

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

HS2 update

Phase 2a | July 2023

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 rephasing of Phase 2a. You will find information explaining which key preparatory work will continue and which activities will be paused. We also provide you with an update on our engagement and the community projects we are supporting.

Phase 2a programme update

On 9 March 2023, the Government updated Parliament on its transport capital investment programme. The statement included an update on the HS2 project, recognising significant inflationary pressures facing all parts of the UK economy.

The Government has reaffirmed its commitment to delivering HS2 from London Euston to Manchester, and this includes extending the railway between the West Midlands and Crewe (Phase 2a). However, in line with direction from the Government, we are rephasing construction of Phase 2a as the scheme is further developed.

The main civils works between the West Midlands and Crewe will be paused. However, we will be continuing with some vital preparatory works already underway. This includes completing three live utility diversions and approximately half of the habitat creation sites originally planned, in line with seasonal wildlife cycles. Our land acquisition programme will continue to ensure we have the land we need to build the new railway. Other preparatory work has been paused and will be rephased as part of a new programme of delivery.

The maps overleaf show the early work sites that we will be undertaking work on until the end of 2023. Maintenance and monitoring activity will then continue on the established early environmental sites.

Online one-to-one appointments available

If you have any questions about Phase 2a of HS2 you can book a one-to-one online appointment to speak with our local engagement team.

These provide the opportunity for you to talk to us about HS2 in your local area. Appointments are now available to book on the following dates:

Wednesday 2 August
Between 10am – 8pm

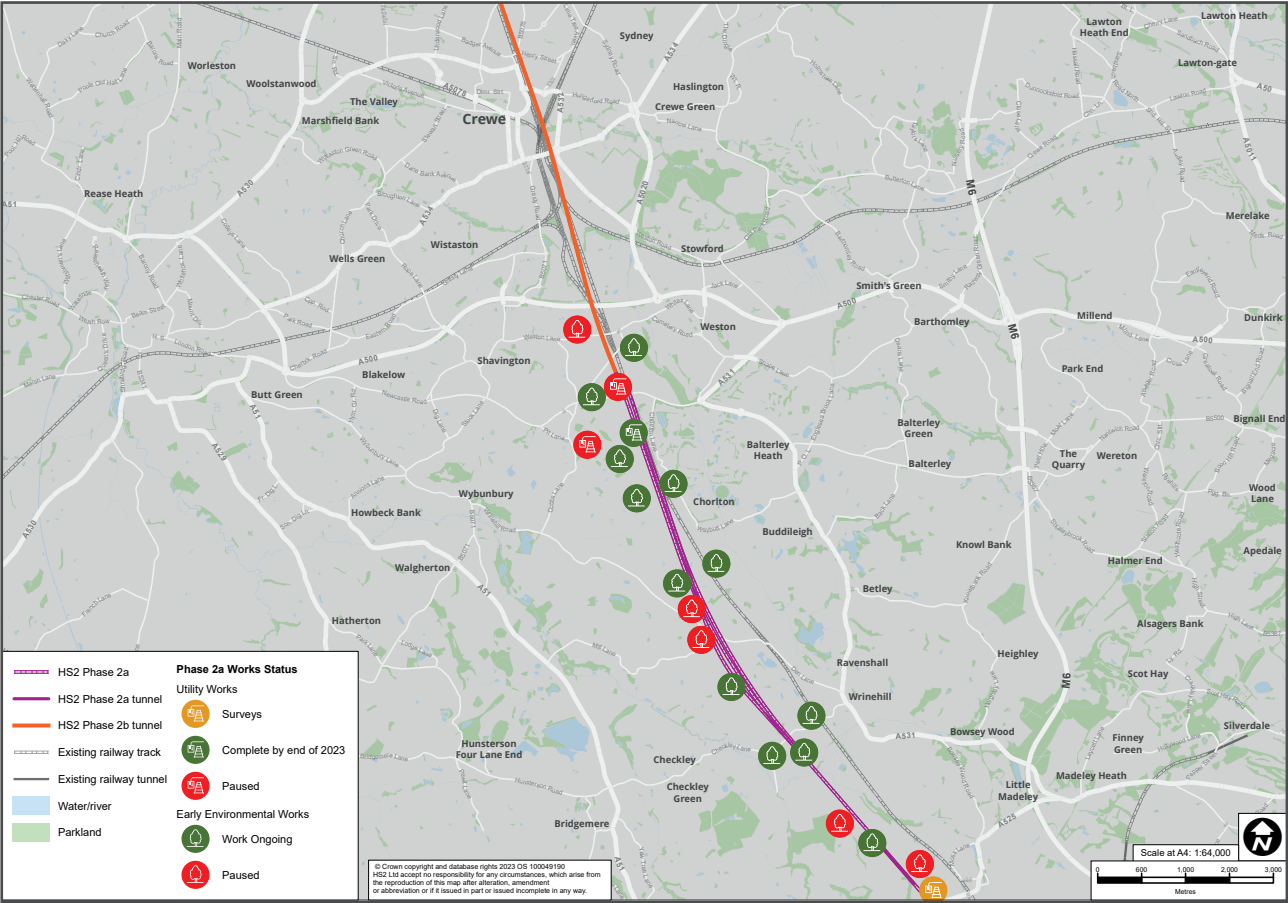
Wednesday 23 August
Between 10am – 8pm

You can register for an appointment via the HS2 website at www.hs2.org.uk/events

You can also contact our Helpdesk all day every day and ask to speak to a member of the Phase 2a engagement team. The Helpdesk can be contacted on **08081 434 434** or at HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk



Status of early work sites between Crewe and Madeley



Status of early work sites between Madeley and Swynnerton



This map illustrates the progress of HS2 Phase 2a construction between Stone and Stafford. The route is marked by a thick purple line. Various icons are placed along this route to indicate the status of different work categories:

- Utility Works:** Represented by green tree icons. These are marked as 'Complete by end of 2023' (green tree) or 'Paused' (red tree with a diagonal line).
- Early Civils Works:** Represented by red tree icons with a diagonal line, indicating they are 'Paused'.
- Early Environmental Works:** Represented by green tree icons, indicating they are 'Work Ongoing'.

Other map features include:

- Legend:**
 - HS2 Phase 2a (thick purple line)
 - Existing railway track (dashed line)
 - Water/river (blue area)
 - Parkland (green area)
- Scale:** Scale at A4: 1:64,000. A scale bar shows distances up to 3,000 metres.
- Orientation:** A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner.
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This map illustrates the proposed HS2 Phase 2a route, which runs from Great Haywood in the northwest to Orreave in the southeast. The route is marked with a thick purple line. Along this route, various locations are labeled, including Great Haywood, Little Haywood, Colwich, Bishton, Etchinghill, Rugeley, Ravenhill, Breton, Breton Cross, Red Hill, Longdon, Hill Top, London Green, Armitage, Mavesyn Ridware, Rake End, Hamstall Ridware, Olive Green, Nethertown, King's Bromley, Handsacre, Tuppenhurst, Rileyhill, Orreave, and Overley. The map also shows existing railway tracks, water bodies, and parkland. A legend in the bottom left corner provides information on the symbols used: a blue line for HS2 Phase One, a purple line for HS2 Phase 2a, a dashed line for existing railway tracks, a solid line for existing railway tunnels, a blue area for water/river, and a green area for parkland. The legend also includes a table for the status of Phase 2a works: Utility Works (green house icon) - Complete by end of 2023, Early Civils Works (red triangle icon) - Paused, Early Environmental Works (green house icon) - Work Ongoing, and Paused (red triangle icon) - Paused. A scale bar in the bottom right corner indicates a scale of 1:64,000, with distances marked in miles (0, 1, 2, 3) and kilometers (0, 1, 2, 3). A north arrow is also present.

Phase 2a Works Status	
Utility Works	Complete by end of 2023
Early Civils Works	Paused
Early Environmental Works	Work Ongoing
Paused	Paused

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Scale at A4: 1:64,000

0 1 2 3 Miles
 0 1 2 3 Kilometres

Early environmental works

Our early environment works will deliver critical environmental mitigation and biodiversity sites along the Phase 2a route. These include the creation of ecological mitigation ponds, aquatic planting, grassland, hedgerows and woodland. These new habitats will be created ahead of main construction to allow them to mature and for subsequent species translocation to take place.

Work on creating these habitats began in spring 2022 and will be completed by summer 2023. The completed sites will be maintained and monitored to ensure they establish and mature, with trees and shrubs pruned and grasslands cut as appropriate. The remaining early environmental habitat creation work will now be undertaken later in the HS2 programme.



Land acquisition

In January 2023 we started to permanently acquire the land we need to build and operate the new railway under the powers of the HS2 Phase 2a Act. This will be continuing over the next few years to ensure we are in a strong position for when the programme of main civils works start.

