

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

# HS2 Update

Birmingham | Autumn 2025

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway for Britain.

This update will provide key information and news on HS2 works in Birmingham.

## HS2's final Birmingham tunnel breakthrough

HS2's Bromford Tunnel is now fully excavated, following TBM Elizabeth's breakthrough at Washwood Heath on 13 October.

Launched near Water Orton in March 2024, the 125-metre machine bored 3.5 miles beneath the M6 and east Birmingham. The westbound tunnel, driven by Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Elizabeth broke through on the 13<sup>th</sup> October. Mary Ann was completed earlier this year.

Together, the twin TBMs removed over 1.8 million tonnes of spoil and installed nearly 6,000 concrete segments. The project was delivered by Balfour Beatty VINCI, with a 450-strong team working around the clock under challenging conditions, including four crossings beneath the River Tame.

Councillor Majid Mahmood, Bromford & Hodge Hill Ward, said:

"This is a significant feat of engineering and the breakthrough in Washwood Heath represents an exciting moment for Birmingham and for HS2. I was delighted to witness such a key milestone and look forward to the next steps of this project."

This milestone marks Balfour Beatty VINCI's fourth and final TBM breakthrough in the West Midlands. Meanwhile, progress continues along the route, including preparations for two new TBM launches near Old Oak Common.

TBM Elizabeth will now be dismantled, with teams starting work on secondary lining, ventilation, and emergency walkways. Washwood Heath will also become HS2's main depot and control centre. Further updates will be provided as work progresses.



Project team gather for TBM breakthrough



Cllr Masid Mahmood with members of HS2 & BBV



## Aston Church Road

Progress continues on Aston Church Road as preparations move closer to reopening.

Aston Church Road is expected to reopen in early December 2025, following major construction works to install a new overbridge spanning the Birmingham to Derby railway and future HS2 line. The bridge was successfully moved into place in August 2024, but ongoing construction works, including utility diversions and road realignment, are still underway.

A temporary footpath is currently open, providing access for pedestrians and cyclists while the road remains closed to vehicles.

The route will restore access between Saltley, Washwood Heath, and Nechells, improving connectivity for all road users.

A traffic management plan will be introduced to support final construction and will be communicated closer to the reopening date, subject to Birmingham City Council approval.



Final works to the Aston Church Road Overbridge

## Traffic management

To enable us to complete works on our bridge structures, we will need to implement some traffic management including road closures

For more information about our upcoming works in Birmingham you can view our Birmingham Construction Look-Ahead by [clicking here](#) or by scanning the QR code



## Lawley Middleway

HS2 engineers have successfully installed a 1,631-tonne steel bridge over Lawley Middleway in Birmingham — completing the complex operation four days early.

Delivered by Balfour Beatty VINCI and specialist contractor Mammoet, the 112-metre span was assembled beside Digbeth Canal over two years. On 15 August, it was rotated 90 degrees using self-propelled modular transporters (SPMTs - heavy-duty vehicles designed for precision handling of large structures).

Over the following four nights, the bridge was gradually slid into place using a skidding system with a jacking push/pull mechanism, allowing movement of up to 24 metres per night, while keeping the road open during the day.

This combination of techniques, which are rarely used together, marks a first for the HS2 project in the region. Originally scheduled to reopen on 25 August, Lawley Middleway was back in use by 6am on the 22nd.

The bridge is the first of five connected viaducts forming the approach to Birmingham Curzon Street Station. This one-mile stretch links the west portal of the 3.5-mile Bromford Tunnel to the station via Duddeston Junction, Curzon 1, Curzon 2, Lawley Middleway, and Curzon 3 viaducts.

Work on this stretch is at peak productivity, with key milestones ahead over the next 10 months. We will continue to update stakeholders and communities about future works.

