

HS2 in Hints – update 15.05.21

LM

1. LM are currently conducting archaeology works in 3 areas – 2 in Hints and 1 on Bangley Lane.
2. Previously due to end on 16.04.21. Notification received 29.04.21 that this work will carry on until at least 30.06.21. Link here [Archaeology-Works-extension-Rookery-Lane-Hints-Apr-21.pdf](#)
3. Work traffic has increased recently with numerous 4x4s pulling flatbed trailers using the village lanes daily. LM now also use a large tractor pulling a large trailer. Appear to be chippings from trees and/or other shrubs. No response from LM as to what they are doing other than archaeology works.
4. Overall LM remains uncommunicative failing to be pro active in terms of communication for example it took a resident twice chasing LM as to when it would finish the archaeology works for LM to finally say it would not finish until at least end of June 2021.
5. LM has now removed the 'Works Traffic' sign from the centre of the village.

Cadent

1. 2 residents took issue with Cadent recently following Murphy vehicles using the village lanes over the weekend of 17/18 April.
2. Residents also challenged Cadent about using the village lanes generally during the week.
3. Cadent has been open and helpful in its reply – set out in the appendix. Cadent was quick to acknowledge it was them and to apologise.
4. Clearly constructing a bridge over Black Brook continues to be an issue but Cadent is using the existing bridge while revising the site for the planned bridge – they have pledged not to use the lanes.
5. The Cadent community email is helpful: info@cadenths2.com

BBV

1. BBV said it would be on site for 3 weeks using 4x4s with small trailers.
2. That is exactly what happened.
3. BBV has been swift to respond to residents' queries.

The Independent Construction Commissioner

1. Catherine Clarke has chased the ICC 3 times since February this year when it was clear LM were going to continue using the village lanes for archaeology works.
2. Whilst initially very slow to respond, recently with regard to Cadent using village lanes, the ICC spoke to HS2 directly about this.
3. Also, the ICC responded to a recent email exchange with Catherine Clarke around LM not following Cadent's example of using Rock Hill and the existing bridge, saying that he would again speak to HS2 acknowledging that Hints residents had been subjected to HS2 traffic on the lanes for far longer than had been outlined to him by HS2.

Appendix – Cadent response (29.04.21)

Dear Catherine,

Thank you for your email. Firstly, I would like to apologise for any disruption caused by the recent use of Rookery Lane and School Lane by our contractors.

We have tried to plan our work to avoid the use of village roads and we know this is something that's important to people in the village. We accept that on this occasion our commitment was not met and we are sorry for this. Please be assured that our original commitment has not changed, and we do not intend to use either School Lane or Rookery Lane as a construction route. We have reiterated to our contractors that these roads should be avoided. No vehicles associated with Cadent or its main works have used these roads since concerns were initially raised following activity over the weekend of 18 April 2021.

We will still be using a temporary bridge over Black Brook to support our construction. The nesting goose has caused unforeseen delays to completing the temporary bridge. This is because we can no longer use the site we originally identified. As the area along Black Brook between our work compound and main working area is a flood plain, any changes to our plans require very careful planning. Moving the location of the bridge requires us to apply for another licence from the Environment Agency. We have done this, and this licence is currently with the Environment Agency to review.

As you highlight, there is an existing bridge across Black Brook and as far as possible, our construction vehicles are using this. We are not carrying out any work requiring heavier vehicles that are unable to use the existing bridge and this will not resume until the temporary structure is in place. We intend for these vehicles to access the site via Rock Hill/Watling Street. We expect our works to happen in the manner outlined to local people at the Parish Council meeting in January.

We recognise that our recent unplanned work over a weekend was not what we had previously communicated, and we apologise for this. We have adjusted our works notice to reflect that weekend working may be required on occasion. Please rest assured that any weekend working outside of standard Saturday hours will only be required in exceptional circumstances.

We are working to carry out our work in Hints with as little impact on the local community as possible. All construction projects bring unexpected challenges and there may be some need for us to change our plans. We will continue to work with HS2 as the main point of contact for community engagement to keep people informed if any of our plans change in future, with as much advance notice as possible.

I hope this answers all your questions but if there is anything further we can help with, please do contact us.

For any enquiries about HS2 works, please contact 08081 434 434 (freephone) or 08081 456 472 (Minicom), or by email at HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.