

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

HS2 Update

Staffordshire | 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 Staffordshire.

HS2 reset

In response to rising costs and the need to deliver value for taxpayers, HS2 has been reset to focus on delivering the railway safely and efficiently.

The priority is now opening the first section between London and Birmingham as quickly as possible, with construction between Curdworth and Handsacre paused for four years. However, remaining local works include completing the A5 bridge, Sutton Road realignment, critical utility works, and ongoing works on the Northbound slip road of the A38.

Traffic management will continue outside works sites to support these works and routine caretaking and maintenance activities.



HS2 CEO, Mark Wild



A38 pre-closure



A38 post-closure April 2026

Recent A38 works

We recently carried out a significant programme of works on the A38 between Swinfen and Hilliard's Cross.

Following an 11-day full closure, we undertook major road realignment works, including the removal of the "big bend", and we opened the road six hours ahead of schedule.

We carried out extensive engagement before the closure, including holding drop-in events, webinars and sending advance notices to over 70,000 properties.

We worked closely with National Highways and Staffordshire County Council to plan this work and put measures in place to reduce disruption during the closure.

Thank you for your patience while we carried out this important work.



Upcoming closures near Staffordshire

A series of planned M42 closures will take place in the coming months to enable critical HS2 works to be carried out safely.

Weekend Closures

A series of weekend closures will take place on the M42 involving a mixture of northbound and southbound closures affecting journeys through Staffordshire, as part of ongoing HS2 works.

These essential works will enable inspections and final construction activity on the Marston Box structure.

Key phases include:

- **24–27 July 2026: Junction 5a to Junction 9**
- **14–17 August 2026: Junction 5a to Junction 9**
- **18–21 September 2026: Junction 5a to Junction 9**

**These works are subject to consent*

These closures form part of wider HS2 works across the motorway network. Drivers are advised to plan ahead, follow signage, and allow additional travel time. We will continue to keep communities updated as works progress.



M42 CGI artist impression



Scan for latest
M42 closure
update



Scan for details
of all planned
closures

HS2 Webinar – M42 Works Update

Join us online on Tuesday 14 July 2026, to hear the latest updates on HS2 works taking place near Staffordshire and the M42.



Tuesday 14 July 2026

1:00pm – 2:00pm

This webinar is open to anyone interested in learning more about the project and upcoming works. Following a short presentation, members of the HS2 team will be available to answer questions during a live Q&A session.

For more information about this webinar and other upcoming HS2 events, [please click here](#) or scan the QR Code below:



Keeping roads in local communities safe

Your safety is our first priority.

Keeping local communities safe has been central to our approach throughout A38 and wider motorway works. Careful planning and strong coordination ensure that road users, residents, and businesses are protected at every stage.



HS2 staff at Community Engagement event

We have implemented clearly signed diversion routes to guide traffic safely, supported by mobile message signs (VMS) and updates to GPS systems to encourage drivers to stay on suitable roads. Dedicated HGV messaging and warning signage help prevent large vehicles from using narrow, unsuitable routes.

To reduce cut through (rat running), additional measures have included “not suitable for HGVs” signage, traffic monitoring through CCTV, and rapid

response mitigation where issues arise. This helps protect residents, road users, and emergency access.

Alongside this, 24/7 traffic management and proactive community engagement ensure concerns are addressed quickly, helping to keep roads safe and disruption to a minimum.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation while these works take place. We understand that roadworks can be disruptive, and we really appreciate the support shown by local communities.

By working together and following the agreed traffic arrangements, we can help keep everyone safe and minimise disruption.

We’ll continue to keep you informed as works progress and are always here to listen to any questions or concerns.

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**



Connecting you to a world of jobs in construction

- Office roles
- Site-based jobs
- Work experience
- STEM Careers sessions
- Summer placements
- Pre-employment training
- Graduate roles
- Apprenticeships

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



Jake's journey

Jake was among the first students in the country to achieve a T Level qualification, which he completed through Walsall College, before progressing straight into employment with the BBV Tunnelling Team as a Civil Engineering Apprentice.

