

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

HS2 Update

Birmingham | Spring/Summer 2020

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 your area.

Work over the coming months

Preparations for main construction work on HS2 are well underway. Over the coming months we will continue delivering a number of activities including archaeological investigations, vegetation clearance, utilities work and preparing main construction compounds in the Birmingham area.

Across this part of the Phase One route these enabling works are being delivered by LM - a joint venture between Laing O'Rourke and J. Murphy & Sons. The main construction work will be carried out in future by BBV - a joint venture between Balfour Beatty and Vinci.

In April, the Department for Transport gave us the approval to proceed with the full detailed design and construction of the railway, in a process known as 'Notice to Proceed'. This means that our contractors and their supply chains have the reassurance they need to confidently commit to building HS2, generating thousands of skilled jobs across the country as we recover from the pandemic.

HS2 and the COVID-19 outbreak

We are continually reviewing the works on our construction sites in line with Government and Public Health England (PHE) advice on dealing with COVID-19. The Government's current strategy makes it clear that construction activity can continue as long as it complies with this guidance. Please be assured that only sites that can operate within the guidelines are still working, and they will remain under constant review.

We have postponed all face-to-face engagement events and meetings, and we are exploring new ways of keeping communities informed and involved. We have been keeping residents informed on the latest status of construction work in their area through letters and phone calls, as well as updates and alerts from our local community websites.

You can still sign up for updates in your local area at

hs2inbirmingham.co.uk



Our commitment to you

Keep all sites safe and secure.

Keep disruption to a minimum.

Inform you of any works that may impact you.

Answer your questions via the 24/7 HS2 helpdesk.



Enabling works progress in Birmingham

Enabling works for HS2 are being carried out by a joint venture between Laing O'Rourke and J. Murphy & Sons, known as LM. This information describes the work LM has been doing in Birmingham city centre, Saltley and Washwood Heath recently, as well as work that will be carried out in the future.

Enabling works update

In late 2019, the demolition of the UNITE building in central Birmingham was completed. The land will become part of the wider HS2 Curzon Street Station site. LM are currently completing ground investigation works as we continue to prepare the site for future main construction work.



Demolition works at the former UNITE site

Our clearance work at the nearby Lawford Close site is now nearly complete. We will also be continuing our clearance work at additional sites in the local area over the coming months. This will begin at sites close to Erskine Street and Inkerman Street.

Extensive work has been taking place in Birmingham city centre as we prepare for the construction of HS2's Curzon Street Station. This has involved comprehensive utilities and archaeological works.

We will continue to keep communities up-to-date about any works in their area.

Recycling and reuse of materials from site clearance

HS2 is committed to recycling and reusing materials from demolitions and site clearances, where possible. This means that materials such as bricks and wood can now be used again. In many cases, these have gone to local community projects, such as the Friends of Ward End Park or The Jericho Foundation.

Ecology Update

As part of our commitment to minimise our impact on the environment, HS2 is creating a series of new woodlands and wildlife habitats as part of a 'green corridor' alongside the railway.

In 2019, LM installed 14 bat boxes at Ward End Park in Washwood Heath. These provide a space for bats to roost. LM is licenced to track bats and monitor their activity closely.

This enables us to survey sections of the route where we think bats may live. The team surveys trees at dawn and dusk, when bats are most active. The bat boxes were installed to encourage bats to roost in the park away from the route. LM will be surveying the roosts later this year to see if they are being used.

Enabling works progress in central Birmingham

Birmingham city centre will be the home to HS2's Curzon Street Station. This section describes the enabling works that LM have been undertaking and future works as we prepare the site for the construction of the station.

Utilities Surveys

Throughout 2019 and in the first half of 2020, we have been carrying out an extensive programme of utilities surveys in and around the HS2 Curzon Street Station site.



Trial trenching being carried out close to the site of the future HS2 Curzon Street Station (Image taken prior to COVID-19 restrictions)

The trial trenching and radar surveys have been used to identify where underground utilities, such as water pipes and electricity cables, are located.

Over the coming months, we'll continue to work on roads in central Birmingham to help us carefully design and safely plan our future utility diversions.

