

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

# HS2 Update

Aylesbury Area | May 2022

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. As we reintroduce face to face engagement, which is in addition to the ongoing virtual engagement, we will continue to follow government guidance on reducing the spread of Covid-19. The health and safety of our workforce and the communities we work within is our priority. Please contact the Helpdesk if you have any further questions relating to our response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We will be keeping our local website [www.hs2inbucksandbox.co.uk](http://www.hs2inbucksandbox.co.uk) up to date with information on our works in the local area.



## Update on our continuing works

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

- Preparatory works for the Stoke Mandeville Relief road;
- Preparatory works for the A41 realignment;
- Thames Valley Viaduct foundation works to commence;
- Excavation, movement and storage of earthworks;
- Piling works for the A418 overbridge;
- Piling works for the Princes Risborough to Aylesbury Railway
- A418 re-alignment preparatory works including piling;
- Ground Investigation (GI), topography and survey works;
- Utility works including trial holes;
- UKPN utility connection works around our compound areas;
- Princes Risborough to Aylesbury Railway overnight deliveries;
- Several breaks from highway in the area to allow for our site access – these will include the need for some short duration traffic management;
- Continued PRow closures in the area;
- Compound progression; and
- Localised vegetation and site clearance.

## Join us ...

You can expect to see our new mobile visitor centre visiting a local community 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.

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

### Site access road crossing points

All of our crossing points across Aylesbury will soon be operational. These are required where our internal site access road meets the local road network where we will have crossing points;

- A418
- A41
- Blackgrove Road
- Station Road
- Quainton Road
- Temporary Crossing-Risborough Road

There are still some activities which we need to complete, such as installing the traffic lights that will control the traffic flows and install bridges that will carry our traffic over the road network (A418). Whilst we finish these tie in points there will be the need for temporary traffic management to complete the construction.

Our internal site access road will continue to be constructed and when operational, will keep all of our HS2 construction traffic within our work areas.



### Abnormal Loads

In 2022 we began receiving deliveries of abnormal loads to our sites along the A418. An

abnormal load is a load which due to its weight or dimensions cannot be carried on a conventional goods vehicle and requires a special vehicle and arrangements for its transport. These deliveries often include very large construction machinery such as cranes and piling rigs.

For the safety of road users and our staff, these abnormal loads require temporary traffic management in the form of a lane closure to provide enough space for the vehicles to safely turn into our construction sites. We thank you for your co-operation and apologise in advance for any inconvenience.



### A418 works

Listening to feedback from the local community and to ease congestion on the A418

Oxford Road, a temporary site access road crossing point on the A418 is now operational.

This crossing point will help minimise the need for frequent lane closures. These traffic lights will remain on green until our HGV's are ready to cross. The lights will turn red for a short duration as the vehicles cross the road and then return to green until the crossing is needed again.

Later this year, in preparation for the permanent realignment of the A418, we will also be creating a temporary bridge. This bridge will connect our site access roads and allow us to move large amounts of material between sites while reducing the impact our crossing point has on the A418.

The permanent realignment will be constructed within our compound and is expected to become operational in Summer 2023. The realignment will go over the HS2 railway. Once further details of this become available, we will update communities.



*Figure 1: The above image is an example of an abnormal load of steel girders being delivered to an HS2 site.*

## Princes Risborough to Aylesbury Railway update

The construction of an overbridge is part of the realignment of the Princes Risborough to Aylesbury Network Rail line (PRA), which is being constructed to allow the new HS2 line to run underneath. The PRA overbridge is expected to be operational in 2023.

Our work in this area is to construct a new railway embankment, the PRA overbridge itself, and other related structures including a road underpass which will support future development in the area. These works will involve receiving deliveries of large steel beams and will require temporary traffic management.

The PRA realignment is due to be brought into use next year following a 'blockade' period. During this time, the train line will not be in use. This is to allow for 24hr working to switch from the existing line onto the new live line. It is expected to take between 6 to 10 weeks to complete this work.

Since January 2022, we have also been carrying out overnight rail deliveries of material to our PRA site. These deliveries are providing material for the railway's embankment, and some other works close by. Delivering material by rail has successfully helped reduce our impact on the local road network. Across the whole HS2 project, 15,000 freight trains are set to be used to haul 10 million tonnes of aggregate to construction sites – taking the equivalent of 1.5 million HGVs off the UK's roads.