Shortly after joining BBV, Jake witnessed the launch of Tunnel Boring Machine Dorothy, followed a few months later by the breakthrough at Long Itchington Wood - two major milestones in the project.

Jake is currently continuing his apprenticeship and is on track to complete it in 2027, gaining valuable hands-on experience while contributing to nationally significant infrastructure works.

"This has been a fantastic opportunity and I'm so grateful to BBV for investing in me."

Based in Staffordshire



Jake Flood
Apprentice Civil Engineer

Our commitment to investing in local communities and the environment

As work continues across Staffordshire and the wider HS2 route, we remain committed to making a positive and lasting difference for the communities and environments around us.

Supporting local communities through CEF and BLEF

The Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) were established 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 long term community benefits, while BLEF supports local businesses impacted by the works. Together, these funds help ensure HS2 leaves a positive and sustainable legacy along the route.

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



Grace Cares in Lichfield

A recent example of CEF support is Grace Cares in Lichfield, Staffordshire, which received £9,725 in funding for its Community Wellbeing & Sustainability Programme.

The funding is supporting the delivery of face-to-face and online care club sessions for unpaid caregivers and older people affected by the construction of HS2.

The project focuses on communities along the Lichfield to Handsacre route, providing practical advice,

wellbeing support and opportunities for connection, to help reduce isolation and strengthen community resilience.

Environmental and Ecology Mitigation across the HS2 Route

Our commitment also extends to protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

Our aim is to create a Green Corridor along the HS2 route, delivering new wildlife habitats, woodlands, ponds, wetlands, grasslands and community spaces that help integrate the railway into the surrounding landscape.

Through our landscape programme, we will plant 973 hectares of new grassland, 152 kilometres of hedgerows, 528 hectares of woodland and around 1.5 million new trees. Across around 90 HS2 mitigation sites, we are also creating new habitats such as ponds, grasslands, features for protected species and green bridges to help maintain wildlife connectivity.

Supporting St Giles Hospice: A year of community, care and contribution

Over the past year, Balfour Beatty VINCI has been proud to support St Giles Hospice in Whittington through a series of meaningful fundraising initiatives and community-focused activities.

As a business committed to making a positive difference in the communities where we work, partnering with an organisation that delivers such vital care and support has been both a privilege and a responsibility.

St Giles Hospice provides compassionate, specialist care for people living with serious illness, as well as invaluable support for their families and loved ones. Recognising the importance of this work, teams across BBV came together on multiple occasions to contribute in ways that would bring comfort, joy, and a sense of community to those supported by the hospice.

One of our key initiatives was an Easter Egg Appeal, which saw colleagues from across the business generously donate Easter eggs for patients and their families. The donations helped to ensure that both patients and their loved ones could enjoy a small but meaningful gesture of kindness at what can often be a difficult time.

Building on the success of this campaign, we later organised a second fundraising initiative in the lead-up to the festive season. This took the form of a chocolate advent calendar collection, once again aimed at bringing comfort and joy to those receiving care at St Giles Hospice.



2025 Easter donations to St Giles Hospice

Thanks to the generosity of our teams and supply chain partners, we were able to donate an incredible 167 chocolate advent calendars. These were warmly received and helped to spread a sense of anticipation and celebration throughout December for patients and their families.



2026 Advent calendar donations to St Giles Hospice

Giles Hospice. Plans are already in place to explore further collaboration opportunities, including volunteering and additional donation drives. By strengthening this partnership, we hope to make an even greater contribution to the hospice's vital work and continue supporting the individuals and families who rely on its services.

We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved so far and look forward to continuing this journey together.

Keeping local communities informed and involved

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

For each session in Staffordshire, 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.



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

Reference number: HS2-BBV-26-2251

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.
Registered office: Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.
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**

Write to:

FREEPOST
HS2 Community Engagement

Website

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

www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk

Please contact us if you'd like a free copy of this document in large print, Braille, audio or easy read. You can also contact us for help and information in a different language.

We are committed to protecting personal information. If you would like to know more about how we use your personal information, please see our privacy notice (www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-two-ltd-privacy-notice)