

HS2 Report for RRA July 2019

These are the main HS2 activities for last month.

1 CONSTRUCTION TIMESCALE

The “notice to proceed” approval for main construction is still delayed until December 2019.

2 WEST RUISLIP

No change since last month, work will recommence in September, including:

- Closing the golf course until at least 2024
- Removal of all vegetation including trees alongside the Chiltern line all the way to BRS, and some trees around the driving range.

I have asked that the vegetation clearance be halted until “notice to proceed” has been obtained, but HS2 seem to be blithely ignoring this milestone.

3 BREAKSPEAR ROAD SOUTH

The closure programme is currently under way.

4 HARVIL ROAD

There was a bizarre meeting of the traffic group, including council officers recently. HS2 are planning to straighten Harvil road over the Chiltern line, and use skip lane as a major access point. We have pointed out regularly that this is a dangerous road and some traffic management is necessary. One of our proposals is for a roundabout.

HS2’s safety analysis said this was not required since they had asked the businesses there and concluded that there are only 50 (fifty) hgv movements a day in and out of skip lane. This is patently ridiculous, as a council traffic survey in 2009 for a planning application showed 690 per day, and traffic has only got busier since then.

We suspect the real reason they don’t want a roundabout is they would have to buy extra land for it, and cost reduction is obviously a key target. We, along with LBH, have asked HS2 to go back and look at it again. Further options being looked at if this fails.

5 POWER SUPPLY FROM RAYNERS LANE (TBM PS)

No change; HS2 say that test borings along the route are likely to start in the next few months with main work expected to start Q3 2019 and will last around a year to 18 months.

6 OTHER ISSUES

6.1 Works forward look

The scheduled works for the next 3 months should be posted soon at:

<https://hs2inillingdon.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/construction-forward-look/details>

7 MEETINGS

7.1 Liaison meetings

I had two meetings with HS2 last month. One the regular traffic meeting, at which we received the latest hgv estimates for the programme. I am looking into these and will report back in due course.

We met with the Residents’ and Construction Commissioners. They are both obviously frustrated with HS2’s culture and lack of consideration for residents, but I suspect there is little they can do to change things in a big way.

7.2 Drop in sessions

HS2 are planning more drop in sessions, see this link for details:

<https://hs2inhillington.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/upcoming-local-events/details> .

8 COMPLAINTS AND ENQUIRIES

I would encourage people to contact the HS2 helpline. If they don't get comments and complaints then HS2 seem to assume everything is ok with the local residents.

In particular, if you see something wrong, please do make a formal complaint.

Enquiries: HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, 24 hour help desk 08081 434 434

Complaints: HS2Complaints@hs2.org.uk

Phil Taylor
5 August 2019