

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

HS2 Update

Greatworth to Southam | Summer 2026

EKFB
Working in
partnership with **HS2**

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway for Britain. This update provides information about the main civil engineering works being carried out by EKFB in the areas between Greatworth and Southam. Our local website www.hs2inNorthants.co.uk is up to date with information on our works in the local area.

What's inside this summer newsletter?

In this summer newsletter, we will be looking back at recent progress on site and forward to upcoming construction activity, alongside sharing latest updates from across the project.

Inside you will find:

- Local area map
- Construction update
- Our community activities
- HS2 Project update
- Public Rights of Way interactive map



Pictured: View looking North from Chipping Warden green tunnel towards Highfurlong Brook viaduct and three road bridges crossing the HS2 railway line.



Drop-in events

We will be hosting events during this summer.

Please join us at one of our events to find out more about our work in the area.

Further dates and full details can be found on the HS2 website here:

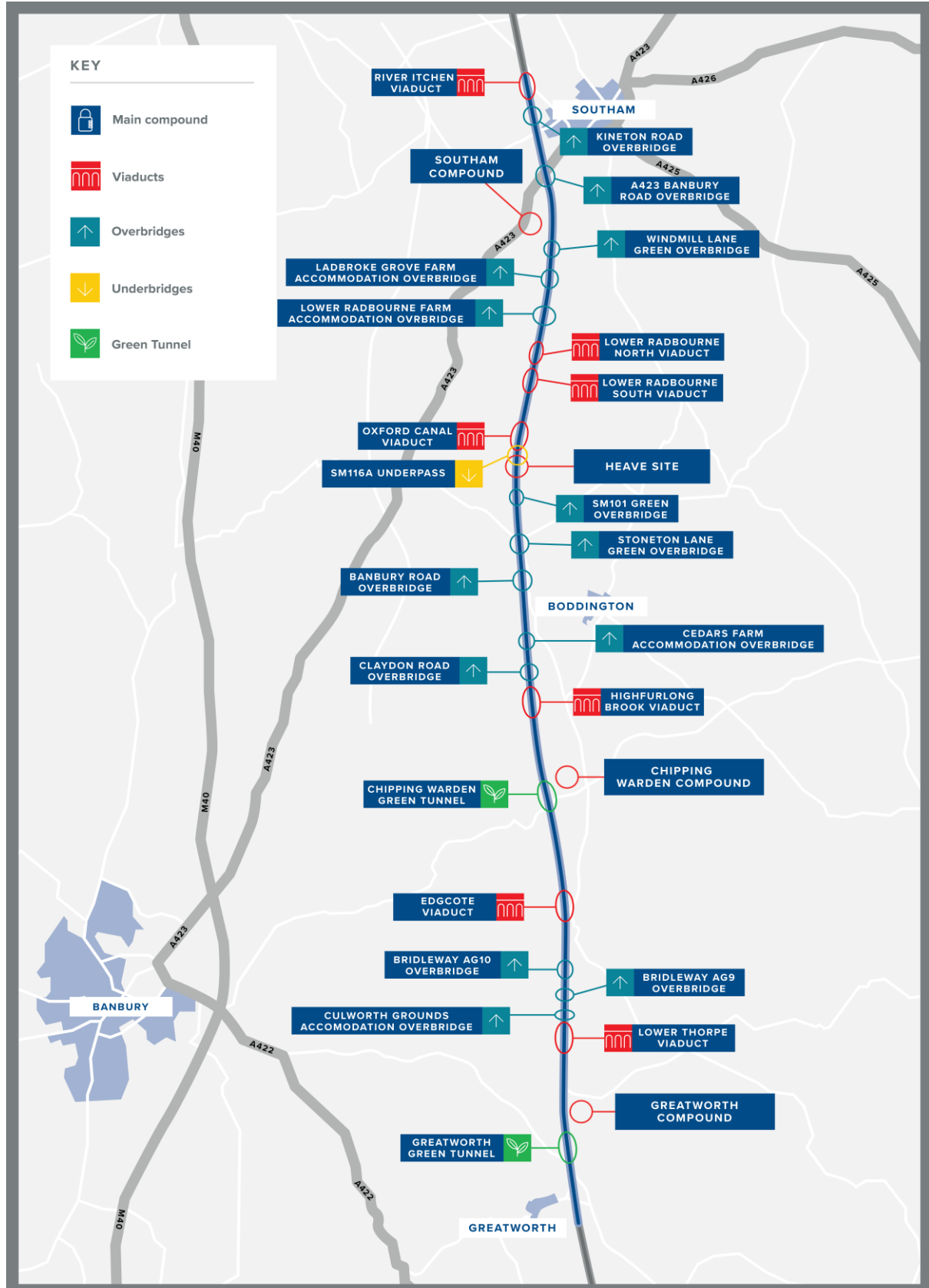


www.hs2.org.uk/events

Area map

Greatworth to Southam

The map below shows the location of works in your area:



Construction update

Progress update

Main civil engineering works being carried out by EKFB between Wendover and Southam are now 70% complete. You may have noticed that several roads across the area being finished and reopened.

In Southam, later this year, we will connect the new A423 bridge and the new Kington Road bridge to the existing road network. **Scan the QR code on the right to watch the video** which outlines the upcoming road closures and diversion routes and shows how the bridge link into the local road network.



At Chipping Warden in Northamptonshire, installation of the green tunnel segments are now complete. We will continue to backfill over the tunnel with earth and work on the internal structure of the tunnel, as well as the portal buildings at both ends of tunnel.

