

20.02.21 HS2 Works Update

BBV Engagement Team

The engagement team at BBV is split into 'lots' being geographical areas covering the length of the track BBV are building for HS2. Tahir Ahmed is responsible for Lot 7 which runs from Warwickshire in the south up to and including Hints. So, Tahir will be the point of contact for Hints.

Jayne Willets is one of Tahir's colleagues and covers Lot 8 which is north of Hints (starting around Rock Hill / A5). So, the reason a notification was received from Jayne recently was because the works were in the vicinity of Hints. All notifications are uploaded to HS2Commonplace.

GI works

Work is due to start on 17 Feb and could last 6 weeks but hopeful it might be less, dependent on weather and ground conditions.

Around 5 or 6 4x4s will bring the surveying equipment and a welfare cabin to an area on the left side of Rookery Lane on the far side of the ford (as detailed on the HS2 Notification). It was mentioned that the ford has been impassable for over 3 weeks and so if there is further rain, this will inevitably mean work will be delayed. The surveying equipment will be left on site until the end of the surveys.

Between 7 and 10 workers will be on site each day.

Work will be the normal timeframe - 08.00 to 18.00 with an hour either side for set up and close down. Residents' concerns about workers speeding through the village well before 07.00 were acknowledged with reassurance given that this wouldn't happen.

There will be no hardcore required to set up the worksite.

To reduce the number of vehicle movements during the working day a small welfare cabin will be located on site to allow workers to take a break, use welfare facilities and warm lunches etc. This will require a small generator which will only be used during the working hours. This facility will be removed once works are completed. BBV has assessed that it will not require any security as the equipment will be secured at the end of each day. BBV will continue to monitor this as the work progresses but the need for security at this location isn't envisaged.

BBV has a logistics team who brief all workers and drivers and the engagement team will ensure the message about driving respectfully through the village is relayed.

BBV compound and haul road

The haul road will commence at the Sutton Road end. There is no time given yet for the start of this work. The compound due to be constructed off Rookery Lane will not be constructed before the haul road reaches Hints. If BBV needs to reach the Hints area from the Watling Street side, then they will use the old Cadent access. Other than Survey works (G.I, Utilities, etc), BBV does not intend to use the village lanes.

BBV General

Residents are talking with SCC to have signs erected at the top of School Lane to say 'NO HS2 TRAFFIC' once the BBV survey access is no longer required and construction works commences in the area. The Community Engagement Lead is happy to offer any support to the outcome of these conversations with SCC, in relation to BBV construction works and routes in the area, which will require consents.

The residents 'drop in' session is still planned to be held in early Spring.

Cadent

The notification of pipeline diversion works starting in March 2021 has now been released:

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/commonplace-customer-assets/hs2instaffs/Rookery%20Lane%20Hints%20-%20March%202021%20Cadent.pdf>

LM

The notification for archaeological works starting March 8th has also been released:

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/commonplace-customer-assets/hs2instaffs/Rookery%20Lane%20Hints%20Archaeology%20Mar%202021.pdf>

ICC

Residents will recall from the update on 19 December 2020 that HS2 committed to resolve the disturbances caused by LM using the village lanes and also that HS2 and its contractors would communicate more appropriately and often with residents.

We appear to have good communication now with BBV and Cadent (who has confirmed they are avoiding School Lane and Rookery Lane in the notification for pipeline diversion work).

However, despite LM telling residents that it would be demobilising its compound pre-Christmas, we are now in the second half of February and LM are still on site and still causing disturbances with HGVs and other vehicles.

Residents therefore took this back to the ICC on 9 February and the ICC confirmed that the reason the Commissioner was minded not to pursue those particular complaints was because HS2 committed to resolving them 'imminently'. The fact that the ICC is fully aware that that has not happened means he is now looking into this and speaking directly with HS2. We await his conclusion.