

Dear Resident

Thank you for your contacting the HS2 Helpdesk regarding our works on Werner Terrace and Brackley Lane. We have received a number of emails from local residents and the wider community who use the local road network, expressing similar views and concerns. We are therefore sending the same response to ensure that everyone receives the same information. Whilst we may not have addressed every individual point raised, we do want to confirm that your concerns have been considered.

We understand the effect that our works to construct the HS2 railway can have on road users and those communities in which we are working. This is why we have regular discussions with the relevant local authorities about our proposals, as well as separate conversations with parish councils and local community groups.

As with all traffic management and road/lane closures, we are required to have agreement from the relevant local authority. As part of the discussions with the local authority, consideration is given to the timings, duration and whether there are any alternative approaches that could be taken. We can reassure you that considerable work goes into planning each closure in advance of the proposed closure dates. We work with the local authorities concerned, giving regard to any feedback or comments they may have and, where necessary, make any adjustments to the proposed arrangements. The local authority acts independently and is responsible for ensuring we adhere to the agreed plan.

We seek to mitigate by ensuring we are working in line with the necessary requirements and we also undertake to provide advance notification of upcoming works to those communities in which we are working. Advanced Works Notifications (AWNs) are required to be published fourteen days ahead of any works that will affect the community.

While we try to give as much notice of upcoming works, as possible, it is usual for us to wait until the necessary agreements are in place before we issue our notifications; this ensures that the information we are providing contains the appropriate level of certainty for local residents. The AWNs we issue provide information to the community about the upcoming works to the highway, allowing time to plan ahead for their journeys.

In this instance, the feedback we have received indicates that road users from outside of the area were not necessarily aware of the closures and therefore continued to try to use these roads, adding to the volume of traffic. We encourage everyone to sign up to receive notifications about upcoming works; if you have not already done so, you can register here: [In your area - HS2](#). You can also request to receive notifications regarding other areas that you may travel through, to help you plan ahead for your journeys.

On the morning of 16 March 2026, the junction of Werner Terrace and Brackley Lane was closed as planned. As part of our planning, ahead of this closure, a traffic assessment was carried out at the site and, with the involvement of the local authority (Buckinghamshire Council), it was decided that the temporary link road

connecting Calvert Green and the Claydons should also be closed. This decision was taken to prioritise the safety of residents and prevent Cotswolds Way from becoming a “rat-run”.

To maintain essential access, an agreement is in place allowing buses, emergency services, pedestrians and cyclists to use the link road between 7am and 7pm only. However, we confirm the link road will remain closed to other vehicles, **at all times**.

We acknowledge that the wording around the timings on our original AWN may have been unclear, for which we apologise. Once this was brought to our attention, the AWN was immediately updated to reflect the feedback received. Please see attached copy of the updated AWN.

Since the closure began, our security team has reported vehicles attempting to force their way through the closure point, despite access being restricted. To protect the safety of both the community and our workforce, we have installed a harder closure with locked gates on both sides of the access road. These will be staffed from 7am to 7pm and opened only for buses and emergency vehicles; outside of these times, both gates will remain locked. There have also been instances of abusive behaviour towards our staff and vandalism.

We would ask people to be mindful of their behaviour towards staff. We would not wish to withdraw the current access as a result of unreasonable behaviour. However, should there be any further attempts to bypass the closure or a continuation of abusive behaviour, we will need to review whether this access can remain.

With regard to the emergency services, we can reassure you that they are fully aware of the timings and arrangements for all road closures in a given area, and they will take these into account when deciding on how to respond in the event of an emergency.

We recognise that there are sections of the HS2 route, in particular in the more rural areas, where the alternative routes are somewhat limited by the existing local road network. We acknowledge that the closure at the junction of Werner Terrace and Brackley Lane, alongside the existing, longer-term Steeple Claydon to Twyford Road closure, has further restricted the routes available to road-users in this area.

As a result of these closures, it was expected that there would be higher volumes of traffic using Gawcott Road, where we have had temporary traffic lights in place since mid-February 2026. To ensure the traffic is flowing, and the traffic management is operating as intended, it is being remotely monitored 24hrs a day. During morning and evening peaks, there will be some delays which is to be expected however, outside of those peak times, any queues are being observed as clearing on each cycle of the lights.

While the system is working as designed, the sequencing is affected if road users travel through the lights when on red, as this triggers additional waiting times to allow vehicles safe passage through the restricted section. We appreciate your patience while these traffic lights are in place and would ask that all road users adhere to the signals.

Some road users have enquired about compensation. There is no mechanism in place to compensate for any disruption resulting from the activities being undertaken to construct the HS2 railway, this includes road closures, traffic management and diversions. This is consistent with the approach taken nationally for closures on the public highway.

We recognise the effect our works can have on your daily journeys and routines, and the frustration this may cause. The measures in place are to keep everyone safe while essential construction is underway. The scale and nature of the works involved in constructing the HS2 railway means that some disruption is unavoidable and your patience, respect for staff, and adherence to the restrictions, during these times, is greatly appreciated. We will continue to work with Buckinghamshire Council to review and implement any further changes which may be identified to help reduce the effect on the community.

We apologise for the length of this response. As we explained at the beginning, we wanted to provide a single response to the community that covers all of the points raised and ensures a consistent message. We can reassure you that all of the feedback we have received has been considered and we continue to work with elected representatives and the local authority to ensure that our road closures are safe and compliant.

If you have any queries regarding this email or the wider HS2 project, please contact the HS2 Helpdesk on 08081 434 434 or via email at HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

Yours sincerely