Over 100 trial trenches have been excavated within the site and on roads and footpaths in central Birmingham, including on Moor Street Queensway, a major arterial route heavily utilised by the city's bus network.

Utilities Diversions

We need to divert existing utilities, such as underground pipes, so we can safely build the station and the railway. We'll carry out the utilities diversions in phases rather than all at once, to keep disruption to a minimum.

Pedestrian and traffic management measures, including road closures, lane closures and footpath diversions will be put in place. We will clearly signpost road and footpath closures along with diversion routes.

In the coming months we will be completing a section of work on Moor Street Queensway in addition to carrying out essential works on Priory Queensway and Fazeley Street. We anticipate the wider programme of works to start in Summer 2020 for approximately 18 months.

Preparing the site

Throughout 2020/2021, LM will be carrying out a programme of ground remediation works across the whole of the HS2 Curzon Street site.

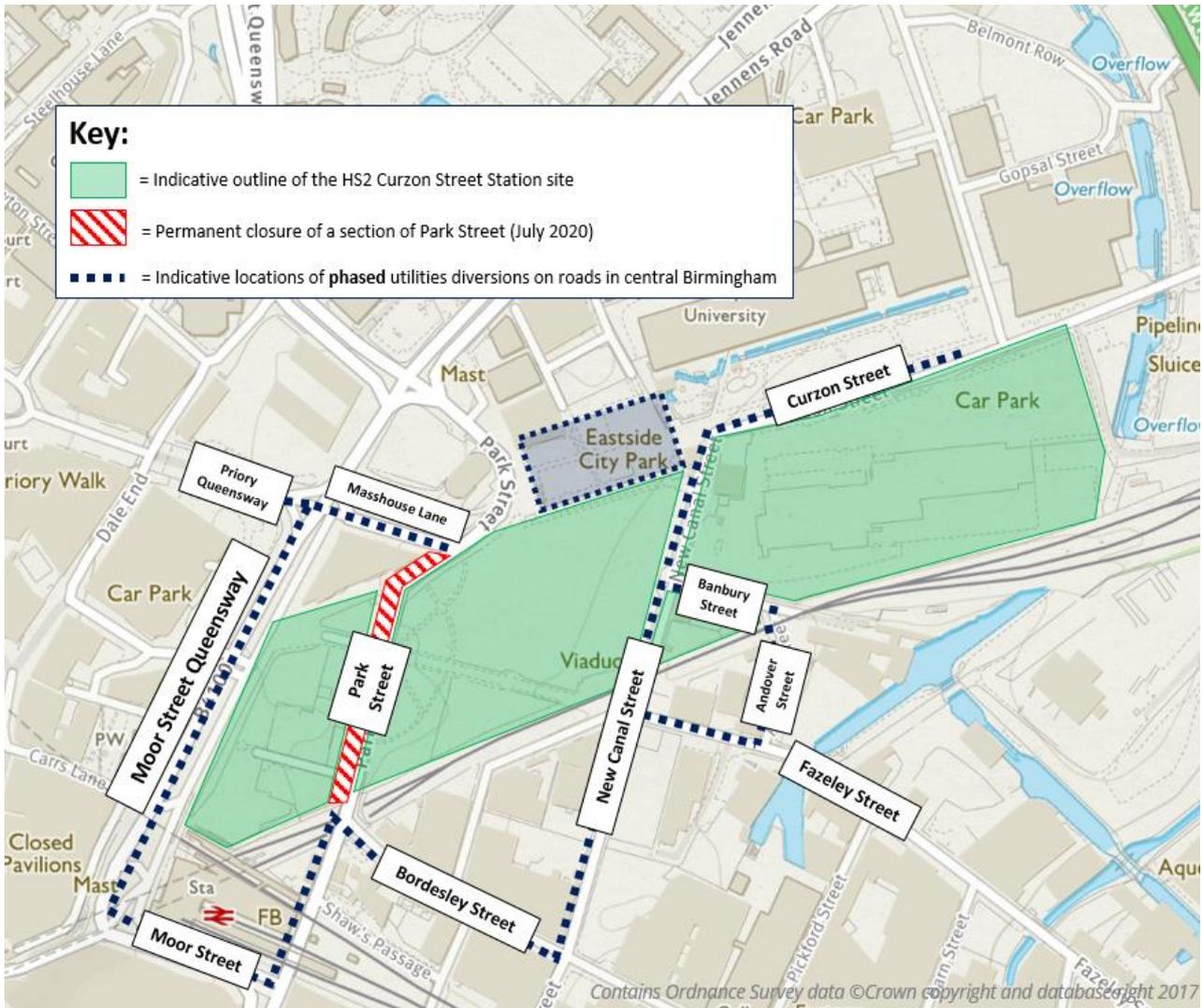
As with the essential utilities work, this is to ensure that the site of the new station is safe for main construction work. The remediation work will involve decontaminating land that was affected by previous industrial activity.



