

HS2 Report for RRA October 2019

These are the main HS2 activities for last month.

1 CONSTRUCTION TIMESCALE

The Oakervee review into the future of HS2 has been delayed and is expected “by the end of the year” (was due in October). What is not clear (even to HS2) is what will happen if it gets delayed further. HS2 have said they will need an “internal discussion” but it is obvious that they would like to continue with main construction.

The main contractors have started taking over the site in October. Further vegetation clearance (including trees) is planned this year.

2 WEST RUISLIP

2.1 Clubhouse

No update.

2.2 Pedestrian and cycle access to the course and paths

After our efforts, the access to clacks lane has been changed to make it easier for cycles to use.

Some residents have started opening up some of the access points onto the golf course to make it easier for walkers.

HS2 have yet to come up with their 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 still expected to close in December. The diversion is via the High Road.

3 UTILITY SURVEYS

There will be a number of utility surveys through Ruislip and Ickenham 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 WATER FROM WORKS

HS2 expect there to be little water coming from the tunnel boring, and what there is will be re-used. However during the digging of the tunnel entrance and Copthall cutting (now called the Copthall tunnel) there will be a lot of ground water. Their current expectation is that this will either go to Thames Water to deal with, or go into the River Pinn. However they have to have a Flood Compensation Plan agreed before this can start. Another one to watch.

5 BREAKSPEAR ROAD SOUTH

Further overnight closures may be required as problems with the works emerge.

Concerns have been raised about dangerous driving by hgv drivers. Probably not just an HS2 issue, but I will follow up with them.

6 HARVIL ROAD

No update.

7 COLNE VALLEY VIADUCT

The planning application for CVV plans has been published but is very technical. We are planning to have a meeting with a council specialist to discuss them.

8 POWER SUPPLY FROM RAYNERS LANE (TBM PS)

The main work is now expected to start early 2020 and will last around a year to 18 months. See note about Oakervee report timing above.

9 HS2 COMMUNITY FUNDING

The first grant has been made in this borough; £66,000 to Thames21. This is an organisation whose “vision is to put healthy rivers at the heart of community life”. Specifically the grant is to “improve flood mitigation, connectivity and biodiversity along the River Pinn”.

10 OTHER ISSUES

10.1 Works forward look

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

<https://hs2inhillington.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/construction-forward-look/details>

11 MEETINGS

11.1 Liaison meetings

I had one meeting with HS2 last month.

12 PUBLIC EVENTS

12.1 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> .

13 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 November 2019