduct East Deck over the motorway



Progress of the viaducts

Significant progress continues on the Balsall Common and River Blythe Viaducts, two key structures allowing the railway to cross waterways and local landscapes near Solihull.

The design of each structure aims to minimise the impact of HS2 on the landscape; local ecology, and views of the countryside; maintain existing public rights of way; enhance local habitats and respect the existing rural character of the landscape by using plant species found locally.

River Blythe viaduct

The River Blythe Viaduct is a 475-metre low-lying structure, that crosses the River Blythe and Meriden Road whilst anchoring itself to Diddington Lane Farm and Patrick Farm in Solihull. Construction is progressing well, with 14 of the 19 piers now complete, with the remainder to be finished by the end of the year. Over half of the beams have been installed and concrete has been poured on eight of the 20 deck sections. The Viaduct is planned for completion in Summer 2026.



River Blythe Viaduct pier construction and groundworks

Balsall Common viaduct

Balsall Common Viaduct is 425 metres long and approximately 10 metres above ground level as it crosses over Station Road, Heart of England Way Walk, Bayleys Brook and the associated floodplain. We have completed 12 of the 16 piers and over half of the bridge beams have been installed. Future phases of work include completing the bridge deck and installing the parapets. The viaduct is planned for completion in early 2027.



Visual showing construction progress of Balsall Common Viaduct

Once the viaduct structures are completed, we will landscape the area to carefully integrate the new infrastructure into the existing environment. This will be followed by minor works including drainage improvements to manage water flow and prevent flooding, access enhancements to ensure safe and convenient routes for both construction and public use and fencing installation to secure the site. These final tasks will be completed prior to the full handover, expected in 2027.

Temporary road closures

As we progress works on each of the viaducts, we will require temporary closures of Truggist Lane and Meriden Road in early 2026. We will share communications once the dates have been confirmed.

All dates to be confirmed. These works are subject to consent and dates may change.

Former A452 overbridge demolished

The successful demolition of the former A452 overbridge marks a key milestone in the transformation of the local road network for the future HS2 Interchange Station.

The overbridge, located near the NEC and Birmingham Airport, was removed over the weekend of 20–23 June 2025 by Solihull-based Armac Demolition, working on behalf of Balfour Beatty VINCI (BBV). The removal was carried out safely and efficiently over a weekend, following advance preparation works including trial holes and barrier installation.

The successful demolition has prepared the area for a new road layout that will improve access to the HS2 Interchange Station, a major future transport hub for the region.

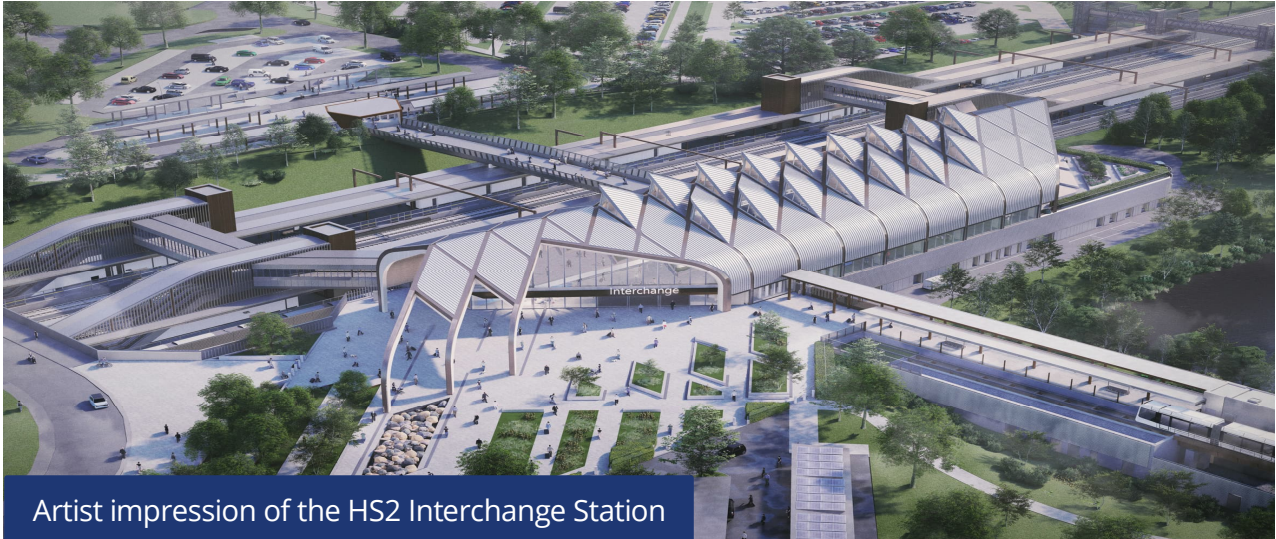
Work has progressed on constructing a new roundabout that will connect the station to the A452 and A446. The removal of the former overbridge has cleared the way to complete this new junction.

