

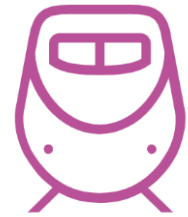
Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on **08081 434 434**

HS2 Update

Euston tunnel newsletter | Spring 2026



High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway for Britain. The Euston tunnel, being built by Skanska Costain STRABAG joint venture (SCSJV), is the eastern section of the HS2 London tunnels, connecting HS2's Old Oak Common to the Euston



Update on the Euston tunnel

Starting at Old Oak Common Station, the Euston tunnel passes under Hammersmith & Fulham; Kensington and Chelsea; Brent; Westminster; and Camden, before reaching its final destination at Euston. The 4.5-mile (7.2km) twin-bored tunnel will reach depths of about 60 metres below ground. In this newsletter, we will cover the location of the tunnel, the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) naming and launch, and our community investment initiatives.



Above: Front face of a TBM cutterhead used for tunnelling

Public engagement events

We will continue to hold virtual tunnelling 1:1 engagement every third Tuesday of the month
Our next ones will be on:

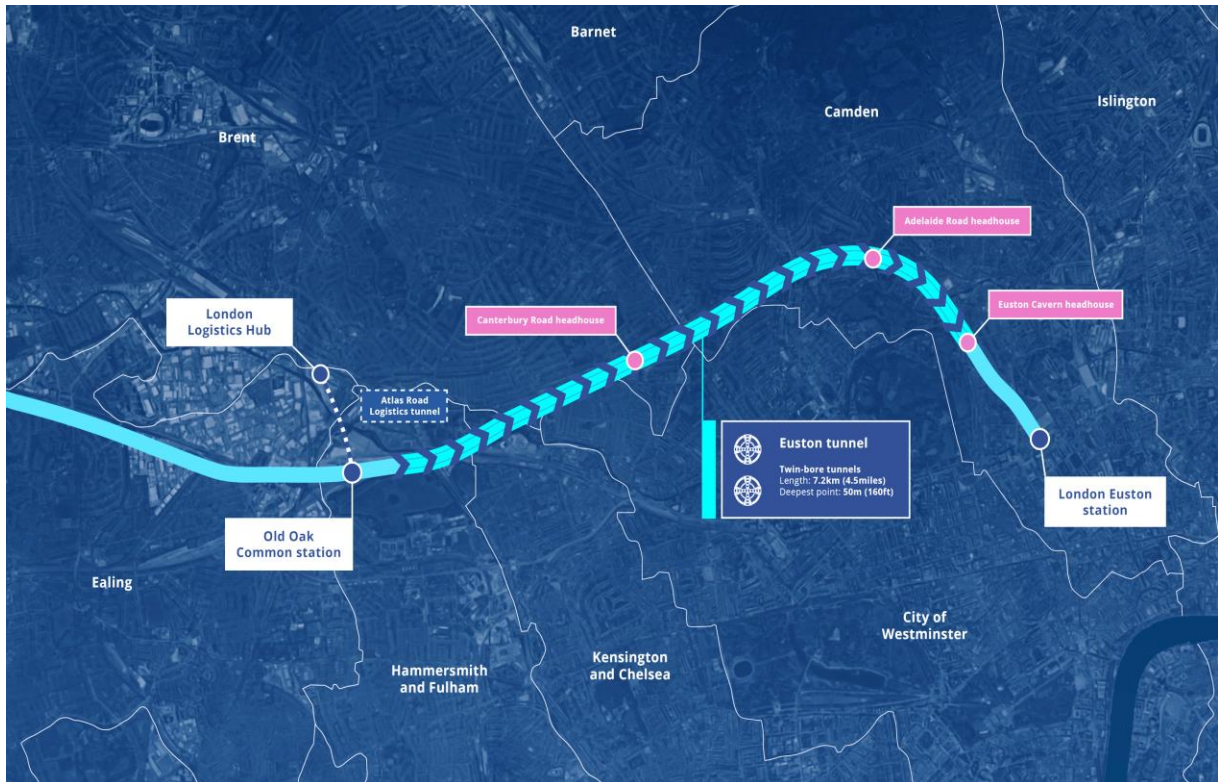
- Tuesday 17 March, 3pm to 6pm
- Tuesday 21 April, 3pm to 6pm

Further details can be found on HS2.org.uk/events or scan the QR code below with your smart phone camera.



Subscribe to our email newsletter at HS2inCamden.co.uk by selecting 'Tunnels & Shafts'

Our next milestone: building the Euston tunnel



The Northolt tunnel between Old Oak Common and West Ruislip has now been completed, and works on the Euston tunnel started in January 2026. The tunnel route is in London Clay, which is the optimum ground condition for tunnelling. As London Clay is dense, it acts as a noise buffer and provides stable, solid ground which significantly reduces ground movement when tunnelling. The Euston tunnel has two ventilation shafts and headhouses: Canterbury Works in South Kilburn and Adelaide Road in Camden. Work at both sites has been paused, but we'll let local people know when they are due to restart.

