

HS2 update



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

In Stoke Mandeville, structural works at the new pedestrian and cycle underpass on Risborough Road continue to progress. The main concrete deck is now in place and waterproofing will begin shortly ahead of the backfilling later this year.

Nearby, we have also completed the concrete deck pours for the SMA/9 over-bridge and have started installing parapets. This structure will carry a public right of way as well as provide access for nearby landowners. Both structures are expected to open to the public in 2027.

Further north, the Aylesbury embankment is advancing well and landscaping works are progressing across the site. In May, sections of a new pedestrian and bridleway bridge were delivered, the largest sections of steel seen in our area, and the two parts of the SBH/19 steel truss bridge will be assembled and installed later this summer. This structure is also due to open to the public in 2027. You can view the delivery of the steel on the HS2 website.

Alongside construction activity, we remain committed to supporting local communities. With a busy programme of summer events ahead, we are pleased to be sponsoring a number of local initiatives, including YardFest Hampden Meadow in Wendover, Party in the Park in Stoke Mandeville, and The Lee Flower Show.

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

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



Green Tunnel getting closer

A large red crane is now being used to install the final section of the concrete tunnel shell under the Ellesborough Road bridges (photo bottom left). The 64 wheeled crane was specifically designed for this job and means that there is no need to divert local traffic from continuing to use the bailey bridge over the cutting.

Small Dean Viaduct now in use

A significant project milestone is that the viaduct is now being used to allow dump trucks to cross over the A413 and Chiltern Line allowing material to be moved to form the Small Dean North Embankment (photo above). The huge size of the trucks can be seen in the space between the safety kerbs that will accommodate two railway tracks in future. This means the green conveyor system installed in 2022 is now redundant and will be removed with nighttime closures of the A413 from 3 to 9 July.

Rocky Lane Closure

Large concrete parapet wall sections need to be installed on the bridge over Rocky Lane and this will need a full 24 hour closure of the road for about two weeks from 27 July until 10 August. The traffic diversion is using the A413 to Missenden, Frith Hill and Kings Lane.

Spring Chamber completion

By the time you read this the construction of the "Spring Chamber" in the meadow close to Kings Farm Shop should be completed, and increasing the flow of water into Stoke Brook.

Bowood Lane bringing into use

Pedestrians and cyclists have been able to use the new bridge at Bowood Lane for some time. A full closure of the lane is currently planned for 7 to 16 July to modify the road layout for all traffic. With Leather Lane also

closed for bridge construction, walkers will be able to use Rocky Lane to get from the A413 to The Lee. We've confirmed that if there are changes to the plan that there will always be one route available.

HS2 Project Reset

The long awaited HS2 Project Reset findings were announced in May with two key features from a Wendover perspective. Firstly, that HS2 are expecting all the civil engineering to be completed to allow handover for the 'Railways Systems' installation to start in 2029. This means that all the earthmoving, tunnel, cutting, embankment, bridge and road realignment works will probably be finished in 2028 with just the final landscaping and fencing the year after.

Secondly, that train services between Old Oak Common and Birmingham are now expected to start running at some point 'between May 2036 and October 2039'. With the Railway Systems being delivered along the route from Calvert, there should be no real impact on the local community for about 10 years.

Looking ahead...

We're busy now on the landscaping and future train noise mitigation issues identified as the key community priorities, as the designs will get finalised this summer. We're not happy with the current proposals, so have increased the pressure on the decision makers. In the last month we've had technical challenge sessions with the HS2 designers, meetings with Bucks Councillors and Officers, formal escalation to the HS2 Chief Executive, and MP Greg Smith asking the DfT Secretary of State in the House of Commons to get more done on our behalf.

Issues with HS2?

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

