



**Steel framed precast plants for HS2**

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**Client**

HS2

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**Contractor**

Align JV

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**Steel Tonnage**

2,400 tonnes

Caunton Engineering have supplied 2,400 tonnes of structural and secondary steelwork for two major precast plants to be used in the building of HS2. These were the precast plant required to produce wall lining sections for the 10 mile long Chiltern tunnels and a second steel frame precast plant was used to cast sections for the nearby Colne Valley Viaduct. The project in total comprised of fifteen buildings and included two tunnel precast factories, the tunnel workshop and warehouse and the viaduct precast factory. The structural frames were mainly portal frames, with Caunton's Secondary Steelwork Division supplying 40 tonnes of secondary steelwork, much of it galvanised and comprised of crane access ladders, maintenance walkways, mezzanine flooring, handrail and stairs.

Once completed, the precast plants were disassembled and the whole site was landscaped with material excavated from the tunnels and trees planted in order for it to blend in with the surrounding countryside. This is evidence of steel's flexibility and its particular sustainability qualities.

Caunton were employed by Align, a joint venture between Bouygues Travaux Publics, Sir Robert McAlpine and Volker Fitzpatrick.