There are 18 cross passages along the Euston tunnel route, which will be built once the TBMs have completed tunnelling. These are short tunnels which connect two parallel running tunnels approximately 500 metres apart along the Euston tunnel route. While invisible to the travelling public, cross passages will have a key role in providing a safe operational railway by providing an evacuation route for trains and passengers in an emergency. We'll let you know more about the shaft sites and cross passages in future newsletters.

Our TBMs Madeleine and Karen



TBM Madeleine at the Herrenknecht factory in Germany

TBM Madeleine is named after **Madeleine Nobbs**, a former president of the Women's Engineering Society (WES) and a pioneering building services engineer. She lived from 1914 to 1970 and advocated for women in the engineering profession.

TBM Karen is named after **Karen Harrison**, one of the UK's first female train drivers. Karen drove trains out of the Old Oak Common depot in the 1970s, which is the site of the new HS2 superhub station from where the Euston Tunnel begins.



TBM Karen at the Herrenknecht factory in Germany

Euston tunnel FAQ

Please scan the QR code on this page with your smart phone camera to access the Euston tunnel FAQ or follow this link **here**.

You can also find more information about how we building Euston Tunnel following this link: www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/tunnels/euston-tunnel/



TBM Blessing Ceremony

Saint Barbara is traditionally known as the patron saint of miners, engineers, and those who work underground. For centuries, people involved in tunnelling and mining have looked to her as a symbol of protection, resilience, and safe passage beneath the ground. This tradition continues today in major tunnelling projects around the world. Much like ships at sea, Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) are often given a name, usually chosen by local communities, schools or project teams. They are blessed before the works begins, marking the start of their journey underground. The blessing ceremony is a moment to recognise the skill and care of people working below ground. Father Stephen Willis of Our Lady of Willesden Roman Catholic Parish Church conducted the blessing ceremony for the Euston TBMs, wearing bright orange hi-vis standard safety gear on construction sites, complemented by his stole symbolising authority of ordained ministry.



TBM Madeleine launched

The official launch of the Euston tunnel was held on 27 January with attendance by the Rail Minister, Lord Peter Hendy, and Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister, Darren Jones. They turned on the 1,624-tonne machine at HS2's Old Oak Common station in west London starting its 4.5 -mile journey towards Euston. Highlights of this event can be viewed [here](#). Alternatively, you can scan the QR code below to see the event online.



HS2 Community and Business Funds

Delivering HS2 is not just about building a new railway, it is recognising the impact our works can have on the local communities and residents, and understanding our role in bettering communities and places. To do this we have created the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) designed to support a number of initiatives.

To date we have funded £21.15 million across 386 projects along the line of route. With funds supporting:

- Health and wellbeing activities
- Nature conservation enhancement projects
- Enhancement or replacement of community, sports and recreational facilities
- Improved access and enhancements to public open spaces and public realm
- General promotional activity such as running 'open for business' campaigns
- Creating and running events that maintain or increase regular footfall, or promote business activity
- Projects that aim to maintain or increase tourism in an area

Examples of what we have done along the line of route include funding the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) to establish an Employment and Skills Hub in this area, which will benefit the local businesses, employees and residents for the next 30 years, to supporting Youth Holiday Clubs, improving health and employability in Kilburn. Scan the QR code below to hear more about what we've achieved funding Bikeworks CIC in West London through our HS2 Community and Environment Fund.



Above: Our CEO Mark Wild attending a CEF event



We are always looking out for ideas from local communities about community investment projects we could help with, if you have an idea or would like to know more about this, please follow the link here: www.HS2funds.org.uk

Engagement and community investment

We continue to support different charities and local organisations with a range of community investment projects.

Most recently, we've transformed the outdoor space of a local church that plays a vital role in supporting its community, offering spiritual care, support and guidance for individuals and families, including counselling and visiting the sick and elderly.

This was a coordinated effort between the site team and volunteers to realise ideas for a community space in the church grounds. We've built new seating areas and creatively refurbished materials from site to build new wooden planters, giving them a fresh purpose. Existing plants were carefully transplanted, and generous donations of new plants helped to breathe colour and life into the space, resulting in a more welcoming, reflective garden the whole community can enjoy.



Above: Our Lady Willesden Parish Church Community Garden transformation



Above: IMPACT Theatre celebrating after a thank you performance for SCS staff


IMPACT Theatre is a charity group celebrating disability and empowering individuals by developing their communications and self-confidence through performance arts.

We supported their mission by delivering a range of internal and external improvement works to their building, creating a better space for their vibrant community.

Contact us

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

 Freephone 08081 434 434

 Minicom 08081456 472

 Email HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Write to:

FREEPOST

HS2 Community Engagement

Website www.hs2.org.uk

To keep up to date with what's happening in your local area, visit www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk