

HS2 Update

Staffordshire | Autumn 2026

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



A38 (April 2026)

A38 northbound slip road update

In March, we closed the A38 northbound slip road at Streethay to carry out essential road realignment works. At the time, we hoped to reopen the slip road in October 2026 using a temporary layout while the permanent road was being completed.

We have explored a range of options to make this possible. However, detailed safety reviews found that the temporary arrangements would not provide a safe enough solution for road users. Further design work and independent assessments identified unacceptable safety risks with the temporary arrangement.

Because safety must come first, the slip road will now remain closed until the permanent road layout is completed in Spring 2027.

We understand this will be disappointing for those affected by the closure and appreciate your continued patience. The current diversion route will remain in place, and we will continue to provide updates as work progresses.



[Find out more
about upcoming
works in
Staffordshire](#)



A38 northbound slip road update

We know the continued closure of the A38 northbound slip road is frustrating for those who use it regularly. While we had hoped to reopen the slip road earlier using a temporary arrangement, further safety reviews showed this would not provide a suitable solution for road users. Below, we explain what has changed, why the reopening date has been revised, and what happens next.

1

Safety comes first

The safety of road users, local communities and our workforce remains our highest priority. Since the closure began, we have explored several options that could have allowed the slip road to reopen sooner.

These options were subject to detailed design reviews, independent road safety assessments and discussions with highway authorities.

The assessments found that the temporary arrangements would not provide the required level of safety required and therefore could not be taken forward.

While we understand this is disappointing, we will not reopen the road until it is safe to do so.

3

What did the safety audit find?

As part of the approval process, the proposed temporary road layout underwent an independent Road Safety Audit.

The independent safety review found that the temporary options presented challenges for drivers joining the A38, particularly around visibility and merging with traffic.

These findings helped inform the decision not to proceed with the temporary arrangement and reinforced the need to focus on delivering the permanent solution, which will provide a safer, long-term outcome for road users.

2

Delivering the permanent solution

Work is continuing to deliver the permanent realignment of the A38 and northbound slip road at Streethay.

This includes completing the road infrastructure, drainage systems and associated highway works required to create a long-term solution for road users.

By focusing on the permanent layout, we can ensure the road reopens to a standard that meets all safety requirements, while avoiding the need for further major changes in the near future.

4

What happens next?

Work will continue on the permanent road layout at Streethay, with the aim of reopening the A38 northbound slip road in Spring 2027. While this means road users will need to use the current diversion route for longer than planned, it will allow us to deliver a safe, permanent solution and avoid further disruption that would result from introducing and then removing a temporary arrangement a few months later.

What does 'subject to consents' mean?

'Subject to consents' means a proposed date or plan can only go ahead once all required approvals are in place.

[Learn more about HS2's approach to health and safety](#)



Delivering HS2

Continuing essential works and maintaining progress in Staffordshire

Cost and Programme

HS2 is being reset to prioritise delivery of the railway between London and Birmingham as safely, quickly, and efficiently as possible.

In May, the Government announced HS2's updated cost and schedule ranges. The new cost range for HS2 is £87.7 - £102.7 billion

and initial services between Old Oak Common and Birmingham will start between May 2036 and October 2039. The full scheme, from Euston to Handsacre Junction, is expected to open between May 2040 and December 2043.

The majority of construction between Curdworth and Handsacre has been deferred until 2030. We are prioritising efforts and resources on the HS2 route between Old Oak Common and Birmingham to get the construction programme back in the right order.

However, some essential works will continue in Staffordshire, including the permanent realignment of the A38 and northbound slip road at Streethay, completion of the A5 bridge, the realignment of the A453 Sutton Road near Tamworth, and critical utilities works.

During the deferral period, we will secure the majority of HS2 assets and sites. Some worksites will remain active to provide regular security, environment, and ecological checks. We will continue to maintain land along the route and are reviewing empty HS2 properties for rental, sale, or demolition.



National Grid Electricity Distribution upcoming works

National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) will be carrying out essential electricity infrastructure works in the Lichfield/Streethay area from January 2027 to Summer 2028. The work will include installing new electricity connections, laying cables and building a new substation at Huddlesford, as part of an investment programme to strengthen the local electricity network and help maintain a safe, reliable power supply for homes and businesses.