Throughout the Spring, we have been carrying out piling works for the PRA overbridge, and have recently been piling for the bridge abutments, which are now being made ready for the next stage of construction. Currently, we are constructing four pier piles which are expected to be some of the largest constructed for the HS2 railway. Each of these will require approximately 300 cubic metres of concrete and take 2-3 days of continuous working to construct. The bridge will rest on these concrete piles, some as deep as 57.5m. You can see our team installing the first of the four pier piles in the image to the right, Figure 3.



*Figure 2: The above image shows our teams carrying out piling works for the Princes to Aylesbury Railway overbridge, April 2022.*



*Figure 3: The above image shows our teams installing the first of four piers for the PRA overbridge.*

## Quainton Primary School

We believe we are building more than a railway. One of our most important goals is to create opportunities and make a positive impact on local communities.

In 2021, EKFB reached out to Quainton Primary School to see if we could offer assistance through our Social Value Programme.

The school informed us that an outdoor area of the school was not accessible and had become overgrown with vegetation and brambles. Additionally, there was a section of the school's fencing that had fallen into disrepair.

Over the Easter Holidays, with help from our contractors HW Martin and ATM Fencing, we were able to clear a large outdoor area for the school, providing a safe space for children to play. We were also able to install a new section of fencing to help secure the school's perimeter.



*Figure 4: The above image shows the section of fencing that we replaced for Quainton Primary School.*

We plan to continue expanding our Social Value Programme through things such as providing local employment and training opportunities, inspiring school children into construction and volunteering in our communities to make a positive impact.

We look forward to strengthening our relationship with Quainton Primary School and completing future projects together.

## Social Value and the HS2 Educational Programme

Throughout 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.

On our website we have provided a case study on one of our apprentices, Liam, who applied while he was taking his A-Levels. Liam was interested in seeing how projects of this scale work and how he could be a part of it. He is just one of many apprentices who will be helping to deliver the Thame Valley Viaduct along with other structures in the Aylesbury area.

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).

## Thame Valley Viaduct

On Wednesday 13 April 2022, we hosted a live ‘webinar’ where we presented our final designs for the Thame Valley Viaduct. The webinar was well received with many positive comments about the event and information presented.

Those who attended heard from our team of experts about how we incorporated your feedback and comments on our four priority areas: Viaduct design, Landscape design, Construction and Social benefits, Employment and Training, into the design of the viaduct.

Our final designs for the Thame Valley Viaduct include pioneering pre-fabricated construction methods that will see the 880m-long structure slotted together like a giant Lego set, cutting its carbon footprint by an estimated 66%. Using this pre-casting method, we estimate to improve the construction programme for the Thames Valley Viaduct by 4 months.

Set low into the landscape with a simple and consistent profile, the underside of the viaduct will be just 3m above the ground, with thirty-six 25m-long spans crossing the river and surrounding wetlands.

Around the viaduct, the river floodplain will be enhanced to boost biodiversity and help better manage flood water. This will include replacing existing arable land with new wildlife-rich areas of woodland and wetland.

Thame Valley is one of 15 viaducts designed by HS2 Ltd’s main works contractor, EKFB – a team made up of Eiffage, Kier, Ferrovial Construction and BAM Nuttall – working with their design partner, ASC (a joint venture between Arcadis Setec and COWI) and specialist architects Moxon.



*Figure 5: The above Computer-Generated Image (CGI) is an artist's impression of what the Thame Valley Viaduct will look like within the wetland.*



*Figure 6: The above CGI is an artist's impression of what the Thame Valley Viaduct will look like within the landscape.*



*Figure 7: The CGI above, is a visualisation of what the central piers of the viaduct will look like.*

## Your feedback matters to us...



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



**In your area, we are responding to most queries in under 4 days.**

### You said, we did...



**"The roads near your site are muddy"**

This is a key improvement area for us - we recently briefed staff route-wide on reducing mud on road and this year we have installed 5 new wheel washer facilities across our sites.



**"Can you help us with a local allotment project?"**

EKFB and H W Martin recently helped rejuvenate a local Parish allotment, clearing over 2000m<sup>2</sup> of space and creating 11 new half plots. Let us know if you would like our help in your community.

