

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

HS2 Update

Greatworth to Southam | Autumn 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 autumn newsletter?

In this autumn newsletter, we will be sharing the latest updates about the projects progress in the local area.

Inside you will find:

- Local area map
- Construction update
- Chipping Warden tunnel final segment installation
- A423 road bridge opening
- Community activities
- Route to civils completion update



Pictured: The deck structure is being completed, and parapets will be installed this autumn at Stoneton Lane green overbridge.



Drop-in events

We will be hosting events during the autumn.

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:

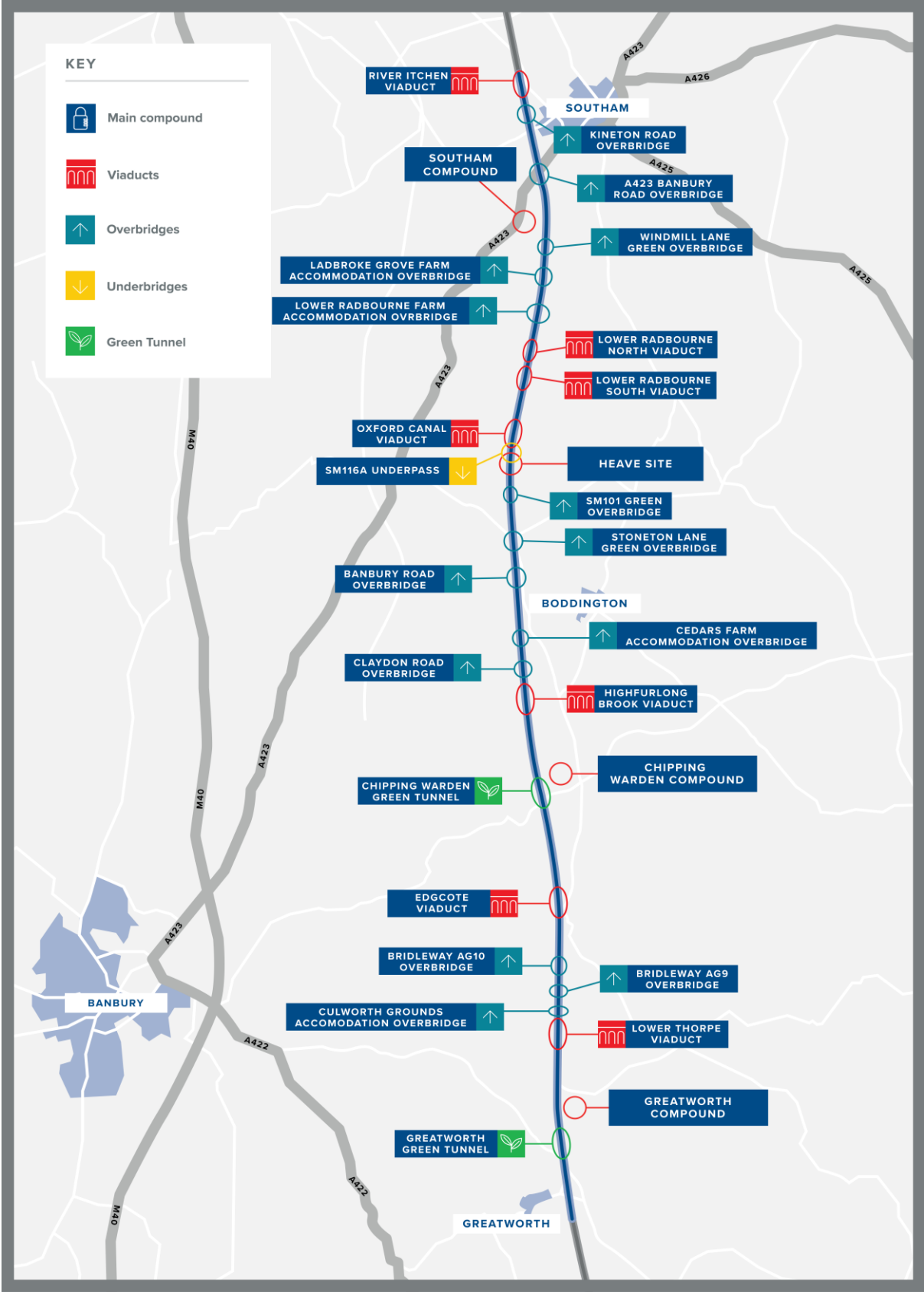


www.hs2.org.uk/events

Area map

Greatworth to Southam

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



Construction update

Progress continues to be made in the Greatworth to Southam section of the HS2 route.