Following a review of the process for permanently acquiring land on Phase One (London to West Midlands), we have worked with stakeholders to review and, wherever possible, improve our processes. One of the changes we have made is to acquire land parcels in larger groups (referred to as Supershapes). This results in a simpler process, fewer notices for landowners, and additional clarity and certainty of timescales for all involved.

We recognise that this can be a difficult time for those impacted. We will hold regular meetings and discussions with landowners and their agents prior to the final possession date, as well as ensuring additional support is available when needed.

Once the permanent acquisition of land has been completed you may see us putting up fencing, where it is required. As a result of the rephasing of the Phase 2a programme, some land may not be needed for a period of time so we will, on a case-by-case basis, consider cropping and grazing licences to enable landowners to continue to farm the land.

Utility diversions

Before any major construction begins, we will need to divert existing utilities' infrastructure. This includes water and gas mains, as well as a number of electricity supplies that are in the path of the new railway. For Phase 2a, there are around 300 utility diversions that need to be completed.

The first utility diversions across Phase 2a started in early 2021. Under the rephased programme we will continue the live utility diversions at Chorlton, Tolldish Lane and Hanyards Lane and by autumn 2023 we will have finished at these sites bringing the total to six utility diversions completed.

The remaining diversions will be deferred and re-mobilised as part of the rephased works, including the sites at Marston, Yarnfield and King's Bromley. We are currently working with the utility companies to agree how the sites will be demobilised and to what extent they will be reinstated.

Road modifications

To improve traffic flows and lessen the impact of traffic caused by the construction of the railway, we will deliver a programme of work to improve and modify key junctions and local roads. Some of these changes will be temporary, and others will be permanent. It will include over 20 sites across Phase 2a including key junction improvement sites at Hanchurch Interchange (M6 junction 15) and the A515, Wood End Lane, near Lichfield.

Throughout 2022 we undertook surveys across these sites. The information obtained will be used to develop the designs of these road and junction modifications.

Further design development and construction has now been paused and will recommence ahead of main construction work, under a rephased programme.



Design development

The journey of designing Phase 2a started with producing an outline design. This enabled us to get the approval needed from Parliament to purchase the land and build the new railway.

Over the last two years we have been building a more detailed picture of the local landscape and environment, undertaking over 1,500 ground investigations and over 10,000 ecological surveys. We will use the information from these surveys to continue to develop the railway design over the next few years.

We hope to award the contract for a Design and Delivery Partner by the end of 2023 to progress with the development of the railway's designs. These developed designs will then be handed over to the main works contractors, once they are onboard, to finalise and plan construction.

Sharing information with the community

We will continue to keep communities informed as we rephase the Phase 2a programme and further detail becomes available. We will hold in-person and online events to inform communities, listen to your concerns and respond to any questions you may have.

We are hosting online one-to-one meetings so you can talk to us about HS2 activity in your local area.