The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, visits the HS2 Curzon Street Station site in February 2020 (Image taken prior to COVID-19 restrictions)

Upcoming works in Birmingham city centre

As we continue to prepare for the construction of HS2, including Curzon Street Station, we will be permanently closing a section of Park Street in July 2020. This will take place between the junctions of Masshouse Lane and Bordesley Street.



Permanent closure of Park Street

In July 2020, in preparation for the construction of HS2's Curzon Street Station, it is necessary to permanently close a section of Park Street.

The closure will be in place between the junctions of Masshouse Lane and Bordesley Street as this section of the road falls within the footprint of HS2's Curzon Street Station and is necessary for its construction.

Prior to the construction of the station, the closure is essential in order for LM to safely carry out the utilities diversions.

In addition to this, it will allow for the remaining archaeological excavations from the former Park Street burial site to take place.

We will be issuing a more detailed notification on the closure of Park Street in the coming weeks.

Planning permission and archaeological works in central Birmingham

Curzon Street Station receives planning permission



An artists' impression of the landmark Curzon Street Station

On the 23rd April 2020, three planning applications for the new Curzon Street Station and the surrounding landscaping were approved by Birmingham City Council's planning committee, with the Council's report concluding the station design "is truly world class".



An artist's impression of the new "world class" Curzon Street Station

The new HS2 station will be net zero carbon in operation. It will use the latest eco-friendly design and sustainable technologies including capturing rainwater and sustainable power generation, with over 2800m² of solar panels located on the platform canopies.

It incorporates the existing Grade 1 listed old Curzon Street building, linking it to the new station's eastern concourse at New Canal Street, and takes into consideration existing local heritage such as the Grade II listed Moor Street Station and Woodman Pub.

Archaeological exploration of the 19th century burial ground at Park Street Gardens

The HS2 Curzon Street Station site has been part of the largest archaeology programme ever undertaken in the UK. Across the HS2 route more than 1,000 archaeologists, scientists and conservators are revealing the everyday lives of the people and their communities from the past 10,000 years.



An archaeologist working at the site of the future HS2 Curzon Street station. (Image taken prior to COVID-19 restrictions)

The main phase of investigations at the former burial site is now complete. In total, more than 10,000 remains have been removed, while being treated with due dignity, care and respect.

Throughout 2019, we held a number of archaeological engagement events focussing on our work at Park Street Gardens. This included having a presence at Birmingham City University's 'Inspired Families Day' where we received over 400 visitors.

Heritage and archaeological works in central Birmingham

Discovery of the Stephenson Roundhouse

Our team of archaeologists has unearthed what is thought to be the world's oldest railway roundhouse at the construction site of HS2's Curzon Street station.

The Stephenson Roundhouse was built in the 19th century to a design created by engineer Robert Stephenson.

The old Curzon Street station was the first railway terminus serving the centre of Birmingham and was built during a period of great significance and growth for the city.

At the time, the roundhouse turntable was used to rotate the engines in order to allow trains to return down the railway line.



The recently discovered Stephenson roundhouse. (Image taken prior to COVID-19 restrictions)

The roundhouse was situated close to the old Curzon Street station building. Its discovery means that it is likely to predate the current titleholder of 'world's oldest' roundhouse in Derby by almost two years.

