

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

HS2 Update

Greatworth to Southam | Spring 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.

What's happening in your area?

Upcoming works this spring and summer

- A period of peak earthwork activity, required to build embankments, cuttings and to prepare the ground for structures;
- Periods of traffic management near Southam, on the A423 Banbury Road and Kington Road as we build two road bridges in the area;
- Extended periods of traffic management and some longer periods of road closure, to construct the Banbury Road Overbridge near Boddington;
- Completion of the Greatworth 'T' temporary road;
- Near the Greatworth Green Tunnel site, Welsh Lane and Sulgrave Road will have periods of traffic management and road closures;
- Some carefully managed evening and weekend construction activity, to make the most effective use of summer earthworks season.
- Continuing archaeological surveys near our earthworks.
- Abnormal load deliveries, for our tunnel construction, which may require traffic management;
- Utility diversion works in conjunction with utility companies such as Anglian Water, Severn Trent, BT, British Gas and Western Power.



Join us at our next drop in event.

We will be visiting the following communities in the coming months:

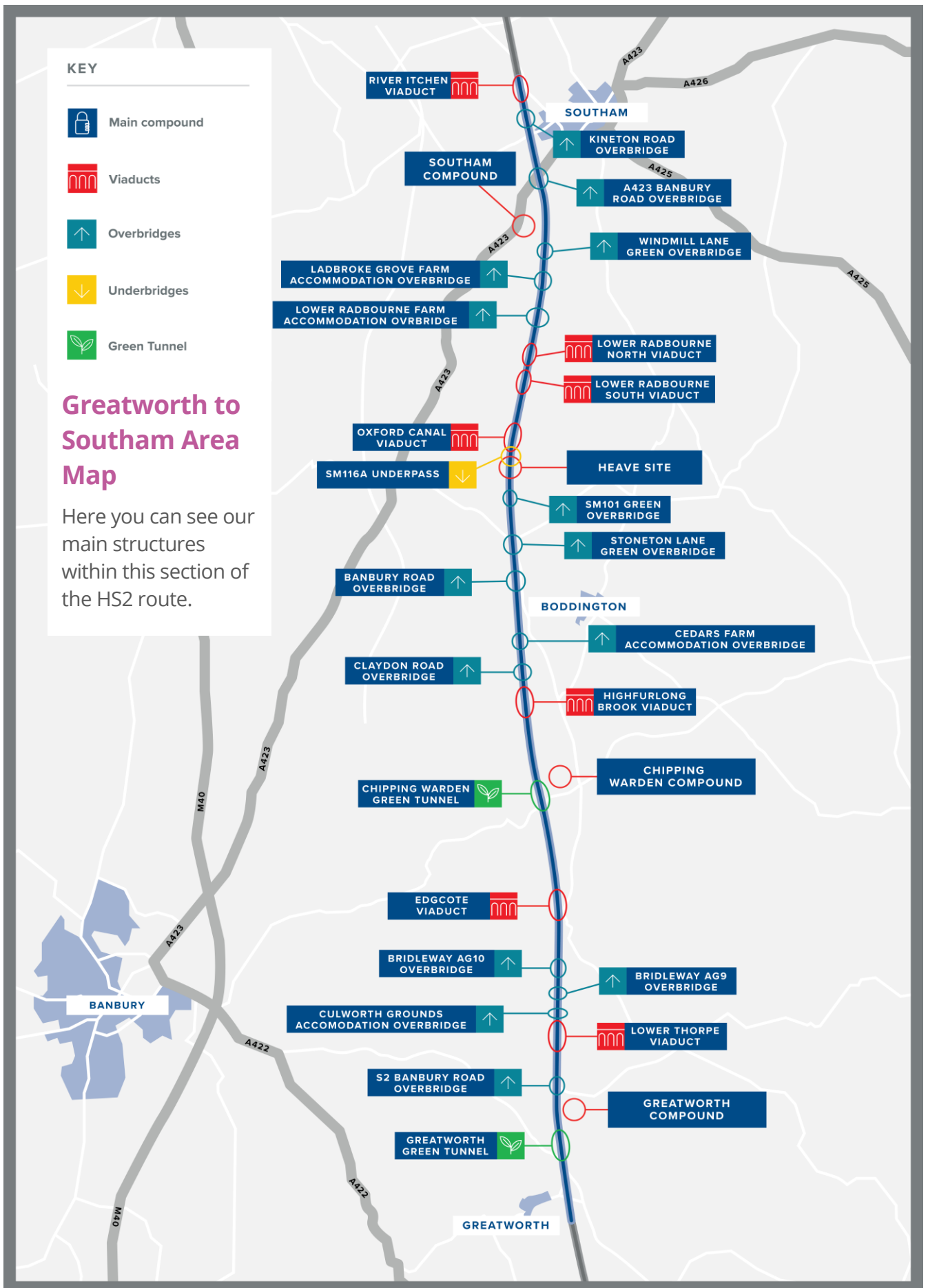
Next events

- Ladbroke, 24 May
- Southam, 7 June

Over the summer we plan to visit:

Fenny Compton, Chipping Warden, Greatworth, Wardington and others.

Details of all upcoming events are listed on the [HS2 Events webpage](#)



Our Community Activities

Hedgerow planting at Chipping Warden Primary Academy

In March our staff from the EKFB Chipping Warden Compound, volunteered to plant a new hedge around the perimeter of the school playground. This new thicker hedge will help to screen and secure the area. Under the supervision of one of our landscape specialists, 350 plants went in to form the hedge including Hazel, Wild Privet, Elderberry and Dogwood.



Staff from the Chipping Warden office planting three lines of new hedgerow at the local school.

SEND learning programme

EKFB have been running a successful five-week programme for students with Special Educational Needs (SEND). Based at our Chipping Warden site, students from Whitelands Academy and Swalcliffe schools, have taken part. Together we have discussed key employability topics, such as different job roles and routes into them, practiced CV writing and preparing for interviews, and they finished off the final week with a construction site tour.

Supporting sixth form students

