

**MP Greg Smith engages with WHS2**

A group from WHS2 Mitigation met the newly elected MP Greg Smith, to review Wendover's issues and see if he can help resolve them. As the former MP for the constituency which included Calvert and Quainton, he is very experienced in dealing with HS2 and the Department for Transport. We look forward to seeing what can be achieved. In addition to getting a grip on how the construction plan will impact Wendover, he's also taking up our need to get a safe cycling route re-established between Wendover and Dunsmore; and seeking better noise mitigation for North Wendover.

**Night time working at Nash Lee**

HS2 managed to convince Bucks Council that it needed to undertake continuous works from 08:00 to 03:00 the next morning, to create the piles used as foundations for the new Nash Lee Road bridge. This would mean noise levels up to 66dB in the late evenings. In practice HS2 discovered that the ground conditions needed stabilisation, so it has a new plan which allows works to be done during normal working hours rather than keeping local residents awake at night.

We're also investigating a proposal that 24 hour working will be needed to excavate the 30 metre deep trench for the underground wall at the North Cutting. The massive "clamshell" excavators have started daytime work, and we're seeking details of the expected noise impact from the Council.



*The computerised mechanism of the clamshell excavators enable them to dig very precisely to depth required for the underground wall at the green tunnel*

**A413 traffic rerouted**

During July and August there were numerous night-time closures of the A413 at Small Dean, for the realignment of the road through the Small Dean Viaduct site. This is to make space for construction of the final pier to support the viaduct deck. The good news is that we're not expecting further closures this year.

In late January however, there's a plan to close the A413 for four days to allow the deck to be launched over the road, and the Chiltern Line railway will also be closed. Details will be available closer to the time. A footpath and cycleway will then also run under the viaduct to allow a safe route between Dunsmore Lane and South Street.

We're trying to get that opened as soon as possible, as the previous safe route using Small Dean Lane is closed until September next year.

To illustrate what the viaduct launch will look like, HS2 has published a stop-motion video of a similar 'deck slide' being carried out in August on the longer Wendover Dean Viaduct: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=K56bb6lkUE8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K56bb6lkUE8). The Small Dean Viaduct is over half the length of the one shown in the video, which was launched in three separate sections. The Wendover Dean Viaduct, at two thirds of the length, will be done in one go.

**Dump trucks from Small Dean**

The "haul road" north of the Ellesborough Road diversion was cleared in July, and the ramp up to the old road was being brought into use as we go to press.



*Excavating the haul road ramp at Ellesborough Road: The view is from the new bridge towards Pound Street, and the digger is where the cottages used to be.*

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*Fleet of dump trucks on the haul road north of Ellesborough Road*

The dump trucks started running from mid-August, and we estimate that they could continue for up to two years.

We've tried to get a five-year construction plan from HS2, but it is still considering changing the Green Tunnel contractor from EKFB to Align (which recently took over the section just north of the Chiltern Tunnel).

The National Audit Office also produced a report about how HS2 had reacted to the Government cancelling the construction of the northern Phase 2, including "The contracts have also proven too large for HS2 Ltd to effectively manage or control, and to allow for a change of contractors in case of underperformance."

**...are crossing Bacombe Lane**

The dump trucks will be moving spoil from the Small Dean conveyor to Stoke Mandeville, so they will have to pass over Bacombe Lane, where an interim site crossing has been established with traffic lights. However as the excavation for the railway progresses, the lane will need to be closed at the crossing point to allow excavation. Access to Bacombe Lane will then be available using a temporary road and bridleway that is being built across the field from the bend in the old Ellesborough Road.



*Building the new link road junction at Ellesborough Road*

The scale of that can be seen now from Bacombe Lane and work has just started to establish the junction at the Ellesborough Road end.

*Words and photographs: Murray Cooke*

**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](mailto: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.

**Need our help?**

If you need further help, want to join us, or have ideas and suggestions that would mitigate the community impact, then get in touch at [enquiries@whs2.org](mailto:enquiries@whs2.org).

**Doing what's right for Wendover**

**See [whs2.org](http://whs2.org)**

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