

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

# HS2 Update

Twyford to Greatworth | February 2022

Brackley and surrounding area incl. A43, A422 and A421

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. We are following Government and Public Health England (PHE) advice on working safely during the pandemic. As we increase face to face engagement, in addition to virtual engagement, we will ensure all events and meetings adhere to the guidelines. The health and safety of our workforce and the communities we work within is our priority. If you have any questions about this, please contact our Helpdesk to find out more. We will be keeping our local websites [www.hs2innorthants.co.uk](http://www.hs2innorthants.co.uk) and [www.hs2inbucksandox.co.uk](http://www.hs2inbucksandox.co.uk) up to date with information on our works in the local area.



## Update on our continuing works

Our activity around Brackley and the surrounding area is well under way. Looking ahead into 2022, our activity will continue to increase. You can expect to see the following works in your local area:

### Preparation works

- Continued set up of works compounds at A43, A422, A421 and adjacent to Radstone Road, Brackley;
- Installation of temporary bridges across rivers and roads for construction traffic;
- There may be times where some of our activities are conducted outside of our core working hours;
- Engineering surveys to provide us with the information required to build the key design elements of HS2: viaducts, bridges and tunnels;
- Completion of the site access roads and road crossings; and
- Utility works and diversions.

### Earthworks activities

- Excavation, movement and storage of earthworks;
- Public Rights of Way closures and diversions; and
- Water monitoring and ecological work.

### Structures

- The start of work for bridges and other structures; and
- Piling works and foundations.

## Join us ...

### Drop-in sessions

In line with current Government guidelines, we are gradually reintroducing face to face events and engagement. The safety of our communities, stakeholders and staff remains a priority and we will ensure all events and engagement activities are Covid safe.

Please contact the HS2 Helpdesk or visit [hs2.org.uk/events](http://hs2.org.uk/events) for more information on events in your area.

[www.hs2.org.uk/events](http://www.hs2.org.uk/events)

# Update on works

## Compound updates

Many of our compounds will be entering their final stages of completion in the Spring of 2022. There are two types of construction compounds that we use: main construction compounds and satellite construction compounds.

Our main construction compounds will act as strategic hubs for core project management activities such as: engineering, planning and construction delivery as well as for office-based construction personnel. They will include offices, storage for materials (such as aggregates, structural steel, steel reinforcement) and maintenance and parking facilities (for site plant, lorries and staff cars), together with the main welfare facilities for construction personnel. Our main construction compounds will be located at:

- A43
- A421
- A422
- A4421

The other type of compounds we will have, known as satellite construction compounds, will generally be smaller. They will provide offices



for a limited number of construction personnel and will include local storage for plant and materials, welfare facilities, and limited car parking. Some of our satellite construction compounds are located at:

- Chetwode
- A421 - temporary satellite compound until the main compound is completed.
- A422 -temporary satellite compound south of the A422 until the main compound is completed.



*Plant operating on site in Finmere, December 2021.*



*Temporary cabins being installed at one of our compounds, 2021.*

## Site access road crossing areas

There are several locations where our internal site access road meets the local road network. For reasons of safety, we need to install crossing points in these areas.

- Preston Bissett Road, Chetwode
- Main Street, Chetwode
- Stratton Audley Road, Chetwode
- Featherbed Lane, Mixbury
- Radstone Road
- West Street, near Twyford
- A422 Brackley Road

At many of these locations we are nearing the completion of our crossing points. In 2022, you will begin to see gates being fitted on to them. This is to keep our construction traffic separated from local traffic. We will also be installing traffic lights at these locations. This is to further ensure the safe and controlled crossing of plant and machinery that are travelling between our construction sites and compounds.



## HS2 cuttings

There will be instances where we need to create a cutting along the line of route for HS2. A cutting is created through the excavation of soil that will allow the rail line to pass

through surrounding ground. Cuttings are used as part of railway construction to reduce noise, reduce visual impact and to keep the track level.

