

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Telephone: 08081 434 434
Minicom: 08081 456 472
Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk
[gov.uk/hs2](https://www.gov.uk/hs2)

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Dear Mr Johnson,

Thank you for contacting HS2 on behalf of your constituent regarding the water supply in Hillingdon.

HS2 Ltd is committed to protecting impacts on the quality and supply of water in the Chilterns and Colne Valley during our works and the operation of the new railway.

HS2 Ltd has progressed its construction processes, asset designs, monitoring and mitigation actions under scrutiny from the Environment Agency (the regulator), and Affinity Water (the water undertaker).

Before any HS2 Ltd work below the water table is started, a comprehensive risk assessment is completed and provided to the Environment Agency and Affinity Water for review and comment. Each organisation issues a consent to allow the work to progress if the work is approved. The assessments take into account numerous protective measures to reduce the risk of adversely affecting drinking water. The protective measures include the selection of the cleanest construction techniques, choice of materials, the implementation of robust pollution prevention measures, the provision of enhanced protection at pumping stations and an extensive monitoring programme to check on effects and implement additional mitigation if required. HS2 Ltd cannot progress its construction activities until the Environment Agency and Affinity Water are satisfied that any risks to water quality are adequately controlled. The Environment Agency receive regular updates on the results of water monitoring across site and are kept informed of the progress of the project. Where there are effects in the aquifer they will be localised, and largely temporary.

HS2 Ltd has been working closely with Affinity Water for many years to ensure that high-quality drinking water continues to be supplied from the aquifer. We have installed new water treatment facilities to reduce the risk of any impact on water supply by adding extra filtration capacity at the existing abstractions, without the use of chemical treatment of this water.

Your constituent raised concerns about the closure of two pumping stations in the area, Northmoor and Blackford. HS2 has been undertaking deep bored piles close to Northmoor since

March 2021 and this has not had a significant effect on turbidity or water quality and as a result, Northmoor has remained open. The long-planned pause of abstraction at Blackford is a precautionary measure. These are protective measures which have been put in place to reflect the importance of groundwater quality.

Although the London Borough of Hillingdon does not perform a regulatory function with respect to groundwater quality, HS2 Ltd have met with the London Borough of Hillingdon to discuss the potential effects of the Colne Valley Viaduct on the water environment and the role of mitigation, including the shut-down of Blackford and turbidity treatment at Northmoor, as part of a precautionary package of measures.

I hope your constituent finds this helpful. If they would like any further information they may like to have a look at the online webinar we recently held on how we are protecting water quality in the local area. A link to the webinar can be found here: <https://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages/hs2-in-buckinghamshire-and-oxfordshire/colne-valley-viaduct/>

Alternatively, they might like to have a look at the frequently asked questions leaflet we have provided which goes into more detail about the work we are doing in this area. If they have further questions, they can contact the HS2 helpdesk on 08081 434 434 or email at hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Maddelyn Sutton

Head of Engagement and Interface - South
HS2 Ltd