

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

HS2 Update

Drayton Bassett, Hints, Weeford, Swinfen and Packington, Whittington | October 2022

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. This update provides information about upcoming work on Phase One of the railway in Staffordshire. The line in this area travels through Staffordshire, passing to the west of Drayton Bassett and Hints and the east of Weeford, Swinfen and Packington. The line then travels through Whittington Heath Golf Club and to the west of Whittington.

A5 bridge construction overview

HS2 works are underway in the vicinity of the A5 between Weeford Interchange and Fazeley to enable construction activities and for the HS2 line to pass under the A5. We are working collaboratively with National Highways to coordinate our works programme and provide road users with advanced works notice.



Preparatory works showing where we will build the A5 bridge to enable the railway to pass under the A5

We are building a temporary road diversion on the A5 to facilitate construction of the A5 bridge in spring 2023. The diversion will be single carriageway with a 40mph speed limit, enforced with average speed cameras. We will introduce a series of traffic management phases to build the road diversion. Once the temporary road diversion is completed, we will make it live so that we can begin building the A5 bridge.

In preparation for the temporary road diversion, we are building a compound area and establishing site boundaries.

Upcoming events

We are hosting monthly drop-ins in Drayton Bassett.

Address:

The Women's Institute, Heathley Lane, Drayton Bassett, B78 3TT

Dates and times:

10am to 11am on

- Friday 4 November
- Friday 9 December

Sign up using the QR code below or on

[Eventbrite](#).



Further details can be found on [HS2's events page](#).

You can also receive email notifications on HS2 works and engagement events by signing up to our [mailing list](#).



Whittington Heath Golf Club heritage

The railway through Whittington Heath Golf Club will be built in a cutting at the southern end and on an embankment at the northern end. Future trains will cross under Tamworth Road (A51) and over Lichfield Road using bridges.



Our temporary security fence



Our team carrying out groundworks

We will construct a pedestrian underpass for the existing Whittington Footpath 16 Public Right of Way. This is so that club members and users can cross the railway on both sides safely.

As we removed the former clubhouse, to make way for construction of the railway, we have supported the golf club to deliver a new state-of-the-art clubhouse for club members and users. We preserved parts of the previous clubhouse, including a memorial plaque which was presented to the local Whittington military barracks and we gave original bricks to the Staffordshire Regiment Museum, reaffirming the historic connection between the golf club and the army.

We have started preparatory works at the golf club, including installing fencing around the perimeter of the site to secure it and temporarily diverting Whittington Footpath 16 Public Right of Way (PRoW) while construction of the railway is underway.

Informing the community about Hints Cutting

We hosted a public drop-in event in June 2022 to provide a progress update on Hints Cutting. Attendees were particularly interested in learning more about our programme of works, use of local roads for construction activity and affected Public Rights of Way.

We met with Age UK at a drop-in session to discuss required PRoW closures and diversions to build the new railway. We additionally shared maps to show how the landscape will look upon project completion.

Cuttings are used in building railways to reduce noise, reduce visual impact and keep the track level. A cutting is where the land has been excavated to allow the railway to pass at a lower level than the original ground level.

Hints Cutting in your area will be approximately 600 metres long, 200 metres wide, a maximum of 19 metres deep and will involve excavating 320,000 cubic metres of soil. That's the equivalent of 128 Olympic-sized swimming pools.



Example of cutting works

Focused engagement with the community

One of our key objectives is to respect people, respect places. We have been doing this in Staffordshire by meeting directly with the people most affected by construction.

We have been engaging with local community organisations and residents who are particularly impacted by construction through monthly drop-in sessions. We look forward to continuing this process and helping people where we can.



Update on works

Ground investigation surveys

We continue to undertake surveys to acquire data for:

- Feeding into our design process
- Understanding the condition and features of the land
- Monitoring the movement and make-up of ecology surrounding the route
- Volumes and movement of water situated close to construction works
- The condition of structures located on or near the route



Example of ground investigation works

Some of the surveys that we are carrying out during construction will require the use of traffic management to maintain safe working. In advance of works commencing, we will inform landowners, businesses and residents located nearby.

Creating haul roads and accesses

One important feature of the temporary works program is the creation of accesses and haul roads. Haul roads are temporary roads provided within a working area to allow for the movement of materials, machinery and staff around the site. They are our preferred logistical transport link, as they reduce the number of vehicle movements interfering with the existing local road network and provide the greatest possible control over work activity.

We have already begun constructing accesses and haul roads in your area. Upon completion of HS2 works, the haul roads will be removed and the area returned to its previous condition.



Example of a new haul road in Swinfen

Noise monitoring

To monitor noise levels and ensure our works comply with the requirements set out in the Environmental Statement, we have installed noise monitoring devices close to residents to know what our impacts are and respond if there are any issues.

Community Investment and Capacity Building

Leaving a legacy in Staffordshire

Balfour Beatty VINCI's Community Investment programme enables us to support those communities most impacted by our works. BBV and their supply chain partners can give back by volunteering their time, providing resources and capacity building through the transfer of knowledge and skills.

Drayton Bassett

A team of BBV volunteers delivered gardening work at the Women's Institute Hall in Drayton Bassett. The improvement scheme formed part of the village's entry into the best-kept village competition. We additionally carried out a litter-picking exercise around the perimeter of the recreational area by Rectory Close.



