



HS2 E Update

December 2020

What has Buckinghamshire Council HS2 Team been working on recently?

We continue to seek better coordination of works from HS2 Ltd and their contractors and in north Bucks, improved coordination between HS2 and EWR. HS2 has three different contractors carrying out works and EWR has two different main contractors.

Our top priority is to continue to secure increased mitigation for residents and increased environmental mitigation in the proposals for structures and buildings over and above what has been agreed through the High Speed Rail Act 2017.

Buckinghamshire Council is also a member of the Independent Construction Commissioner's Steering Group. The Independent Construction Commissioner (ICC) is the arbiter for all complaints that are not resolved through the HS2 Helpdesk. Since the role was established only 5 complaints have been escalated to the ICC and his main role is now working with HS2 to prevent complaints in the first place. If a complaint or issue is referred to him without going through the HS2 Helpdesk, then they are referred back to the HS2 helpdesk and the ICC is copied into the response. His quarterly reports can be found here:

[HS2 Independent Construction Commissioner - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/independent-construction-commissioner)

Other matters raised recently by Buckinghamshire Council:

- Lighting at Jones Hill Wood – this has now been modified and its impact is being monitored
- Use of Chilterns hill top lanes by HGVs – subject to ongoing complaints
- Mud on roads – in various locations – we will be writing to HS2 and contractors to set out their obligations to minimise mud on the road – the contractors have accepted that they need to do better
- Denham Country Park – we have passed ecological reports on the potential presence of water voles onto both Natural England and HS2 and awaiting a response. We continue to monitor the situation although most of the works are taking place in LB of Hillingdon. Following complaints from campaigners the Council made a statement of its liaison with Natural England and HS2 Ltd to progress this matter.
- Traffic – the Council continues to require a cumulative assessment of potential traffic when considering HS2 proposals
- Little Missenden Vent Shaft – discussions on the access arrangements ongoing

HS2 ongoing work

You can see the work that is taking place in Buckinghamshire on the HS2 website, Commonplace section, (Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire) and also sign up for automatic alerts. HS2 Ltd or contractors are committed to send out Advanced Warning Notices 2 weeks ahead of works commencing:

<https://hs2inbucksandoxfordshire.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/works-in-your-area/details>

Works in Buckinghamshire

Although still classed as preparatory/early works there are some quite substantial impacts already being experienced by our communities. I have listed some of the main works (but this is not a comprehensive list)

Works	Duration
Colne Valley, south portal, compound works and access road	Nov 2020-Mar 2021
Colne Valley, tree planting works	Nov 2020-Apr 2021
Chalfont St Giles, Bottom House Farm Lane/A413 vent shaft access	Dec 2020
Affinity Water pipeline, Chalfont St Giles to Amersham	Jun-Dec 2020
Chalfont St Peter vent shaft 3 rd storey to compound	Ongoing
Amersham, Gore Hill roundabout improvement works	Nov-Spring 2021
Whielden Lane A413/A404 vent shaft site works	Dec 2020
Little Missenden vent shaft enabling works	Oct 2020-Mar 2021
The Lee, Leather Lane archaeology works	Oct 2020-Jan 2021
The Lee, Bowood Lane works	Oct 2020-Feb 2021
Chilterns area utility trial holes	Dec 2020-Jan 2021
Wendover pump testing and spring flow monitoring	Oct 2020-Dec 2020
Wendover Ellesborough Road South Field works	Oct 2020-Mar 2021
Aylesbury utility trial holes	Dec 2020-Jan 2021
Aylesbury Golf Course works	Jul 2020-Apr 2021
Calvert compound works	Apr 2021
Chetwode ecology and clearance works	Sep-Dec 2020
Quainton construction activities	Sep-Spring 2021
Waddesdon works	Jul-Spring 2021
Fleet Marston trial trenching works	Sep-Dec 2020
Steeple Claydon utility works	Jul-Aug 2021
Turweston works	Oct-Dec 2020
Twyford - Newton Purcell early works	Oct-Summer 2021

HS2 Forthcoming Works Packages submission

Please note however, forecast dates are subject to slippage by contractors

Schedule 17 package	Location	Target submission date
Bicester Road Embankment / Waddesdon South Cutting / Bridleway FMA/1 overbridge / A41 Bicester Road realignment and overbridge / Footpath WAD/4 Accommodation overbridge	Putlowes to Waddesdon (AVDC Package 09)	Dec 2020
Wendover Green Tunnel Ellesborough Road re-construction Wendover north cutting Nash Lee Road and overbridge	Nash Lee (AVDC Package 04)	Dec 2020
Aylesbury South Cutting and Embankment /Footpath SMA/16 overbridge Bridleway SBH/19 and SBH/27 overbridges / Footpath SBH/34 and SBH/32 overbridges / A418 Oxford Road overbridge	South West Aylesbury (AVDC Package 06)	Jan 2021
Aylesbury North Cutting Oxford Road Embankment Whaddon Hill Cutting Bridleway SBH/32 overbridge Bridleway SBH/2 overbridge	Hartwell (AVDC Package 07)	Jan 2021

Key Design Elements as described in [HS2 Information Paper D1: Design Policy](#) have been subject to community engagement on design developments.

HS2 Green Corridor initiative

HS2 Ltd says they are planting more than double the area of woodland affected by the project between Birmingham and London and leaving behind over 30% more wildlife habitats than exist currently. You can watch this update to hear more about the Green Corridor that will create and link habitats along the railway route.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrT1WyV1ID8>

Grim's Ditch, The Chilterns

In stark contrast to the above you can view a short piece filmed and edited by local resident, Karl Neilson. It shows Grim's Ditch, a linear earthworks, ancient woodland and scheduled monument dating back to at least the Iron Age. Mystery surrounds who built it and exactly what its purpose was. In November 2020, HS2 Ltd destroyed this section in the Chiltern Hills forever. Jones Hill Wood is the next ancient woodland in their path.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0y5u3jM8t_c&feature=youtu.be

Tunnelling machines arrive in the UK

The two 170-metre-long machines were transported from Germany to a construction site in Hertfordshire near the M25 in more than 1,000 parts on 8 December 2020. They will be assembled over the coming months before they start digging the high-speed railway's 10 miles Chiltern tunnels in spring next year. They will run non stop and take about 3 years to complete.

<https://www.therailwayhub.co.uk/40916/hs2s-first-giant-tunnelling-machines-arrive-in-the-uk/>

BBC News – Anger and Frustration

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-55207108>

Bottom House Farm Lane featured in the Bucks Free Press

[Family on Bottom House Farm Lane 'exhausted' after months of HS2 hell | Bucks Free Press](#)



Buckinghamshire Council HS2 coordination team:

Jackie Copcutt jackie.copcutt@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Tel: 01296 383793

EWR and HS2 enquiries Mailbox EWRANDHS2enquiries@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

HS2 Helpdesk: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk Tel: Freephone 08081 434 434