Looking ahead, our teams will continue work on the new road infrastructure in the area, with further traffic management required to safely carry out the next phases of construction.

We will continue to keep you informed as work progresses through the remainder of 2025.

What is an overbridge?

An overbridge is a bridge that allows one route (typically a road or footpath) to pass over another often a railway or major road without interrupting the flow of traffic below. Overbridges can improve connectivity and safety by reducing congestion and removing level crossings or junctions.



Artist impression of the HS2 Interchange Station



Watch the former A452 Overbridge demolition

Click the link below or scan the QR code to watch a short video of the A452 overbridge demolition:

[!\[\]\(2bae76de5ebbd5c4d7d47162f1673734_img.jpg\) Watch the demolition on YouTube](#)

Upcoming works

To ensure that the local road network is compatible with the new railway, we are remodelling and improving existing roads in addition to constructing bridges on motorway and trunk roads.

Lavender Hall Lane overbridge and road realignment



Lavendar Hall Lane overbridge

Lavender Hall Lane overbridge will allow the railway line to pass under Lavender Hall Lane.

The 54-metre-long bridge will be connected to a new road realignment, which will raise the level of the existing road by ten metres. It will feature a new footpath to the north side, extending along the embankment, with wide verges either side of the six-metre carriageway to allow for future walking and cycling facilities.

In addition to the overbridge, a new five-metre-high culvert is being constructed to

the east, allowing Bayleys Brook to pass through the eastern embankment along its existing alignment. A range of utilities, including a medium-pressure gas main, currently running along Lavender Hall Lane, will also be diverted through the new bridge and embankment.

Due to land constraints and the scale and complexities of the construction sequence for this work we will require a long-term closure of Lavender Hall Lane. The HS2 Environmental Statement (ES) allows for a 12-month closure and through design and programme advances we aim to reduce this closure to approximately 9 months. The closure of Lavender Hall Lane is planned for early 2026 and we will share an updated communication once the dates have been confirmed.

A45 Coventry Road overbridge

The new high-speed railway will pass under the A45 Coventry Road as it approaches the new Interchange Station being built in Solihull. This section of the A45 Coventry Road is located near Bickenhill, between Stonebridge roundabout and M42 Junction 6. The next phase will involve drainage works on the westbound carriageway.



A45 Coventry Road underbridge

To ensure we carry out these works safely, a section of the A45 Coventry Road

westbound carriageway will be temporarily closed from 9pm on Friday 31 October until 6am on Monday 3 November 2025. If required, contingency closures will take place from 9pm on Friday 5 December until 6am on Monday 8 December 2025. Access to local businesses will be maintained throughout. We will continue to keep you updated as the work progresses.

***Dates to be confirmed. These works are subject to consent and dates may change.**

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 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**



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



Case study: Taiwo's story

In January 2025, Taiwo graduated from Warwick University with a degree in Humanitarian Engineering. Unable to find a role immediately, she received Universal Credit for several months and attempted to find work through her local Jobcentre. These months were challenging for Taiwo, and she felt demoralised by her inability to find an opportunity.

In March, she noticed that BBV/HS2 had organised a community drop-in event in Water Orton and decided to try her luck and see if a recruitment team would be present. At the event, she engaged with the SEE Team who were able to secure Taiwo a six-month paid placement as a Design Co-ordinator (beginning June 2025).

Taiwo's placement will end in September 2025 to enable her to join the HS2 Project Manager Graduate Scheme.