Community investment in Drayton Bassett

Hints

We received a request from Hints with Canwell Parish Council to identify opportunities to enhance an unused area of land. We donated 200 trees and organised a site visit by one of our ecologists to help create an environmental plan.

Whittington

We met with students at Whittington Primary School to teach them about ecology. The tasks included identifying wildlife habitats near the school, playing educational games on the school grounds, learning bird names in English, Latin or Greek and building bird boxes.

Please email us at **communityinvestment@balfourbeattyvinci.com** if you have any projects we could support you with.

HS2 funds for the community

We are offering two funds that are available to local communities and businesses between the West Midlands and London, to help with the disruption caused by our construction work. These are the **Community and Environment Fund (CEF)** and the **Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF)**.

The CEF is designed to give communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of HS2. It is an allocated fund that communities can apply for, to help to support local projects that aim to improve their local area.

The BLEF is designed to support local economies that may be disrupted by the construction of HS2. BLEF grants are for local business support organisations and local authorities to help maintain business activity in local communities.

For more information about each of these funds, including how to apply, please visit: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds>



Frequently Asked Questions

Some of our most commonly asked questions in your area

Q: What are you doing to prevent mud on the road left by works vehicles?

A: We have measures in place to prevent mud from being transferred from our sites onto roads. Firstly, we have road sweepers active around the site daily. These vehicles will also venture out onto the public highway. Around the sites, we have “rumble strips” that will dislodge some of the loose mud stuck to the vehicles. It is also a requirement that vehicles pass through a wheel wash before leaving the site to remove any outstanding mud. Then as the vehicles may still be wet, they exit the site driving over the stone and at the entrance to the site is a concrete strip which absorbs any remaining water deposited. There have been occasions where vehicles not related to our works have taken mud out onto the highway, so we have deployed our road sweepers to prevent the further spread of deposited mud.

Q: How are you mitigating against dust caused by construction?

A: We continuously monitor dust concentrations at sites along the route. Our on-site dust monitors trigger alerts, which provide real-time feedback, allowing us to respond quickly to exceedances wherever and whenever they occur.

We implement dust mitigation techniques while carrying out earthworks and transporting spoil away from sites. Some of our methods include:

- Ensuring vehicles transporting materials to and from our sites are not overloaded
- Covering delivery vehicles entering or leaving our sites to prevent material and dust spillages
- Surfacing and maintaining haul routes to control dust emissions
- Inspecting haul roads and regularly cleaning them to suppress dust
- Damping down using mobile water sprayers, handheld hoses and water cannons. Damping is when water traps pollutants stopping them from escaping into the air

Q: How are you mitigating against vibration caused by construction?

A: We are aware that vibration from construction activity may be felt by those living or working nearby. Vibration is usually more noticeable indoors and it can be possible to feel even small amounts of vibration during work.

We continuously monitor the levels of vibration at locations around our worksites along the route where people could be disturbed. Our vibration monitors have set trigger alerts, which provide real-time feedback to us, allowing us to respond quickly to exceedances wherever and whenever they occur.

We aim to control vibration as much as possible at source on our construction sites. The HS2 Code of Construction Practice outlines the measures we implement to control and reduce vibration during construction. These include using quiet and low-vibration equipment, locating noisy equipment in remote areas of the site, ensuring noisy works will take place during the day and the use of screening and hoardings around equipment and worksites.

Q: What are you doing to manage ragwort?

A: Our ecology team is continually monitoring the spread of ragwort. When the weed is not located close to horses it is best to try to contain the weed because cutting or flailing it can produce a stress response causing it to flower annually instead of bi-annually. Containing the plant usually kills it off once the seed has been set.

We will continue containing ragwort in the locations where they are not deemed to be a threat to horses. Cutting the weed could cause it to spread more rapidly on land outside of BBV's control. Where there is a threat to horses, we kill the weed by either pulling it out of the ground or using a herbicide if the area in question is considered a low risk to wildlife. The greatest risk to animals usually occurs when the weed has been cut and left in hay or grass because this is more difficult for them to detect. For the majority of occasions where the weed is left intact horses eat around the weed instead of consuming it.

Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes ensuring you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help you.

The Residents' Commissioner

The independent Residents' Commissioner oversees and monitors our commitments to you.

The commissioner's reports and our responses can be found at www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner

The Residents' Commissioner makes sure we fulfil the commitments in the HS2 Community Engagement Strategy (<https://bit.ly/3oOA25j>).

The Residents' Commissioner can be contacted on: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Construction Commissioner

The independent Construction Commissioner regularly meets our Chief Executive Officer to raise any concerns or emerging trends across HS2.

The Construction Commissioner's role has been developed to monitor the way we manage and respond to construction complaints.

The commissioner mediates on disputes about construction, involving individuals and organisations, that we can't resolve. The commissioner advises members of the public about how to make a complaint about construction.

The Construction Commissioner can be contacted on: complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out about HS2 and properties along the route by visiting:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property

Find out if you can claim 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 the HS2 Helpdesk. For more details on our complaints process, please visit: www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/contact-us/how-to-complain/

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Contact us

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 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 local area, visit: **www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk**

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