In 2021, we began works on the Turweston cutting south of the A422, between the villages of Evenley and Westbury. In February, work on the Turweston Cutting north of the A422 will begin. The Barton Hartshorn to Mixbury cutting will also commence this year, between April and June. We are also progressing with our early works on the Brackley cutting, near Radstone, with main works starting in the Summer.

## A422 diversion works

Near Turweston, we are continuing our preparatory works for the temporary A422 diversion road and roundabout. We are continuing to excavate the area for the temporary road alignment, ready for the next phase of works.

The new temporary diversion and roundabout are expected to become operational in late 2022. We are aiming to have the temporary overbridge for the new diversion installed by the end of the Summer. Over the next few months, as further detailed updates become available, we will publish them on our [www.hs2inoxandbucks.co.uk](http://www.hs2inoxandbucks.co.uk) webpage.

## Temporary internal bridges

Some of our internal site access roads will need to cross over public road networks or small bodies of water.



In early 2022, we will begin the construction of further temporary bridges for our internal site access roads. In early February will see the preparation for a temporary bridge over the A421. This bridge is expected to be installed over the Summer and become operational in early Autumn, helping to reduce our impact on the local road network.



*Example showing the temporary bailey bridge that was constructed for our construction vehicles to cross the A4421.*

## Public Rights of Way

Most rural areas have an extensive network of public rights of way which include footpaths, bridleways and byways.



Between Radstone and Greatworth, we are continuing the construction of our site access and haul road. These will cross a number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW). Where possible, temporary gates will be installed enabling the public to safely cross our site access and haul road to continue along the PRoW. However, for reasons of safety, some may need to be closed and or diverted to enable future works.

## Break from highways

In 2022 as part of our preparatory works for our site access crossing points, we will continue the construction of our break from highways on the A43. A break from highway is the creation of a site access point or entrance for traffic coming into our compound.

While we construct this safe access to our compound, there will be temporary narrowed lines in place on the A43 northbound.

While narrowed lanes are in place, for reasons of safety, cyclists will be unable to use this section of the A43.



## Biodiversity and wildlife

HS2 continues to undertake one of the largest ecological surveys in the UK. Some of the UK's most experienced and leading ecological consultants are working with us, and our work is supported with technical input and advice from specialist ecologists, including recognised experts on species such as barn owls.

To avoid the risk of potential disturbance to breeding barn owls during construction, HS2 are installing temporary nest sites outside the area of risk and closing off potential nest sites where disturbance to barn owls may occur.

Before the line becomes operational and to maintain the breeding population, HS2 are creating up to 240 new artificial nest sites at least 3km from the railway.

To date, 135 temporary nesting sites, such as the one shown in the image to the right, have been installed.



*Temporary nest boxes for barn owls being installed, 2021.*

## Social Value

Looking ahead into 2022, we are excited to expand our engagement with local schools along the route of HS2. Some of our activities include; apprenticeships, attendance at career events up and down the country, mentoring schemes and work experience programmes.

At peak construction we'll need 30,000 people and 2,000 apprentices to design and build HS2. Our Education Programme is vital to leaving a skills legacy from building and designing the new railway. It raises awareness of the Project and inspires the next generation to different careers by highlighting the diversity of jobs and skills required to deliver HS2.

For further information about the HS2 Educational programme please visit our website, [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk).



## November drop-in sessions

In late-November we hosted two drop-in sessions in Whitfield and Brackley. These were opportunities for the local communities to find out more about the project and what it means for the local area.

At these events individuals were able to speak to our engagement teams about the construction look ahead, the environment, see maps and plans of the project as well as ask questions about our upcoming works. The next set of drop-in sessions are expected to take place in early Spring.

“ I spent about 90 minutes with your team and my key take away of the event was a great success. The event was very professional and the room about the correct size and very conducive to cater for the gradual flow of visitors ”

## Brackley Food Bank

Throughout September, our five delivery teams within EKFB participated in a ‘Race the Trace’ which saw teams “race” the length of the HS2 trace that EKFB are delivering.