Across the area, we have been visiting high schools and supporting Year 12 and Year 13 students get ready for their next steps. Staff from our Education, Community and Engineering teams have participated in careers days, lead decision making workshops and delivered mock interview sessions. Engaging with the students and answering their great questions, has been a positive experience for everyone.

Village Hall improvements for Chipping Warden

We have been volunteering our time and expertise to build a new access ramp at Chipping Warden Village Hall. The wooden ramp creates a gentle slope to the entrance for easier access, particularly for wheelchair users.



Volunteers from EKFB built a new ramp outside the village hall in Chipping Warden.

Construction Update

Banbury Road Overbridge in Boddington

In February, 30 meter long cross beams, were installed to support the deck of the bridge. This supports a concrete base over which vehicles and pedestrians will pass. Construction is now underway for a new section of highway that will connect the bridge to Wormleighton Road.



View of the bridge structure installed in February.

The bridge and new road are being constructed within our construction zone, and soon we will need to connect these new structures to the local highways.

We will be building a new junction between Banbury Road and Warwick Road. This will include some extended periods of road closures and traffic lights will be needed to build this new junction and connect it to the existing roads on the east side of the bridge near Lower Boddington.

Later in the summer we will be connecting Wormleighton Road to the new highway leading to the west side of the bridge near Wormleighton. This will require Wormleighton Road to be closed for approximately one month. Once this stage is completed, traffic will begin to use the new road and bridge and pass over the railway construction area. Further work will then be needed on Warwick Road and Boddington Road to connect all the surrounding roads to new bridge.

Stoneton Lane Green Overbridge

This Green Overbridge will be one of several that cross the HS2 line in the local area. It will provide a highway connection, as well as vegetation-rich nature corridor, over the railway between Priors Hardwick and Wormleighton.

As well as a two-way road and pavement, the bridge will include a wide green verge, planted with a diverse range of vegetation. This will allow insects, bats and other animals to pass over the railway and safely access wildlife-rich habitats in the area such as the Glynn Davis Wood.

To excavate a cutting for the railway and to build the bridge structure, Stoneton Lane will need an extended period of closure from late 2023. We will update residents in the coming months with further information on the design of the bridge and timings about the road closure.



