

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

# HS2 Update

Twyford to Greatworth | Summer 2024

**EKFB**  
Working in  
partnership with **HS2**

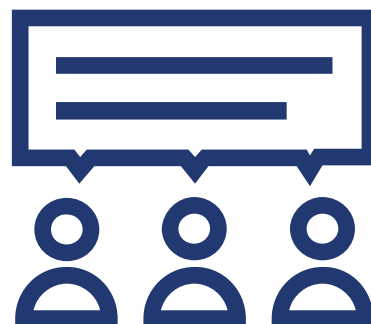
High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. You can sign up for regular updates in your local area at [www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk](http://www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk).

## Inside our summer 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 updates on:

- Westbury Viaduct;
- Twyford Culvert;
- A422 update;
- A43 Overbridge;
- Radstone Road Overbridge;
- A421 permanent realignment;
- Chetwode update;
- Godington Viaducts;
- Information on extended working hours; and
- Social value projects between Twyford and Greatworth.



## Join us ...

You can expect to see our mobile visitor centre visiting a town near you! This specialised vehicle enables 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.

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)

# Construction Update

## Westbury Viaduct

The 320-meter-long Westbury viaduct, near Brackley, is designed to carry the railway over the River Great Ouse floodplain. It will be supported by seven evenly spaced piers, each up to 9.2 meters tall. This impressive viaduct is one of 50 major viaducts on the HS2 project, of which, EKFB is building 15. Impressively, the design and build of this viaduct has cut embedded carbon by an estimated 60%.



Figure 1: The photo above shows Westbury Viaduct under construction.



Figure 2: In the middle of March, the Westbury Viaduct team successfully pushed out the first 1,145 tonne beam into place, which now spans three piers. The beam was winched 135 metres at roughly 9m per hour and the process took around 11 hours to complete.

## Construction update

### Westbury Viaduct update continued

Because of the length of the Westbury viaduct, the deck is being assembled in three stages, with each one pushed out from the north abutment before the next section is attached behind it.

This painstaking 11-hour process means that the weight of the deck will increase with each push, up from an initial 1,145 tonnes this week to 2,695 tonnes by the end of the year. A winch is used to push the deck forward at a speed of around 9 metres per hour, sliding across Teflon pads to reduce friction.

The first and second stages were carried out this spring and the final stage is expected to take place this autumn; where our teams will assemble the final steel beams and move the deck 118m into its final position.

Over the summer, we will continue to carry out substructure works which include installing concrete shells around the piers as well as earthworks activities for the Westbury Embankment located on the south side of the River Great Ouse.

### A422 update

In the middle of June, the A422 will have overnight road closures for 3 nights with local diversion. The diversion route will be along the A421 and A43. This closure is to facilitate the annual maintenance of the temporary A422 Overbridge. Once further details have been confirmed, this information will be shared with communities through an Advance Work Notice and published on the HS2 website: <http://www.hs2.org.uk>

### Twyford Culvert update

Throughout the winter, our teams successfully installed the Twyford Culvert. This structure is located northeast of Twyford and will facilitate the diversion of a small water course that will travel below Twyford Embankment and feed into the Padbury Brook.

This culvert is unique in that it houses a bespoke shelf that will allow mammals to navigate their way through the culvert and under the Twyford Embankment. We began works on this section of the Twyford Embankment this spring.

## Did you know?



Your local area engagement team have carried out over 500+ recorded engagements since January 2023.



They have taken part in 25+ community drop in events or visits with our mobile visitor centre.



They have also supported over 50+ social value initiatives; supporting local communities, charitable organisations and schools.

## Construction update

### A43 near Brackley

Throughout 2024, we will be carrying out works to construct the A43 Overbridge. This overbridge will carry traffic over the new HS2 railway line and is expected to be completed in 2025. Throughout the summer, our teams will be carrying out earthworks and excavation activities. In June, we will be carrying out maintenance of the verges along the A43. Some of our signage is becoming increasingly covered by foliage which has grown larger after winter. This work will require overnight road closures and lane closures of the A43. This maintenance will be occurring along the verges near all our major compounds. Later in the year, we will look to complete remaining drainage and utility works. These works may require periodic overnight closures or lane closures of the A43. We will continue to update communities as these works progress and you can sign up for the latest works updates in your local area at: <http://www.hs2.org.uk>

### Radstone Road update

Throughout early 2024, our teams have been working to construct a temporary diversion of Radstone Road. This new temporary road was opened at the end of February and will help reduce the impact on road users as we begin our main construction works for the Radstone Road Overbridge this spring. Looking ahead over the next three months, our teams will be constructing the abutments and wing walls of the overbridge as well as other structural elements. The beams for the Radstone Road Overbridge are expected to be delivered this summer.

