

The railway is being built - here come the lorries!



While we have all been experiencing “enabling works” in the Wendover area for some time, EKFB (the HS2 contractor) is now starting to build the railway.

In the next few months, a local concrete “batching plant” will be installed next to the bypass, which is expected to reduce the number of lorry movements compared to transporting the vast amount of material needed to build the Small Dean and Wendover Dean viaducts long distances on local roads.

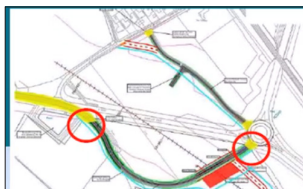
This will still require incoming aggregate and cement deliveries and outgoing mixed concrete traffic on the A413, and a slip lane is being created northbound on the bypass to help matters.

The concrete trucks will go down the A413 and enter the HS2 land at Small Dean just before the petrol station. An internal road is being constructed from there to Great Missenden to allow the concrete to be delivered to the viaduct working sites. Empty lorries will continue down to Missenden before coming back up the A413 to collect their next load.

In November 2015, it was promised by Tim Mould in the House of Commons Committee meeting that “there will be no construction traffic in Wendover” so we wait to see if that promise is kept.

There is more...

Other visible works include the construction of a temporary road at the north end of the bypass to allow diversion of traffic to and from Terrick on the Nash Lee Lane. This is to allow the construction of a bridge over the railway which will be in a cutting below the current ground level as it passes towards Stoke Mandeville. Vegetation has already been cleared to allow access to the temporary road from the Nash Lee roundabout.



Closer to home...

A temporary road is to be constructed behind the cottages on Ellesborough Road to allow traffic to continue to get to Butler’s Cross during the building of the “green tunnel”, which involves making a deep cutting through the existing road. Work is due to start at the end of the cricket season and will take about 12 months including diversion of all the utilities, including water, gas, electricity, sewage, and telecomms services. See also *HS2 & Bacombe Lane* article p14.

In the meantime...

We have identified numerous reasons which prove HS2 train noise will be worse than expectations defined in the Act, whereby the vast majority of homes in the Wendover

assessment area could experience noise above the World Health Organisation limits. Evidence has been presented to HS2 & BC but there is still work to be done to convince both that our modelling is accurate for plans to be changed to remedy this.

We have provided proof that HS2 current plans will flood Stoke Mandeville and Aylesbury and their proposed traffic movements will bring the Chilterns to a standstill. We remain hopeful that our mitigation solutions which will prevent it all will remain on the table as the planning permission requests continue to come in over the summer months.

We remain vigilant in ensuring that HS2’s environmental strategy is actually put in place and is importantly maintained (planting trees but letting them die of dehydration is unacceptable) this will be an ongoing and long-term effort.

It is up to all of us...

We implore you all not to give up and accept that all is lost, it really is not. Our group, alongside the Parish Councils up and down the line, continue to hold HS2, its contractors and Buckinghamshire Council to account.

But we all need to work together – so if you witness poor behaviour from HS2 contractors or see a lorry in Wendover then take a picture and send us the details at enquires@whs2.org and If you can support our group in any way or want to be involved with our mitigation work, please do get in touch www.whs2.org.

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