

HS2 Phase 2a Update

HS2 Woore Annual Parish Council Meeting -17th April 2023

HS2 Phase 2a - Update to programme

- The Government updated Parliament on their transport capital investment programme on 9 March 2023. 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, HS2 Ltd are rephasing construction of Phase 2a as we develop the scheme further.
- The main civils works between the West Midlands and Crewe will be paused. During this time HS2 Ltd will be continuing with vital preparatory works already underway.
- Vital preparatory work that will continue includes completing live utilities works and habitat creation sites, in line with seasonal wildlife cycles.
- The land acquisition programme under the HS2 Phase 2a Act will also continue to ensure HS2 has the land needed to build the new railway.
- Continuing with the land acquisition programme and the utilities and environmental works already underway, will place the HS2 project in a strong position for when the programme of main civils works start.
- HS2 Ltd will also be continuing to progress with the development of the new railways designs ahead of construction. HS2 Ltd are currently awaiting the award of the Design Delivery Partner (DDP) who will undertake this work on behalf of HS2 Ltd.
- The pause will not result in any further formal public consultation of the proposed new railway or the identified construction traffic routes in the Environmental Statements (ES). The appropriate consents will be progressed with the highways authority as required.

Early Environmental Works (EEW) - Balfour Beatty

- The delivery of Early Environmental Works is expected to continue. HS2 Ltd will be undertaking a detailed review of the 76 ecology sites, to establish work that will be completed and the maintenance requirements. Balfour Beatty will continue to monitor and provide site management.
- The EEW team will continue to acquire land required for completion of the scheme using compulsory purchase powers provided in the Phase 2a Act.

Early Civils Works 1 (ECW1) – Balfour Beatty

- HS2 Ltd will review our contractor activities for detailed design of the road networks at Wood End Lane (Lichfield) and Hanchurch Interchange Junction 15, M6.
- All preparatory work and future construction activities has been paused.

Early Civils Works 2 (ECW2) – Kier

- Most ECW2 work has paused with immediate effect. This includes detailed design development for the highway designs and traffic calming measures and any future construction work along the A51 and A525.
- Ecological surveys, given that they are time limited, will be paused. HS2 Ltd and Kier will undertake a review of our ground investigation and topographical works associated with highway design with some of these surveys being continued to completion. As such some traffic management to undertake these surveys will be taking place in upcoming months.
- The agreed highway modifications and traffic calming measures will still be delivered ahead of the delayed main construction work, and associated construction traffic commencing as previously.
- HS2 Ltd are still working through the rephasing programme and currently do not have an update on timescales for these works or main construction restarting. However the earliest we expect these to restart would be spring 2025.
- When works are remobilised HS2 will engage with communities on the developing designs of the traffic calming measures and the programme of work.

Utilities Diversions

- HS2 Ltd will continue to deliver utility diversions at Chorlton, Tolldish Lane and Hanyards Lane. These are critical non contestable diversions which will be delivered by National Grid Gas and Cadent.
- The remaining diversions will be deferred and re-mobilised as part of the rephased works.

Keeping communities informed

- HS2 Ltd are continuing to work closely with the Government and their supply chain on the details of any changes to the HS2 works currently taking place and the future programme of works. Communities will be kept updated as this work progresses.