

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

HS2 Update

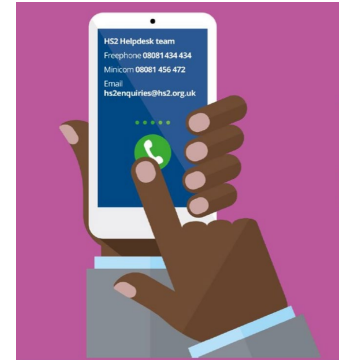
Aylesbury Area | July 2021

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. In response to COVID -19 we have worked hard to ensure that our working practices are fully aligned with the Site Operating Procedures produced by the Construction Leadership Council. These procedures have been endorsed by Public Health England. We will be keeping our local website **www.hs2inbucksandbox.co.uk** up to date with information on our works in the local area.

Update on our main works

Aylesbury in the next couple of months, you can expect to see the following works in the local area.

- Ground Investigation (GI) works
- Utility works including trial holes
- Utility diversions and connections
- CCTV Drainage Works
- The continued set-up of works compounds off the A418 Oxford Road, the A41 and the Old Risborough Road in Stoke Mandeville
- Localised clearance of vegetation and fencing along the line of the route in the areas of the A418 and A41
- Haul road, access roads and drainage activities to commence in May 2021
- The Princes Risborough to Aylesbury rail line realignment works to start from September onwards
- Test piling to commence in the summer for the viaduct
- Excavation, movement and storage of earthworks
- Several breaks from highway in the area to allow for our compounds and site access roads which will require local traffic management
- Earthworks for the main compound on the A418 including a break from highway which will require traffic management



Monthly Engagement Sessions

We are running monthly, virtual 1-2-1 sessions.

These 20-minute appointments are open to anyone in the community who would like to talk to us about a topic of their choice.

This could range from construction to employment opportunities or funding.

To find your next session, head to the HS2 Events page for more information

www.hs2.org.uk/events



Upcoming works

Batching plant (A41 and A4010)

The concrete Batching Plants that will serve the Aylesbury area, are now coming towards completion with the silo deliveries now expected in June. Once the batching plants are full operational much of the concrete, we use on our sites will be distributed from these points enabling us to reduce the amount of cement lorry deliveries we need. For the larger concrete pours, we will still require cement lorry deliveries from our subcontractors.

Piling works

From July onwards, there will be a need to undertake for some test piling works just north of the Aylesbury Golf Club in the area where the Thames Value Viaduct will be located. The piling works will take place during core hours over a period of about 2 weeks, the purpose of this activity is to ensure the design and load bearing capabilities are sufficient to carry the weight of the structures they will be supporting.

Roads in the area

We have recently closed off Marsh Lane and the southern section of Old Risborough Road on a permanent basis. Due to the works and the structures being constructed in these areas there is no through route for vehicles, cyclists or pedestrians.

The closures have allowed us to begin the construction of our internal haul road which enables our plant and vehicles to access our sites internally and avoid using construction of the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road, the realignment of the Princes Risborough – Aylesbury rail line and the HS2 line itself.

On the A41 we are undertaking a large amount of fencing works, trial holes, CCTV drainage works and utility diversions throughout May, June and July. We do not anticipate a full closure of the road, but we will have lane closures between 9am and 3pm.



CGI images of the batching plant viewed from the A41

Upcoming works

Earthworks for structures

From summer we expect to start work on the A418 overbridge earthworks, we expect this work to take 3 to 4 months but will not impact the public highway. This will involve moving large quantities of soil, levelling and compacting the land to ensure the ground is capable of supporting our engineering designs.

Footpaths

We are now implementation footpath closures between Stoke Mandeville and Waddesdon in order to support the construction of our internal haul road, permanent structures and the HS2 rail line. The public rights of way which run close to or are directly affected by our works are closed on grounds of safety for all users. Wherever possible we are creating diversions and alternative routes that will still allow access across our site although we appreciate that disruption this causes, we work to reopen the footpaths and bridleways as soon as we are able. We will shortly be confirming and publishing the notification for the entire area on the works in your area section on the HS2 website.

