

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

# HS2 Update

Twyford to Greatworth | Spring 2023

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).

## Building HS2 between Twyford and Greatworth

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 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.

The early stages of works in T2G have involved utility diversions, extensive earthworks, temporary road and footpath diversions as well as the creation of our internal site access road, which is for the sole use of our construction teams as they travel up and down the project. Throughout 2023, we will begin moving onto the main construction phase. You will begin to see works that will include the creation of a new temporary road diversion for a section of the A43 as well as the building of bridges and viaducts that will support the high-speed rail network.

Alongside our construction activities, we are committed to helping local communities through various initiatives supporting charities, schools and employment opportunities. The T2G construction area plays an important role in the future of the UK's infrastructure, and we are excited to be at the forefront of its development.



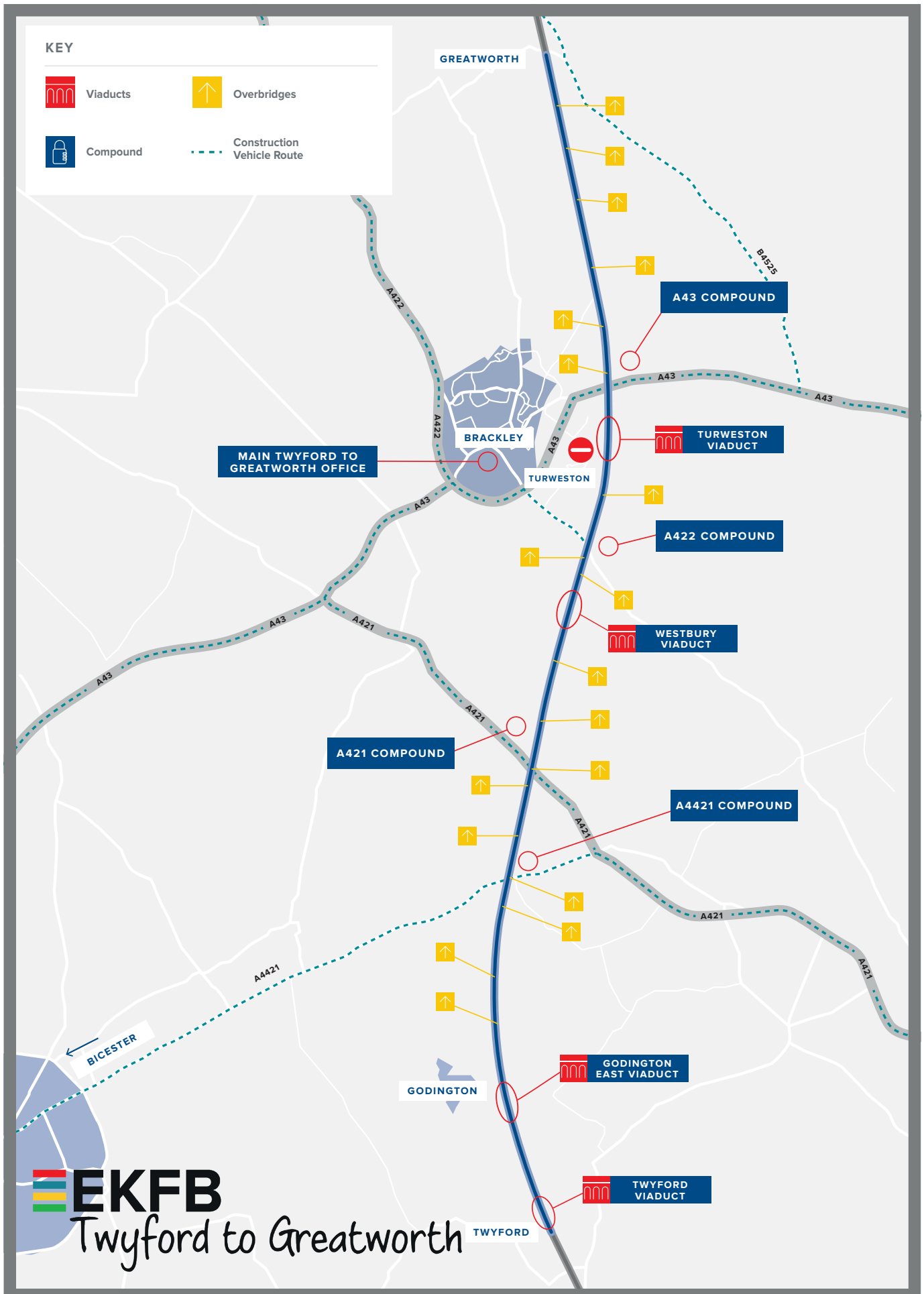
## HS2 Construction Aerial Footage



Stay up-to-date with our construction progress in your local area!

Get a bird's-eye view showing the latest developments, structures and landscaping designs between Twyford and Greatworth.

Scan the above QR code or click **HERE** to view our latest aerial footage.



# Construction Update

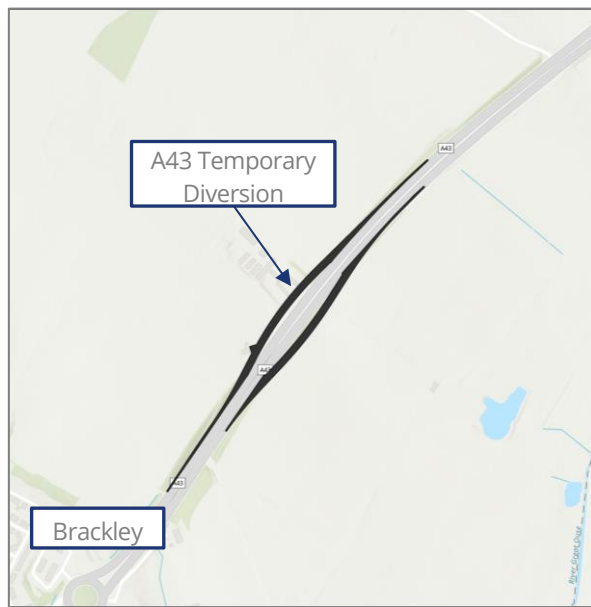
## A43 near Brackley

Throughout the spring, we have been carrying out works to prepare for the construction of a temporary diversion of the A43 near Brackley. This diversion will allow us to safely build the new A43 overbridge which will carry traffic over the HS2 railway line.