Temporary traffic management will be needed at times throughout the project to keep road users and the workforce safe. NGED is working closely with local stakeholders to coordinate activities and reduce disruption wherever possible.

Further information about the works will be published in due course, and NGED will continue to engage with the local authority, residents and businesses to complete the works safely, efficiently and with as little disruption as possible.

NGED understands that work of this nature can be disruptive and would like to thank residents for their patience and understanding. The team will continue to do everything possible to minimise disruption and keep local communities informed as the project progresses.

Residents can get in touch via our general enquiry contact form online or by **calling 0800 096 3080**.

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



Charlie's journey

At secondary school, Charlie was first introduced to the construction industry when he completed work experience with a family member. He credits this experience with opening his eyes to the wide range of roles and opportunities available within the sector.

To gain a broader understanding of construction and find an area to specialise in, Charlie enrolled at Walsall College to study for a T Level qualification. 20% of Charlie's final grade was based on the 45 placement days he completed at BBV as part of a block-release programme from the college.

These placement days gave Charlie exposure to a variety of disciplines, including Quantity Surveying, which he enjoyed the most and ultimately decided to pursue. Charlie is now working towards a Quantity Surveying Apprenticeship.

"There's a role for everybody, depending on what you enjoy and want to go into."

Based in Staffordshire



Charlie Black
Apprentice Quantity Surveyor

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.

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.



Grace Cares in Lichfield, one of CEF recipients

Environmental and ecology mitigation along 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.



HS2 Environmental progress

[Find out more about CEF and BLEF funding](#)



[Know more about our environmental sustainability plans](#)



Helping local communities across Staffordshire

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

We're proud to support local projects and initiatives that benefit communities across Staffordshire through funding, volunteering and practical support. From improving local green spaces to supporting healthcare services, schools and community groups, we are helping to make a positive impact where it matters most.

BBV continues to invest in projects that leave a positive legacy beyond construction. Our teams have supported a wide range of initiatives, including fundraising for St Giles Hospice in Whittington, providing volunteering support, and working with local organisations to deliver activities that benefit residents across Staffordshire. These efforts help strengthen community wellbeing, enhance local facilities and create opportunities for people to come together and thrive.

Over the past year, we have worked closely with Middleton Nature Reserve on a range of environmental volunteering initiatives. Our support has included the removal of invasive Himalayan balsam, the installation of bird boxes to enhance local habitats, and participation in wildlife surveys to help monitor biodiversity across the reserve.

Most recently, our volunteers returned to the reserve to assist with the seasonal removal of Himalayan balsam, helping to protect and preserve the site's native plant species. This ongoing partnership has provided valuable opportunities for our teams to contribute to local conservation efforts while supporting the long-term environmental objectives of the reserve.

Building on the success of these initiatives, we are keen to continue our partnership over the coming year and deliver further volunteering activities that provide lasting benefits for the local environment and wildlife.

Through initiatives such as these, we remain committed to supporting the communities around our works and creating lasting benefits.



BBV volunteers volunteering at Middleton Nature Reserve

Keeping local communities informed and involved

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

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 concerns directly with our teams. We encourage residents to attend our upcoming events listed below to stay up to date, ask questions and share their views.

We also continue to work closely with community groups and local authorities to help mitigate disruption and support local initiatives, including volunteering, fundraising, and providing materials or expertise.



Our upcoming events are listed below. We look forward to meeting local residents and hearing your views.

Events	Location	Date/Time	Eventbrite Link
Community Drop-in event	Guildhall, Bore Street, Lichfield, WS13 6LU	Tuesday 1 September 2026 - 4pm to 7.30pm	
National Highways Engagement Van event	Streethay Co-op Car Park, Unit 1, Streethay Local Centre, Yoxall Way, WS13 8FT	Tuesday 8 September 2026 - 10am to 3pm	
National Highways Engagement Van event	Boley Park Co-op Car Park, Boley Park Centre, Ryknild Street, WS14 9XU	Tuesday 29 September 2026 - 10am to 3pm	
National Highways Engagement Van event	Streethay Co-op Car Park, Unit 1, Streethay Local Centre, Yoxall Way, WS13 8FT	Friday 23 October 2026 - 10am to 3pm	

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-26-2468

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 **www.hs2.org.uk**

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

www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk

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