Excavation of the Greatworth green tunnel is now complete, allowing the construction team to install the final section of the pre-cast tunnel segments.

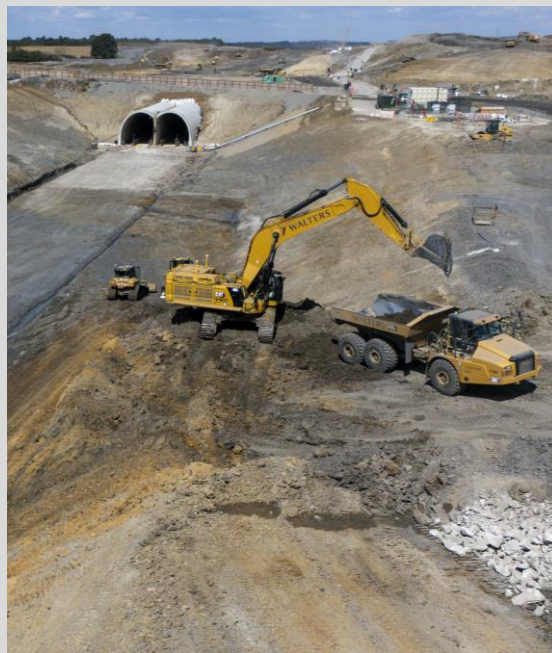
Work is also progressing on other sections of the structure, including the construction of the northern portal near Thorpe Manderville. Alongside this, our earthworks programme continues with material being placed over the completed sections of the structure, as we restore the landscape over the tunnel.

We have also marked a significant step forward in Southam, as the A423 bridge was realigned into the main road network. Road users now travel over the HS2 railway line on the newly constructed bridge.

Also, in Southam this autumn, EKFB will be undertaking a similar activity to join the Kineton Road bridge to the existing road network.

Further south, viaduct construction continues to progress at Edgcote and Lower Thorpe with bridge parapets being installed on the sides of both structures. At Lower Thorpe viaduct following the parapet installation, the noise barriers will be added on top of the parapets.

Under the Edgcote viaduct, Wardington Road has now reopened to the public, restoring a key connection between Welsh Road and the A361. In Chipping Warden village, the planned permanent closure of Culworth Road is now in place to enable continued construction of the HS2 railway between the Chipping Warden green tunnel and Edgcote viaduct.



Pictured: The Greatworth green tunnel team the bulk excavation work.

A user-friendly guide to using EKFB's new Public Rights of Way Map

We have launched a new Public Rights of Way (PRoW) map to help local communities safely navigate the countryside while construction works are progressing. Navigating the PRoWs in your area is simple. Here's a quick video guide on how to use the map.

Open the map by scanning the QR code below with your phone camera or by using the web address, prow.ekfb.com



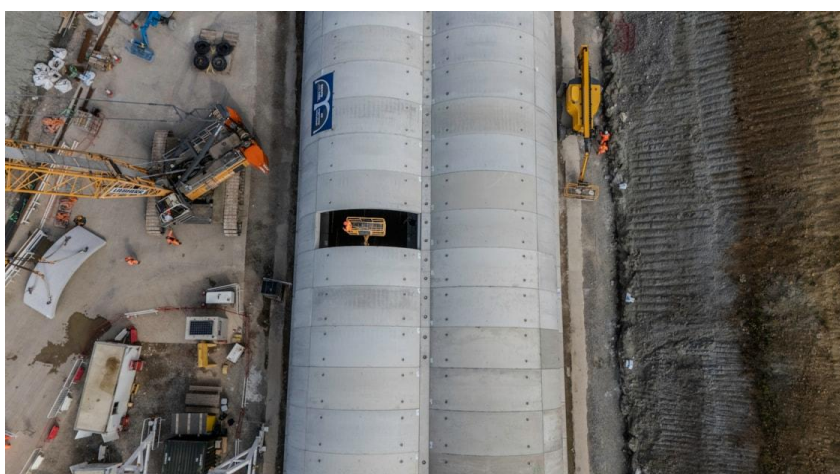
View the **user guide video** by scanning this QR code below



Chipping Warden Green Tunnel

We have taken large step forward with the completion of the one-and-a-half mile Chipping Warden green tunnel, as we lifted the last of over 5,000 reinforced concrete segments into place. **Scan the QR code on the right to watch the video** of the timelapse of the final piece being installed.