Starting at the end of April, there will be temporary overnight closures of the A43 to install narrowed lanes, on both the southbound and northbound sides of the A43. These narrowed lanes will allow us to build the new temporary diversion of the A43 which is expected to be operational in early 2024.

Over the summer months, our activities will focus on earthworks, which will involve excavating approximately 11,000 cubic metres of material from the north side of the A43. This material will be temporarily stockpiled and eventually reused as part of the final landscaping designs for HS2.

Once we carry out our main earthworks for the temporary diversion, we will then begin installing drainage. Following the completion of the drainage works, we will begin constructing the new road, which will involve surfacing works, white lining and the installation of road signage. After the road is finished, the local authority will conduct a thorough road safety audit before it is opened for public use. Once the temporary diversion is operational, we will then be able to safely begin construction on the new A43 overbridge, which is expected to be completed in late 2025.



*Figure 1: The image above details the location of the temporary diversion that will be constructed this year for a section of the A43 near Brackley.*

## Westbury Viaduct

In preparation for the main construction of the Westbury Viaduct, we have been carrying out earthworks activities including excavation works and the creation of embankments.

We are now piling for the foundations of the viaduct and have completed 35 of 70 piles. The remaining piling is expected to be completed in early summer. All the piles will be capped with reinforced concrete as footings for the main structure. Following this, we will construct the piers for the viaduct. These will be made of steel columns encased with precast concrete segments. These precast segments will protect the steel as well as any utilities that may run within the structure. The viaduct is expected to be completed in 2025.

