

Woore Parish Event Update

This document provides an update for the Woore Parish Council event of 11 April 2022 to be used by the Parish Council to provide an update in the absence of the HS2 team.

Please note our apologies for being unable to attend due to a Covid outbreak in the team. For anyone who wishes to talk to us directly or has any further questions please pass on my details and I will be happy to pick up.

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HS2 Programme Overview for 2022

- The Phase 2a section of HS2, from just north of Lichfield into Crewe, got full permissions to start building the railway in February 2021. Since then the focus has been getting contractors onboard and starting to undertake the preparatory surveys and works that need to take place before we start construction – this work both informs the development of the detailed designs for the railway and prepares the land and roads that we will need.
- The ground investigation programme across the Phase 2a route is now nearing its completion, with only a few sites remaining in the next couple of weeks. The information gathered from more than 1,200 sites will be used by HS2 engineers to further develop the design of the new railway. This work was carried out by Balfour Beatty.
- Balfour Beatty are also undertaking work across the area to create and establish new habitats for wildlife across the area, with 80 being created across 2a. These will include new ponds, grasslands and woodlands. Last year surveys were undertaken to inform the designs of the sites and teams worked closely with the various landowners to minimise any disruption of the sites to their business. HS2 are currently taking possession and securing the new ecological sites with fencing and are starting work on establishing the new habitats. This will continue throughout the year and, like the ground investigations, will have minimal disruption to the wider communities.
- Contractors Kier will be delivering early civils work in the area. Their programme of work focuses on temporarily improving and modifying key junctions and local roads. This is to improve traffic flows ahead of the main HS2 construction traffic. In this area they are working on the junction of the A525 and A51 in Woore, with the plans

looking to widen the junction as well as putting in place 9 passing bays and 3 areas of localised widening across 7 locations on the A525. At the moment surveys are being undertaken to inform the design and development of this work – which in places may mean road closures of traffic lights being put in place temporarily to allow these surveys to take place – such as ecological surveys and confirming the locations of utilities. Once Kier have collated all the information they will be finalising the design plans for this work and the programme of its delivery which will be end of this year into the start of 2023.

- In Woore a number of further traffic calming and mitigation measures will be put in place along the A51. These include measures such as enhanced crossings along the A51, increased gateways and speed signage and convex mirrors for junctions. The measures are all still subject to passing a Road Safety Audit and the necessary approvals from the local highways authority, with HS2 working closely with Shropshire Council. On the HS2 community webpage for Woore further details of the indicative measures can be found and further details once will be shared with the communities once approvals and plans are progressed.
- As well as this the work related to modifying the local road network Kier are also undertaking routewide environmental surveys. These are to inform the development of the railways design and ensure that we are minimising any environmental impacts and are able to identify the best method to building the railway. Formal Notices for undertaking some of these surveys have been going out to landowners and Kier's engagement team will be following these up to discuss the non-intrusive surveys that need to take place. Given the distance some wildlife move these sites and surveys can be around 500m from the railway.
- Finally utility diversions and associated surveys are ongoing across the area by utility companies ahead of any HS2 activity to ensure existing services are moved out of the way of the railway.

Upcoming Engagement Events

- HS2 are continuing to offer virtual 121 meetings with the engagement teams to answer any questions you may have. The next appointments available are on Tuesday 26 April 10am-7pm.
- We are also holding a HS2inFocus 'meet the expert' webinar on traffic and transport – looking at how we are managing, co-ordinating and minimising. This is being held on Wednesday 27 April from 6pm – 7pm and all are welcome to join up. There will be the opportunity to ask questions.
- You can register for these 121s and the webinar on the HS2 events webpage www.hs2.org.uk/events or by calling the Helpdesk on 08081 434 4342 HS2

- HS2 are also in the process of planning in person 121 events – like those held in November last year at the hall. These are expected to be around 10th June. The date is still being confirmed but details will be shared in the coming weeks including leaflets with the details of how to book an appointment being posted out to communities alongside being shared digitally.