

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



HS2 Update

Greatworth to Wormleighton | Autumn 2022

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. We are following Government and Public Health England (PHE) advice on working safely during the pandemic. The health and safety of our workforce and the communities we work within is our priority. You can sign up for regular updates in your local area at www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk.

Update on our continuing works

We are making good progress in the area from Greatworth to Wormleighton. Throughout the winter, you can expect to see the following works in the local area:

- Piling for the Banbury Road and Claydon Road Overbridges, as well as piling for the Highfurlong and Lower Thorpe Viaducts;
- Installation of a temporary bridge across the Oxford Canal near Wormleighton;
- Traffic management in the Wormleighton and Boddington areas, as we connect the Banbury Road Overbridge to the existing road;
- Completion of internal site access and haul roads to move people, material and earthworks along the line of the railway and reduce the use of local roads;
- Construction of a temporary road near Greatworth;
- Utility diversion works in conjunction with utility companies such as Anglian Water, BT, British Gas and Western Power;
- Continued excavation, movement and storage of earthworks along the route;
- Periods of traffic management for topographical surveys;
- Extended working hours may be in place in some areas as we enter the main construction phase;
- Abnormal load deliveries, which may require some traffic management depending on the size and weight of the delivery vehicles; and
- Localised vegetation and site clearance which may require traffic management.



HS2 Events

In the new year, we are planning to hold further events regarding works in the local area.

These events will include visits with our Mobile Visitors Centre (MVC), village hall drop-in events as well as an online event to provide more information on the Oxford Canal Viaduct design.

Please contact the HS2 Helpdesk or visit hs2.org.uk/events more information on how you can attend our events.

Works Update



Greatworth Green Tunnel

The Greatworth Green Tunnel will be built using a cut-and-cover

method of construction, where the ground is excavated, tunnel segments put in place, then the ground is backfilled with trees and shrubs then planted on top. This is why it is known as a 'green tunnel.' This is a simple method of construction for shallow tunnels which help reduce the impact on people and nature.

The one-and-a-half-mile long Greatworth tunnel will be built from precast segments. These will be created in a factory in Derbyshire before being to site and assembled over the railway line as it passes the village.

Once in place, the tunnel structure will be covered with the earth and landscaped to fit into its surroundings. This will include planting native trees and shrubs such as Silver Birch, Oak, Beech and Willow.

In preparation for the installation of the tunnel, we began carrying out some excavation works in September 2022.

We plan to begin receiving deliveries of precast segments and installing these in early to mid 2023. The precast method uses approximately half the amount of concrete and 20 percent less steel than traditional methods. It also eliminates the need to have large, factory type manufacturing on site within small rural locations.

Rohan Perin, HS2's Project Client, said: "The Greatworth green tunnel is a great example of what we're doing to blend the new railway into the landscape and protect communities living close to the line."



Figure 1: The computer generated image (CGI) above is a aerial view of the Greatworth Green Tunnel portal with the land on top restored to countryside when complete.



Figure 2: The image above is a view of the Chipping Warden Green Tunnel as of November 2022.

Chipping Warden Green Tunnel

During the winter and spring, we will continue to construct the Green Tunnel up to Apple Tree Lane.

Once the tunnel structure is complete in this area, the earth will be backfilled over the tunnel to ground level. We will then be able to construct a new section of the A361 highway over the newly built tunnel. The new A361 will then be connected to the Chipping Warden relief road.

Abnormal Loads

While we build the main structures of HS2 such as viaducts, road bridges and tunnels, we will receive deliveries of abnormal loads to our sites.

An abnormal load is a load which, due to its weight or dimensions, cannot be carried on a conventional goods vehicle and requires a special vehicle and arrangements for its transport. These deliveries will include very large construction machinery such as cranes and piling rigs as well as steel beams and precast tunnel segments.

For the safety of road users and our staff, these abnormal loads may require temporary traffic management in the form of a lane closure to provide enough space for the vehicles to safely turn into our construction sites.

Throughout the autumn and winter, there will be some abnormal loads accessing our sites from the A423 delivering components for our temporary bridge over the Oxford Canal. These are expected to continue throughout 2023.



Banbury Road Overbridge

In order to build the Banbury Road and

Claydon Road Overbridges, we have commenced a phased series of road closures. To reduce our impact on the local area, much of the construction for the new highway and bridge will take place on land next to the existing highway. This will allow road users to continue traveling along the existing roads normally for the majority of the construction period.

In 2023, there will be temporary closures required on the Wormleighton Road and Banbury Road while we tie in the new sections of road to the existing highway.