Taiwo Omitoyin

Assistant Environmental Design
Co-ordinator (Paid Placement)

Community Investment

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

Supporting local schools to prepare for the new term



Our supplier, Acorn safely removing a damaged tree limb at Berkswell Primary School

Two local schools received a boost over the summer thanks to support from BBV and supply chain partners. At Berkswell Church of England Primary School, a large, damaged tree limb hanging over the play area raised safety concerns. After the school reached out to HS2, our supplier Acorn acted quickly, removing the limb and making the playground safe for use by school children.

Meanwhile, Heart of England School in Balsall Common asked for help revitalising an outdoor space ahead of their students return.

BBV volunteers stepped in to clear overgrown vegetation and replace broken picnic tables, giving students a refreshed and welcoming space for the new term.

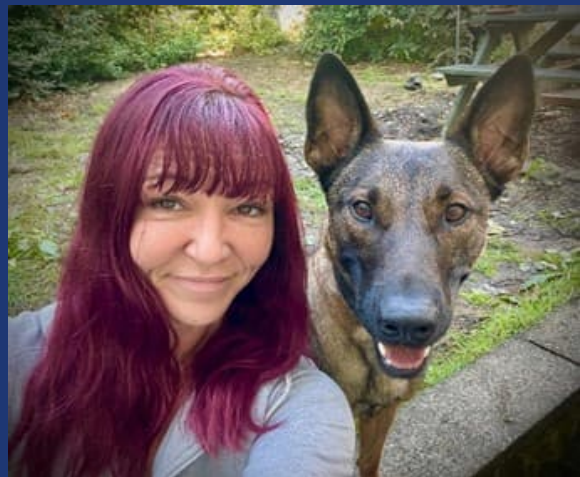
Police dog adopted by Emma (BBV Ecologist)

BBV are liaising with the West Midlands Police Dog Training Centre in Balsall Common to offer support with improvement works to their dog exercise area and kennel block.

As part of this engagement our senior ecologist, Emma Hankinson, visited the centre to undertake a habitat and protected species survey within their grounds to aid with a planning application for a new kennel block. Emma loves dogs and has two of her own, and has previously owned a Belgian Malinois, a breed used by the police.

During the visit, it was mentioned that a female Belgian Malinois brood dog, 'Rana' required a new loving home. As Emma had previous experience with the breed, she was asked if she could provide a new home for Rana.

Following a short trial, we are pleased to say that Rana has settled into her new home with Emma and is very happy.



Emma from BBV with Rana, a retired Belgian Malinois from the West Midlands Police Dog Unit

HS2 Reset

We're making sure HS2 provides the best value for Britain. Our CEO, Mark Wild, is leading a full review to reset HS2's cost and schedule and put the project back on track.

This reset is about giving the Government and taxpayers a clear picture of what the project will cost and when it will be finished.

The government has backed the reset of HS2, providing multi-year funding that gives the stability and time needed to carry out a comprehensive review.

Next Steps

Given the scale and complexity of HS2, the reset has a series of stages and will be completed by 2026.

During the reset, we will continue to build the railway, focusing our construction efforts on priority areas across Solihull. This will help speed up construction, cut costs and improve productivity. It will create a solid foundation for delivering the programme in the future and ensure we realise HS2's huge benefits and opportunities.



HS2 CEO, Mark Wild

Keep up to date on HS2 activity in your area

To receive notifications of our upcoming activity, sign up for email notifications:

www.hs2.org.uk/local-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

Come and talk to us at a local drop-in event

Thursday 16 October 2025

Time: 3pm to 7pm

Location: Balsall Common Village Hall,
Station Road, Balsall Common, CV7 7FF

Thursday 27 November 2025

Time: 2pm to 6pm

Location: Berkswell Reading Meriden Road,
Berkswell, Coventry, CV7 7BE

These events are an opportunity for you to find out more about the progress of key HS2 structures in the Solihull area.

At the events you will be able to:

- Talk to our experts about engineering, construction and the progress of the project in your area
- See visualisations of the finished structures
- View drone footage, animations and more

Follow us on social channels



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/

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

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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

To keep up to date with what is happening in your local area, visit:
www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-two-ltd-privacy-notice>