

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

HS2 Update

Greatworth to Southam | Autumn 2025

EKFB
Working in
partnership with **HS2**

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.

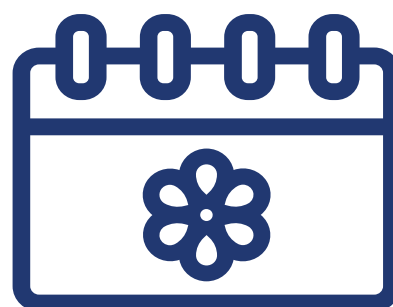
Inside our autumn newsletter...

Updates on:

- Autumn and winter lookahead
- Lower Thorpe viaduct launch
- Claydon Road bridge opening
- Stoneton Lane green bridge
- Southam bridges and bypass
- Our community activities
- HS2 reset news



At Edgcote viaduct, we are completing the deck structure on top of the 23-metre beams which have been installed between the piers, of the 515-metre-long viaduct which will carry the HS2 railway over the River Cherwell and a local road.



Drop-in event

Do you want to find out more about the HS2 works near you?

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

Details of all upcoming events for 2025 will be listed here:

www.hs2.org.uk/events

A look ahead to autumn & winter 2025

We have made substantial progress over the spring and summer. From November our earthworks activities will reduce as the wetter weather increases. We will be focusing our attention on our structures and highway construction, which includes the following activities:

- Continued installation of pre-cast segments for the Greatworth green tunnel.
- Deck construction for the Lower Thorpe viaduct, near Thorpe Mandeville which required some short duration closures of Banbury Lane.
- Building the deck of the Edgcote viaduct, over Wardington Road.
- Completion of the A361 realignment over the Chipping Warden green tunnel.
- Installation of the tunnel portal and tunnel equipment buildings at Chipping Warden green tunnel.
- Foundation piling for the Stoneton Lane green overbridge, requiring a two-year closure of Stoneton Lane.
- Operation of a temporary bypass on A423, Southam, as we build the approach roads to the road bridge.



In this image from the summer, you can see how the backfilling has progressed at Chipping Warden green tunnel. The tunnel team will continue installation of the tunnel segments and backfilling until Spring 2026.

Lower Thorpe viaduct launch

The steel and concrete deck of the Lower Thorpe viaduct – which stretches for 220m – was assembled on one side before being slid into position, over the road in just three days, in June 2025. Members of the local community were invited to view the launch and learn from members of the construction team.

Set into a valley, the viaduct will carry high speed trains across Banbury Lane and help manage flood risk by ensuring that rainwater can continue to run off into existing watercourses. Made of a distinctive russet-coloured weathering steel, it has been designed to help match the natural tones of the surrounding countryside.

During the slide, special pads covered in PTFE - a Teflon-like material usually found on the surface of a non-stick frying pan - were used to minimise friction between the deck and the temporary steel bearings on top of each of the five concrete piers.

You can find out more about how we launch viaducts and watch a timelapse film of the launch by following the link (below) or scanning the QR code (right):

HS2 completes three-day Northants viaduct slide



An aerial view of the Lower Thorpe viaduct deck installed in its final position

Claydon Road bridge, Lower Boddington

**First bridge in
Northamptonshire to open**



Claydon Road bridge is now open to traffic

The newly opened Claydon Road bridge connects the rural villages of Lower Boddington and Claydon.

Construction was completed this summer and the bridge became the first permanent HS2 road bridge to open in Northamptonshire.

Claydon Road is also a popular walking and cycling route for the local communities and the opening of this bridge, restoring local connectivity, marks a significant step for the local area.

While access along the Millennium Way national footpath remained open across the construction area, it has now been permanently rerouted over the bridge.

Stoneton Lane green bridge, Priors Hardwick

Foundations begin

The final structure in the area to begin construction was Stoneton Lane green bridge. Work began here in late August, with an excavation down to 12 metres.

Building the concrete foundations are underway. This will be followed by a settlement period, known as 'heave'.

This bridge includes a 'green' section of hedgerows and planting to support the local wildlife and bat population near the railway. The hedgerows will grow up to 4 metres high and form part of a new green landscape around the railway.

Along the HS2 railway, new woodlands will be planted, new ponds, grassland and meadows will be created, allowing wildlife to flourish. Planting plans include hedgerow, woodland species and rich grassland, which will blend into the existing landscape.

Our ecology experts and landscape designers are working to ensure a healthy population of UK fauna and flora is planted in keeping with the local environment.

Stoneton Lane is expected to be closed for approximately two years whilst the bridge is built. Once built the bridge will reconnect Priors Hardwick to Wormleighton over the railway.