## Frequently asked questions about our works along the A43

### Q: What are you doing along the A43?

A: We are currently building the new A43 Overbridge that will carry traffic over the HS2 railway line. The railway line will be in a cutting. Cuttings take trains below the existing ground level. There are over 70 across the route from London to Birmingham, measuring over 72km (44 miles) in total.

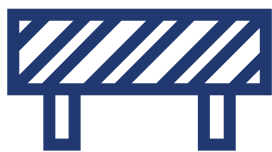
### Q: Will there be any future full weekend road closures?

A: Yes. Once the new overbridge has been constructed, we will need to remove the temporary diversion and tie in the new permanent overbridge to the road network. These works are expected to take place in 2025 and will require full overnight road closures. We will update communities as our works progress.



Figure 3: The image above shows the new Radstone Road Temporary Diversion, March 2024.

## Construction update



### A421 update

In the autumn, our teams will be tying in the new permanent diversion of the A421. These works will involve knitting the new road into the current road network. To help reduce our impact, these works are planned to take place overnight and are expected to continue into early September. We will update communities when more information becomes available. These works are subject to consents.

### Chetwode update

Along Stratton Audley Road, we have been working towards the creation of a new access for Barton Hill Farm. These works are expected to be completed at the end of May. We are also continuing works for temporary diversion of utilities cables while we build a new permanent overbridge that will provide access to Manthorne Farm as well as the permanent realignment of the Preston Bissett Road and Main Street junction. These works will require some road closures of Main Street. Once details are confirmed, information will be shared with communities.

This spring our teams also began the installation of the steel structure and formwork for the bridge deck of the CHW/18 Overbridge. Work for the bridge deck is expected to take place this summer. This overbridge is expected to be completed in late 2024.



Figure 4: View of south abutment of Godington Viaduct and diverted Padbury Brook.

### Godington Viaducts update

The team are nearing completion of piling activities for the Godington East Viaduct and will begin work completing 21 piles on Godington West Viaduct from the middle of May, with the deepest pile being 18 metres below ground. The Godington Viaducts are each 75 metres in length and 12.7 metres in width with the rack height approximately 5.5 metres above existing ground level. The viaducts are expected to be completed towards the end of 2025.



### Working Hours

In order to make the best use of the long days and dry weather conditions, we will be extending our core working hours between Twyford and Greatworth. Our extended working hours, as consented by local authorities, are Monday-Friday 7am-7pm and Saturday 8am-6pm. There are locations where hours may vary due to specific activities taking place such as concrete pours.

## Community news and social value

### Supporting food larders in West Northamptonshire



Figure 5: The image above shows the Northants Food Larder, February 2024.

As part of supporting local communities and in collaboration with the food larders in Northamptonshire, we have recently assisted with the collection and delivery of donations.

An unexpected breakdown in their transportation chain had threatened operations at food larders in Brackley, Helmdon, and Woodford Halse. Recognising the urgency of the situation and its potential impact on communities, teams from within EKFB were able to help with transportation.

**Coordinator of Helmdon Community Larder said:** *“The presence of David, Arnesh, Harry and Andy (from EKFB) has had a major impact on Brackley and Helmdon. They took the “Lions” share of unloading and reloading in their stride and it was clear that they were fully aware of our need and supported us throughout with excellent friendly conversation with many of the Larder volunteers. None of this would have been possible if we had not the excellent liaison service with EKFB.”*

### Men in Sheds, Brackley

In May 2023, EKFB’s Engagement Team were introduced to - Men in Sheds, a charitable organisation created to support local people, and in this case to serve Brackley and its surrounding communities.

Part of this community support was to plan and build the charity group’s first permanent meeting place, located at Evenly Wood Gardens, near Brackley.

EKFB are currently working with a number of subcontractors to support the charity and help get their new chapter up and running for Brackley and surrounding areas this spring.

**Men in Sheds Brackley Chairman:** “Many thanks to the Team from EKFB, Joint venture responsible for this section of HS2, for making this happen.”

You can find out more about the Brackley Chapter on their website found here – <https://www.meninshedsbrackley.uk/>

# What else is happening in your area?

[www.hs2.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](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

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 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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