

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

HS2 Update

Aylesbury Area | Summer 2026

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 Aylesbury and Quainton. Our local website www.hs2inbucksandbox.co.uk is up to date with information on our works in the local area.

What's inside this newsletter

In this summer edition, we celebrate a milestone for rail freight deliveries and highlight a logistical operation to deliver a steel bridge through central Aylesbury. We look at some recent social value initiatives in action as well as all the latest construction updates. You'll also find:

- The local area map and our new interactive Public Rights of Way map
- Latest drone footage showing construction progress
- HS2 reset update on project cost and timescale
- Information on how to contact us and stay informed



Pictured: The 880-metre-long Thame Valley Viaduct, showing construction progress, with its concrete base completed and side walls (parapets) installed May 2026



Drop-in event

We run community events and drop-in sessions in our Mobile Visitor Centre, local village halls and community hubs. Please stop by one of our next events:

Date: **14 July**

Time: **10am to 12pm**

Place: **Waddesdon Community Centre car park, HP18 0LX**

Date: **14 July**

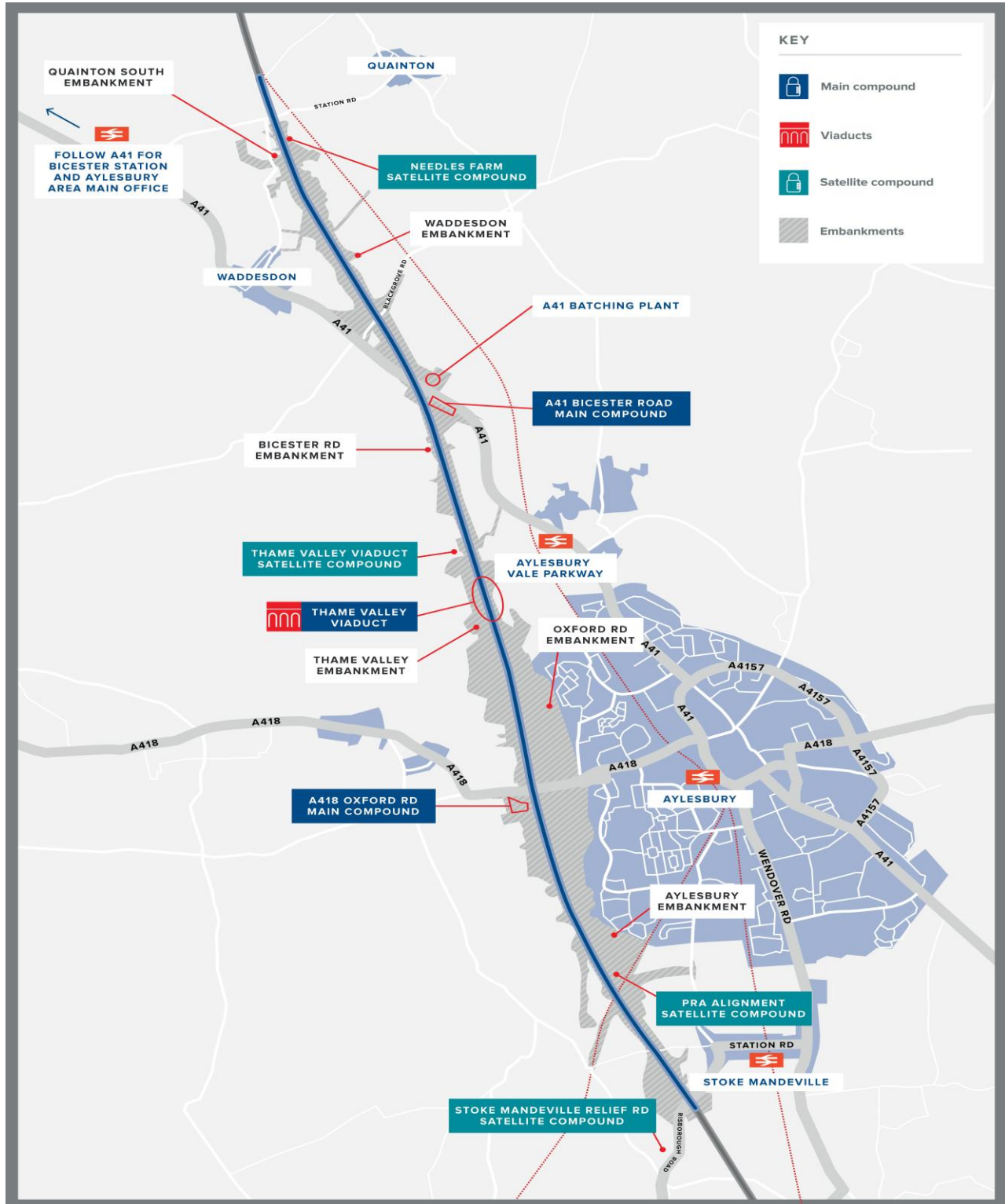
Time: **1pm to 3pm**

Place: **Waddesdon Playing Fields, School Ln, HP18 0LA**

Area map

Quainton to Stoke Mandeville

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



Quainton receives 4 million tonnes of material by rail

The Quainton railhead has now surpassed 4 million tonnes of material delivered to site to support the construction of HS2. Using an existing freight railway line, the railhead delivers crushed stone from quarries in Cheshire, Somerset and North Wales directly to site. Rail freight is one of the most sustainable ways to move construction materials.



Moving materials by rail has been in operation on HS2 since 2020, with the Quainton railhead opening in 2022. This programme has saved an estimated 35,000 tonnes of CO2 – the equivalent of over 116,000 single passenger flights from London to Rome. Collectively, delivering a large portion of our materials by rail has removed over 410,000 lorry journeys from local roads across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and West Northants. The Quainton railhead is expected to bring another 1.4m tonnes of material for the HS2 project until 2027.

