Balfour Beatty VINCI Working in partnership with HS2

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

HS2 Update

North Warwickshire | 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 for North Warwickshire.

Showcasing landmark progress at the Water Orton viaducts



Water Orton Viaducts

Council leaders and media representatives were given access to our mile-long viaducts near Water Orton in late September. Visitors walked the length of the structures, learning how engineers navigated roads, rivers, railway lines and motorways as part of the construction route.

Exploring the longest segmental viaducts on the West Midlands section of Britain's high-speed railway, the behind-the-scenes tour gave BBV engineers the opportunity to explain the construction process in greater detail. Visitors heard how individual concrete segments were manufactured nearby before being transported and assembled span-by-span on site.

This advanced engineering technique has been widely used across HS2's Delta Junction, the triangular section of the route connecting Birmingham to London and Manchester.

The visit took place just days after engineers had installed the final spans on the Water Orton viaducts, closing the gap over both carriageways of the M42 motorway.

The completion of the final span sections marks a major milestone for the project. Turn to page 2 to find out how our teams achieved structural completion of the Water Orton viaducts.

Progress for key HS2 viaducts

Significant progress has been made at Water Orton, one of the most complex parts of the route.



Water Orton Viaducts

Teams complete final span lifts at Water Orton

Completion of the final viaduct span lifts over the M42 marks a major milestone in our 2026 delivery programme.

This summer, our teams successfully completed the final series of viaduct lifts at Water Orton, achieving structural completion of the twin viaducts. The final spans were safely installed during the September motorway closure, allowing the motorway to reopen on schedule.

Delivered across four carefully planned weekend closures, the programme saw teams close the final gaps over the motorway by installing six viaduct spans. Each 45-metre span was assembled from precast concrete segments manufactured locally at BBV's Kingsbury facility before being transported into position and secured as part of the viaduct structure. This approach significantly reduced potential impactful closures of the motorway.

The successful completion of the span lifts represents one of the most significant engineering achievements on the route this year. With the structures now in place, teams are progressing parapet installation and final finishing works, moving us closer to the next phase of railway construction.

***"This was a huge engineering challenge and I'm so proud of the way our teams have responded. Their skill, dedication and hard work throughout the summer means we can move forward to the next exciting phase of our work."* - Oliver Shore, Project Director for Balfour Beatty VINCI**



M42 twin box

Progress continues on M42 twin box structure

Alongside progress at Water Orton, we have also completed a major milestone at the M42 Twin Box structure near the NEC. The 300-metre-long structure will carry the future railway over the motorway. Simultaneously as part of the motorway's closures for the Water Orton viaducts, teams installed the final 44 beams required to complete the roof structure, significantly reducing the need for additional motorway closures.

Watch the M42 Twin Box & Water Orton motorway works

Together, the completion of the Twin Box structure and the Water Orton viaducts marks a major step forward in delivering HS2 through North Warwickshire, and we will continue to keep communities informed as work progresses.

Upcoming Works

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

B4114 Birmingham Road


B4114 Birmingham Road

As part of ongoing works in the area, temporary traffic management will be introduced on the B4114 Birmingham Road to enable essential construction activities to be carried out safely.

From 6am on Monday 2 November to 6pm on Friday 23 November 2026, four-way temporary traffic lights will be in operation at the B4114 Birmingham Road roundabout. This will be followed by a full road closure of B4114, Birmingham Road **from 6am on Monday 23 November to 6am on Monday 7 December 2026.** **Dates are subject to change.*

Traffic management will remain in place 24 hours a day throughout the works, with dedicated traffic management teams on site during peak travel periods to help manage traffic flow and minimise disruption.

To minimise impact on road users, the planned full road closure has been reduced from four weeks to two weeks, with temporary traffic lights used where appropriate and to avoid overlapping closures on Birmingham Road and Coleshill Heath Road.

Pedestrian and cycle access will be maintained throughout, with access to Woodlands Cemetery, the car boot sale field and Coleshill Manor Campus available via the A452 Collector Road roundabout.


Gilson Road 'final' realignment CGI image

Gilson Road realignment

Works to realign Gilson Road continue to make significant progress as part of the delivery of HS2 through the area. The new horseshoe-shaped road layout will enable the railway to pass through the existing corridor while maintaining access for local residents and road users.

