

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

HS2 Update

Birmingham | Autumn 2026

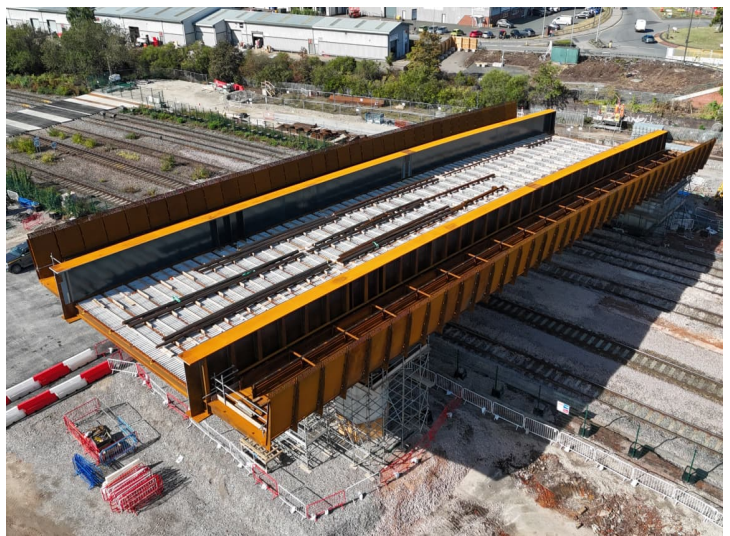
High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway for Britain. This update will provide key information and news on HS2 works for Birmingham.

First section of new Saltley Viaduct successfully installed

Construction of the new Saltley Viaduct has moved a step closer, with engineers successfully installing the first section of the replacement bridge over the Birmingham to Derby railway line during the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The 55-metre steel span was assembled beside the railway before being moved approximately 125 metres into position using specialist self-propelled modular transporters.

The new, taller viaduct will allow high-speed trains to pass safely beneath the structure and will replace the original bridge, which closed in May 2026.



Saltley Viaduct



Saltley Viaduct

The work was completed during a temporary railway closure, with services reopening as planned.

Construction is being delivered in phases due to the complexity of the route, which crosses existing rail lines, the Birmingham and Warwick Junction Canal, the River Rea and the future high-speed railway. Further bridge sections are scheduled to be installed later this year.

Once complete in 2027, the new viaduct will be wider than the existing structure, providing additional space for pedestrians and cyclists, alongside improved lighting and safety features.



Progress for key HS2 viaducts

Work continues at Curzon Street, one of the most complex parts of the route, marking a major milestone.



First beams lifted for Birmingham's Curzon Street station

First platform support beams installed at Curzon Street station

We have reached a milestone at Birmingham's Curzon Street station, with the first of more than 556 concrete beams installed to support the station's seven high-speed rail platforms.

Measuring up to 34 metres long and weighing up to 58 tonnes, the beams form part of a deck structure around the size of two football pitches. This marks visible

progress following completion of the station's foundations, including more than 2,000 piles.

Once complete, the station will create a new gateway into Birmingham, linking passengers to the city centre, Digbeth, Eastside, local rail services, buses and a future tram stop.

The beam installation programme has been carefully planned, particularly where work takes place close to the operational railway. Specialist transport equipment is being used to safely position the beams while allowing services into Birmingham New Street to continue running.

The project is being delivered by Mace Dragados, working with a range of specialist suppliers and contractors, more than 1,000 people are expected to be employed across the project and supply chain.

Curzon 2 bridge now stands in its final position

The Curzon 2 bridge, the tallest structure on the new high-speed rail network, now stands in all its glory following the successful completion of its complex launch operation. The bridge forms part of the railway approaches into Curzon Street station and has been built using 4,200 tonnes of steel.



Curzon 2

Standing more than 40 metres high in its final position, the bridge has been assembled over the past three years by a team of around 250 engineers and construction specialists.

