

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on **08081 434 434**

HS2 Update

Colne Valley | Summer 2022

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. Our summer newsletter will update you on current construction, timescales and any impacts in the Colne Valley. Construction and landscaping of the permanent structures for the Chiltern Tunnel and Colne Valley Viaduct are underway and progressing well.

Overnight closure of A412

The giant red girder that will assemble the deck of the Colne Valley Viaduct has now begun its 3.4km long journey from the North Embankment at Denham, Buckinghamshire, to the South Embankment near Harvil Road in Hillingdon.

The first concrete segments have been successfully installed and the girder (see picture top right) has now started to construct the viaduct over the A412 near Denham Water Ski Club.

The road will be closed overnight from 10pm and reopened at 6am the following morning until 25 October.

We understand that this may be an inconvenience to residents, businesses and other road users that use the A412 between Denham and Maple Cross in the early hours, but for their safety we cannot allow road or footpath users to pass under the girder whilst works are underway.

Use a smartphone to scan the QR code below for the diversion route and more information about the works.



Drop-in event

We are holding drop-in sessions in Denham on the following dates:

Tuesday 25 October
Monday 19 December

From 5pm to 7pm

Denham Village
Memorial Hall, Village
Road, Denham, UB9 5BN

Please come along and discuss or ask questions about our construction of the Colne Valley Viaduct and our construction programme in general. We will be happy to talk to you.

Viaduct construction

Dominique

We have now completed the first two spans of the Colne Valley Viaduct. In the picture opposite you can see the launching girder, named Dominique in memory of the engineer who helped design it, on her approach to the A412 in Denham, heading south. She is currently completing the next span over the road. In the foreground you can see the line of piers which will hold the deck of the viaduct. Once complete the viaduct will be the UK's longest railway bridge at 3.4km (2 miles) and will carry trains travelling at nearly 200 miles per hour across the Colne Valley lakes, the Grand Union Canal and River Colne. Some of the viaduct spans are up to 80 metres long with some of the piers needed weighing around 370 tonnes. Once the viaduct is completed the area around it will be landscaped with additional pathways created to enhance the already popular public space.



Viaduct deck segments

We have now installed over 40 of the 1000 segments needed to build the Colne Valley Viaduct, all of which are a slightly different shape to allow for the gentle curve of the viaduct and are built using a 'match casting' technique. These are built on site in our purpose-built factory and then transported on our internal haul road to the launching girder where they are lifted into place. By building the deck segments on site and creating haul roads, we have been able to significantly reduce the number of HGVs needed on the A412 and other major roads. To build the viaduct across the piers, the girder moves from one pier to the next installing the segments as it goes. One segment is put in place each side of the central pier, using a cantilever approach to balance as two half-arches either side of each pier are constructed simultaneously. Steel tensioning cables are then threaded through the segments to strengthen the bridge.



Pier construction update

V piers, pontoons and water treatment

There are a variety of pier designs amongst the 56 piers being used to support the viaduct. The largest piers are “V” shaped and will carry the viaduct across the lakes and River Colne. These piers have been specially designed to bear the weight of both the trains and to factor in the additional force on the viaduct if they need to brake to reduce speed.

We are also constructing a water pipe over the Grand Union canal near to Harefield Marina. We process wastewater and ground water from our viaduct pier worksites to ensure that any building contaminants are removed before it is released back into the system. Now that pier works have progressed at sites south of the canal, we will be recycling water using an existing plant at the South Portal. To do this we need to build a temporary scaffold structure to support the pipework over the canal, providing a clearance of approximately 4 metres to ensure that the movements of canal and towpath users are not obstructed. These structures will be removed once the viaduct piers are completed between Savay Lake and Harefield Lake No2 in early 2024. The temporary pontoon which is in place to maintain access for anglers and walkers on the Colne Valley Trail and London Loop will also be removed when construction is complete over the Grand Union canal.



Community investment

In August we joined volunteers from St Thomas's Church in West Hyde to clear overgrown vegetation from the cemetery. This was part of our social value and community investment work. Over the last two years we have supported several community-based projects in the area, including food banks and Action for Children. If you have a local project that could do with our help, let us know – communityengagement@alignjv.com.



Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes ensuring you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help you.

The Residents' Commissioner

The independent Residents' Commissioner oversees and monitors our commitments to you.

The commissioner's reports and our responses can be found at www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner

The Residents' Commissioner makes sure we fulfil the commitments in the HS2 Community Engagement Strategy (<https://bit.ly/3oOA25j>).

The Residents' Commissioner can be contacted on: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Construction Commissioner

The independent Construction Commissioner regularly meets our Chief Executive Officer to raise any concerns or emerging trends across HS2.

The Construction Commissioner's role has been developed to monitor the way we manage and respond to construction complaints.

The commissioner mediates on disputes about construction, involving individuals and organisations, that we can't resolve. The commissioner advises members of the public about how to make a complaint about construction.

The Construction Commissioner can be contacted on: complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out about HS2 and properties along the route by visiting:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property

Find out if you can claim compensation at:

www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2

Holding us to account


If you are unhappy for any reason you can make a complaint by contacting the HS2 Helpdesk. For more details on our complaints process, please visit:

www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/contact-us/how-to-complain/

Contact us

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

 Minicom **08081 456 472**

 Email **HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk**

Write to:

FREEPOST

HS2 Community Engagement

Website **www.hs2.org.uk**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your local area, visit: **www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk**

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