

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on **08081 434 434**

HS2 Update

Twyford to Greatworth | Autumn 2023

EKFB
Working in
partnership with **HS2**

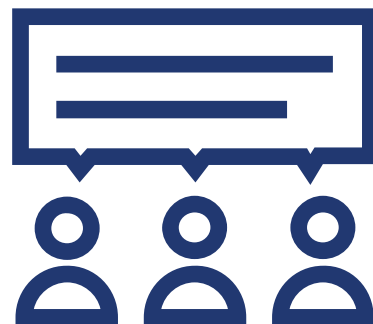
High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. You can sign up for regular updates in your local area at www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk.

Inside our autumn newsletter....

Our newsletters are an important tool used to update local communities on the progress of the HS2 project. This newsletter has been created specifically for the Twyford to Greatworth (T2G) construction area, located between Twyford in North Buckinghamshire and Greatworth in Northamptonshire. It includes the latest information on upcoming construction activities and expected timelines while also highlighting our efforts to support local communities.

In this addition of our newsletter, we will be looking at works coming up over the next few months and this will include:

- Works on the A43 near Brackley, constructing a temporary road diversion that will be opening at the end of this year
- Progress on the A421, A422 and A4421 overbridges
- Earthworks and crushing activities
- Construction of green overbridges with an update on the Turweston Green Overbridge
- Updates on our ecology surveys and mitigation measures between Twyford and Greatworth
- Community investment updates in Brackley and Twyford



Join us at our next drop in event and meet the team!

We will be visiting Egerton Hall in Brackley to give an update on our works in the local area.

Thursday, 2 November
10.30am - 2.30pm

Egerton Hall, Juno Cres,
Brackley NN13 6GN

Details of all upcoming events are listed on the [HS2 Events webpage](#)

Progress in pictures



Figure 1: Westbury Viaduct -In September our teams carried out the structural backfilling of material around the pile cap at abutment A8 of Westbury Viaduct.



Figure 2: EKFB has achieved a major milestone in T2G, by completing the road and bridge works at the A422 roundabout, which is now open to public traffic.

Construction update

A43 near Brackley, road closures

Throughout the year, we have been carrying out works for the construction of a temporary diversion of the A43 near Brackley. This diversion will allow us to safely build the new A43 Overbridge which will carry traffic over the HS2 railway line.

We have now carried out our main earthworks for the temporary diversion and have been installing drainage. Throughout November we will be carrying out our final works for the new road, which will involve asphaltting, white lining and the installation of road signage. Once these are completed, we will then tie in the new temporary diversion to the existing A43 road network. In order to tie in the new temporary diversion, there will be two full weekend closures of the A43 on alternating weekends.

You can sign up for the latest works updates in your local area, including for our works along the A43, at: www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk.



A section of the **A43 southbound**, towards Oxford, will be fully closed, 24-hours a day, from 8pm Friday 17 November to 6am Monday 20 November.



A section of the **A43 northbound**, towards Northampton, will be fully closed, 24-hours a day, from 8pm Friday 1 December to 6am Monday 4 December.

As a contingency, should there be delays to our works, full weekend closures will take place on:

- Southbound - 8pm Friday 8 December to 6am Monday 11 December
- Northbound - 8pm Friday 15 December to Monday 18 December

The above works are subject to consents from National Highways. Once the temporary diversion is operational, we will then be able to safely begin construction of the new A43 Overbridge, which is expected to be completed in 2025.

Frequently Asked Questions about our works along the A43

Q: What are you doing along the A43?

A: We are currently constructing a temporary diversion of the A43 to facilitate the construction of a bridge that will carry traffic over the new HS2 railway line that will be in a cutting.

Q: Why do you need to impact the road?

A: We need to impact the road and divert it to create a safe working space in between the A43 Northbound and the A43 Southbound. This is where we will be constructing the new bridge.

Q: Will there be any future road closures?

A: Yes. The A43 will be closed for two weekends when we tie in the new temporary diversions into the existing A43 road network. Once the new overbridge has been constructed, we will then need to move the road again which is expected to take place in 2025. This will also need full overnight road closures to tie in the new permanent overbridge to the road network. We will update communities as our works progress.