The 150-metre-long structure carefully moved 180 metres into place over the Birmingham–Lichfield railway line using specialised hydraulic jacking equipment. Now in position, the bridge will become a prominent feature of Birmingham's skyline and a key part of the route into Curzon Street station.

[Watch the completed Curzon 2 bridge structure](#)



Upcoming Works

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

Saltley

Over the coming months, further bridge sections will be installed, including the third and fourth spans that will cross the Birmingham and Warwick Junction Canal. These works form part of a phased construction programme that also includes the future crossing of the River Rea and connections to the realigned B4114.

To support HS2 works at Bridge 108F Saltley Underbridge, a navigation and towpath closure will be in place on the Birmingham & Warwick Junction Canal from 2 November 2026 to 12 March 2027. During this period, access through the affected section will be restricted while works are carried out safely.



Saltley

The new viaduct is expected to open in 2027 and will provide improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, alongside enhanced safety and lighting features. Updates will be shared with stakeholders, canal users and local communities in advance of any planned restrictions.

Duddeston viaduct

Work will continue on the Duddeston Junction Viaduct this winter following the successful completion of the first major launch phase, which saw the first 170 metres of the structure moved into position over live freight railway lines. The viaduct forms a key part of the Curzon Approaches and will eventually carry high-speed trains into Birmingham's Curzon Street Station.



Duddeston Viaduct

The next major launch phase will see further sections of the 700-metre-long weathering steel structure moved over live passenger railway lines using a carefully planned launch technique.

Of the most technically complex structures on the route into Birmingham, the viaduct will cross six existing railway lines and rise to approximately 12 metres above the tracks.

Delivered in close partnership with Network Rail, the programme has involved extensive preparation works and is being carried out in phases to safely maintain passenger and freight services while construction progresses towards Birmingham city centre.

Skills, employment and education

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

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.

HS2 welcomes new welding apprentices



Welding operative apprentices pictured with Kam Hundal, Stakeholder Employment and Education Business Partner

Ten new welding apprentices have joined the project team supporting the construction of the Curzon Street approach viaducts, helping to develop the specialist skills needed to deliver the final mile of railway into Birmingham city centre.

The initiative has been launched in response to a shortage of qualified welders and aims to create

long-term career opportunities for local people while supporting the delivery of major infrastructure projects.

The apprenticeship programme was developed in partnership with subcontractors Martifer and AA Euro, bringing together industry expertise and training providers to help equip a new generation of welders with industry-recognised skills.

Following a 10-day paid work trial involving 14 candidates, ten successful applicants secured places on a Level 2 Welding Apprenticeship. The cohort includes apprentices from Birmingham, Solihull, Walsall and Stoke-on-Trent, ranging in age from early career entrants to career changers, demonstrating the wide appeal of vocational training opportunities.

Training will combine classroom-based learning delivered by Performance Through People with practical experience on site, where apprentices will work alongside experienced engineers and welding specialists. The programme will help create a lasting skills legacy, supporting both the current project and future infrastructure developments across the region.

"There is a critical shortage of welding skills in the UK, so we've joined forces with Martifer and AA Euro in our supply chain to create 10 exciting welding apprenticeships for local people. These crucial new roles are a huge boost for the project and the wider construction industry. This group will receive training inside the classroom and out on-site, while helping to deliver a series of iconic viaducts that will take high-speed trains in and out Birmingham city centre." said Kam Hundal, Stakeholder Employment and Education Business Partner

Our commitment to investing in local communities and the environment

As work continues across Birmingham 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.

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The project focuses on communities along the Curzon to Bromford route, providing practical advice, wellbeing support and opportunities for connection, to help reduce isolation and strengthen community resilience.