**In the last 6 months, we received 159 complaints across our 80km section:**



**53%**  
Traffic & transport

**34%** - Road works  
**25%** - HS2 vehicles



**30%**  
Construction and site impacts

**We also received 78 compliments from our local communities:**



**32%**  
Community meetings & engagement

**37%**  
Community investment & volunteering

## Frequently Asked Questions

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

#### **Q: What has been happening on the A418 Oxford Road?**

**A:** The site has received a number of abnormal loads delivering large plant and machinery to our site on the A418 for our works on the Princes Risborough to Aylesbury line. Due to the size of the vehicles, it was necessary to install traffic lights to switch the A418 traffic to red for a short duration, to allow the vehicles to enter and exit the site. The traffic lights cannot be taken off the road until the delivery vehicles have then left site, so the traffic is managed throughout that time with a lane closure. Please note: Abnormal load deliveries will be happening for the duration of the project. Currently the abnormal load deliveries will be for the Princes Risborough to Aylesbury Line works and in the coming months the Thame Valley Viaduct works.

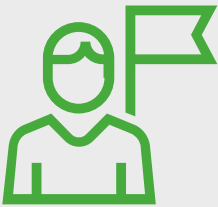
#### **Q: How can I see what footpaths are closed in the area?**

**A:** We provide all the information on footpath closures on the 'in your area' section of the Hs2 website our website: [In your area map - HS2](#) . Additionally, to be kept up to date on works in your area please sign up to our mailing list here: <https://engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list/>

## EKFB awarded industry-first sustainability status

EKFB has become the first construction joint venture to achieve a new sustainability status awarded by the Supply Chain Sustainability School (SCSS).

The status is part of a new programme within the School's Plant Charter which recognises the actions taken by construction organisations to lower emissions on construction sites, resulting in improved air quality and a cleaner working environment.



Each organisation that becomes a signatory to the Charter makes a public pledge to work towards five commitments that address these emissions. These include minimum standards in

procurement, engagement with stakeholders, awareness raising and education, measurement and reporting, and innovation. EKFB has started their journey on the Bronze level and their plan is to progress towards Silver and then aim to achieve Gold in the next 18 months.



*EKFB and its supply chain has worked hard to achieve this industry-first status and in doing so we are proud to be recognised for our ambitious sustainability strategies. This accreditation demonstrates our commitment to innovating and reducing our environmental impact through implementing cleaner construction techniques and saving carbon emissions within our building methods as we construct the new high-speed railway.*

- **Craig Downs, EKFB's Plant Manager**



### Green facts

At EKFB, we have the opportunity to make a real positive impact on our planet. Below are 5 things we're doing to help invest in our planet.



By cutting the amount of concrete and steel in our Wendover Dean and Thame Valley viaducts, we're saving **over 25,000 tonnes of carbon** – the same as 90,500 flights from London to Edinburgh

Our Thame Valley Viaduct is going to be made completely from pre-fabricated parts, **cutting its carbon footprint by around 66%**



We've designed our 3 Green Tunnels in a way that will **reduce the amount of carbon embedded by 50%**

We've taken **400,500 trucks off our roads** by using rail deliveries, **saving over 154,00 of CO<sub>2</sub>**



In total, we are creating **81 habitats** and **planting more than 7 million trees**





## Our Mobile Visitor Centre



**Coming to your area soon...**

**To find out our upcoming locations, please visit our dedicated events page:**

[hs2.org.uk/events/mobile-information-centre-dates-and-venues/](https://hs2.org.uk/events/mobile-information-centre-dates-and-venues/)

**Or scan me!**



**In March 2022 we launched our Mobile Visitor Centre allowing us to bring engagement to your area.**

**We will visit your local area every few months to enable you to drop-in and ask questions or find out more about the project. We will have a range of experts on hand, from engagement managers to engineers.**

## Race the Trace – fundraising for local charities



**Pace**

Throughout the month of June, we're challenging our five sections and our route

wide support team to race the length of the trace for charity! In September 2021, the Aylesbury Area team raised over £1000 which was donated to The Healthy Living Centre, with a total over £6000 raised for other Buckinghamshire charities.

This year the Aylesbury Area team will be raising funds for the charity Pace, located in the Aylesbury Area. Pace is a specialist charity that is committed to ensuring that children with neurodisabilities have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential in life and can take their place in the world.



# 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.

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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