Nearby viaducts at Edgcote and Lower Thorpe are progressing well, with parapet installation taking place this summer. Wardington Road will reopen to the public in early summer, connecting Welsh Road to the A361. In Chipping Warden village, the planned permanent closure of Culworth Road will take place this summer, enabling continued construction of the HS2 railway.

Excavation of the final section of the 2.7km green tunnel near Greatworth will take place this summer. Installation of the tunnel portal to the north is underway and our earthworks programme continues with backfilling earth over the green tunnel.



Pictured: Progress continues at the Chipping Warden green tunnel, with the waterproofing layer now visible on the portal, showing how the tunnel will emerge from the ground as backfilling works carry on this year.

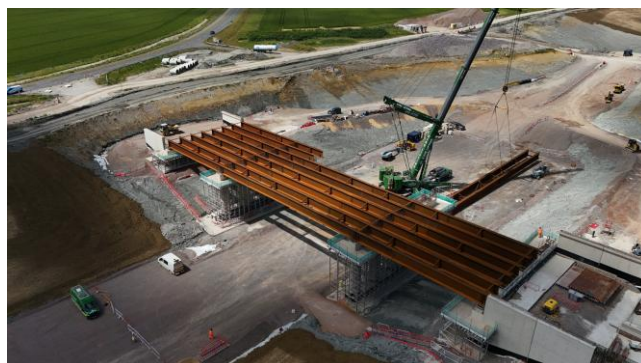
Construction update

Green bridge takes shape

Between Wormleighton and Priors Hardwick, Stoneton Lane green bridge is starting to take shape. This bridge replaces the existing road, to enable vehicles and pedestrians to cross the railway.

This green bridge includes with a wide, 6m section of planting, which is designed to enable local wildlife, including protected bat species, safe passage over the HS2 railway.

In June, our team installed the bridge beams and are now building the main deck structure across the piers.



Pictured: Stoneton Lane green bridge team edges closer to completing beam installation. June 2026

Traffic management requirements

Over the next few months, we will need to implement temporary traffic management to ensure that we can complete all necessary construction activities safely for both road users and our workforce.

We have listed our main upcoming road closures below, further information will be communicated via email from the HS2 mailing list; if you would like to receive these updates, please sign up here [HS2 Email Form](#) (or go to www.HS2.org.uk and select 'Sign up here' at the bottom of the page) and select the Greatworth to Southam area.

Location	Works	Traffic management
A423, Banbury Road, Southam	Bridge tie-ins	4-week road closure, summer 2026
B4451, Kineton Road, Southam	Bridge tie-ins	4-week road closure, early autumn 2026
Culworth Road, Chipping Warden	Permanent closure	Summer 2026

Community activities



Pictured: Volunteers from our team enjoyed using their skills to renovate the Greatworth bus stop and community library.

