

HS2 update



By Murray Cooke

Dobbins Lane Spring Chamber

You may have heard that EKFB/HS2 is intending to submit an appeal against the decision to refuse planning for the Dobbins Lane spring chamber.

Wendover HS2 Mitigation Action Group nevertheless believes that despite the appeal, we are close to a revised scheme being brought forward by EKFB/HS2, which will, based on the community suggestion, give access from Nash Lee End. If this happens, it should satisfy all concerned. We also believe that this proposal is likely to be issued imminently in the form of a new planning application.

The appeal should make it clear that it will be withdrawn if this new application, if and when made, receives planning approval. Hence it is our current belief that the appeal is simply a holding position on the part of EKFB/



Green Tunnel phase 2 foundation slab being laid near Bacombe Lane. Photo: Murray Cooke.

HS2 and hopefully will not proceed. We will publish an update when we know more in due course.

Wendover Green Tunnel progress

Steady progress has been made with the tunnel, though this is not generally visible. Inside the existing concrete arch shell a significant quantity of reinforced concrete has been poured to form a 600mm deck for the track, which also locks the precast segments into place.

Work has also started on the foundations for the "Phase 2" section near Bacombe Lane where the concrete slab is now being formed; and this is just visible from Ellesborough Road.

Design Changes

Until now the focus has been on building the structures that form the railway, but with HS2's "programme reset" there has been work done on some of the wider design aspects of the

project. Numerous changes are appearing to the drawings previously submitted to Bucks Council in the light of detailed design consideration.

An example is a lengthening of the new bend in Bacombe Lane which will reduce the gradient of the slope down the east side of the Green Tunnel. We've been working with the residents, Bucks Council and WPC to make sure that the reinstatement plans actually reflect the community needs.

The "Highways" issues are being considered now, and we're expecting the "Landscape" designs to be finalised next summer. Our concern is to make sure these are co-ordinated.

Protecting the Chilterns

The land being used to build HS2 will eventually be handed over as part of the railway, given back to farmers, new roads handed over to the Council and some plots probably sold off. We're working with the Parish Council, The Wendover Society, The Chilterns Society, and Chilterns National Landscape to establish how we think the various parcels of land should be handled to protect the local environment for future generations.



Concrete arrives underneath the arches. Photo: Murray Cooke.

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Our objective is to establish the postHS2 Wendover area planning policy which can be fed into the draft Bucks Local Plan, so that in future Bucks Council planning officers can understand our local requirements in discussions with developers.

Issues with HS2?

If you're affected by the construction activity, please contact the HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 (available 24 hours a day) or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk. It helps if you have photographic evidence and please get a complaint reference number so that we can follow up as needed.

Need our help?

If you need help, want to join us, or have ideas or suggestions to help mitigate the community impact, get in touch at: enquiries@whs2.org.

We Need your Help!

We are always keen to recruit new members. If you are interested in joining us see [whs2.org](https://www.whs2.org). We are looking for volunteers to help with public communications and making sure we build up a good case for returning land to its natural state – and not developed in ways that would cause further damage to Wendover.

Public Meeting 21 November

Wendover HS2 Mitigation Action Group will be holding an HS2 Update public meeting at the Wendover Memorial Hall on Friday 21st November from 19:00. Come along and hear about what's happening with the HS2 project, what this means for Wendover, and help us prioritise what's most important for the Community.

Doing what's right for Wendover
See [whs2.org](https://www.whs2.org)



Working in
partnership with



Information provided by EKFB, the prime contractor for HS2 in the Wendover and Stoke Mandeville area.

Spring flow chamber

As part of our works in the Wendover north cutting area, we have been progressing with the plans for the installation of the spring flow chamber, which is required to support groundwater monitoring required by the Environment Agency consent.

Following the refusal of the initial planning application from earlier this year, we have challenged the need for a permanent access track which significantly reduces the number of deliveries to the site and allows us to consider an alternative route on a temporary basis via Nash Lee End which avoids the use of South Street and Dobbins Lane.

This will be subject to a new planning application which will be submitted to the Council in the coming weeks. As the approval of the new application is not guaranteed, we need to safeguard our construction programme and intend to make an application to appeal the initial application. However, the appeal will be withdrawn if the new application is granted approval.

This updated proposal has been developed following further review of maintenance requirements and environmental considerations. The Environment Agency has extended the required completion date for the spring flow chamber, allowing time for a revision to our proposal.

HS2 and EKFB are working closely with the Council, community representatives and groups to ensure the new application reflects local priorities. Updates will continue to be shared and we will issue an advance works notice prior to starting any work.

A4010, Risborough Road

Construction on the new relief road and overbridge bypassing the village of Stoke Mandeville is progressing well. The new road will divert the existing A4010 Risborough Road from Fremantle Court to Lower Road. It connects to the South East Aylesbury Link Road project, being built by Buckinghamshire Council.

During August and September, we closed a section of the A4010 to complete tie in works. We have nearly completed the construction of the new road and overbridge, including



Early view of the Stoke Mandeville relief road. EKFB

most of the road surface, kerbs, footpaths and highway drainage. There are ongoing utility diversion works around a section of the new road to the west of the A4010. We expect to close the A4010 again for one weekend at the end of October to complete the last piece of the new relief road around these utility works. The Stoke Mandeville Relief Road is due to open in early November 2025.

If you would like to read more about the works and view the advance works notices and maps, please go to HS2 website www.hs2.org.uk and click the 'in your area section' to view the interactive map. (HS2 in your area – HS2)

Alternatively, if you have a question about HS2 please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.



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