

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

# HS2 Update

Saltley Viaduct | Spring 2026

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway for Britain. This update will provide key information and news on HS2 works for Saltley Viaduct.

## Saltley Viaduct

Saltley Viaduct, located two miles (3.2km) north-east of Birmingham City Centre, is being upgraded to support the new HS2 line as it approaches Birmingham Curzon Street. The structure will carry the B4114 over the HS2 railway, the Grand Union Canal, the Birmingham and Derby rail line, and the River Rea.

Plans are underway for the existing structure to be replaced with a new, resilient viaduct. The current bridge is not tall enough for the new HS2 railway to travel underneath, therefore, a new viaduct is being built to support the area's future transport needs.

This long-planned improvement is supported by HS2, Balfour Beatty Vinci (BBV), Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), Birmingham City Council and National Express, who are working together to keep local residents and the wider community informed.

### How were local communities involved in designing the Saltley Viaduct?

Updated designs were shaped by community feedback to deliver wider pathways, safer integrated lighting, and improved visual features, creating a safer, more modern route for pedestrians and cyclists while supporting local nature and minimising disruption during construction.



CGI visual of Saltley Viaduct

### Did you know...

We've identified areas along the viaduct embankments for new woodland planting, adding trees and shrubs that form part of wider National Vegetation Classification groups and reflect the natural species found in this region.



### How long will it take to build?

To complete these works, we expect to close the viaduct on **Sunday 10 May 2026** (subject to consents and approval). The closure is expected to be in place for up to 18 months, with initial activity beginning once Aston Church Road is fully open.

We will share more details with communities and stakeholders once they become confirmed.



For more details on Saltley Viaduct — [Click here](#) or scan the QR code



## Our commitment to investing in local communities

As work continues on the Saltley Viaduct and wider HS2 route, we remain committed to making a meaningful difference in the communities around us.

The Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) were created to support communities and local economies affected by HS2 construction.

CEF provides funding for projects that improve quality of life, enhance local spaces, and deliver lasting community benefits, while BLEF helps strengthen local businesses and economic activity disrupted by the works. Together, these funds aim to ensure that HS2 leaves a positive, sustainable legacy along the route.



**More than £2.4m were awarded to 55 CEF and BLEF community projects in 2024/25 — over £20m invested in 364 projects since 2017.**

### There are two types of CEF funding:

CEF Local focuses on improving quality of life and the local environment in individual communities.

CEF Strategic supports larger projects that benefit multiple communities and address wider needs.

Both aim to leave a sustainable legacy.

To find out more about CEF and BLEF, [click here](#) or scan the QR Code:

Alongside these funds, our teams, partners, and supply chain continue to invest their time, skills, and resources to support local organisations that create safe and welcoming community spaces.



HS2 and BBV's Community Investment programme enables us to support those communities most impacted by our works. A recent example is the refurbishment of the main hall at Ward End Wellbeing Centre, delivered through the efforts of BBV volunteers and partners.



BBV volunteers at Ward End Well-being Centre

Thanks to this collaborative approach, the hall was transformed in just one day. This approach reflects our wider commitment: listening to community partners and providing support that is practical, responsive, and long-lasting.

Teams from BBV, Sunbelt, and Reliable Contractors worked together to refresh and brighten the hall. Sunbelt provided the access platform for the high ceilings, while paint was generously donated by EH Smith and Selkent.



BBV volunteers painting at Ward End Well-being Centre

## Growing skills, local jobs and opportunities

Our Recruit Local First approach prioritises job opportunities for local unemployed residents, offering training, development and jobs to help them access meaningful work.

Eligible candidates receiving state benefits can join our free training courses. If you're looking for work, register your interest and send your CV to [see.team@balfourbeattyvinci.com](mailto:see.team@balfourbeattyvinci.com).

### Mohammed's journey as HS2's 2,000th apprentice

**"I used to look out of my bedroom window and see all the work taking place on HS2 – now I'm helping to build it. In the past, getting a job like this would mean travelling to London, but this project is opening up opportunities on the doorstep for young people like me in Birmingham."**

Growing up in Birmingham, minutes from Curzon Street Station, Mohammed followed the progress of HS2 with interest.

After finishing his GCSEs, Mohammed began studying for a BTEC in engineering but craved a more hands-on experience. While taking a year out to consider his next move, Mohammed was excited to discover a T-Level course with placements available working on HS2 with Balfour Beatty VINCI.

The course introduced Mohammed to many areas of construction, but civil engineering appealed the most. After completing it, he secured a Civil Engineering Degree Level Apprenticeship with BBV, combining work on HS2 with one day a week at the University of Wolverhampton.

He believes the mix of on-site experience, office work and university study gives him the best of all worlds, and he enjoys the variety each day brings.

From once watching HS2 being built from his bedroom window, Mohammed is now thrilled to be part of one of Europe's biggest infrastructure projects, proudly pointing out the structures he works on.

He's not looking too far ahead yet, but he can already see the opportunities HS2 is creating for young people like him in Birmingham.