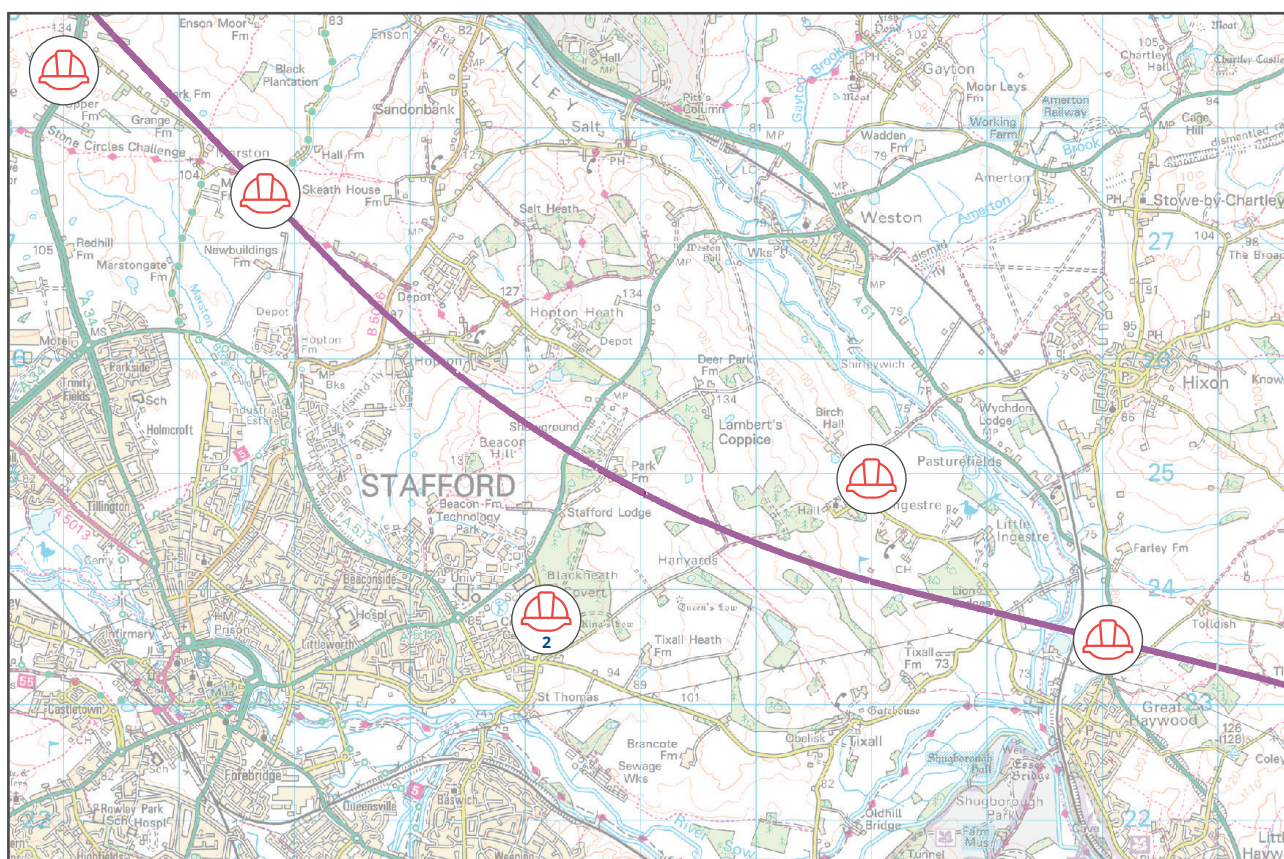
Appointments are now available to book on the following dates, from 10am to 8pm:

- **Wednesday 2 August**
- **Wednesday 23 August**

To register for an appointment and learn about other upcoming events please visit the HS2 website at www.hs2.org.uk/events or contact our Helpdesk and ask to speak to a member of the Phase 2a engagement team. Our contact details are on the back page.



You can also search for the latest work in your area on our interactive map at www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map



To receive updates on Phase 2a activity you can sign up for email notifications at <https://engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list/>

HS2 in the community

Community and Business Funds

The funding of £5 million remains 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).

The funds have been available for Phase 2a since April 2021 and to date £302,599 has been awarded across nine projects.

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. BLEF grants are for local business support organisations and local authorities to help maintain business activity in local communities that are experiencing disruption.

For more information about each of these funds, including the types of projects they can support and how to apply, please visit: www.hs2funds.org.uk

Madeley White Star Football Club

We recently awarded **£75,000** to Madeley White Star Football Club to **create a bespoke community and sports hub**, which includes changing rooms, a café and bar, as well as viewing boxes and an open patio area.

The clubhouse will serve as a base for the football club and local community groups to use and meet.

Community investment

In line with the Public Services (Social Value) Act, we require our contractors to provide a service that benefits and improves the local areas they work in – going beyond their immediate construction role. These services can be giving back to communities by volunteering, fundraising, or providing materials, labour or investment to support a community project.

Wychwood Park

Earlier this year, our Early Environmental Works contractor, Balfour Beatty, supported a local community by creating a broadleaved woodland, wildflower meadow and hedgerows.

Wychwood Park is a private village community, where a dedicated group of resident volunteers help to manage the grounds. The community will experience noise and visual effects during construction and operation of the railway, so the volunteers wanted to enhance woodland, vegetation and wildlife areas. They saw the celebration of the Platinum Jubilee as an ideal opportunity to create an orchard, so asked Balfour Beatty, who were working in the area, if they could help.

Balfour Beatty and their sub-contractor RSK provided the group with advice to develop a Management Plan, including species management, and connectivity creation. They then donated and planted four hundred native shrubs and trees, all locally sourced to ensure the creation of a bio-secure orchard and community perimeter hedging.

"We are most grateful. They have done an excellent job... they were enthusiastic, hard-working and respectful. It was a pleasure to have them on board."

Wychwood Park Board of Directors



Keeping you informed

HS2

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.

Residents' Commissioner

The 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](#). 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 at: complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the line of 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/how-to-complain

Contact us

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

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

 Minicom **08081 456 472**

@ 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 area, visit:

www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk

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