

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

# HS2 Phase 2a Update

West Midlands to Crewe | October 2022

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. Phase 2a is the section of the new railway between the West Midlands and Crewe.

This newsletter provides you with an update on the preparatory work that is taking place on Phase 2a of HS2 and how you can find out more about the project in your local area. It also shares information about the funding available for local communities and explains more about the Green Corridor we will be creating alongside the new railway.



## What work is happening?

We are continuing to prepare the land for construction and undertake surveys to inform the final designs of the new railway and road improvements.

### Route-wide surveys

Kier is continuing to undertake ecological and engineering surveys across the route, some will be up to 500m away from the new railway line to account for the movements of wildlife.

The next step will be to start ground investigation work such as trial pits and boreholes to help inform the design of the new railway line.

### Road modifications

Surveys to inform the designs of 21 road improvement sites is also underway by Kier.

Topographic and radar surveys are now almost complete, identifying the need for more intrusive surveys to take place.

This will be in the form of pavement coring and trial pits. To carry these out safely, some temporary traffic lights or short-term road closures will be in place and there may be some night-time work.

These surveys are due to start in November and will continue into 2023. The Kier engagement team will be in touch with communities ahead of any work impacting the roads.

### Key activity milestones

- We will be starting further ground investigations, building on data already collected to inform the railway design.
- We will be moving onto more intrusive surveys to help finalise designs for local road improvements.
- We will continue to create new ponds and will start planting new trees, hedges, and grasslands.
- Four utility diversions have now been completed.



Balfour Beatty is progressing the detailed design for the Hanchurch Interchange improvements at Junction 15 of the M6, following the completion of many surveys in the area. We will share detailed designs with communities in spring 2023.

Whilst detailed design work continues, Balfour Beatty is developing a further design for a temporary construction compound on Clayton Road. We will share further details of this in the coming months.

At Wood End Lane near Lichfield, Balfour Beatty held a community information event on 7 September 2022 to share the proposed designs for the highway improvements with local stakeholders. Currently, we are re-analysing the design to see if we can incorporate the feedback received.

The next stage will be the construction of a temporary compound on the A515. This is expected to start at the end of this year into early 2023.

### **Environmental work**

Balfour Beatty is progressing the creation of new habitats across our 81 sites.

Over the last few months, Balfour Beatty has dug 58 ponds, undertaken over 76 surveys and dug over 250 archaeological trial trenches.

Over the next few months, focus will be on completing and filling a further 25 ponds and putting aquatic plants in all 83 ponds, so they are able to establish ahead of the winter months.

Balfour Beatty has also started preparing the land to plant grasslands, hedgerows, and woodland in the coming months ahead of temperatures dropping.

In some locations, some short-term traffic management may be in place to allow equipment to be taken on or off sites.



### **Utility diversion**

Utility companies are continuing to progress with the diversion of utilities at a number of sites across Phase 2a. The diversions at four of our sites are expected to be completed by the end of this year, with land then being restored to previous use.

Ecological and archaeological surveys continue to take place to inform designs with some vegetation removal also underway, supervised by ecologists. To support the work, we will establish a number of temporary compounds over the coming months.

