

HS2 Report for RRA January 2020

These are the main HS2 activities for last couple of months together with a look ahead at forthcoming activities.

1 CONSTRUCTION TIMESCALE

The Oakervee review into the future of HS2 has been delayed and is expected "soon" (was due in October). Unfortunately it looks like it will be a political decision, not one based on facts and evidence.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

Archaeological surveys will be continuing along the whole route. How we will get to know the results of these is not currently clear.

3 UTILITY SURVEYS

The utility surveys through Ruislip and Ickenham will continue over the next 3 months using ground penetrating radar in order to plan for further utility diversions. The extent and scope of the eventual works should emerge from these surveys.

4 WEST RUISLIP

4.1 Main site

The main contractors are continuing to take over the site. Expect a big ramp up in work this year. Some of the main activities over the next few months are:

- Footpath U81 (which runs from the Greenway, under the Chiltern line and through the golf course) is still expected to close soon. The diversion is via the High Road.
- Work on the Chiltern line siding is due to continue until April. Unfortunately this overnight works has disturbed local residents with intrusive lighting.
- Hoarding (of various types) to be erected around the whole site.
- Increasing number of hgv movements can be expected as materials and equipment are bought onto site.
- Some or all of the material from the tunnel portal excavation will be used on the golf course. There is currently uncertainty about the amount of material involved.

HS2 are do not currently know how close the tunnel portal will be to the bridge at West Ruislip, but the contractors do appear to understand the need to minimise any works on the bridge and road.

As the site expands we will need to be constantly monitoring their activities, particularly around, noise, lighting and pollution. I did ask for regular meetings with the on-site contractors, but HS2 dismissed that as not allowed.

4.2 Golf course closure

The golf course is currently open to walkers. It is expected to close at the end of the year to start the remodelling. We have been promised we will be consulted before that takes place.

5 BREAKSPEAR ROAD SOUTH

Repeated concerns have been raised about the works increasing the flood risk to a number of houses along BRS.

Also the road surface is continuing to degrade, which will only be made worse by HS2 traffic

6 HARVIL ROAD

Land possessions and evictions will be continuing. HS2 say their legal processes mean they are unable to give us advance notice. We have complained (again) about the lack of publicity for their pop-up drop in sessions.

After changing their minds again, Harvil road will be closed from Saturday 8 February to 5.30am Monday 10 February.

Test pilings for the CVV will be starting soon.

7 COLNE VALLEY VIADUCT

A number of us submitted comments on the HS2 consultation over the planning application for the CVV. However the consultation was very superficial which means HS2 are unlikely to change their plans much, if at all.

8 HAREFIELD

The main works for diverting the national grid pylon route has started. Unfortunately the plan involves the destruction of around 100 mature trees. They say there is no alternative. We have pressed strongly that this should not happen until the permission to proceed is given.

9 HOAC

Apart from taking possession of the HOAC area, HS2 have washed their hands of all responsibility for relocating HOAC. This is now with LBH.

A new access road will be constructed just south of Dews Lane.

10 POWER SUPPLY FROM RAYNERS LANE (TBM PS)

Digging up the roads from Rayners Lane to West Ruislip for the TBM PS is now expected to start from 9th March and will last around a year to 18 months.

11 CODE OF CONSTRUCTION PRACTICE (COCP)

Every time we ask about how we will be protected from the effects of the works, HS2 refer back to the CoCP as the reference document to which works will be done. It has emerged however that contractors self-monitor and police their own activities, and HS2 do not undertake any overview monitoring. HS2 insist that they do not rely on local residents to point out breaches.

However we have at least 3 recent examples where the CoCP was being breached (footpath destruction, out of hours noisy working, mud on roads). We will have to keep on top of this, and if the practice continues, take it to a higher level.

12 WORKS FORWARD LOOK

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

<https://hs2inhillindon.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/construction-forward-look/details>

13 PUBLIC EVENTS

13.1 Drop in sessions

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

<https://hs2inhillindon.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/upcoming-local-events/details> .

14 COMPLAINTS AND ENQUIRIES

We know many local residents have given up on the HS2 help desk as they have no response in the past. However 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
3 February 2020