

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434

HS2 Update

South Warwickshire | Summer 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 South Warwickshire.

New Fosse Way cycle bridge work underway

Work is underway to install a new dedicated cycle bridge connecting the Offchurch Greenway in Warwickshire to Route 41 of the national cycle network.

The bridge builds on work completed in October 2025, when the nearby Fosse Way and Offchurch Greenway bridges opened, improving local connections across the high-speed railway.

Construction began in July 2025, with progress including embankment replacement, installation of abutments and wingwalls, and key drainage and structural work. The bridge has now been safely lifted into position over the Fosse Way, marking a key milestone in the project.

Once complete, the bridge will provide a safer route for users of Offchurch Greenway for cyclists and walkers to cross over the Fosse Way, while forming part of a national route maintained by the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust.

Works are continuing, including connecting existing footpaths and cycle routes, as well as surfacing, landscaping and fencing, ahead of the bridge opening to the community in Summer 2026.



Fosse Way cycle bridge



Fosse Way cycle bridge



Delivering achievements across key works

Work continues to progress across South Warwickshire, with major milestones achieved across key areas of the programme.

Longhole viaduct launch

A 1.5-mile section of the Grand Union Canal was reopened to the public, seven days ahead of schedule, following the successful launch of the 130-metre-long steel viaduct over the canal near Ufton in Warwickshire.

The operation, carried out in March 2026, saw the 1,620-tonne deck slid into position across a country road, canal and towpath using hydraulic jacks and low-friction sliding pads that move heavy structures along pre-prepared tracks, before being lowered and secured in place.

Key elements delivered on the project include deep foundations, concrete piers, abutments and the bridge deck, alongside a new retaining wall to protect the canal. Vibration levels were carefully monitored throughout to safeguard the nearby Grade II listed Longhole bridge.

The viaduct forms part of the route near the north portal of the Long Itchington Wood tunnel. Its installation was carefully timed in partnership with the Canal & River Trust to minimise disruption, allowing the canal to reopen ahead of schedule.

A46 Kenilworth Bypass Overbridge shortlisted for NCE Bridges Award

The A46 Kenilworth Bypass Overbridge has been shortlisted in the Road Bridge of the Year category at the 2026 New Civil Engineer (NCE) Bridges Awards. The awards will take place on 16 July, recognising projects shaping the future of bridge engineering.

The overbridge carries the six-lane A46 over the HS2 railway between Kenilworth and Coventry, supporting more than 81,000 vehicles a day and forming a vital part of the Midlands' Strategic Road Network.

Using an innovative build-offline, slide-into-place approach, the 14,500-tonne structure was installed in a single 18-day closure and reopened 30 hours early over Easter 2025 – a UK first at this scale.

Future-proofed for A46 widening and delivered with reduced disruption, carbon and whole-life cost, the shortlist recognises the project's technical excellence, collaboration and delivery.



Longhole viaduct

Watch Longhole viaduct launch

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code



A46 Kenilworth Bypass Overbridge for NCE Bridges Award

Upcoming works

Key activities planned in the area as we move into the next phase of works.

Dalehouse Lane

Dalehouse Lane is now closed as work continues in the area to deliver key structures, including the Dalehouse Lane Overbridge and Finham viaduct. The closure began in April 2026 and is expected to remain in place until June 2027.

The works are taking place directly on Dalehouse Lane, making a full road closure necessary to ensure the safety of both the public and the workforce. Safety remains the top priority throughout this phase of construction.

During this period, essential work will be carried out, including the

completion of structural elements such as abutment wingwalls. The programme also involves bringing in specialist plant and materials, along with significant utility works. Multiple utilities will need to be diverted over the new bridge, while redundant utilities on either side of the works will be removed before new infrastructure is installed.



Dalehouse Lane aerial image



Dalehouse Lane artist illustration

The timing of the work has enabled us to complete the A46 and reduce future impacts on local traffic. The closure period will include one Christmas period, and work is being carefully coordinated to manage impacts as much as possible.

We thank the community for their patience as we complete these works.

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 who 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



National Careers Week: Showcasing construction careers at the Warwickshire Skills Show

On 3 March 2026, the BBV Skills, Employment and Education Team, alongside members of our supply chain, took part in the Warwickshire Skills Show at the Coventry Building Society Arena.

We were supported by apprentices and emerging talent from across our project, all eager to inspire young people to explore opportunities within the construction industry.

Throughout the day, the team connected with a significant number of the 1,500 local school pupils in attendance, sharing insights into career pathways and the wide range of roles available.

Visitors to our stand were particularly engaged by the chance to try out drone technology, gaining a hands-on appreciation of how innovation and digital tools are shaping the future of construction and infrastructure delivery.