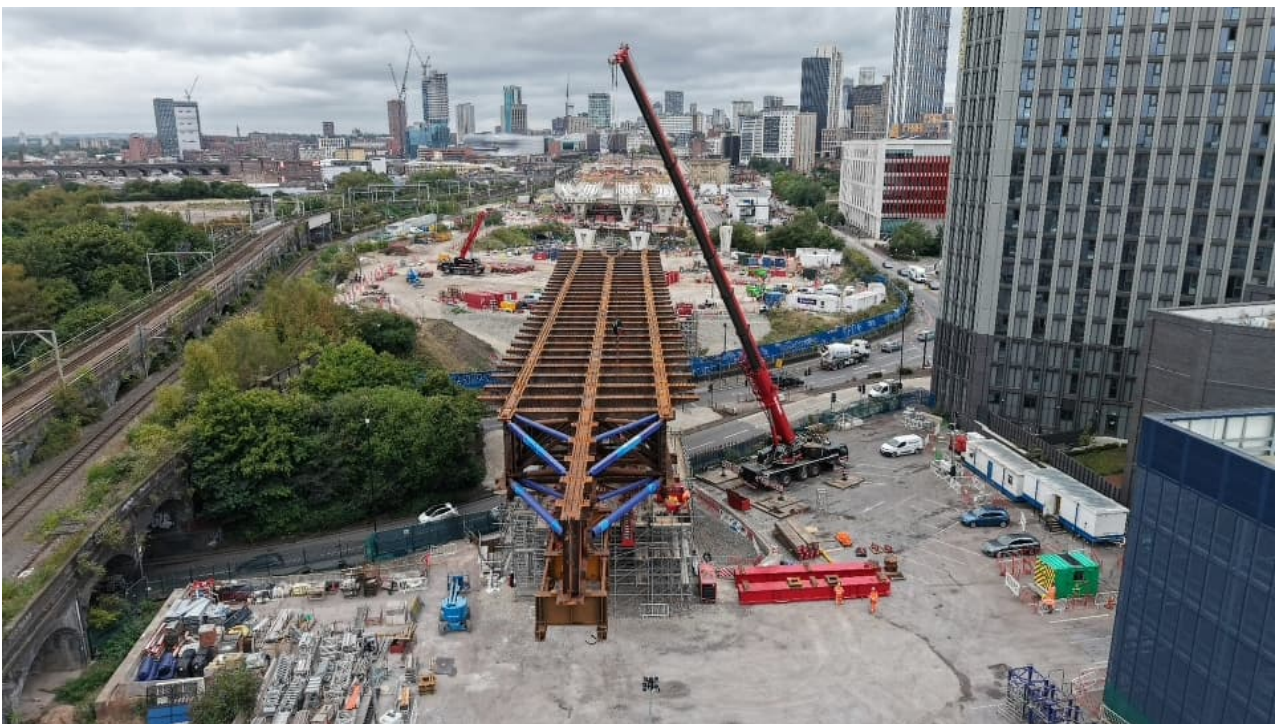


### Construction methodology

**Skidding System:** A method for moving heavy structures horizontally along tracks or beams.

**Jacking Push/Pull Mechanism:** A system that uses hydraulic jacks to apply controlled force, either pushing or pulling the load incrementally.

Together, the skidding system and jacking push/pull mechanism enables precise horizontal movement of large components ideal for installations where lifting isn't feasible.



Lawley Middleway Bridge move

## 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.



HS2 CEO, Mark Wild

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 Birmingham. 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.

## Ward End Clean-Up with HS2, BBV, and Liam Byrne MP

HS2 and BBV joined Liam Byrne MP and local residents at St Margaret's Church for a large-scale clean-up event aimed at improving the local environment.

St Margaret's Church, located at The Unity Hub, has been a source of support for the diverse community of Ward End. The Hub provides safe, welcoming spaces where residents come together to build connections, share skills, and create positive change in their lives and neighbourhood.

The nearby Washwood Heath site is set to become the location of the HS2

Maintenance Depot and Control Centre, in the heart of the community served by the Unity Hub.

BBV has extended its support to the community through a variety of initiatives, including this clean-up effort. The company provided 11 volunteers, a minibus, safety gloves, and litter pickers to help enhance the environment around the newly established village green near the Hub.

The event improved the physical environment and also strengthened relationships between local residents, organisations, and project partners.



Liam Byrne MP with members of HS2 & BBV Engagement Team

## Skills, Education & Employment

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 who meet the eligibility criteria and/or 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)**

### Case study: Ranjeet's story

Ranjeet left an apprenticeship course in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter because he was unhappy in the role. He was then unemployed for eight months.

He attended his local Jobcentre in Halesowen, and through them he was sent information regarding BBV's Groundworks Apprenticeship programme.

As a Black Country resident, HS2 is local to his family home and, having observed the works for so long, he was keen to find an opportunity which would allow him to contribute to it.

Although the mix of practical work and classroom learning works well, he prefers to be hands-on so believes he excels more in practical tasks.