1-2-1 Community Appointments

With COVID-19 having changed the way in which we engage with the communities, we have been offering virtual 1-2-1 appointments for the communities to talk with members of our engagement team and our wider team over a variety of topics from construction updates and queries, through to funding, volunteering and job opportunities.

We would like to thank those that attended and would welcome anyone who has any questions to book a session through the HS2 Events page www.hs2.org.uk/events

HS2 in the community

Earth tree saved - Following an approach by various members of the local community we have listened amended our site designs to save the 'Earth Tree' in the area of Aylesbury Golf course. The 200 year old oak tree was planted by Louise XVIII of France when he was exiled to Hartwell House in 1808 and has been enjoyed by generations ever since becoming a historical community feature in the area.

"We are thrilled that EKFB and HS2 listened to our feedback and were able to save the Earth Tree. It has been well received by the local community and the Parish Council are pleased with the outcome."

Cllr Andrew Cole



The "Earth Tree" pictured above

If you have a community project which needs support, then get in touch and speak with our engagement team to find out what funding and opportunities are available.

Other news

EKFB has now registered with the Considerate Constructors "Ultrasite" Scheme. An independent assessor will be scoring our sites against the principles of the scheme which include: site appearance, respecting communities, protecting the environment, securing everyone's safety and valuing our workforce. EKFB's aim is to exceed on all areas of the Code and actively seek to improve not only our own performance but that of our supply chain.

We have also started to introduce Plinx hard hat technology to our sites. These devices use wireless technology to monitor social distancing and warn staff to keep their distance from each other and also to warn operatives if they come too close to working plant machinery.



Above example of Plinx helmet



Update on our early works

Fusion have been continuing with the enabling works in the area and have begun their transition over to EKFB to deliver the main HS2 works.

We have the following remaining works around Aylesbury Golf Course, which includes boundary fencing, further archaeology trial trenching, localised vegetation and tree clearance related to ecology mitigation to be completed by the end of summer 2021.

Archaeology mitigation, top-soil strip and investigation may extend to Spring 2022 if significant archaeology is found during the next phase of trial trenching.

We have completed the majority of our ecology surveys. Our remaining surveys will continue as required according to the ecological calendar.

Based on these results we have begun our species mitigation works, which includes new owl roosts, which will continue to September 2021.

Habitat sites have been carefully constructed and maintained to ensure they are suitable for the wildlife which is relocated there.

If you have a question about HS2 or our works, please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Keep up to date with our works

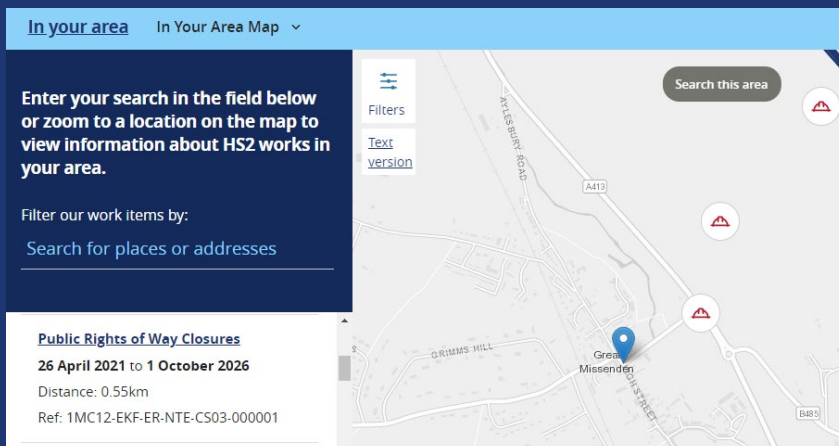
HS2 In Your Area

You may have noticed a new feature to our website.

You can now search using the in your area maps.

These are new **interactive maps** that feature our advanced work notifications and route information specific to your location.

Simply type in your address in the search bar and you can find out what is happening in your area.



Our Commonplace website provides the most up to date information about our works in this area. You can subscribe to receive updates in two easy steps:

1. Visit your local Commonplace website – <http://hs2inyourarea.co.uk/>
2. Under 'Subscribe to news updates', enter your email address and click 'Get Project News'

This will provide you with email notifications of any upcoming works, webinars, or community meetings straight to your inbox.