Artists impression of a Green Overbridge.

Southam road bridges

In Southam we are building two road bridges to carry traffic over the HS2 route. We have completed the piling for the foundations of the A423 Banbury Road Overbridge. We are now building the support piers, these concrete columns are approximately 7 metres tall, and will carry the bridge deck. Steel beams will be craned into place, ready for the concrete deck and road surface to be built and side barriers installed.

Kineton Road Overbridge is rapidly approaching a similar stage of construction. During the summer we will be carrying out earthworks around the piers and completing the substructure of the bridge. This is in preparation for installing the bridge deck which will be supported pre-cast concrete beams.

In addition to these main structures, we will be constructing two smaller permanent bridges for local farm access, Ladbroke Grove Farm and Lower Radbourne Farm Overbridges.



Building the piers for the Banbury Road Overbridge, Southam



Once the concrete foundation piles are poured, the tops are capped off ready to support the structure.

'How to Build a Railway' podcast now available.

There is now a twelve-part podcast series exploring the story behind the construction of the UK's new high speed rail line.

The podcasts feature industry experts and special guests giving their unique insight on a whole range of topics including tunnelling, archaeology, ecology, architecture, building bridges, innovation, and rail systems.

Each episode will focus on a different aspect of our story so far, from archaeology to enabling works, the main civils works underway and much more.

Download from your usual podcast location or the HS2 website link: [How to build a railway - HS2](#)



Greatworth Temporary Road and construction of Greatworth Green Tunnel

We will soon have completed a temporary section of road, known as the Greatworth T. It will reduce the impacts of local road closures needed to build the tunnel by creating a link road between Magpie Farm near Sulgrave, and Welsh Lane near Greatworth.

The Greatworth T will run alongside the Greatworth Green Tunnel construction area and allow highway traffic to move freely in the area while the tunnel is being built. The road is being built to full Highways standards as it will be used for several years.

From July we will begin to join the Greatworth T to the existing road network. This will involve a closure of Sulgrave Road and some brief periods of closure on Welsh Lane. From later summer, Sulgrave Road will be closed for an extended period to build the tunnel. Traffic will use the new Greatworth temporary road to access Sulgrave and Culworth.

Earthworks for the Greatworth Green Tunnel are now well underway, and throughout the summer we will be excavating a deep cutting for the tunnel structure to be installed. Precast concrete segments will be delivered to our Greatworth compound having been built off site. They will be installed within the excavation to form the tunnel structure. Building the segments off-site reduces our environmental impacts significantly, but it does require each segment to be delivered by road, so local residents may notice these distinctive structures arriving by lorry to the compound from August onwards.

Although the area is currently quite open with most vegetation removed, the whole area will be extensively landscaped to blend into the surroundings. Large areas of native trees and shrubs will be planted such as Silver Birch, Oak, Beech and Willow.



Pre-case tunnel segments will be coming into the Greatworth site on lorries, via approved routes, before being lifted into place using cranes.



The tunnel is made up of 5 segments creating the double arch sections, this is repeated to create the 1.5 mile long green tunnel

(images from the Chipping Warden Green Tunnel Site)

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.

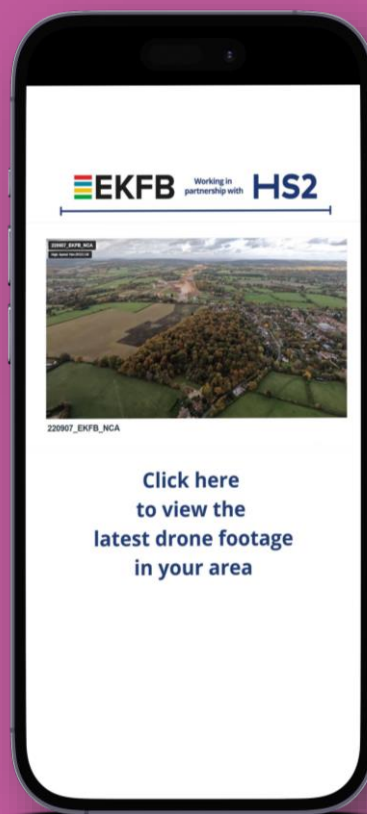
If you scan the QR code on your phone below, it will allow you to view our latest drone footage of HS2 works in your area.