New road layout on A423, Southam

Bypass for bridge construction

EKFB have built a new road bridge and highway to allow the A423 to pass over the HS2 railway line, south of Southam. To reduce the need for several months of ongoing road closures, we have installed a short section of new road to allow traffic to safely bypass the construction area. This bypass, between Ladbroke and Southam, opened on 18 September under a reduced speed limit of 30mph.

A423 bridge

The bridge deck, on which cars will eventually travel, is currently being constructed on the steel beams which were installed earlier this year. The concrete deck will support a road and shared use footpath for pedestrians and cyclists from Ladbroke to Southam. The deck construction will be followed by the installation of parapets creating the sides of the bridge.

Over the coming months, we will continue building the approach roads to the bridge, enabled by moving the traffic on to the bypass.

Kineton Road bridge

The main bridge structure at Kineton Road is almost complete. Over the winter period we will be finishing drainage, utilities work and building the approach road to the bridge.

The road bridge will join the roundabout with Lark Road and traffic from Southam will travel over the new bridge and rejoin the current carriageway, just beyond Southam Rugby Club. Next spring there will be some closures required here while we complete the final stages of the construction and join the new bridge to the existing roads.

Please look out for details and sign up for email notifications for road closures in the area at www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk.



Cranes lift concrete deck slabs into place on the A423 road bridge near Southam



Kineton Road bridge will carry traffic over the HS2 railway line

Community activities

Facility maintenance for the Guides



Our carpenters made this woodshed from recycled pallets to store wood for campfires

We have been working on collaboratively to improve the facilities serving South Warwickshire and Oxfordshire Guides. This means that the hundreds of Guides, Brownies and Duke of Edinburgh campers using these local facilities, will benefit from a safer surrounding and more practical space.

The facilities needed some updates in preparation for another busy summer season. We removed dead trees, overgrown weeds and invasive shrubs; improving access to areas as well as making repairs to the shelter hut and constructed a brand-new wood shack from pallets. The barbeque areas were trimmed back and slabs laid to enable the Guides to hold safe bonfires.

Planting and tree donations

Earlier in the year we donated 150 hedgerow and tree whips to Greatworth playing fields.

In years to come, the whips will grow and provide a much-needed wind barrier for the playing fields, which are currently unsheltered. These whips are in addition to trees on the bottom corner of the fields, donated in 2024, which have grown well.



Our teams planted whips to form a natural wind barrier for the playing fields

A lick of paint for our local larder



New and old wood was painted to preserve the new decking area at Woodford Halse food larder

And finally, we have helped a local charity who we have been collaborating with for a while to give their facilities a well-deserved makeover. The Woodford Halse food larder works to reduce food waste and help residents struggling with the cost of living, by offering a weekly shop at a subsidised price, supported by donations and volunteers.

The building aesthetics needed some updating, so our teams provided a much-needed refresh which helps preserve the newly installed sections to the decking area, previously part funded by donations from EKFB.

HS2 reset news

Mark Wild was appointed as CEO of HS2 in December 2024. Mark is a rail infrastructure expert, who was brought in to put Crossrail on a successful path to opening in 2022.

He is now reviewing HS2's costs and schedule as part of a 12-month reset of the programme. He carried out a similar process as chief executive of Crossrail, helping to put the project back on track and deliver a successful opening of the Elizabeth line in 2022.

Reset timings

The reset is comprised of a series of stages and will be completed in 2026.

HS2 Ltd is not standing still during the reset. This year, we are implementing a rigorous plan to focus on driving productivity and efficiency.

The Spending Review

The multi-year financial settlement as set out in the Government's Spending Review – announced in June, provides greater certainty to the delivery of HS2 and lays the foundations for the reset.

The Spending Review document confirms HS2 Ltd.'s settlement as £25.3bn to progress the delivery of HS2 from Birmingham Curzon Street to London Euston. This multi-year financial settlement gives greater certainty to the delivery of HS2 and provides the foundations for the comprehensive reset of the project.

Future updates

We shall continue to provide you with updates on the reset and what this means in terms of our plans in this area.



HS2 CEO; Sir Mark Wild OBE

Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes making sure you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help.

Residents' and Construction Commissioner

The independent Residents' and Construction Commissioner oversees and monitors our **community engagement strategy**, making sure we fulfil our commitments to you.

The commissioner monitors the way we manage and respond to complaints about construction and advises members of the public how to make complaints.

The commissioner helps settle disputes involving individuals and organisations that we can't resolve.

You can find the commissioner's report and our responses at:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-hs2-commissioner

The commissioner can be contacted on:
hs2commissioner@dft.gov.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the 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/contact-us/how-to-complain

Contact us

Our HS2 Helpdesk team are available all day, every day. You can contact them by:

 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 area, visit:

www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk

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