

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

HS2 Update

Greatworth to Southam | Winter 2023



High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain.

If you have any questions or enquiries about our work, please contact our Helpdesk to find out more.

You can sign up for regular updates in your local area at www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk.

Inside our winter newsletter...

- What's happening in winter
- Greatworth green tunnel update
- Community projects and volunteering
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- Stoneton Lane green overbridge news
- Look ahead to our work in 2024



Artist's impression of the Greatworth green tunnel portal



Visiting communities

We visited the following communities this autumn:

- Thorpe Mandeville
- Sulgrave
- Greatworth
- Byfield
- Culworth
- Southam
- Aston le Walls

If you would like us to visit your area, please get in touch via the HS2 helpdesk.

Details of all upcoming events for 2024 will be listed here: www.hs2.org.uk/events

What's happening in your area?

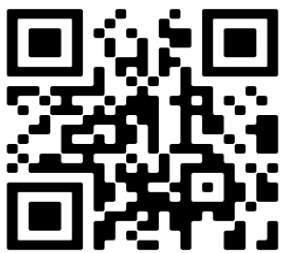
Work during winter 2023

- Periods of traffic management near Southam, on the A423 Banbury Road and Kineton Road as we build two road bridges in the area
- Ongoing construction of the new road network near the Banbury Road overbridge near Boddington, requiring some periods of road closure
- Preparations for the closure of Stoneton Lane, near Priors Hardwick to excavate the railway line and build a new green road bridge, which will commence in early 2024
- Occasional periods of traffic management on the A361, in preparation for the realignment of the road over the Chipping Warden green tunnel in 2024
- Ongoing green tunnel construction at Greatworth and Chipping Warden
- Abnormal load deliveries for our tunnel construction, which may require traffic management
- Greatworth Temporary Road will open, maintaining connectivity to local villages while we build the Greatworth green tunnel
- A section of Helmdon Road, Greatworth has closed for approximately two years to build the green tunnel. The road will be reinstated above the tunnel on completion
- Some carefully managed evening and weekend construction activity across Warwickshire and Northamptonshire
- Utility diversions in conjunction with utility companies such as Anglian Water, Severn Trent, BT, British Gas and Western Power
- Continuing archaeological surveys near our earthworks

Take a look at our aerial footage

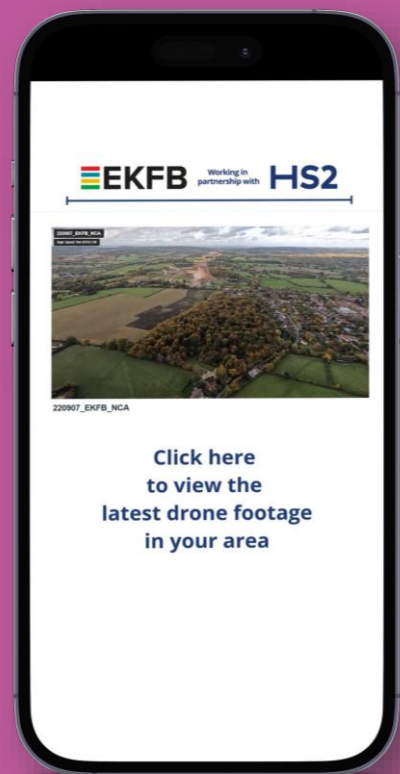
One of the best ways to see the progress we are making on site is from our new drone footage.

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.



Scan or click here:

HS2 - Greatworth to Southam construction progress overview, October 2023 (vimeo.com)



Greatworth green tunnel update

Installing the tunnel sections



In August 2023 we installed the first tunnel arches.

A green tunnel, or cut-and-cover tunnel, is made by excavating a trench and building a tunnel in the open space, then the land on top of the tunnel is restored so it blends into the landscape.

Designed as a double arch, the tunnel will have two separate halves for southbound and northbound trains. For the Greatworth green tunnel, around 5000 individual tunnel segments will be produced and installed.

Compared to a traditional concrete pouring method of construction, this precast method uses approximately half the amount of concrete and 20% less steel. This significantly reduces the construction time required. It also eliminates the need to have heavy and disruptive manufacturing work on-site near Greatworth.

We have carefully considered the material choices for this structure. Concrete and steel are some of the biggest sources of carbon emissions within the construction industry and by reducing the amount of both materials needed for the tunnel, it is expected to more than halve the amount of carbon that would have been embedded in the structure.

Diverting overhead power lines

At various locations the HS2 line will cross high voltage power lines serving local communities. In partnership with utility companies we are diverting these lines underground, during which there will be minimal supply impacts on residents. Work is continuing on this in Southam by the A423 and will soon commence near Helmdon Road in Greatworth.

While we carry out this work, Helmdon Road will be closed where it meets the B4525, until the tunnel construction is complete in 2026. A new turning area will be created for traffic to return into the village.

Tunnel section deliveries

Precast segments have started to arrive at our Greatworth compound to form the tunnel structure. These distinctive curved pieces travel from the Derbyshire factory, via the M1 and A43 to our Greatworth compound.



These distinctive curved segments are arriving on site to build the tunnel

Opening of the Greatworth T

This winter the first section of the Greatworth T temporary road will open. This provides an alternative route for traffic while we build the Greatworth green tunnel.

Our community activities

Outdoor learning at Greatworth Primary School

A team of volunteers spent two days over the summer holidays removing three damaged sheds and lots of debris from a woodland area at the school. Our Carpenters, Chris and Tony, took apart the old sheds to make way for an outdoor learning area.



We went back in September with more volunteers to tame the woodland, strim away the brambles and lifting the tree canopy. We will make the area usable again by building new seating in-keeping with the woodland area. As well as making some planters for the children to sew vegetable and flower seeds.



From an overgrown garden to...

New children's book launched at Chipping Warden



Children from Chipping Warden Primary School were thrilled to have the new book read to them by the author Chris Madeley, before heading off in a minibus on a 'site safari' to see the construction work taking place and see the book come to life.

The story is a great way for children to understand more about huge construction projects like HS2. The book follows the adventures of 5 cone characters, as they explore how we build green tunnels and viaducts.

To get a copy of the book for your school or community group please contact: earlycareers@ekfb.com



To an outdoor learning space.

Tree donations

In late April we delivered 20 English oak trees, grown by HS2, to local communities throughout the Greatworth to Southam area. These are being planted by the local communities in celebration of the King's Coronation, in parks, fields and communal areas for all to enjoy. The common English oak, *Quercus robur* is a native tree and matures to form a broad and spreading crown with sturdy branches.

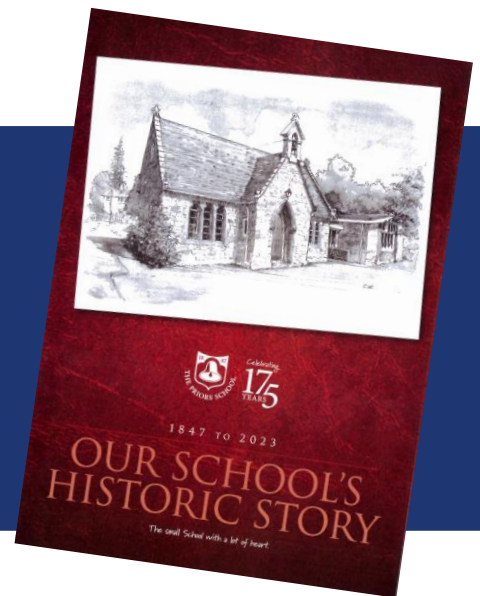


Southam Rugby Club

The summer's big Party on the Pitch event was a huge success and we loved sponsoring the family entertainment area and magic show. As well as providing lights and security barriers to help the event run smoothly.

The Priors School history book

Congratulations to the Priors School, in Priors Marsden and the local community who celebrate 175 years of the school! This summer, we were pleased to support the anniversary by printing their new history book, with historic photos and recollections of previous people and activities at the school.



Chipping Warden village gates

The new road alignment built near Chipping Warden had left the village without arrival gates. These have now been built, painted and installed by a local carpentry firm, thanks to EKFB funding.

Constructing Highfurlong Brook viaduct

About the viaduct

- Highfurlong is the first of the seven viaducts in the Greatworth to Southam area being built to carry the HS2 line
- The viaduct is 163 metres long and will carry trains over the low ground between Aston Le Walls and Lower Boddington
- It will sit at 7 meters high with the Highfurlong Brook passing underneath



Artist's impression of the completed viaduct

Installing the beams

The beams are approximately 23 meters long, each weighing up to 56 tonnes. These were laid between the seven piers to make the base of the viaduct deck. During August and September a total of 26 beams were installed with the help of a large crane making the base for the 163 meter long viaduct.

The next stage will be to pour concrete for the viaduct's lower deck and to connect the beams. On completion of the lower deck, there is a layer of waterproofing and a protection slab, on top of which the concrete footings for the rail will be placed. Precast parapets, which are used to create a protective wall, will then be installed along either side of the viaduct. The first parapets are scheduled to be installed in spring 2024.



Aerial view of the beam installation and the 600 tonne crane that was used to lift the beams into place. This is the second viaduct on the HS2 programme to have all its beams laid.

Stoneton Lane green overbridge



What is a green bridge?

As well as a road and pavement, a green bridge has a wide section of tree planting to support the ecology of the area. There is a large bat population near Stoneton Lane and the tree canopy on the bridge will encourage wildlife from the nearby woodland to cross the railway line safely.

Building the green bridge

Before work can begin on the bridge, we will need to excavate the railway line cutting. Due to the nature of the geology in the area, there will be a period of time known as heave, to allow the earth to stabilise prior to construction.

A bridge typically takes between 12-18 months to build. Starting with the foundation piers, we use concrete mixed in our batching plants to pour deep columns which support the bridge.

The bridge will be near the same location as the current road junction with Wormleighton Road. During the construction, the entry to Stoneton Lane (also known as Leisure Drive) will be closed, until the bridge is completed. Access to Priors Hardwick and Priors Marsden will be via routes through Upper Boddington and Southam.

Look ahead to 2024

Here are some of the other activities that will be happening in 2024:

- A new section of the A361 will be built over the Chipping Warden green tunnel
- The permanent closure of Culworth Road in Chipping Warden
- The Greatworth T will be in full operation, reducing the impacts of local road closures
- Green tunnel construction near Thorpe Mandeville, requiring closures of Banbury Road, with the Greatworth T providing a diversion route for these closure
- Traffic management and road closures on Edgcote Road, near Trafford Bridge, Chipping Warden where we are building a new viaduct
- In Southam, traffic management and temporary road closures to enable to construction of the Kineton Road overbridge and the A423 Banbury Road overbridge

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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Registered office: Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.

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