



Since stepping into the role of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport in 2018 it has been my pleasure to be the minister responsible for High Speed 2 (HS2), an infrastructure project that will transform people's journeys between cities and towns, create thousands of jobs across the UK and help to rebalance our economy.

We are making significant progress with HS2 and in advance of boring the tunnels, laying the tracks and building the stations, an unprecedented amount of archaeological work is now taking place between Birmingham and London. The project is employing a record number of skilled archaeologists and heritage specialists from across the UK and beyond.

Archaeology is a key part of an infrastructure's development process. It is much more than a necessary step to prepare a site for construction. It ensures that the development is sustainable, it is a rewarding opportunity to develop skills, learn about our past and – as this yearbook explores – to add value, achieve impacts and leave a legacy of new understanding and inspired communities.

HS2's archaeology programme, traineeships, apprenticeships and volunteer days will expose people to the cutting-edge techniques being used by our team of archaeologists and HS2 will leave a legacy of newly trained professionals, new discoveries and an archive of knowledge. As we build for future generations, we are uncovering our past which shows humanity's desire to renew and progress. HS2 already supports over 7,000 jobs and is building the talented workforce of the future that this transformative project needs.

I have visited the Euston site to see the progress first hand and have been privileged to meet some of the highly skilled specialists working collaboratively alongside the many other professions in this this complex operation. This is thanks in no small part to the work of the ClfA in championing professionalism, setting standards and promoting good practice. I wish ClfA all the best in its endeavours.

Nusrat Ghani MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the
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Volunteers work with archaeologists to record gravestones for HS2 (Photo: MOLA Headland Infrastructure)