## Construction Update



*Figure 2: The T2G construction team working to ensure the safety and integrity of utilities, carrying out protection works to safeguard the local infrastructure.*

### Radstone Road, Radstone

In February we began carrying out works to prepare for the main construction of the Radstone Road overbridge, which will carry traffic over the HS2 railway line. Our activities included the protection of a gas main and other utilities along Radstone Road.

This May we will begin piling works for the foundations of the overbridge, installing 99 piles. All teams working on site as well as our materials required for these works will reach this location via our internal site access road from our compound located at the A43. Once the piling works are finished, we will then cap the piles and begin construction on the abutments, wing walls and other structural elements of the bridge.

Prior to the installation of the bridge deck, a temporary diversion of Radstone Road will be necessary. This diversion will allow us to

safely lift the bridge deck into position and complete remaining works for the overbridge. We expect to begin construction of the temporary diversion this autumn and will continue to update the local community as our work progresses in this area.



### Turweston Viaduct update

In preparation for the main construction of the Turweston Viaduct, we will soon be carrying out the temporary diversion of a section of the Great River Ouse. This watercourse diversion is required to enable us to begin the construction of the viaduct abutments.

As part of these works we will also be installing a temporary bridge over this stretch of the river. This bridge will be used by our internal site traffic to aid in the construction of the viaduct and enable our teams to travel between our works areas.



*Figure 3: The T2G construction team lays the groundwork for a temporary bridge over the Great River Ouse, enabling us to efficiently move our internal construction traffic along our internal site access road.*

## Construction Update



*Figure 4: The image above shows our teams working to complete the installation of the temporary A422 bridge.*

### A422 near Westbury

Throughout 2022, we have been carrying out preparatory works for the temporary diversion of the A422. This temporary diversion will enable us to keep the A422 open while we begin construction on the new permanent realignment and overbridge, that will eventually carry traffic over the high-speed rail network.

Construction on the temporary diversion, including a temporary overbridge, began in early 2023. The bridge deck was installed this spring and we are now carrying out final utility diversions. Once these works are completed, the local authority will carry out a road safety audit before the temporary road diversion and bridge is opened to the public this summer.

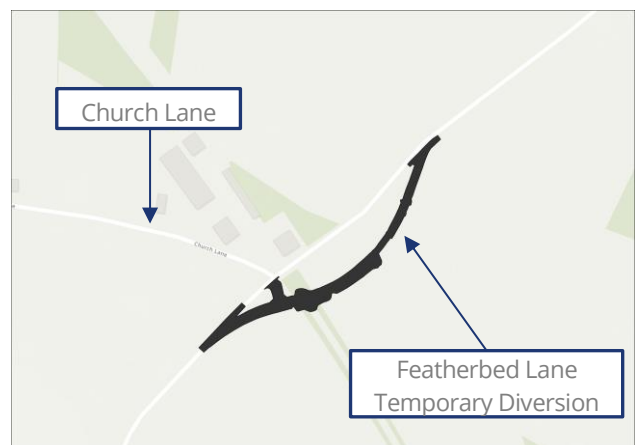
Works for the permanent realignment and new overbridge for the A422 are due to commence at the end of the summer.

### Featherbed Lane, Mixbury

This summer we are also planning to begin construction on the new permanent realignment of Featherbed Lane and the Featherbed Lane overbridge.

Prior to beginning construction of the new overbridge, we needed to temporarily divert a portion of the current road. Throughout the spring, we have been building the new temporary diversion alongside the existing road. Our environmental teams have also been carrying out bat surveys of the old railway bridge to see if they are used by roosting bats. If they are found to support bat roosts then works will be undertaken in such a way to safeguard the bats and provide them with alternative roosts in the local area as mitigation. Our teams will also need to carry out localised vegetation clearance when they tie in the new diversion to the existing road.

The diversion is due to be opened to the public this May, once a road safety audit has been completed by the local authority. The temporary diversion will be in place until late 2025.