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, February 2023 \(vimeo.com\)](#)



Community Events

The EKFB Engagement Team is dedicated to keeping the local communities informed and engaged in the progress of the High-Speed 2 project in the area.

Our team organises a variety of local events to ensure that the community is up-to-date on the latest developments. These include the use of our Mobile Visitor Centre, village hall drop-ins and casual updates at local coffee mornings.

We are constantly seeking new opportunities to attend community events and are open to suggestions from the public. If you know of a community event that may be suitable for us to attend, please get in touch via the HS2 Helpdesk. We value your input and are committed to keeping the community informed throughout the HS2 construction process.



Connecting with the community, our Mobile Visitor Centre brings HS2 updates to local residents. In recent months we have visited Greatworth, Sulgrave, Thorpe Mandeville, Priors Hardwick and Wormleighton.

Earthworks season

Earthworks are an essential part of many construction projects, as they create the foundations upon which the rest of the project can be built. Much of our earthworks activities consist of the excavation of materials to create cuttings and embankments. Our earthworks will create a stable, level path for the railway line, that minimises the impact on the surrounding environment by screening the railway with earth banks and setting it within cuttings.

A cutting is created by removing soil, rock, or other materials to create a path for the railway line. Cuttings are required in areas where the natural terrain is too steep or uneven to accommodate the railway at the desired gradient. As the cutting is excavated, the soil and rock that are removed will be stored in local stockpiles. These will then be used to build embankments nearby which will help screen the railway. Our construction sites become busy during the summer months as the weather and ground conditions enable progress.

To reduce dust generated from our earth moving equipment and articulated dump trucks, we are using spraying equipment to keep the area damp. Much of the water is collected locally within our own drainage ponds.

We have installed remote dust monitoring equipment, which delivers live reports of dust and noise levels to environment team. The live monitoring allows the team to act swiftly to resolve any issues that arise.

To reduce the amount of material imported onto our site, we have identified some locations in our construction areas where we will remove premium materials, such as limestone, from the ground. These sites are called soil swap zones and will be restored to their original appearance after use. By utilising the material that exists within our construction land,, we will significantly reduced the number of HGVs importing rock and minerals as well as reducing the overall carbon emissions on the project.



Other News

Oxford Canal Viaduct event



Artists impression of the viaduct over the Oxford Canal.

In February 2023 we hosted an online event talking through the design development of the Viaduct the high speed trains will use to cross the Oxford Canal near Southam. At the previous event in April 2021, two options for the finish of the viaduct were discussed with the public and a vote was taken. The clear majority went for the masonry clad finish, over the plain concrete finish.

More artists impressions and further details about the Oxford Canal Viaduct can be found on the HS2 website - [Viaduct Information](#)

Earthworks equipment

Local residents may have noticed areas where new plant (construction equipment) is parked and appears unused. Our earthworks contractors have in many cases arranged for manufacturers to deliver new plant, with the very latest emissions standards, straight to our sites from the factory. This significantly reduces the impact of heavy HGV deliveries on the local highway as the plant is not being continually moved from off-site storage.

Working hours

As the clocks have changed to British Summer Time, in some areas our work will continue later into the evening. We will also be carrying out some construction work on the weekends, including Sundays. This enables us to take full advantage of the better weather in the main spring and summer earthworks season. It allows us to faster progress and therefore reduce the overall period of construction. The periods of extended working hours have been agreed in advance with the local authorities with restrictions in place for some activities. Further details can be found on the 'In Your Area' pages of the HS2 website for Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

Internal road network

Our construction traffic, as well as many HGVs and other delivery vehicles, now use an internal network of roads for most of their journeys. This includes a large fleet of mixer lorries that are needed to supply concrete to our structures being built in the Greatworth to Southam area. While there are some particular locations where public highways are still needed for deliveries, residents will have noticed a significant decrease in the number of construction vehicles using the minor country lanes.

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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