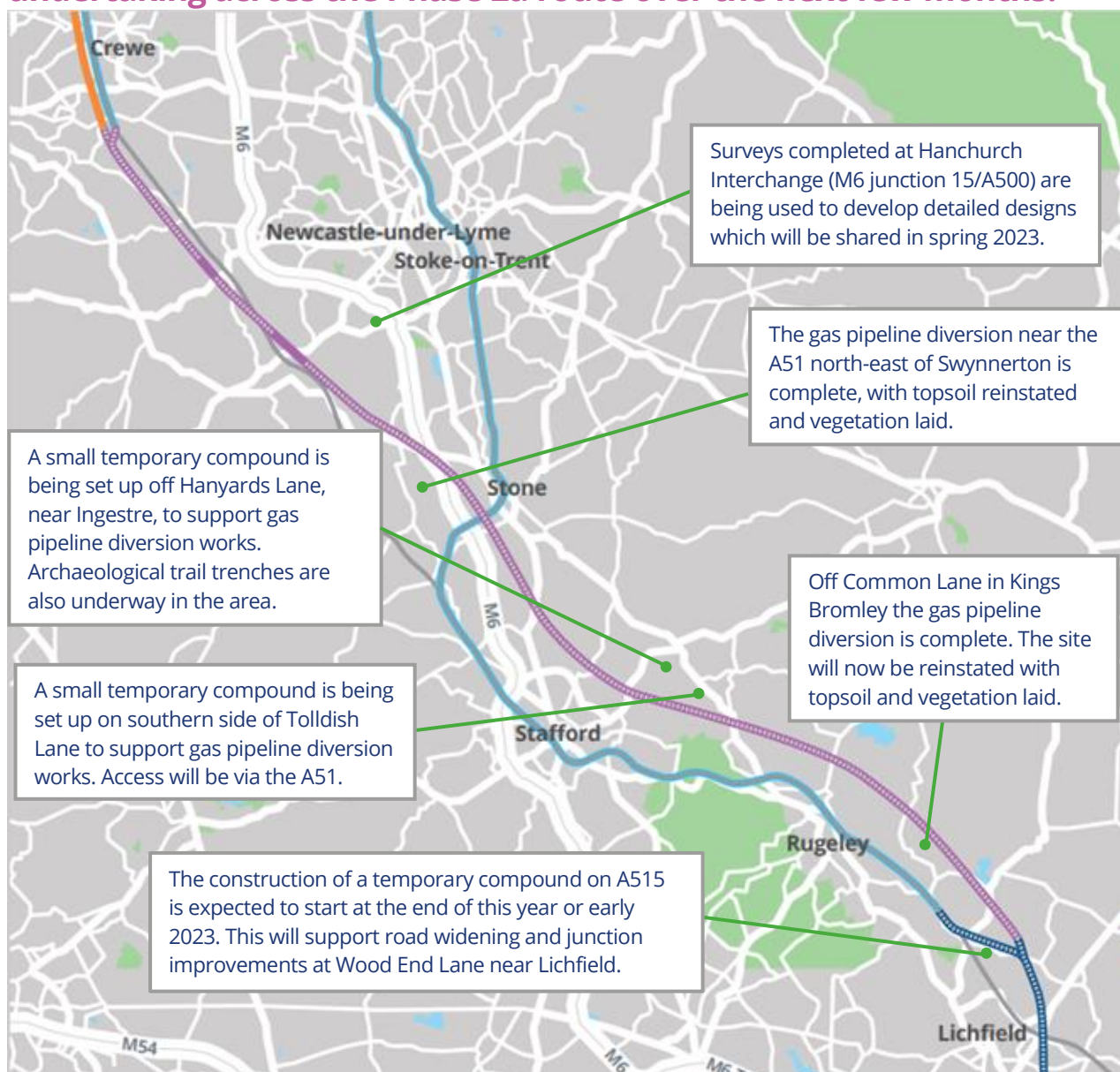
### **Advanced civils work**

Advanced civils works will focus on possessing the remaining land we need to build the new railway, and to secure and prepare these sites. This will include putting up fencing, setting up compounds, clearing land, completing archaeology works and final environmental works, building any haul roads and establishing any highway access to sites.

The contractor for this work is expected to come onboard by the end of this year. They will then start to plan their work with activity expected to start later in 2023.

## Key activity in your local area

The map below highlights some of the key activity our contractors are undertaking across the Phase 2a route over the next few months.



### Key

	Parkland		Existing train line		HS2 Phase 2a route overground
	Water/river		HS2 services on existing line		HS2 Phase 2a route underground
	HS2 Phase One route overground		HS2 Phase 2b route underground		

To receive notifications of our upcoming work and events, sign up for email notifications:  
<https://engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-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](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map)

# Sharing information with the community

## How we have been engaging with communities

### HS2 stand at community events

This summer, the Phase 2a engagement team went out to local communities across the Phase 2a route, attending a number of community events.

Speaking to over 500 people in total, we shared information about the project and the work taking place in the area. This provided an opportunity for people to talk to us, ask us questions or raise any concerns they had.



### Information points

We have set up information points along the Phase 2a route. You can find these at the libraries in Rugeley, Lichfield, Uttoxeter, Stafford, Stone and Crewe, at Stafford Borough and Staffordshire County Council offices, and at Yarnfield Park Conference Centre.

The information points feature a range of leaflets and booklets that you are welcome to take away. This includes maps of HS2 in the area, how we are building the new railway, and property and funding schemes available to those disrupted by our work.

### Advanced work notifications

Over the last three months, we have issued over 30 Advanced Work Notices. We share notifications of our work with local residents at least two weeks in advance of work taking place. Local residents will receive a copy delivered to their home. The notifications are also placed on the HS2 'In Your Area' map at: [www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map)

We have also continued to offer monthly online one-to-one meetings for communities. Since January, we have held over 80 appointments.

## Community information events coming up

We have a number of online and in-person events coming up for residents to talk to us and find out more about HS2.

### Online one-to-one meetings

Appointments are available from 10am to 7pm on the following dates:

- Wednesday 27 October
- Wednesday 23 November
- Wednesday 14 December

## HS2inFocus webinars

We continue to offer regular HS2inFocus webinars on topics that you have asked to know more about. We have two webinars coming up in the next couple of months.

- **Monday 24 October 6pm-7pm**  
**'Our powers, process and engagement for acquiring and accessing land we need'**
  - Learn about our powers and the processes we follow to access or permanently acquire land.
  - Understand how we inform, engage with and support landowners.
- **Wednesday 9 November 6pm-7pm**  
**'Our progress in designing and building Phase 2a of HS2'**
  - Hear from HS2 early works contractors on the work they have been undertaking during 2022 and what will be taking place in 2023.

At both webinars, you will have the opportunity to ask our experts questions you may have about these topics.

