

# Manchester's P.P O'Connor Group helps to build HS2's new Birmingham station

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Manchester-based civil engineering specialists P.P O'Connor Group Limited have joined the growing number of British businesses supporting construction of Britain's new railway, High Speed Two (HS2).

Over 2,000 companies have won work on Europe's largest engineering project so far, and P.P O'Connor Group Ltd is one of 11 companies to have worked on the site which will become the first brand new intercity terminus station built in Britain since the 19th century.

The P.P O'Connor Ltd team were tasked by HS2's enabling works contractor for the West Midlands, LMJV (Laing O'Rourke and J. Murphy & Sons), with supporting the vast programme of works currently underway to prepare for the construction of the HS2 Curzon Street Station and the railway coming into Birmingham.

P.P O'Connor Group Ltd, who specialise in bulk earthworks, remediation, complex demolition, recycling and deconstruction, were called upon for their expertise in the safe and long-term removal of the invasive and highly aggressive species of plant known as Japanese Knotweed.

The banks of the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal, which run adjacent to the new station site and feature in

the wider regeneration masterplans for the local area, were infested with the plant which can grow through concrete if left untreated. The scale of infestation required the team to remove and lower sections of the existing wall along the canal banks, which are well known for their links to TV-drama *Peaky Blinders*.

Darren Fowles, Project Manager at P.P O'Connor Group Limited, who led the programme of work on site said: "We are delighted to be supporting the construction of this once-in-a-lifetime project and it's great that Manchester firms are winning work on this first phase of the project.

"We hope the work we have delivered will stand us in good stead to secure more contract opportunities, particularly as HS2 extends to the Midlands and the North."

An estimated 400,000 supply chain contract opportunities for UK businesses will be created during Phase One of HS2, supporting thousands of jobs on site and many more around the country. It is estimated that around 95% of those contract opportunities will be won by UK- based businesses and around two thirds of those will be small and medium sized enterprises.

David Poole, HS2 Ltd's Procurement and Commercial Director said: "Businesses right across the UK are winning work on HS2 and this is helping to sustain and support new jobs at a crucial time.

"HS2 is playing a pivotal role in Britain's economic recovery and I'm delighted to see that companies in the North of England are securing contracts on this first phase of the project."

Other work overseen by LM JV (Laing O'Rourke and J. Murphy & Sons) on the site includes diversions of utilities, which will future-proof the area for Birmingham's tram extension.

The transformative refurbishment of the Grade 1 listed Old Curzon Street Station is just about to start, marking the next phase of work around the new high speed terminus. HS2 will also announce the Curzon Street Station delivery contract award in 2021.

For more information about opportunities within HS2's supply chain visit [hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/supply-chain/](https://hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/supply-chain/)

*Photo credit: HS2 Ltd*