Construction update

A4421 Overbridge update

Throughout September, we have been constructing a crane pad to be used for the construction of the piers and decks of the bridge. In mid-October, we will commence our excavation works so that we can construct the pier pile caps, part of the foundations for the bridge. We expect to finish the piers by the end of 2023. Delivery of large steel beams for the bridge will begin in March 2024 and will all be installed throughout the spring with the longest of these beams being 27 metres long.



Site access road crossing points

Our teams continue to construct the site access road that runs the length of HS2. This internal road allows our construction traffic to stay within HS2 land, reducing our impact on the local road network. Where our internal access road meets the public highway there are controlled crossing points with temporary traffic lights, manually operated by our teams. We would like to remind the public to adhere to the traffic signals. Safety is paramount and it is important that the signals are followed to avoid any collisions or near misses with our large construction vehicles.



Figure 3: Example of our site access crossing points located where our internal road meets the public highway.



Green overbridges

Within the area between Twyford to Greatworth, we are building two green overbridges. These overbridges will be located near Turweston and Radstone and will maintain connectivity for the public, as well as create a vegetation-rich nature corridor, over the railway.

Construction for the Turweston Green Overbridge started in September 2023 with excavation works in the area of Oatleys Road. Beginning from November, our teams will start construction on the foundations of the overbridge which will include abutment walls and wing walls. It will include 34 steel girders that will be delivered next summer.

The overbridge is unique in that it will be 99 metres wide and will include a large area of calcareous grass land.

A442 Overbridge update

The A442 Permanent Overbridge is one of the longest bridges in the T2G construction area, coming in at 127.8 metres long.

Our teams will commence earthworks for the new bridge this autumn with construction expected to begin with bored piling at the end of January 2024. The bored piles will be up to 31 metres deep. The cutting below the bridge, which the new railway will be in, will be up to 24 metres deep in some locations.

A421 Overbridge update

Throughout September our teams have been working on the east and west abutments of the bridge as well as the crane platform. This platform will allow us to have a working platform that will support the weight of a large crane. This crane will be used to install 5 steel beams. The beams are scheduled to be delivered in early January to our site along the A421 and are expected to be installed over the course of 6 weeks. Once the beams are in place, our teams will then begin works on the bridge deck. The bridge is expected to be completed in late 2025.

Construction and earthworks – crushing activities

A project-wide crushing strategy was introduced to ensure as much demolition material as possible could be recycled and used on the site from which they originated. The crushing strategy also includes natural material that our earthworks teams excavate



The in-situ recycling of this demolition waste, combined with numerous other waste reduction initiatives, has

meant that waste from demolition work scopes has been diverted from landfill. This also resulted in the elimination of hundreds of waste lorry movements on the public highway.



Great British Bee Project

As part of our collaboration with the Great British Bee Project (GBBP) our teams installed around 14 hives in HS2's newly created habitats, in a bid to conserve the threatened species. Over the summer we have installed additional hives in the construction areas of Twyford to Greatworth as well as the North Chilterns Area.

The GBBP is the UK's only nationwide project which aims to reverse the decline of the British Black Bee (Britain's only native honeybee) by rearing queen bees and expanding colonies into new locations, building resilience for the native population.

Take a look at our aerial footage

One of the best ways to see the progress we are making on site is from our new aerial footage. The footage gives an annotated overview of where different structures will be found once HS2 is complete along with an update of how the landscaping is currently looking.



Community news

Brackley Allotment Association, Castle Site

In early 2023, our engagement team met with the Brackley Allotment Association. The purpose of the meeting was to identify ways in which we could assist their initiatives and enhance the overall well-being of the community. During the meeting, we discovered that the allotment association was looking to improve their hedgerow and replace a damaged and worn chain link fence.

In March, we were able to arrange the donation of 3200 hedgerow plants to the associations Egerton site and Castle site. These were planted by members of the allotment association and were used to strengthen the areas of dying hedgerow.

In July, our collaboration with the association persisted, and we brought in skilled stone masons from our construction team. Their expertise allowed them to successfully repair and reconstruct a section of the deteriorated dry stone wall, breathing new life into its structural stability. This particular wall had suffered neglect over an extended period, and it was noteworthy that the association had encountered difficulties in finding assistance for some time.

The transformation achieved by our volunteers in repairing and reconstructing the wall is beautifully captured in a series of before and after photographs. These images showcase their outstanding work.



Figure 4: Before



Figure 5: After

“a fantastic job, way beyond our expectations”



Figure 6: New Fencing at the Brackley Allotment, Egerton Site.