Internal road network

In the area between Chipping Warden and Greatworth, our

teams continue to work towards the completion of the internal site access and haul roads which is expected to be finalised in spring 2023.

At the end of October, we successfully installed a temporary bridge over the A361 at Chipping Warden. This bridge will enable our earthmoving equipment and other construction traffic to safely pass over the A361, reducing disruption on the highway.

Where our internal road network crosses the local highway, we have installed manually operated traffic lights to allow construction traffic to cross the highway safely.

In autumn 2022, site access road crossing areas at Helmdon Road and Sulgrave Road became operational. We have also installed a crossing area on Wardington Road.

“Greatworth Tee” update

Throughout the autumn, we have been working on the installation of drainage for the Greatworth Tee road realignment. We are currently installing the sub surface and kerbs which are planned to be completed by the end of the year. Once these are installed, the road will be resurfaced in early 2023. It will then be white-lined and signage will be installed.

The junction is expected to be fully completed in late summer 2023 and will become operational once it has passed a road safety audit carried out by National Highways.

Oxford Canal Viaduct

HS2 will build more than 500 bridges along the route – including over 50 major viaducts which will stretch for a combined total of 15km (9 miles) across valleys, rivers, roads and flood plains. The Oxford Canal Viaduct is one of 15 viaducts and bridges across the central area of the HS2 route. It will be located between just north of the village of Wormleighton.

Construction on the Oxford Canal viaduct is planned to begin in Summer 2023. Set low in the landscape, three reinforced concrete spans will take the railway 60m across the canal and towpath.

To facilitate the construction of the Oxford Canal Viaduct we are installing a temporary bridge for our internal site access road. We completed piling works for the temporary bridge in October 2022 and we are installing the bridge deck this winter.

Throughout the winter, we will also be carrying out earthworks activities around

the temporary bridge to allow it to become operational for construction traffic in spring 2023.

Lower Thorpe Viaduct

In September, we began piling works for the foundations of the Lower Thorpe Viaduct. To date we have completed 275 piles for the south section of the viaduct. Our piling works on this section will be finished in early 2023, once we have diverted some overhead power cables.

Piling works for the north side of the viaduct are expected to begin in spring 2023. Once piling is completed, the piles will be capped. This is where a reinforced concrete slab is constructed on top of the piles to evenly spread the load they are to carry. Our teams will then begin constructing the concrete piers. This work is planned to commence in summer 2023 with construction on the viaduct expected to be complete in 2024.



Figure 3: The above computer generated image (CGI) is an artist's impression of the view of Oxford Canal Viaduct from the bank.



Barn Owls

We are happy to share that in addition to our normal construction activities, this August 2022 we captured a photo of a Barn Owl

making use of the mitigation boxes installed by Fusion.

Before the new railway line becomes operational, HS2 continue to support the breeding population of Barn Owls by creating up to 240 new artificial nest sites at least 3km from the railway.

To date, 135 temporary nesting sites have been installed, which will significantly reduce nest disturbance to the species while the railway is being constructed.



Figure 4: The image above shows a Barn Owl using one of the mitigation boxes installed by Fusion.

Frequently Asked Questions

Some of our most commonly asked questions in your area

Q: I'm concerned about mud on my local roads from your construction sites.

A: We have a suite of road sweepers that are operational throughout our normal working hours, they cover our HGV routes as well as locations near our sites and compounds. Alongside this we have our Traffic Safety Control Officers who are on site daily, monitoring the road conditions, traffic congestion and more.

Q: Why are your work sites lit up at night?

A: We have 24/7 security at our construction sites and therefore we need appropriate lighting for the safety and welfare of our security staff. Where possible we switch off the majority of lights overnight and we ensure all lighting is correctly positioned and monitored in line with HS2's Code of Construction Practice.

Q: How can I get a quick response to a construction related query?

A: The HS2 Helpdesk is open 24 hours a day (08081 434 434 / HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk) and we thank you for raising your queries, comments and concerns with us – these allow us to improve how we work. In your area EKFB are now responding to your queries and complaints within 3.5 working days on average.

Keeping you informed

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

Residents' Charter and Commissioner

The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter

We also have an independent Residents' Commissioner whose job is to make sure we keep to the promises we make in the Charter and to keep it under constant review. Find reports at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner

You can contact the Commissioner at: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Construction Commissioner

The Construction Commissioner's role is to mediate and monitor the way in which HS2 Ltd manages and responds to construction complaints. You can contact the Construction Commissioner by emailing: complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk

Property and compensation

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

Contact Us

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

 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 local area, visit: www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk

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Reference numbers: HS2-MW-EK-Ph1-Ar-Ce-C2-OTH-6-17/11/2022

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Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 888 8512 56