**Mohammed Sharif, 19, was HS2's 2,000th apprentice, joining the project in September 2025.**

### Key findings from HS2 Report *Mind The Skills Gap* (published January 2026)

**2,032**

Apprenticeships started

**41%** in the West Midlands



**11**  
skills centres



**8**  
college partnerships



**£315m**  
total economic impact

**5,645**

Unemployed people started work on HS2

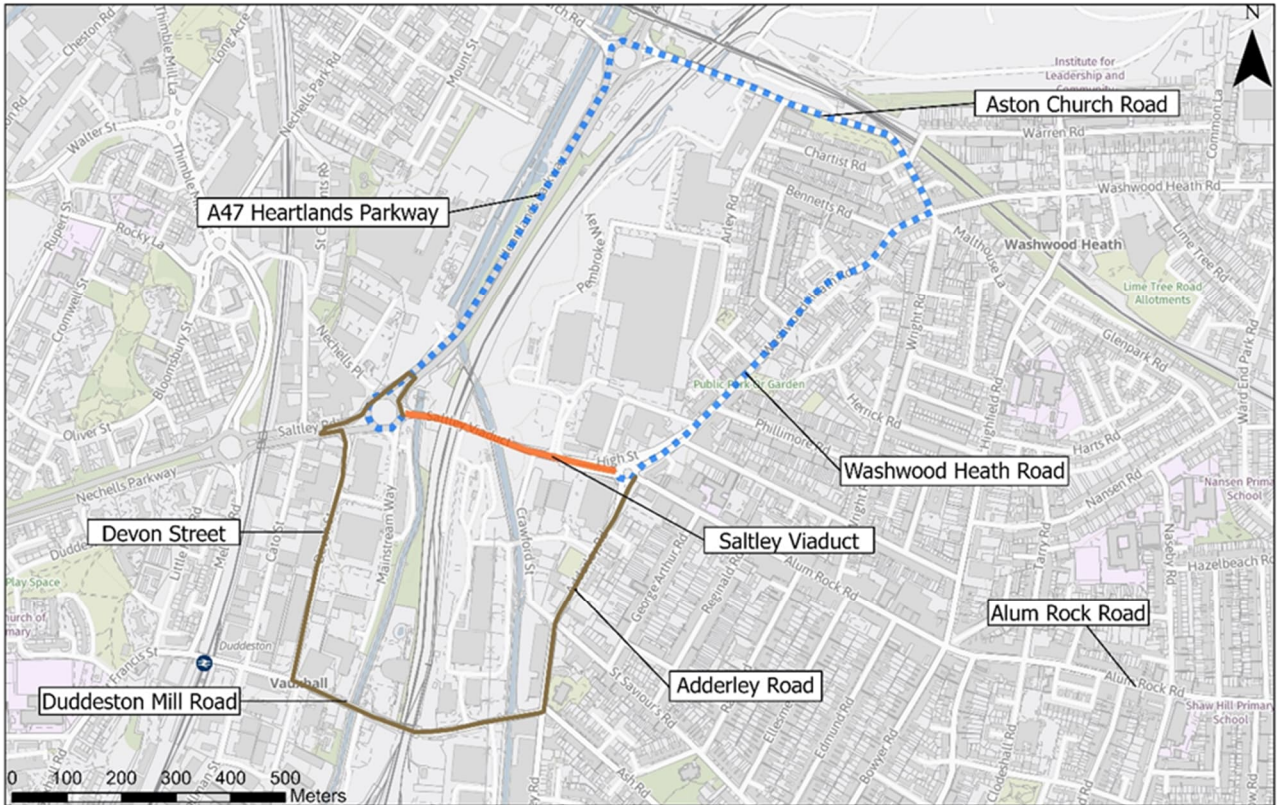
**38%** in the West Midlands



## Diversion routes for vehicles and pedestrians

Construction of the new viaduct will take approximately 18 months, during which Saltley Viaduct will need to close to allow the works to be carried out safely. **Clear diversion routes will be in place throughout this period to minimise disruption.**

Vehicles will be redirected via Aston Church Road, while pedestrians will follow a safe, clearly signposted route via Duddeston Mill Road, as shown below:



- Closure
- - - Road Diversion
- Signed Pedestrian Diversion

Scale: 1:8,000  
Date: 10/02/2026  
Ref: INC000004999618\_AW\_MK

Map showing vehicle and pedestrian diversion route

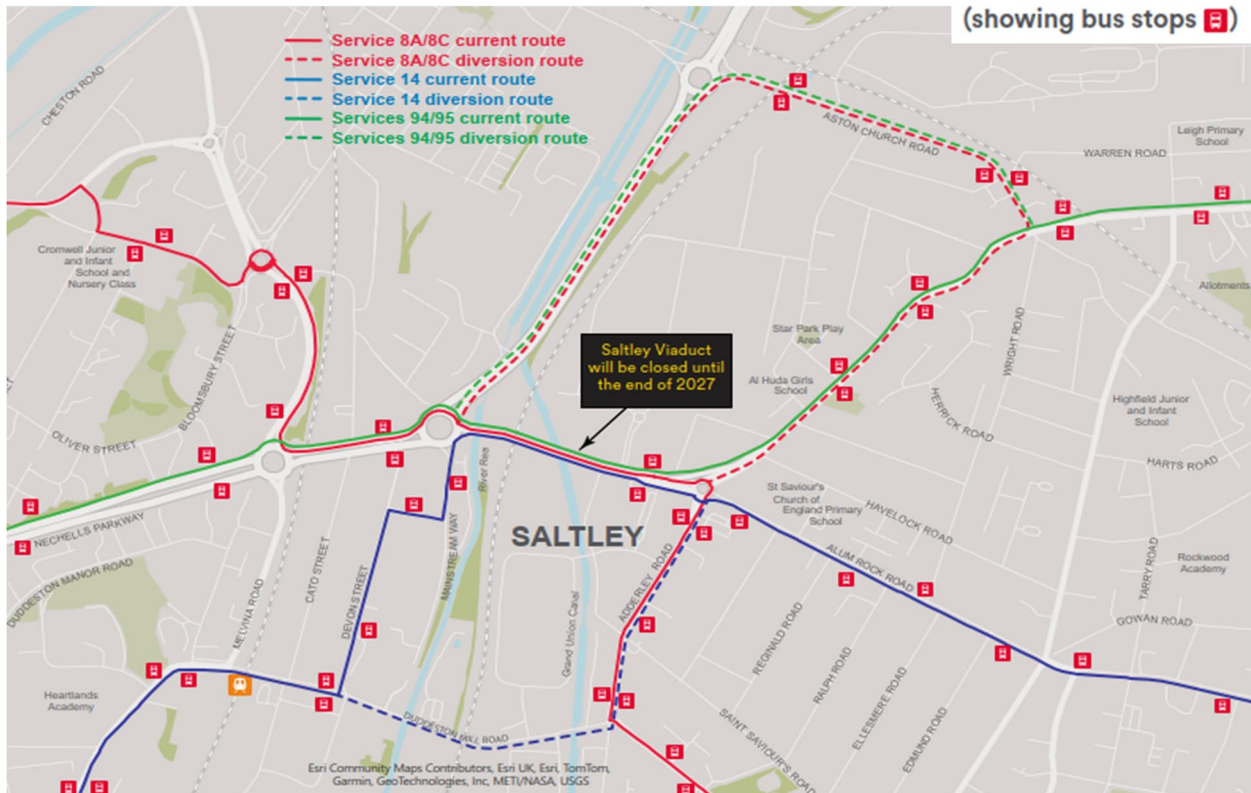
**Please follow the fully signed diversion routes and allow extra time for your journeys.**

**Sat Navs are not recommended as they may not accurately navigate you along our approved diversion route.**

## Saltley bus services – current and diversion routes

The closure of Saltley Viaduct will bring some changes to local bus services, helping us keep routes running smoothly for the community.

Local bus services (8A/8C, 14, 94 and 95) will need to be diverted to continue serving the community and maintain accessible public transport. To support demand and improve reliability, extra buses will be added to routes 8A/8C and 14. Below are the current and diversion routes for Saltley bus services:



Map showing bus services current route and diversion routes

There will be additional temporary bus stops along these diverted routes.

### Local buses diverted routes:

**8A Service:** Adderley Rd – R/bout junction - Washwood Heath Road - Aston Church Road - Heartlands Parkway - Saltley rd. R/bout - Saltley Road - Saltley Rd – right at R/Bout Goodrick Way – NLR

**8C Service:** Goodrick Way - Saltley Road - Heartlands Parkway – Aston Church Rd – Washwood Heath Rd – Adderley Rd - normal line of route

**14 Service:** Towards City Centre, Alum Rock Road – Adderly Road – Duddeston Mill Road - Great Francis Road - normal line of route

**94/95 Service:** Towards City Centre - Washwood Heath Road - Aston Church Road - Heartlands Parkway- R/bout junction - Saltley Road, R/bout junction - Nechells Parkway - normal line of route

**From City Centre:** reverse of the above

For more details and the latest bus updates, [Click here](#) or scan the QR Code



## Keeping local communities informed and involved

We believe building major infrastructure goes hand-in-hand with supporting and strengthening relationships local communities. We understand that construction can be disruptive, and we are committed to minimising impacts wherever possible.

Our community engagement team works along every section of the route, keeping residents informed and responding to questions. We also hold regular information sessions to share updates and hear feedback from the community.



Community engagement team members at a Saltley Viaduct information event



CGI visual showing new design of the Saltley Viaduct

Community feedback highlighted that over 75% of people wanted additional lighting on Saltley Viaduct to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists at night. In response, HS2 has installed an LED lighting system integrated into the walkway's handrail, reducing light spill and helping protect local wildlife, including foraging bats.

We work closely with community groups and local authorities to manage disruption and support local needs.

Our teams also give back through volunteering, fundraising, and providing materials, skills, and investment to community and school projects.

Our helpdesk is open 24/7. If you'd like to discuss an idea or ask a question, call us on 08081 434 434.

### 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)

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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## 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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