The roundhouse was uncovered during a programme of trial trenching undertaken as part of HS2 archaeological works on the HS2 Curzon Street Station site.



The Stephenson roundhouse was discovered close to the old Curzon Street Station building.

The archaeological work undertaken ahead of the construction of the new HS2 Curzon Street station will record the historical significance of the site. This will help determine whether the remains can be preserved in situ.

The work undertaken by HS2 at Curzon Street and Park Street is contributing to our understanding of the social and industrial history of the city of Birmingham.

For more information about what we have uncovered during our archaeological works at site of the future HS2 Curzon Street Station and along the HS2 route so far, please visit: www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/archaeology

Main works update

Balfour Beatty VINCI, a joint venture between Balfour Beatty and VINCI known as BBV, will complete HS2's Main Civils Work for the section of railway heading into Birmingham City Centre, known as 'the Birmingham Spur'. This section contains information about the work BBV will be doing in the Birmingham Spur during 2020.

Compound development

BBV expect to start constructing their main compound in Washwood Heath in mid-June 2020 with completion expected in late December 2020.

The compound will be used as a base to construct the Bromford Tunnel West portal. It will consist of office space, welfare facilities for site workers and areas to store materials.

What are the traffic routes for this location?

The compound will be located within Heartlands Park. Construction traffic will access the compound via Drews Lane. We will however try to minimise larger lorries accessing the site from Drews Lane. They will instead, wherever possible access the site via Wolseley Drive.

Workforce Travel Plans

When operational, at its peak, the compound will have approximately 400 people working from it. We will produce workforce travel plans to encourage staff to use sustainable modes of transport and effectively manage construction worker traffic. This will help us to minimise our impact on the local communities, environment and road network.

What to expect

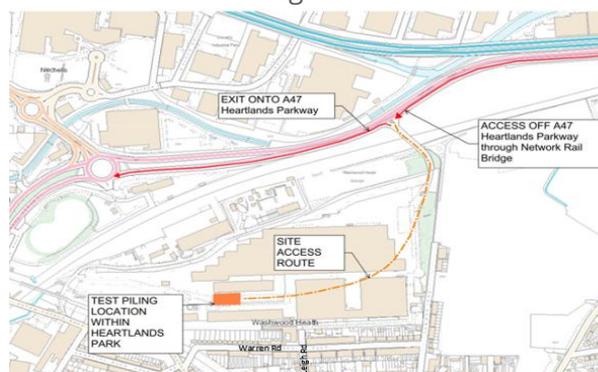
We will erect hoardings and fencing around the compound to ensure the site is safe and secure.

There will be some vehicle movements during the delivery of equipment, machinery and portacabins.

There will also be some essential utility works in and around the compound in order to supply water, electricity and telecommunications to the compound.

Test Piling

BBV expect to start test piling works at Heartlands Park, in Washwood Heath in the week commencing 25th May 2020 with works expected to finish in September 2020. The works will start with site set up, followed by the installation of test piles. Concrete or steel columns called piles will be driven into the ground. These piles will then be loaded with weight to test that they are able to support the weight of the future railway. Test piling is required to inform the detailed design for the viaducts and overbridges in the area.



What should I expect?

There may be an increase in the number of vehicles on local roads as we travel to and from the site. This should not be a significant increase, but it's important to note that large vehicles will be needed in order to transport machinery and deliver materials.

On site, we will be using machinery like drilling rigs and cranes. There will also be elevated platforms that will be constructed ahead of the test piling works and may be visible from outside of the site boundaries.

Usual site operation hours will be 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays). Site set up and take down activities can take place up to one hour either side of the usual core working hours.

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.

Residents' Charter and Commissioner

The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter

We also have an independent Residents' Commissioner whose job is to make sure we keep to the promises we make in the Charter and to keep it under constant review. Find reports at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner

You can contact the Commissioner at: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Construction Commissioner

The Construction Commissioner's role is to mediate and monitor the way in which HS2 Ltd manages and responds to construction complaints. You can contact the Construction Commissioner by emailing: 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

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**

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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