*Figure 5: The image above details the location of the temporary diversion that will be in place while we build the new permanent realignment of Featherbed Lane and the Featherbed Lane overbridge.*





## Ecology and Landscape Update

We are now five years into our extensive environment programme to create more than 33 square kilometres of new wildlife habitats along the HS2 route, the equivalent of 23 new Hyde Parks lining the spine of the country.

Over the coming years, our ecology contractors will continue to create more habitats to sustain healthy populations of UK flora and fauna, providing a network of bigger, better-connected, climate resilient habitats and new green spaces for wildlife and people to enjoy.

Route wide:

- Over 845,000 trees have now been planted and maintained, including native species such as hazel, hawthorn, oak, blackthorn and silver birch.
- 2,000 bat boxes have been installed along the route, either within HS2's wildlife sites or in existing nearby woodlands.
- Around 150 hibernacula and 65 reptile banks have been created which provide new homes for reptiles and amphibians.
- Over 160 barn owl boxes and 29 artificial badger setts have also been created and thousands of newts have been successfully rehomed.

Throughout the spring planting season, we have successfully donated a wide variety of trees to a number of local communities located between Twyford and Greatworth.

These donations have been put to good use by local villages to enhance shared community spaces and students have planted them in outdoor areas of their schools. Furthermore, community groups have made use of the donated planting to establish new hedgerows and improve existing ones around local allotments.

Additionally, this spring our teams have also begun the monitoring of great crested newts, barn owls and bats.

For great crested newts, our ecology teams take aquatic surveys of ponds located throughout the project. These surveys include site visits as well as water samples from the pond.

Throughout the summer months, our teams will also be inspecting mitigation boxes that have been installed for barn owls and bats. They will be looking for any indications of usage as well as ensuring the boxes remain in good condition. The information that is recorded from our surveys is shared with Natural England to help support conservation efforts.

This April we also received an invitation to engage with Helmdon Parish Council and update them on our continuing conservation initiatives.



*Figure 6: The image above is of a great crested newt, showing its unique markings and features.*

## Earthworks Update



Earthworks are an essential part of many construction projects, as they create the foundation upon which the rest of the project can be built. Much of our earthworks activities consist of the excavation of materials to create cuttings. The aim of an earthworks cutting is to create a stable, level path for the railway line that minimizes the impact on the surrounding environment and communities.

A cutting is a man-made excavation in the ground that 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 line at the desired level. As the cutting is excavated, the soil and rock that are removed will be stored in stockpiles. Construction sites are often dynamic environments, constantly evolving. As work progresses, moving stockpiles can help optimize the use of space on site.

All stockpiles on the project will be temporary. They will be sprayed and compacted to avoid any material becoming loose. Those that are deemed as longer-term stockpiles will be seeded, irrigated, and maintained to form a vegetation layer that will help to mitigate any noise from the project.

To suppress dust generation from our articulated dump trucks, we are deploying tractors and bowsters to keep the area damp throughout the project.



*Figure 7: Plant carrying out excavation works at the Turweston Cutting, Autumn 2022.*

Environmental advisors, construction supervisors and managers will undertake regular inspections to ensure that these measures are consistently in place.

Further information on the monitoring of dust, noise and vibration can be found on the HS2 website.

### Extended working hours

In order to make the best use of the long days and dry weather conditions, we will be extending our working hours for all earthworks activities between Twyford and Greatworth. Our hours will now be:

- 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday
- 8am to 6pm, Saturdays

### Turweston Green Bridge update

Over the summer we will begin excavations for the Turweston Green Bridge. These are expected to take approximately two months. We will then begin constructing the foundations of the bridge. The bridge is expected to be completed in 2024.

## Community News



### Volunteers transform school's outdoor learning area

Students at Radstone Primary School in Brackley are in for a treat as their outdoor learning area received a stunning makeover, equipped with pallets, spring bedding plants, logs, wood chippings and paint. A dedicated team of volunteers came together to create an engaging and sustainable space for students to connect with nature and learn outside the classroom.

The idea to enhance the school's outdoor learning area was initiated by the school who recognised the importance of outdoor education in promoting creativity, critical thinking and physical activity among students.