The college has been supportive of his educational journey so far and Ranjeet believes that the programme is taught well.



**Ranjeet Dhanju**  
Apprentice Groundworker

## Birmingham recruitment hubs

The recruitment hubs across Birmingham and Washwood Heath has been created by HS2 and The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), is dedicated to creating employment opportunities by helping thousands.

| Event Date | Title                                                                     | Event Type          |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 28/10/2025 | Big Careers Fair @ Birmingham City University                             | Careers & Education |
| 03/11/2025 | Community Recruitment Event @ The Dolphin Centre                          | Skills & Employment |
| 13/11/2025 | Sixth Form Open Evening @ The Friary School                               | Careers & Education |
| 27/11/2025 | Careers Fair @ John Henry Newman Catholic College                         | Careers & Education |
| 27/11/2025 | Careers Fair @ Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst                            | Careers & Education |
| 09/12/2025 | Sixth Form Careers Fair @ King Edward VI Handsworth<br>Wood Girls Academy | Careers & Education |

## Giving back to the community in Birmingham

The CCS National Awards promote excellence in construction through the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

Founded nearly 30 years ago, the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes best practices in construction by assessing members on their impact on the community, environment, and workforce.

Its annual National Site Awards honour teams that show exceptional care and consideration, with Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards based on performance against the Code of Considerate Practice.

This year, our Mainline North and Central regions received Gold awards, and the South region received Bronze - for creating a positive community impact and demonstrating respect for people and the planet.



Mainline North and Central Regions earned Gold



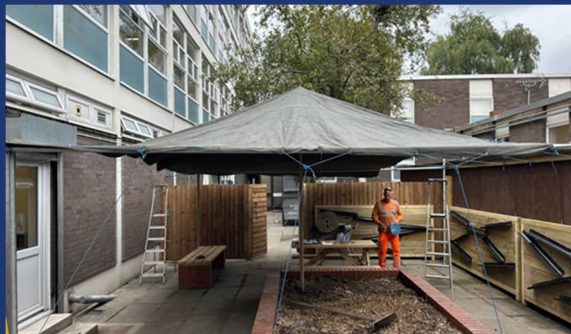
South Region earned Bronze Award

## Community Investment

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

### Volunteers transform Washwood Heath Academy's SEND Quad

Volunteers from Balfour Beatty VINCI's SL4 delivery and SL1 tunnelling teams have transformed an overgrown quad at Washwood Heath Academy into a welcoming respite space for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).



SEND Quad with transformation



SEND Quad before transformation

Delivered in partnership with Sunbelt Rentals, Reconomy Waste, Tarmac, and Hew Gray, the project reflects BBV's commitment to creating lasting social value in local communities.

Located near the future HS2 depot at Washwood Heath, the revitalised area now offers a peaceful and inclusive environment, showcasing the impact of collaboration and community spirit.

## 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 about work taking place. 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:

**[www.hs2.org.uk/local-mailing-list](http://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](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)**

## Stay informed about the progress of HS2

We are committed to keeping you informed about the planning and progress of HS2.

Please complete the form below to join our mailing list and receive emails about the aspects of the project that you are most interested in.

If you would also like to receive information about current or planned HS2 construction works in our area, please complete our **[local mailing list form](#)** or scan the QR code.



### Follow us on social channels



# Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes making sure you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help.

## Residents' and Construction Commissioner

The independent Residents' and Construction Commissioner oversees and monitors our **community engagement strategy**, making sure we fulfil our commitments to you.

The commissioner monitors the way we manage and respond to complaints about construction and advises members of the public how to make complaints.

The commissioner helps settle disputes involving individuals and organisations that we can't resolve.

You can find the commissioner's report and our responses at:  
[www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-hs2-commissioner](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-hs2-commissioner)

The commissioner can be contacted on:  
[hs2commissioner@dft.gov.uk](mailto:hs2commissioner@dft.gov.uk)

## Property and compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the route by visiting:  
[www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property](http://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](http://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/contact-us/how-to-complain](http://www.hs2.org.uk/contact-us/how-to-complain)

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High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.  
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Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 888 8512 56

## Contact us

Our HS2 Helpdesk team are available all day, every day. You can contact them by:

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

 Minicom **08081 456 472**

 Email **[hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)**

Write to:

**FREEPOST**  
**HS2 Community Engagement**

Website

To keep up to date with what is happening in your area, visit:

**[www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk](http://www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk)**

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