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

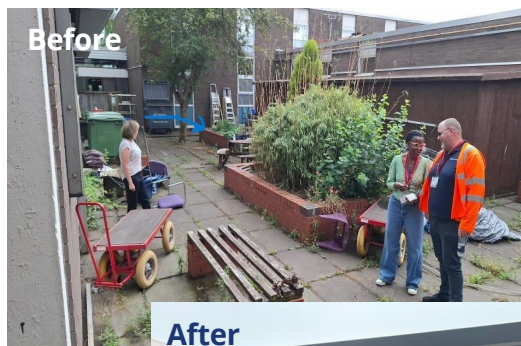
Our Community Investment programme enables us to support those communities most impacted by our works.

Supporting students at Washwood Heath Academy

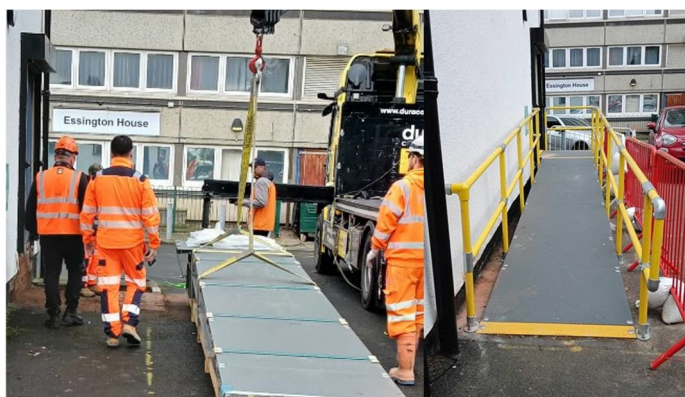
BBV and its supply chain partners continue to support local schools and community initiatives across Birmingham. At Washwood Heath Academy, funding was secured for the purchase and installation of a pergola in the school's sensory quad, creating a sheltered space that can be used throughout the year by students and staff.

The project has also supported the Washwood Heath Adaptation & Sustainability Hub (WASH), a five-year initiative focused on connecting people with nature, supporting climate action and creating green job opportunities. In response to a request from the project, BBV sourced and delivered 30 pallets that will be repurposed as part of a community wellbeing planting initiative.

In addition, FP McCann donated £500 worth of trophies and badges to support the academy's SEND, KS2 and KS3 Achievement Awards, helping to recognise and celebrate the achievements, aspirations and personal development of local students. A spokesperson from Washwood Heath Academy said: *"This valued support will play an important role in recognising and celebrating the achievements and aspirations of our students, helping young people feel valued, encouraged and inspired as they begin to explore their future career pathways."*



Washwood Heath Academy: Sensory Garden Pergola donation & installation



Ward End Wellbeing Centre accessibility ramp and handrail donation installation

Improving accessibility at Ward End Wellbeing Centre

A series of improvements have been delivered at the Ward End Wellbeing Centre, helping to improve community facilities and advance accessibility for local residents.

To help meet growing demand for learning and community spaces, two portable cabins were donated to the centre by the project team, with transport provided free of charge by TDR Transport. The additional classrooms will create valuable space for community activities and educational programmes.

The centre also approached BBV for support in improving accessibility for visitors with disabilities. Following collaboration with supply chain partner Dura Composites, a new accessibility ramp and handrail were donated and installed by BBV teams. These improvements will make the facility more accessible and welcoming for all members of the community, ensuring more people can benefit from the services and support offered by the centre.



BBV and HS2 team at the 'Delivering More Than a Railway' event

Keeping local communities informed and involved

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

BBV recently joined partners and community organisations at the 'Delivering More Than a Railway' event held at Ward End Wellbeing Centre, Birmingham, celebrating the wider benefits being delivered alongside the construction of HS2. The event showcased achievements across skills, employment, education, social value and community investment, highlighting the positive impact the project is making across the region.

Representatives from across the project and local organisations came together to celebrate the benefits being delivered beyond the railway.

For each session in Birmingham, 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 concerns directly with our teams. We also work closely with community groups and local authorities to help mitigate disruption and support local initiatives.

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

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Contact us

Our HS2 Helpdesk team are available all day, every day. You can contact them by:

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

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 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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