

HS2 Report for RRA September 2019

These are the main HS2 activities for last month.

1 CONSTRUCTION TIMESCALE

The Oakervee review into the future of HS2 is due to report in mid October. It will then go to the Government for an ongoing decision. In the meantime HS2 Ltd are continuing locally as though nothing is changing. They say our works are on the critical path of the project.

The main contractors are expected to start moving onto site in October. Then the digging of the TBM (Tunnel Boring Machines) access works will start. TBMs are planned to operate (24/7) from the summer of 2021 for 2.5 years. The light railways and conveyor belts will be installed a few months before this.

2 WEST RUISLIP

2.1 Clubhouse

It appears that Green King have effectively decided to close the club house. Whilst there is no official announcement (that I can find at least) they are evicting the regular clubs and societies. They are also not taking bookings for the Christmas period.

One club was told that the building was being “compulsory purchased”, but HS2 have denied this. Either way, it looks like the club will close with the associated loss of jobs and amenities.

2.2 Pedestrian and cycle access to the course and paths

HS2 has taken over of the golf course and erected fencing around it. They did this in a great hurry to prevent travellers moving onto the course. However a contractor admitted to me yesterday that “we went a bit mad with the fencing”. I have made sure they are aware that the signage (saying the course is closed) is incorrect and they impeding cyclists and buggy users using Hill / Clacks lane. They are adamant that the course will remain open for pedestrians, and are planning a full review onsite this week.

I am concerned that their approach to signage and fencing implies they would be quite happy to quietly block the whole course off in time. This will need close monitoring over the next few months.

HS2 Ltd plan to maintain the grass etc in a reasonably good fashion to prevent it growing too much and encouraging wildlife back in.

2.3 Footpath

Footpath U81 (which runs from the Greenway, under the Chiltern line and through the golf course) is expected to close in December. The diversion is via the High Road.

2.4 Trees and vegetation

The removal of trees is continuing and will move onto the network rail land next to the Chiltern line soon.

2.5 Tunnel portal

The latest design for the tunnel portal (seen yesterday) shows that it has moved 140m west away from the West Ruislip Bridge. There will a portal head house some 7m high with a porous tunnel entrance to avoid tunnel boom (the sonic boom that can be caused when a high speed train enters a tunnel).

3 BREAKSPEAR ROAD SOUTH

The closure programme is complete. However there appear to be some failing access covers which have necessitated at least 2 further overnight closures. These may continue until the problem is resolved.

There is a plan to introduce a pedestrian traffic light system under the Chiltern line bridge on BRS, as a footpath has to be diverted under the bridge as part of the works.

4 HARVIL ROAD

There may be some traffic restrictions happening soon as extra fencing is erected. No details yet.

5 COLNE VALLEY VIADUCT

HS2 say they have submitted their design for CVV plans to LBH. As yet we have not seen them.

6 POWER SUPPLY FROM RAYNERS LANE (TBM PS)

Test borings along the route are under way with main work expected to start late 2019 and will last around a year to 18 months.

7 OTHER ISSUES

7.1 Works forward look

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

<https://hs2inhillingdon.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/construction-forward-look/details>

8 MEETINGS

8.1 Liaison meetings

I had one meeting with HS2 last month, see comments below.

9 PUBLIC EVENTS

9.1 Information events about West Ruislip tunnel portal

Our residents' team expressed serious reservations about the recent events. Apparently many people said they were happy as they left. However we pointed out that HS2 presented a very incomplete picture and missed a big opportunity to set some expectations about what is about to hit us over the next few years. They shows some simulations from 2041 (yes 22 years away) but nothing at all on the construction programme. HS2 were left in no doubt about what we felt was a serious failure on their part. They have promised to consult us for the next events.

9.2 Drop in sessions

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

<https://hs2inhillingdon.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/upcoming-local-events/details> .

10 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
1 October 2019