Pictured: Quainton Railhead - Freight train material being unloaded for use across EKFB construction sites. March 2026

Delivering HS2's footbridges: Logistics spotlight



May saw the successful delivery of the steel deck that will form one of several new footbridges to the west of Aylesbury. This bridge will carry the SBH/19 footpath and bridleway across HS2. The deck was delivered by lorry through central Aylesbury.

The two 5.5 metre wide, 20-metre-long bridge sections required traffic management to allow the oversized vehicles to safely navigate through the town. The route was carefully chosen by the EKFB logistics and traffic planning teams, Buckinghamshire Council and our supplier to avoid unsuitable routes and the unnecessary removal of street signs and traffic lights. The delivery was timed to occur on a Sunday evening to reduce disruption to residents, businesses and road users as much as possible.

Construction progress



Thame Valley viaduct, Aylesbury

At the 880m long Thame Valley viaduct, all 715 sections have been installed to form the east and west parapets. The concrete deck is also now complete. At the southern abutment, work now shifts to forming the wingwalls and laying the concrete slab that will support the railway's transition from embankment to viaduct.

Aylesbury embankment

At the Aylesbury embankment, the earthworks programme is at its peak. Made up mostly of chalk brought up from the Wendover green tunnel excavation, the embankment will measure up to 4 metres high when complete with landscaping bunds on either side. There are also several footway and bridleway bridge crossings under construction in this area.



Risborough Road underpass, Stoke Mandeville

Structural works at the new pedestrian and cycle underpass on Risborough Road will continue throughout 2026. The concrete deck is now in place and waterproofing will soon commence ahead of backfilling around the structure later this year.

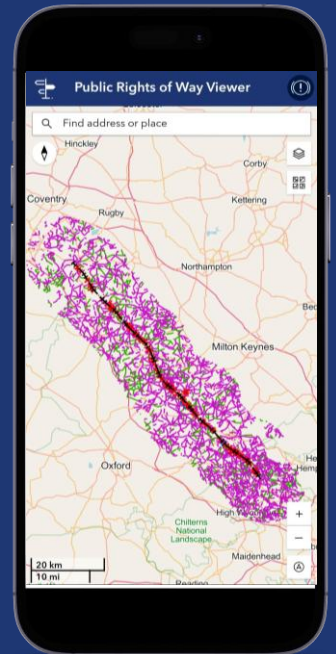
EKFB launches new Public Rights of Way interactive map

This month, EKFB launched a new online, interactive public rights of way 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.

