

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

HS2 Update

Twyford to Greatworth | 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 Twyford and Greatworth. Our local website www.hs2inbucksandox.co.uk is up to date with information on our works in the local area.

What's inside this newsletter

In this newsletter edition, we look back at recent progress on site, outline upcoming construction activity, and share the latest updates from across the project.

- Area map
- Construction updates
- Traffic management requirements
- Social value and community news
- HS2 reset update
- Public Rights of Way interactive map
- EKFB recognised as a Considerate Constructor



Pictured: Turweston Green overbridge



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.

Date: **22nd July**

Time: **2-5pm**

Place: **Gawcott, Richard Roper Playing Field.**

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

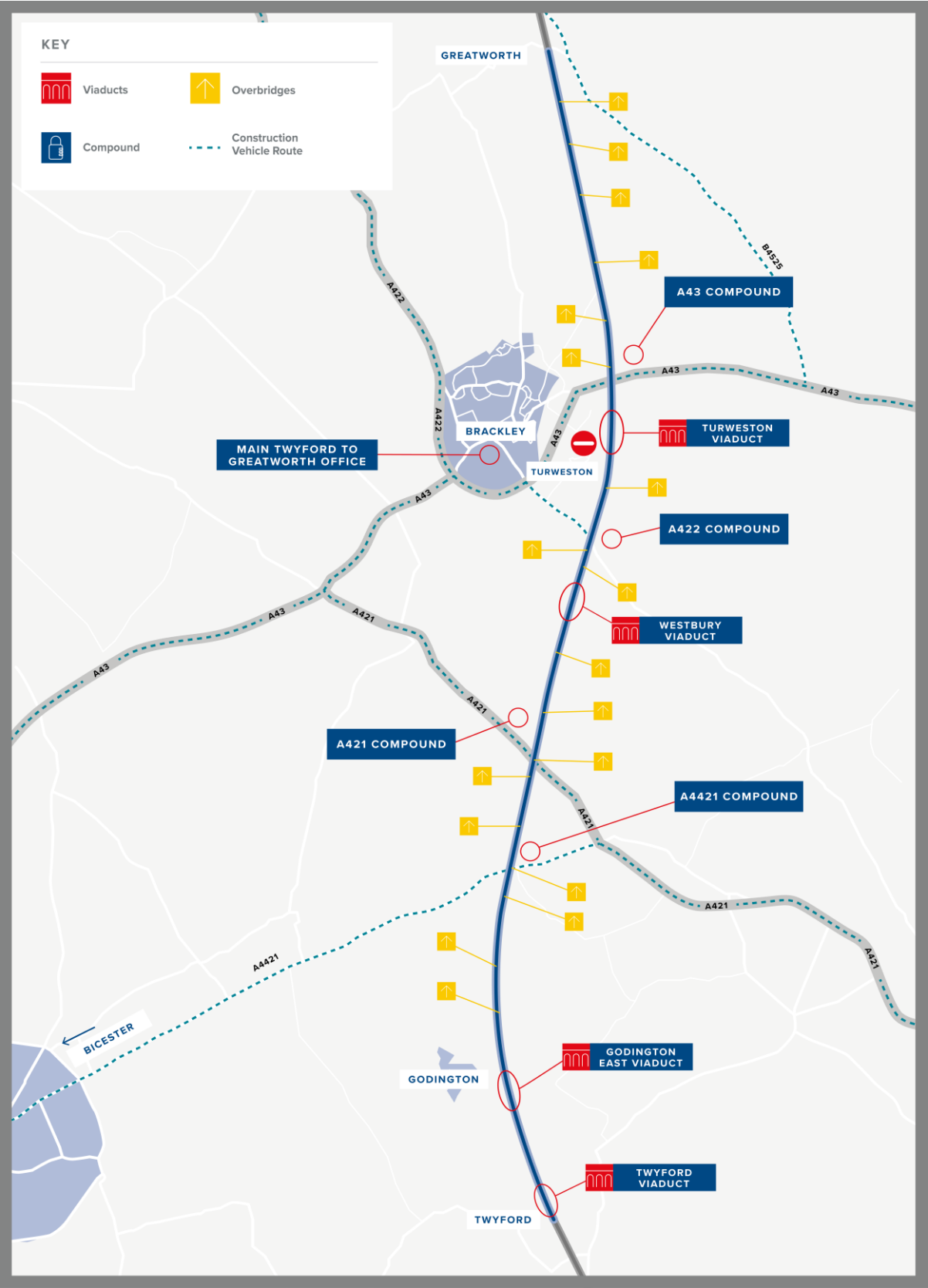


www.hs2.org.uk/events

Area map

Twyford – Greatworth

The map below shows the location of works in your area



Construction updates

What to expect this summer

Exciting developments are underway on the A43 as part of the HS2 project. Construction teams are gearing up to complete the road realignment, and overbridge works where the A43 crosses the high-speed rail line.