The Twyford to Greatworth team raised over £1000 which was donated to The Brackley Food Bank. All five delivery teams together have helped to raise a staggering £6073 for local charities up and down the trace.



The image above is from the drop-in session visiting Brackley on the 25 November. Engagement Manager, Dave Butcher, speaks with local members of the community.

## Mobile Visitor Centre

In 2022, you can expect to see our new mobile visitor centre visiting a local village near you! This specialised vehicle will enable us to increase the reach and visibility of our local engagement team, while giving communities a safe, comfortable space where they can find out more about the HS2 project and the work EKFB do.

Prior to visiting your area, your local Engagement Manager will send out updates letting communities know where and when they will be visiting with our mobile visitor centre. If you have any suggested locations for us to visit, please let us know through the HS2 Helpdesk.



## Your feedback matters to us...



HS2 Helpdesk is an email and freephone service available for all queries.



In your area, we are responding to queries in less than 4 days.

### You said, we did...



"The lighting is too bright at your sites at night"

We recently delivered a route wide briefing on minimising lighting at our sites overnight and ensuring we abide to the Code of Construction Practice.



"Can you help us run a Covid-safe community event at Christmas?"

We provided mobile lighting for a Christmas shopping event in Bucks and a school fayre in Northants, so they could take place safely outside.

In the last 6 months, we received 127 complaints across our 80km section:



**55%**  
Traffic and transport



**20%**  
Construction sites & impacts

We also received 103 compliments from our local communities:



**45%**  
Community investment & volunteering

**30%**  
Community meetings & engagement

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Some of our most commonly asked questions in your area

**Q: I'm concerned about mud on my local roads from your construction sites.**

A: We have a suite of road sweepers that are operational throughout our normal working hours, they cover our HGV routes as well as locations near our sites and compounds. Alongside this we have our Traffic Safety Control Officers who are on site daily, monitoring the road conditions, traffic congestion and more.

**Q: Why are your worksites 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. Light pollution may also occur when essential overnight working takes place – such as during the A422 diversion works and when the A43 break from highway work begins.

**Q: I've witnessed traffic lights being set up earlier than the times advertised, is this standard practice?**

A: There may be a short duration outside of the advertised times to allow for our traffic management crews to set-up or take-down road signage and traffic equipment. Traffic equipment may also remain in place on the roadside when lane or road closures are not operational to allow for reduced set up time and minimise delays.



## Community Investment

In October 2021, Arjun Sharma a Section Engineer working in the area of Twyford to Greatworth gave an impressive presentation at Magdalen College School in Brackley to promote civil engineering.

He also shared advice regarding careers, life paths and decision making to the year 10s and those in the years above who are interested in Engineering specifically.

The Head of the Science Faculty and Careers Dr Nick Dixon said: Arjun's presentation was truly inspirational and if I didn't love my job I would definitely retrain! It was clear that he had spent a long time preparing his PowerPoint and talk. It was full of important lessons about perseverance, working in a job and with colleagues that you love, and the importance of working hard at school. I have been in charge of careers here for seven years and this was the best presentation we have had. He was an absolute credit to your organisation. I cannot thank you and him enough."



## Water management

Water management will be key for EKFB in the next 6 months. The ponds and drainage ditches that have been and that are going to be constructed, will be used to manage water on site.

The ponds will provide two uses. Silty water from the construction areas will be diverted to the ponds to allow the silt to settle during the winter months. The water from the ponds will then be used on site as dust suppression throughout the summer.

There will be on going monitoring and sampling of ground water and surface water across our sites. Everything we do with the water environment is regulated by the Environment Agency in according with the existing stringent regulations. HS2 also works closely with Thames Water and Affinity Water to provide all the water needed by construction from existing resources.



# 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](http://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](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner)

You can contact the Commissioner at:  
[residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)**

Write to:

**FREEPOST**

**HS2 Community Engagement**

Website [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)

To keep up to date with what is happening in your local area, visit:  
[www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk](http://www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk)

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-two-ltd-privacy-notice>

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