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

Scan me or visit
prow.ekfb.com
to check out the
interactive map



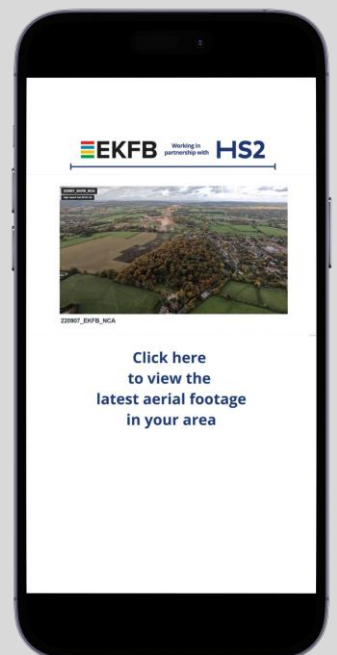
EKFB's progress from the air

One of the best ways to see the progress we are making on site is from our drone footage. If you scan the QR code below, it will allow you to view the latest HS2 works in your area.

This footage gives an annotated overview of where different structures will be on the HS2 route along with an update of how the landscape is currently looking.



Scan me or visit:
<https://vimeo.com/747833945/f6ba1ecfe3?fl=pl&fe=sh>
view the latest
drone footage.



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.

The Department for Transport has 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.



School engagement and social value

Sensory room, Stone CofE School

EKFB recently completed delivery of over £2,500 worth of equipment to Stone CofE School near Aylesbury to fit out a new sensory room. Complete with fibreoptic lighting curtain, a sensory tent, soft corner, balance maze and lava lamps, the new space will be a stimulating yet calming environment. Sensory rooms reduce stress and anxiety and can help children refocus after becoming overwhelmed, regulating attention and supporting better engagement and learning.



"The resources purchased have been a real asset to the school. Children love the space and it is regularly used by children from across the school to support regulation which obviously has a positive impact on their learning." – Gemma Anderson, SEND Coordinator, Stone CofE School

Vegetable garden, The Bucks Goat Centre



The Bucks Goat Centre in Stoke Mandeville approached us with a challenge - how to make best use of a forgotten corner of their site to enhance the visitor's experience? EKFB volunteers and our supply chain partners got to work on completely clearing the overgrown area and transforming it into a new vegetable garden, complete with woodchip footpath, raised veg beds and a new fence with a sturdy gate, to keep the goats out! We'll also be adding fruit trees later in the year.

"It's a transformation from what the area looked like before and will be put to good use by the groups we regularly host. The space will really compliment the other facilities we have here which aim to enhance wellbeing of children and adults while teaching them about animals and the natural world" – Ruth Higgins, Owner, The Bucks Goat Centre

Support for community events

So far this year, EKFB has supported several local fetes, festivals and shows in the wider Aylesbury area.

The Chiltern Hills Classic Vehicle Rally, Stone Village Fete, Longwick Village Fete, The Bull pub charity stand-up comedy night and Stoke Mandeville's Party in the Park have all received funding donations towards logistical costs, attractions or top raffle prizes.

Community news



Pictured: The engagement Team visiting with the MVC during the Chiltern Hills Classic Vehicle Rally in May.

Community events in your area

We regularly hold events throughout the year, visiting communities along the route. You may spot our mobile visitor centre (MVC) in your area during our event season. These visits are a great opportunity to share the latest updates on construction progress, project timelines, and the social value projects we are delivering locally. Our team will be available to discuss traffic and transport, programme updates and answer any questions you may have.

We have an exciting programme of community visits planned, details of which can be found on the HS2 events page. If you are interested in the MVC coming to your local area, please get in touch with the HS2 helpdesk.



Pictured: A recent site visit with a local group to the Greenway footbridge near Waddesdon, which is due to be open this autumn

Join us on a site visit

We offer regular opportunities for residents and community groups to join our monthly site tours, providing a chance to see our works up close and gain a better understanding of the progress being made.

During these visits, you will receive an update on the current stage of construction and can speak directly with our team, ask questions, and learn more about the work taking place in your area.

If you would like to attend, please get in touch with the EKFB Community Engagement team to reserve your place: [**hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk**](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

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

Reference number: HS2-EKFB-26-2320

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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