## In-person one-to-one meetings

Throughout November, our engagement team will be available from 12pm to 7pm at a number of venues across the Phase 2a route to speak to residents on a one-to-one basis about HS2 and what it means for the local area. Dates and locations are below.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • <b>Thursday 3 November</b><br>Swynnerton Village Hall      | • <b>Monday 21 November</b><br>Hill Ridware Village Hall         |
| • <b>Monday 7 November</b><br>Longdon Village Hall           | • <b>Tuesday 22 November</b><br>Yarnfield Park Conference Centre |
| • <b>Thursday 10 November</b><br>Hough Village Hall          | • <b>Thursday 24 November</b><br>Woore Victory Hall              |
| • <b>Wednesday 16 November</b><br>Kings Bromley Village Hall | • <b>Tuesday 29 November</b><br>The Madeley Centre               |
| • <b>Thursday 17 November</b><br>Hopton and Coton Hall       | • <b>Wednesday 30 November</b><br>Armitage Village Hall          |



**To find out more and register to attend any of our events please visit the HS2 website at [www.hs2.org.uk/events](http://www.hs2.org.uk/events).**

You can also contact our helpdesk at [HS2enquires@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquires@hs2.org.uk) or **08081 434 434**

## HS2 in the community

### Community and Business Funds

**A fund of £5 million is available for local communities and businesses affected by the construction of HS2 via the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF).**

So far, we've awarded over £289,000 in funding to eight projects, which will help communities in Staffordshire and Cheshire.

The CEF is designed to give communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of HS2, through the funding of local projects that aim to improve the local area. This could be from improving or replacing community, sports or recreational facilities to nature conservation enhancement projects.

There are two types of CEF funding. CEF Local focuses on individual communities, funding smaller projects up to a maximum of £75,000. CEF Strategic focuses on larger projects across several communities, addressing broader rather than local concerns up to £250,000.

BLEF grants are for local business support organisations and local authorities to help maintain business activity and support the economy in local communities that are experiencing disruption. This can include projects such as discount card schemes, job creation support programmes, and the running of events or campaigns to promote footfall to local economic centres. Funding from £10,000 up to a maximum of £250,000 is available.



#### **Crown Wharf Theatre in Stone receives £75,000**

Earlier this year, the Crown Wharf Theatre in Stone received £75,000 - the largest Phase 2a CEF award made so far. Overlooking the Trent and Mersey Canal, the Crown Wharf Theatre is built on the former Joule's Brewery site.

The firm has constructed and donated the shell of the theatre space to provide the project with a base to create the town's new cultural space.

HS2's CEF award will enable the purchase of a lighting grid, sprung timber flooring, sound equipment and acoustic treatments for a new auditorium, enhancing accessibility and the community space for the town.



**“**HS2's CEF funding will deliver a key phase of the auditorium's development, helping us to turn the shell of a building into the new Crown Wharf Theatre.”

**Crown Wharf Theatre Trustee, Leo Capernaros**

**Each of these funds are managed by Groundwork UK, an independent community charity.**

**For more information about the funds, including the types of projects they can support and how to apply, please visit: [www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds)**

## HS2 in Focus

This section looks at some of the ways we are building the new railway to ensure that we are respectful to local people and the local environment, bringing benefits where we can. In this edition, we focus on how HS2 will be creating a Green Corridor alongside the new railway.

Building the infrastructure needed for a project the size and scale of HS2 means it is impossible to avoid some damage to the countryside. But we are striving to leave an overall positive legacy for nature, people and places.

One of the ways we are doing this is by creating a 'Green Corridor' running alongside the railway to help integrate HS2 into the landscape whilst creating a network of bigger, better-connected, climate-resilient habitats.

The Green Corridor is the largest single environmental project in the UK. It has two goals:

- to minimise and compensate for the environmental impact of HS2; and
- to support our neighbours to improve the local environment.



Across Phase One (London to West Midlands), we will leave behind more than 33 square kilometres of new woodland, wildlife and river habitats. Since 2017, HS2's ecologists have planted around 845,000 trees and created 119 new habitat sites.

For Phase 2a, we are still developing and designing the corridor alongside the designs of the new railway. Once appointed, our main works contractors will look at how they can minimise the impacts of HS2 through design and construction activity, working with local communities. They will also look to maximise the integration of the railway into the landscape and its positive legacy for nature.

We will work in partnership with local communities and stakeholders to support and fund a range of green projects and the identification of new ones. Together, these many projects will expand the Green Corridor beyond HS2 itself and beyond what we could deliver alone. Some of the ways HS2 is supporting local projects is through the community and environment fund (CEF), the Woodland Fund, the Biodiversity Investment Fund and our contractor's community investment initiatives.

To find out more about the HS2 Green Corridor, please visit the HS2 website:

**[www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/environmental-sustainability/green-corridor](http://www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/environmental-sustainability/green-corridor)**

### Learning more about how we are building the railway

Get in touch to let us know what you would like to know more about in our next HS2 in Focus feature at: **[HS2enquires@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquires@hs2.org.uk)** or **08081 434 434**

# 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 <http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property)

Find out if you can claim compensation at:

[www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2](http://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/](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/contact-us/how-to-complain/)

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## Contact us

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

 Minicom **08081 456 472**

 Email **[HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)**

Write to:

**FREEPOST**

**HS2 Community Engagement**

Website **[www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your local area, visit: **[www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk](http://www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk)**

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