



Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA

Helpline: 08081 434 434 | Minicom: 08081 456 472

Email: HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk | Website: www.gov.uk/hs2

# HS2 Look Ahead

February 2018



## Welcome

**Welcome to the second HS2 Look Ahead for central Birmingham. It informs you about the Enabling Works being carried out by the Laing O'Rourke and J. Murphy & Sons Joint Venture (LM) on behalf of High Speed Two Ltd (HS2) for Birmingham's new HS2 Curzon Street station.**

In early October 2017, we began our works in central Birmingham, when we moved onto the Park Street Gardens site. Since then, significant progress has been made in preparing the site for the city's new HS2 station:

- Vegetation has been cleared to ensure a safe, open and accessible work site
- New hoardings have been installed around Park Street Gardens to create a safe and secure working area
- Information panels have been placed on the hoardings to inform people about the work we are carrying out
- Wayfinding panels and lighting have been placed on the hoardings to help people navigate around the site and to support nearby organisations
- Archaeological investigations have been carried out to provide a better understanding of the site's history ahead of a more detailed phase of archaeological work, which will begin later in 2018.

## Looking ahead

Over the coming months, as part of the Curzon Street Station Enabling Works, we will:

- Continue with our archaeological investigations to understand more about the site's history
- Start our full programme of archaeological work once our initial investigations are complete
- Install new site offices
- Continue to keep people informed about our work.

More detail on our planned works can be found inside this newsletter.

## Unearthing Curzon Street's past

At Park Street Gardens, Birmingham's largest ever archaeological excavation is underway. The site served as an overflow burial ground for St Martin's Church in the nineteenth century, when Birmingham's population was growing very quickly. We think that several thousand individuals were laid to rest at the site between 1810 and 1880, when it was closed and made into a public park.

We are currently investigating the site's history, using a series of trenches in order to learn more about the site and help plan for a full excavation later in 2018. This will involve respectfully lifting and studying the remains in order to learn as much as possible about Birmingham's past.

So far, our specialist archaeological team has already gained a better understanding of how the burials were carried out. Their work will continue to shed new light on life in nineteenth century Birmingham, and also help to find possible evidence of the medieval deer park which is believed to have once existed at the site.

We'll update you as we discover more about the site and its history.

## LM in the community

At LM, we believe that our role in shaping Birmingham's future goes beyond simply delivering the HS2 Enabling Works.



We recently took part in an initiative offering unemployed people a chance to work with us on installing the hoardings around Park Street Gardens. A group of four temporary placement staff joined us for a two-week period, picking up valuable skills which will help them to get back into full time work. We are always looking for talented and enthusiastic people to join our team and you can find out more by visiting [www.lm-jv.com/careers.aspx](http://www.lm-jv.com/careers.aspx).

### HS2 support for communities

Following Royal Assent, HS2 has established two community investment funds worth £40 million in total. The funds are now open for applications and are administered by the charity Groundwork. For more information please go to [www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds).

### Commonplace

HS2 has introduced a new digital engagement platform where you can receive updates on the HS2 project and find out what's happening in your area. To register, visit [hs2inbirmingham.commonplace.is/](http://hs2inbirmingham.commonplace.is/)

Last year, public drop-in events were held at Millennium Point, Moor Street Station and Carrs Lane Church. Earlier this year, we were at HS2's information event in the West Midlands Combined Authority Bus, on Birmingham High Street. These events provided us with a useful opportunity to understand what matters most to our stakeholders and how we can support the local area during the Enabling Works. Further events are planned for the first quarter of 2018, giving you the opportunity to put your questions to us. Details can be found below.

Event	Date	Time	Location
HS2 drop-in surgery	27 Feb 18	12pm – 2pm	Carrs Lane Church, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX
HS2 drop-in surgery	27 Mar 18	12pm – 2pm	Carrs Lane Church, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX

## What's coming up

### Installation of new site offices

In February and March, we'll be installing new site offices off Fazeley Street. This will involve using a crane to lift the cabins into place, so you may notice this work.

Once the cabins are set up, we need Western Power Distribution and Severn Trent Water to install new electricity and water connections. These will pass under Fazeley Street and, as a result, we expect there to be traffic management on Fazeley Street over two weekends. The dates and exact nature of these works are not yet confirmed, but we will promote them nearer the time using roadside notices and a leaflet drop.

Setting up our new site offices will allow us to ensure our teams at the site have everything they need to carry out their work as quickly, safely and effectively as possible.

### Archaeological tents

Before we start our main phase of archaeological works at Park Street Gardens, we need to set up white tents to ensure that our excavations are out of public view. We need to do this to preserve the dignity of the burials and to also provide our expert team with a suitable working space. Throughout all of our archaeological works, we will follow our commitment to handle all burials with care, dignity and respect.

### New hoarding and panel installation

As our site expands and we increase the area of archaeological works, we'll be putting up further hoarding around the Park Street area. We will install the first section of new hoarding in April along the boundary with Eastside Park, New Canal Street and Fazeley Street. We'll then add to this with further hoarding around the Fazeley Street and Albert Street Car Parks in June. We'll provide more detail on this in our next newsletter.

Once the hoarding is up, we'll be adding information panels so passers-by can find out more about the project. In addition, wayfinding signs and 'you are here' maps will help people to navigate the local area by highlighting key areas, landmarks and businesses.

### Old Curzon Street Station refurbishment

The new Curzon Street Station will be a major twenty-first century Birmingham landmark, but next door sits an important part of the city's rich history with an exciting role to play in its future.

HS2 and Birmingham City Council are working on a proposal to refurbish the Old Curzon Street Station building (right) to bring it back to use after years of neglect. In doing so we'll create a hub for the HS2 project, with an office and a visitor centre forming part of the plans. Historic England and Birmingham City University will also take up office space at the building. It is expected that works will start in spring of 2018, subject to agreement.







## Lawley Middleway works

As part of our HS2 enabling works, throughout 2018 and 2019 we will be increasing the capacity of Lawley Middleway. This will enhance access to the new Curzon Street Station and allow for improved traffic flow in the area. We are still developing our plans for these works and will provide more information as it becomes available.

Ahead of delivering these improvements to Lawley Middleway, we need to carry out preparation works. These works involve surveys on and around the highway. We expect them to take place at night (From 9pm to 6am) across a number of weeks in spring 2018. These works will require temporary night-time lane closures of Lawley Middleway. We are finalising times and dates for these works and will share these with the public in advance of them taking place.

## What to expect:

- Normal working hours: Monday to Friday 8am-6pm (unless notified otherwise)
- Staff may be on site for an hour before the start and/or at the end of each shift
- Weekend working and traffic management to connect electricity and water to our Fazeley Street site office
- An increase in activity and number of contractors
- Low level noise from the works
- White tents covering the archaeological trenches in order to maintain the dignity of the burials
- An increase in the amount of HS2 hoardings in the area (in April and June 2018).

### Site expansion

HS2 and LM will not be taking possession of any additional land at the Curzon Street Station site until the start of April 2018.

Prior to this date, any fencing or hoarding put up in the area is the responsibility of the relevant landowner.

If you have any questions or if you would like to find out more, you can get in touch:

✉ Write to: HS2 Helpdesk, Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6GA

✉ Email: [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

☎ Telephone: 08081 434 434 (Freephone 24/7)  
Minicom: 08081 456 472

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