With the support of the school, EKFB's Engagement Team reached out to colleagues and suppliers working within the construction area of Twyford to Greatworth (T2G) and the response was overwhelming.

On a sunny morning in early April, twenty volunteers from HW Martin, Venesky-Brown and EKFB gathered at Radstone Primary School equipped with tools, materials and enthusiasm. Lunches donated by Bon Appetite kept the volunteers going throughout the day.

Bedding plants, including strawberry plants, daffodils and pansies, were carefully selected and planted to create a vibrant and educational garden.

Carpenters working on the project teamed up to create bespoke pieces for the school's outdoor learning area. They put their creativity to work, recycling pallets to create a unique study bench complete with an additional planter along the top. Upcycling at its best, as the pallets find new life in the school's outdoor learning area.



*Figure 8: Building a Brighter Future: T2G carpenters put their skills to work for the local community, creating a vibrant and eco-friendly study bench from pallets for a Radstone Primary School with the aim of inspiring young minds and promoting sustainable practices.*



The outdoor learning area also received an amazing mud kitchen made from pallets! Students can now dig, mix, and cook up imaginative play in their new rustic outdoor kitchen, connecting with nature and learning through hands-on play.

Logs, sourced from a nearby housing development, were used to create a natural play area to inspire creative den building. It also includes a fun trim trail created from log slabs. Additionally, pallets were again transformed but this time into a whimsical playhouse, igniting the joy of learning and imaginative play.

What was once an empty and uninviting patch of land is now a dynamic outdoor classroom, complete with seating, planters bursting with colourful flowers and natural play elements.

The positive impact of outdoor education on students' physical, mental and emotional well-being is well-documented, and initiatives like this serve as an example of how organisations can come together to support education and create positive change.

The volunteers who made it possible can take pride in knowing that their efforts have enriched the lives of the students and created a lasting legacy. With their creativity, hard work and dedication, they have truly made a difference in the lives of these young learners and set an inspiring example for the project.



*Figure 9: Children are now able to explore a den building area, complete with a whimsical wendy house and log stepping slabs, where they can let their creativity and sense of adventure roam free.*



*Figure 10: The outdoor learning area is enriched with a new mud kitchen, crafted from repurposed pallets, encouraging creativity and learning through play.*



## Twyford Village School

In mid-February, the engagement team of EKFB paid a visit to Twyford Church of England School, where they were approached for assistance with spring planting along the entrance to the school.

The team happily agreed to support the school and in March they donated and planted over 200 spring bulbs consisting of a beautiful assortment of daffodils, tulips in pink, white, yellow, and purple hues, as well as grape hyacinths and pink hyacinths.

EKFB also donated grass seed for the front of the school, bags of potting soil and compost as well as packets of sunflower seeds for the children to grow throughout the spring and summer months.



*Figure 11: EKFB volunteers teamed up with Twyford CE Primary School to plant a beautiful array of tulip and daffodil bulbs, brightening up the school's outdoor space with a burst of colourful blooms.*

## Community Events

The EKFB engagement team is dedicated to keeping the local communities informed and engaged in the progress of the High-Speed 2 (HS2) project in their 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 do not hesitate to contact us through the HS2 Helpdesk, Freephone 08081 434 434 or [HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk). We value your input and are committed to keeping the community informed throughout the HS2 construction process.



*Figure 12: In the above image, we visited residents of Newton Purcell, providing information and addressing any concerns or questions, March 2023.*



# What else is happening in your area?

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

## Keep up-to-date with your local HS2 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).

## 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)



## 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

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)**

**Please contact us if you'd like a free copy of this document in large print, Braille, audio or easy read. You can also contact us for help and information in a different language.**

HS2 Ltd is committed to protecting personal information. If you wish to know more about how we use your personal information please see our Privacy Notice  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-two-ltd-privacy-notice>

**Reference number:** HS2-MW-EK-Ph1-Ar-Ce-C2-OTH-41-28/04/2023

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.

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

Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 888 8512 56