Pictured: Councillor Rob Howard, Warwickshire County Council's Portfolio Holder for Economy, at the Warwickshire Skills Show

Top 5 native species being planted locally across South Warwickshire

As part of our commitment to enhancing the natural environment, planting across South Warwickshire and Burton Green will focus on a range of native species that support local wildlife and help integrate the railway into the surrounding landscape.

The five most common species expected to be planted are:

1. **Hawthorn (42,545)**
2. **Hazel (29,043)**
3. **Blackthorn (26,607)**
4. **Dog Rose (12,321)**
5. **Guelder Rose (12,310)**

These figures are approximate, as designs for some areas are still being finalised, but they provide a clear indication of the types of planting residents can expect to see.



Hawthorn plant

Why are different planting mixes used?

There is no single planting mix across the area. Instead, a variety of shrub, woodland and hedgerow mixes will be used to create diverse and resilient habitats. This approach supports biodiversity, provides food and shelter for wildlife, and reflects the character of the local landscape, helping new planting blend naturally with existing surroundings.

When will planting take place?



Planting at HS2's ecology site

Planting in South Warwickshire is currently expected to take place during the 2027/28 and 2028/29 planting seasons, subject to suitable ground conditions and ongoing preparation. Planting seasons typically run from November to March, when trees and shrubs are dormant and have the best chance to establish successfully.

Planting in these areas will help create greener corridors, improve biodiversity and leave environmental benefits for local communities.

Did you know?

Some of the plants being introduced on HS2 land are medicinal and aromatic. Hawthorn, one of the most common species being planted, has traditionally been used in heart medication and is valued for its natural health benefits, as well as providing a rich source of food and shelter for birds and pollinators.

Helping local communities in South Warwickshire

Our Community Investment programme enables us to support those communities most impacted by our works.

Community oak tree planting at Burton Green Village Hall



BBV volunteers planting at Burton Green Village Hall

Burton Green Residents Association approached BBV for support with the planting of an oak tree at the new Burton Green Village Hall. The tree was planted in memory of the late Queen Elizabeth II's final Jubilee and to commemorate two of the village's longest-standing residents.

In response, BBV worked closely with the Residents Association to identify a suitable location, with groundworks

colleagues carrying out the necessary preparatory works ahead of planting. The team also supported the planting of the tree, helping to create a lasting feature for the village.

The oak tree will provide a long-term legacy for the community and reflects collaborative working with local residents. Looking ahead, BBV will continue working with Burton Green Residents Association, with a programme of daffodil planting planned for September 2026.

BBV hosted an interactive presentation with Cubbington Seniors

BBV supported members of Cubbington Seniors at Cubbington Village Hall by delivering an interactive presentation focused on environmental protection, habitat creation and wildlife conservation. The session provided an opportunity to share how this work helps protect and enhance the local environment. The presentation was warmly received by attendees, with the Cubbington Seniors Association sharing their appreciation: *"This talk was so informative. We loved it and definitely want to see more of this work in our community. Great presentation!"*



Volunteers return to support Burton Green C of E School

BBV volunteers returned to Burton Green C of E School helping to improve the school environment.

The team painted classrooms and corridors and completed minor repairs. Our supply chain partner P J Hegarty & Sons donated materials and staff.

The staff at the school have thanked us for our support and the children are enjoying the refreshed environment.

BBV volunteers painting at Burton Green C of E School

Keeping local communities informed and involved

We believe building infrastructure goes hand-in-hand with building stronger communities.

For each session in South Warwickshire, we provided a valuable opportunity for residents to ask questions, discuss journey planning, and speak directly with the project team. Events like these play an important role in keeping our communities informed, and we encourage attending future sessions to stay up to date and to share your views.

Our community engagement specialists work across the route, providing updates, answering questions, and ensuring local views are heard. We hold regular drop-in sessions to share progress, invite feedback, and discuss any concerns directly with our teams. We also continue to work closely with community groups and local authorities to help mitigate disruption and identify opportunities to support local initiatives, including volunteering, fundraising, and providing materials or expertise.

Our helpdesk is open 24/7 – phone us on **08081 434 434** if you would like to speak with our team or discuss an idea.



Have your say and help us shape the Greenway Project

As part of the Greenway Project survey, share your thoughts with us on a new public art initiative linking Kenilworth, Burton Green, Berkswell and Balsall Common, led by Sam Williams Studio.

We're keen to hear from anyone who uses the Greenway, whether for walking, commuting, enjoying nature or socialising. Your experiences and ideas will help shape the project.

The survey takes 5–15 minutes to complete and is anonymous.

[Click here](#) to view the survey or scan the QR Code:



Open to ages 18+ and closes on Thursday 2 July 2026.

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

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

The commissioner can be contacted on:
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

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/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

Write to:

**FREEPOST
HS2 Community Engagement**

Website

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

www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk

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