This green tunnel is one of the longest “cut-and-cover” tunnels along the line of the new HS2 railway, designed to help the railway to blend into the landscape once covered in earth and landscaped. This will reduce the noise and visual impact of the railway along the route between London and Birmingham.



Pictured: The view from above the Chipping Warden green tunnel, before the final reinforced concrete section was lifted into place.

The tunnel is an ‘M’ shape, with separate halves for northbound and southbound trains. While the final segment is now in place, there's still plenty to do. We will continue waterproofing, completing the internal areas and emergency walkways, and progress the backfilling and landscaping that will eventually see the tunnel largely disappear into the surrounding landscape.



Pictured: The final reinforced concrete section is installed at the Chipping Warden green tunnel.

A423 road bridge opens near Southam

In early September, the A423 opened on its new permanent alignment, with the new overbridge now carrying traffic over the HS2 railway line. While motorists are already using the route, some final finishing works and landscaping activities will continue during the autumn, including the installation of utilities and completing the shared-use footpath.



Pictured: A423 road bridge opens near Southam.

Community activities

Northamptonshire Community Larder gets a fresh look

The Northamptonshire Community Larder, based at Woodford Hasle, supports local people by providing access to affordable food with the additional benefit of reducing food waste.

As part of our ongoing support, our volunteers helped transform the building as part of the renovation project. We carefully packed and moved food supplies and shelving into storage and then removed the old flooring, all in preparation for the next stage of improvements.

The following day, they prepared the walls and painted several rooms, helping to create a brighter and more welcoming space. The team then turned their attention to the outdoor area to weed and tidy the car park before repainting the parking bay lines to improve safety and accessibility for visitors and volunteers.



Pictured: Teams helped remove the old floor of the food larder ahead of renovation works.

Community activities



Pictured: Constructing a frame and laying durable decking and painting the storage shed has transformed this area for the children.

New wellbeing garden at Cropredy school

Our teams recently volunteered their time and skills to help transform an area of the garden at Cropredy school. They have helped create a more attractive, usable and safer outdoor space for the pupils and staff.

The project involved refreshing a section of the school grounds, completing tasks such as general maintenance and removing debris, before a new decking area was installed.

To complete this transformation, the storage shed was repainted to help brighten the area.

We hope these improvements to this previously unusable space, help support students as they learn, play and enjoy time outdoors.

Boddington School garden summer refresh

We have proudly helped breathe new life into the garden at Boddington School.

The project focused on transforming a flowerbed. The rotten wood was replaced and secured, and the shrubs and bushes trimmed, the area was carefully weeded and tidied to improve the space.

Our team also used their skills to build a new section to create additional growing space.

We finished off this project by donating children's gardening tools, seeds, flowers and strawberry plants, which has opened new opportunities for the students to learn through hands-on activity.



Pictured: EKFB teams' gardening and carpentry skills shaped a new garden area for the school.

EKFB's route to civils completion – an update

The recent 'reset' of the HS2 programme, led by HS2 CEO Mark Wild, has given greater certainty over the construction and funding of HS2 and a clear route ahead for the completion of the civils work.

As the main works civils contractor for HS2 Ltd. in your area, we are working hard to complete the major engineering works ready for the installation of the railway track and systems. Our engineering works include building 80 bridges, 15 viaducts, three cut and cover 'green' tunnels, the excavation and replacement of millions of cubic metres of earth and the landscaping, planting and fencing requirements as part of our finishing works.

This year alone, you will have seen overbridges, local roads and public rights of way starting to re-open, further connecting communities along the route, plus river diversions being put back to how they were found.

To quantify our progress to date, we are on track to have completed around 75% of our works across these three key areas: earthworks delivery, concreting activities, and viaduct and green tunnel construction, representing significant progress as we head towards the civils completion deadline between 2029 and 2030.

As physical works continue at pace, we'll welcome various construction milestones that you'll be interested in, as well as supporting our communities with social value initiatives, jobs and skills opportunities and regular engagement about the works happening in your area.

In your area, our construction focuses for the next 12 to 18 months are presented in the table below:

Location	Activity
Kineton Road bridge, Southam	Bridge opening to traffic in November 2026
Banbury Road overbridge	Bridge opening to traffic in summer 2027
Stoneton Lane green bridge	Bridge opening to traffic in autumn 2027
Chipping Warden green tunnel	Earthworks complete in autumn 2028
B4525 and local roads	Removal of the temporary road and reinstatement of local roads in autumn 2028
Greatworth Green Tunnel	Completion in autumn 2029

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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