Greatworth bus stop gets a fresh look

The Greatworth bus stop and community library has received a makeover thanks to volunteers from the HS2 project. The team cleaned and painted the space and installed new bookshelves, creating a brighter, more welcoming area for residents to enjoy.

Using offcuts of wood that otherwise would have gone to waste, these new shelves were handmade to fit the dimensions of the newly decorated space.

Over the last few months, we have helped support local organisations and projects in the area, such as sponsorship for Chipping Warden Cricket Club, providing logistical support for Wardington Summer Fete, donating to an Open Garden event in Culworth and supporting new initiatives at Galanos House in Southam. We also have supported national litter picking week, where our teams collected around 80kg of rubbish from our local communities including Greatworth, Chipping Warden and Priors Hardwick.



Boddington school has a garden makeover

A team from EKFB has transformed a section of the Boddington school garden; they have replaced rotten woodwork and tidied up a section of overgrown plants. They have also created a new section for the children to turn their hand to growing their own plants with a donation of seeds and gardening tools.



Mini Tunnel Boring Machine named by Greatworth Primary school children

Children from years 5 and 6 researched influential women and settled on naming the mini TBM 'Hettie' after Britain's first female railway engineer, Henrietta Langdale Bussell. The class will have an opportunity to attend a site tour in the summer term and see it in action.

HS2 project update

The HS2 programme is being reset

Over the past 12 months, HS2 Ltd CEO, Mark Wild, has led a major project overview to scrutinise every aspect of the HS2 programme while boosting safety, improving productivity and tightening financial controls.

In May, the Department for Transport released updated costs and timescales to complete the railway, which have been tested and assured by a panel of independent industry experts.

HS2 Ltd and Government will now focus on finalising a detailed plan to complete the remaining works as efficiently as possible and for the lowest reasonable cost.

The cost and timescale ranges:

- £87.7 - £102.7 billion
- First phase (Old Oak Common to Birmingham Curzon Street) complete by 2036 – 2039
- Full route (London Euston to Handsacre Junction) complete by 2040 - 2043

What benefits will HS2 bring?

- HS2 creates vital new rail capacity between London and Birmingham, providing faster and more reliable journeys while releasing space on the crowded West Coast Main Line for freight and local passenger services.
- HS2 is driving £20bn of economic growth over the next decade around its station sites and supporting a total of 63,000 new homes and 49,000 new jobs in these areas.
- HS2 will be a central part of Great British Railways – the new national body responsible for trains and track – and play a key role in Britain's modern, integrated rail network.
- Passenger benefits extend well beyond the new high-speed route. Once the full railway opens, HS2 will provide faster connections to Northern cities, including Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow.

Over the past 12 months, the main works civils contractors have made great progress and have been productive with many notable construction milestones achieved.

You can read more about this on the HS2 website via this link: [HS2 marks a year of progress ahead of major reset](#) or by scanning the QR code.



EKFB launches new Public Rights of Way interactive map

EKFB has launched a new online, interactive map to support its local communities to navigate through public rights of way closures and diversions along EKFB's 80km section of the HS2 route.

This bespoke map is designed to provide current* information on footpath closures and diversion routes, supporting walkers, cyclists and ramblers to plan their journeys between south Warwickshire and the Chilterns.

Scan here or visit
prow.ekfb.com
to use the
interactive map



**The map is regularly updated to reflect the latest information as construction works progress and routes change.*

EKFB recognised as a Considerate Constructor

The Considerate Constructors scheme is an independent body that evaluates how construction activity affects communities. CCS help raise construction standards through independently monitoring and scoring construction sites. They monitor social value, environmental responsibility and community engagement to ensure that to drive accountability and improve industry performance.



EKFB has been through a process of evaluations, scoring highly and receiving several awards.

In May 2026, four of our colleagues were delighted to accept these awards on behalf of EKFB.

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

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.

We are committed to protecting personal information. If you would like to know more about how we use your personal information, please see our privacy notice (www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-two-ltd-privacy-notice)

Reference number: HS2-EKFB-26-2202