Following a review of the programme, construction has been re-sequenced and is now expected to conclude in in Spring 2027,

To support delivery of the works temporary traffic management and road closures will continue to be required at various stages throughout the construction period. Access to residential properties will be maintained, with signed diversion routes provided where necessary. A dedicated pedestrian route also remains in place along the temporary alignment.

We would like to thank residents and road users for their continued patience and cooperation while these works are carried out.

Skills, employment and education

We are committed to ensuring local communities have priority access to jobs and training opportunities.

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Through our **Recruit Local First** strategy, employment opportunities are promoted to local jobseekers first, helping people develop new skills and secure sustainable careers. Training courses are available for eligible candidates receiving state benefits. To find out more or register your interest, please send your CV to **see.team@balfourbeattyvinci.com**.



William's journey

William has always had an enjoyment of geography and ecology and has pursued his passion at Cardiff University, recently completing his first year of studies in Human Geography and Planning. William has seen the progress of HS2 and wanted to be part of a project that would leave a legacy, leading him to apply for BBV's 2026 Summer Placement Programme.

Based within the Ecology team, he was tasked with ecological surveying, habitat maintenance and water sampling, taking a particular interest in the practical side of the work. He found the early morning wildlife surveys especially rewarding.

William believes his knowledge of ecology has greatly improved as a result of shadowing his colleagues, who are qualified experts in the field. He says the placement was an enjoyable experience, providing him with valuable experience on a major infrastructure project that will help support his education and future career development.



William Smith

Summer Placement (2026)

Our commitment to investing in local communities and the environment

As work continues across North Warwickshire 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

Find out more about CEF and BLEF funding

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.

Along the Coleshill to Water Orton route, funded projects provide practical advice, wellbeing support and opportunities for connection, helping to reduce isolation and strengthen community resilience.

Kingsbury Play Park improvement project



Kingsbury Play Park, following ground improvements to address the uneven ground and prepare for new play equipment.

Kingsbury Play Park has received CEF Local funding to support the transformation of its play area, helping to create a more inclusive, engaging and enjoyable space for local children and families.

BBV worked alongside several generous supply chain partners, Flannery Plant Hire, Paul McGowan Grab Hire and Breslin Transport, to carry out remediation works within the play area.

Following concerns about the condition of the ground surface, which had become uneven and unsafe for play, the teams came together to improve the area for local children and families.

The ground was carefully levelled, reducing trip hazards and preparing the site for funded improvements, including the replacement of outdated and no-longer-fit-for-purpose equipment with modern, inclusive and engaging play features.

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone involved in supporting this project and helping to improve this valued community asset for local children and families for years to come.

Creating lasting benefits for local communities

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

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Colleagues across BBV's Sublot 7 came together on Tuesday 6 October to host a Macmillan Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.



Macmillian Coffee Morning

The event saw employees baking homemade cakes, bringing along sweet treats and making donations, while taking the opportunity to come together over a coffee and raise money for an important cause.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of everyone involved, a fantastic total of £234 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support. The funds will help Macmillan continue providing practical, emotional and financial support to people living with cancer and their families.

St Edward's Catholic Primary School

During the summer holidays, BBV delivered a range of improvements at St Edward's Catholic Primary School in Coleshill, refreshing outdoor facilities that had become weathered through years of use and exposure to the elements.

The project focused on enhancing the learning environment for Nursery and Reception pupils, helping to create a more welcoming and engaging outdoor space for children to learn and play.

This included repainting the outdoor gazebo and surrounding wall, jet washing the roof, creating a new stone and sandpit digging area, and installing retractable classroom partitions to provide greater flexibility for learning and play.

The improvements have created a brighter, more engaging and adaptable space, with the response from the children has been fantastic.

We are proud to support local schools and help create environments where children can learn, play and thrive.



Roof requiring jet washing and old wall requiring maintenance.



Freshly painted wall with a clean, well-maintained roof

Keeping local communities informed and involved

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



For each session in North 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.

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

Share your feedback

What do you think of our HS2 Local Update Newsletter?

We value your opinion and would appreciate it if you could complete our short survey to tell us what you think.

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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