To carry out this vital stage of the project safely, a series of weekend road closures have been scheduled for this summer.

Here's what you need to know:

- **Southbound Closure:** From 8pm on Friday, 10 July, to 23:59pm on Sunday, 12 July 2026
- **Northbound closure:** From 8pm on Friday, 17 July, to 23:59pm on Sunday, 19 July 2026

In case delays occur, contingency closures are also planned:

- **Southbound:** From Friday, 24 July, to 23:59pm on Sunday, 26 July 2026
- **Northbound:** From Friday, 31 July, to 23:59pm on Sunday, 2 August 2026



Marking the boundaries

Permanent fencing is one of those works that signals real progress — it means the railway formation is taking shape and the land that will carry HS2 is being secured for the long term. We have now installed the first 2km of a 108km.

Traditional post-and-rail marks out land boundaries, keeping the rural character of the corridor intact, whilst security fencing prevents access onto the operational railway as the infrastructure moves closer to its finished form.

Reducing noise impacts for local communities

Noise barriers are one of the most visible ways HS2 is designed to be a considerate neighbour — not just during construction, but for communities who will live alongside the railway for decades to come. The first stage is piling — drilling and pouring concrete into the deep foundations that anchor each barrier post.

We have now completed 460 out of 1,524 pile foundations along our section.

Later this year, the steel posts and barrier panels will begin to follow, forming a continuous acoustic wall that significantly reduces noise for residents closest to the line.



Social value projects and community news

Helmdon Acorn Pre-School, Helmdon

The pre-school contacted us to see if we could help to repair their existing fence which was deteriorating and the wire netting fitted between the slats for children's safety had torn and been patched. The outdoor play area backs onto fields containing livestock, making a secure boundary essential. The old fence was removed and replaced with new five foot post-and-rail fencing. A mesh panel was included in the upper third of the fence so the children can continue to watch the animals in the adjacent field, adding enrichment to their playtime. The completed fence now provides a safe and secure environment for the children.



Before



After

Supporting local organisations

Over the last few months, we have helped support local organisations and projects in the area. This includes Brackley Cricket Club, where we provided a roller for their pitch, painting railings in Water Stratford and giving a donation towards Westbury Village Hall's 10-year birthday celebrations.



Water Stratford railings.



Westbury Village Hall 10-year birthday party



Brackley Cricket Club roller

Community news



Working Hours

As we move into the summer months, we will be adjusting our core working hours between Twyford and Greatworth. Working hours, as consented with local authorities, will be:

Monday to Friday 7am-8pm

Saturday 8am-5pm.

Hours may vary in certain locations for specific tasks like concrete pours or maintenance works.



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 fantastic 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.

For further dates and details, visit the HS2 website here or scan the QR code below:

www.hs2.org.uk/events



Join us for a site tour

We also 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 have the opportunity to 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

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.



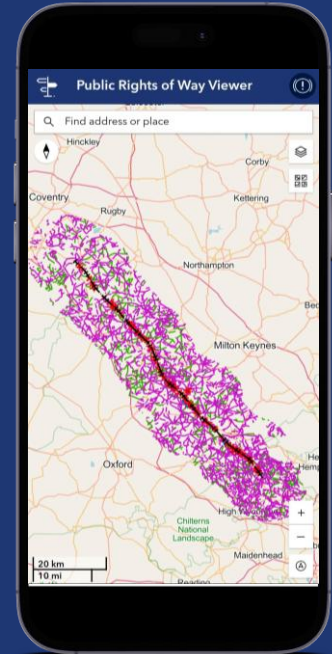
EKFB launches new Public Rights of Way interactive map

This month, EKFB 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.

**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 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.



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

Reference number: HS2-EKFB-26-2148

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)