FAQ

Some of our most commonly asked questions in the Aylesbury area...

Q: How are you protecting birds during nesting season?

A: Before any work close to trees or vegetation is undertaken, an ecologist attends the site and carries out a detailed survey to ensure no bats, birds or nests are present. If any wildlife or nests are discovered, the tree is left alone until the bird leaves the nest, and a boundary is put in place to ensure they are not disturbed.

Q: Are you tracking your HGVs to ensure they follow approved routes?

A: We have a vehicle management system in place to ensure we can track all regular vehicles and hauliers delivering to our sites. We can monitor the routes taken, reroute vehicles where necessary, and reject any vehicles who do not comply with our strict criteria.

Q: How are you managing dust at your work sites?

A: We are using dust suppression systems at our sites. We spray down work areas, haul routes and plant using water bowsters to prevent dust from becoming airborne. We also use dust monitoring techniques to ensure we can monitor air quality levels close to our work sites.



Your questions answered

Your local Parish Councillors ask us a series of questions...

Adam Poland, Coldharbour and Fairford Leys Parish Council

Q: How are road closures managed and designed to allow traffic to flow?

A: We've made commitments to ensure we keep disruption to the highway to a minimum however in the current phase of construction it is necessary to implement traffic management in the area for some activities we are undertaking close to the local roads.

To attempt to keep disruption to a minimum we try to avoid full road closures wherever possible, however for the safety of road users and our workforce it is sometimes necessary for us to complete the works. Where traffic management measures are put in place, these are usually between the hours of 9am and 3pm to avoid peak traffic times. Where road closures are introduced, we are obligated to design the diversion routes on a like-for-like basis.

Richard Lloyd, Aylesbury Town Council

Q: When will we see actual construction of the line from Aylesbury?

A: Before work can start on the HS2 line itself we must complete some other works first such as the ground investigations, utility diversion, the construction of our internal haul road and drainage throughout the area. As these are being completed, we will then look to start the main earthworks for the construction of the bridges towards the end of 2021.

Q: Will HS2 be employing local people and how do we find out about jobs?

A: EKFB are already employing local people throughout the Buckinghamshire and the surrounding counties. Vacancies are advertised on our website as well as through parent companies but in the first instance people should visit www.ekfb.com/careers.

Additionally the project will also be recruiting technical apprentices (civil engineers/quantity surveyors), trade apprentices such as form workers, steel fixers and general operatives and office based apprentices such as business administration and customer services levels 2 and 3. Anyone interested in applying for these roles should keep an eye on our website. The recruitment of apprentices will take place throughout the course of the project and we will look to be running local recruitment workshops within the next 6 months. If you would like any further information, then please contact the HS2 Helpdesk.

Community Investment

We are currently working with charity Transitions UK (Aylesbury and Wendover branches) to provide 1-2-1 mentoring service for young people, aged 13-21 years, who are at risk of or already involved in criminal activity, or young people that are at risk of criminal exploitation. We have established an EKFB volunteer programme providing mentoring to Aylesbury residents.

To date we have trained over 500 construction candidates in partnership with various training providers, including the Bucks College Group. For information on careers and local job vacancies, visit **EKFB.com/careers**.

We are also planning a range of exciting **STEM** activities which we will launch in the next academic year when COVID restrictions are eased. We recently launched our **TimeBank** initiative, where staff are encouraged to do one day of volunteering per year.

If you have a suggestion for volunteering or community investment, whether it be a spot of gardening or a careers talk, then please get in touch.



We are keen to support with volunteering and fundraising work for local charities.

If you would like to know more then please contact the **HS2 Helpdesk**.

HS2 Funds for the Community



One of the latest HS2 community funding projects to be secured in Aylesbury is for **£74,430** which is going to **The Buckinghamshire County Museum**. This CEF-funded project will build five new interactive galleries in the museum, featuring stunning displays of objects from the stored collections. The galleries will tell the story of Buckinghamshire's people and landscapes, from 200 million years ago through to today, and will include objects found in the surrounding areas of Aylesbury and stories from their diverse communities.

For more information on the funds available visit **www.hs2funds.org.uk**



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

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