Brackley Allotment Association, Egerton Site

Working together with HW Martin, EKFB are pleased to share our involvement in the replacement of fencing at the association's Egerton Site, positioned alongside St. Peter's Church.

The original fence was in a state of disrepair and had endured significant damage. The team from HW Martin carried out some maintenance work on the existing hedgerow and then carried out the installation of a new fence. This has successfully established a secure boundary between the neighbouring park and the allotments, contributing to a safer community space for the town of Brackley.



Twyford Village Hall

Once again, we partnered with HW Martin for the contribution and installation of post and rail fencing at the Twyford Village Hall.

This endeavour is part of a larger initiative led by the parish council to establish a community space and garden, destined to be enjoyed by local residents. We look forward to seeing the parish council's progress as it begins to take shape.



Figure 7: New fencing at Twyford Village Hall installed by our subcontractors HW Martin.

Community news

Brackley Food Bank

As part of supporting local communities and in collaboration with the Brackley Food Bank, we have been holding a food drive at EKFB's Brackley Office. A dedicated drop-off point was created for non-perishable food items, hygiene products, and other essentials. These items will go directly to the Brackley Food Bank to support those most in need.

Helmdon Reading Room Improvement Project HS2 CEF funding: £47,650

The Helmdon Reading Room Improvement Project was recently awarded £47,650 in funding by HS2. The project is to renovate Helmdon's village hall, which is called The Reading Room, into a facility that can cater for the leisure, educational and social needs of the village. The Reading Room currently hosts a wide range of community activities, social clubs and essential services such as a post office.

FAQ - Some of our most commonly asked questions in your area.

Q: Why are your work sites lit up at night?

A: We have 24/7 security at our construction sites and therefore we need appropriate lighting for the safety and welfare of our security staff. Where possible we switch off the majority of lights overnight and we ensure all lighting is correctly positioned and monitored in line with HS2's Code of Construction Practice.

Q: Who will be building the new HS2 trains?

A: The design, manufacture, assembly, and testing of the new trains will be shared between Hitachi Rail and Alstom. The first stages including vehicle body assembly and initial fit-out will be done at Hitachi Rail's facility at Newton Aycliffe, County Durham; and The second stage of fit out and testing will be done at Alstom's Litchurch Lane factory in Derby. HS2's fleet will consist of electric trains, capable of speeds up to 225mph (360km/h). Building on the latest technology from the Japanese Shinkansen 'bullet train' and European high-speed network, they will be some of the fastest, quietest and most energy efficient high-speed trains operating anywhere in the world.

What else is happening in your area?

www.hs2.org.uk

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team

Our team is here to listen and respond to your enquiry, complaint or feedback to help us be a good neighbour.

You can contact our Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

Freephone: **08081 434 434**

Minicom: **08081 456 472**

Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Keep up-to-date with your local community website

To find out more about what's happening in your area and receive regular email updates, you can sign up to our local community websites at: www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk.

About our Community and Business Funds

We are offering two funds that are available to local communities and businesses between the West Midlands and London, to help with the disruption caused by our construction work. These are the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF).

The CEF is designed to give communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of HS2. It is an allocated fund that communities are able to apply for, to help to support local projects that aim to improve their local area.

The BLEF is designed to support local economies that may be disrupted by the construction of HS2. BLEF grants are for local business support organisations and local authorities to help maintain business activity in local communities.

For more information about each of these funds, including how to apply, please visit: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds>



Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes ensuring you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help.

Residents' Charter and Commissioner

The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter

We also have an independent Residents' Commissioner whose job is to make sure we keep to the promises we make in the Charter and to keep it under constant review. Find reports at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner

You can contact the Commissioner at: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Construction Commissioner

The Construction Commissioner's role is to mediate and monitor the way in which HS2 Ltd manages and responds to construction complaints. You can contact the Construction Commissioner by emailing: complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the line of route by visiting:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property

Find out if you're eligible for compensation at:

www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2

Holding us to account

If you are unhappy for any reason you can make a complaint by contacting our HS2 Helpdesk team. For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website:

www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain

Contact Us

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

 Minicom **08081 456 472**

 Email **HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk**

Write to:

FREEPOST

HS2 Community Engagement

Website **www.hs2.org.uk**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your local area, visit: **www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk**

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Reference number: HS2-MW-EK-Ph1-Ar-Ce-C2-CR-13-03/10/2023

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