

# Amersham vent shaft construction update

August 2022 | [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. As we reintroduce face to face engagement, we will continue to follow government guidance on reducing the spread of Covid-19. The health and safety of our workforce and the communities we work within is our priority. Please contact the Helpdesk if you have any further questions relating to our response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Construction progress so far

Works to establish the site began in July 2020 and included construction of improved access to the site from the A404 to allow for safe access for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs). Traffic lights were installed and the access to Whielden Lane at the A404 junction was widened.

On the site we created hard standing, parking, and opposite we created offices with site with drainage, lighting and utilities.

From March 2021 we started to prepare for the construction of the outside of the shaft itself. This used a process called Diaphragm-walling (D-walling). The shaft is made up of 16 panels. D-walling took place between June and September last year. This was followed by preparation of the ground around the vent shaft itself.

The next step was the excavation of the shaft. This started in December 2021 and took until March this year. An overhead view of the completed shaft can be seen on page two.

Last year we also updated the hoarding around the site to reflect the history of Amersham. This hoarding was produced in cooperation of local community and Town Council.



**If you have a question about HS2 or our works, please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 or email [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)**

## Notification



### Duration of works

The vent shaft, shaft buildings and the landscaping are due to be completed in late May 2025

### What to expect

Core working hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm and 8am to 1pm on Saturday. There is one hour start up and close down either side of those hours to for set-up

There are some activities on site throughout construction which can operate outside of those hours, such as concrete pours.

### What we will do

We work hard to try and keep disruption for local residents to a minimum. This includes managing the movements of HGVs to reduce impact on roads.

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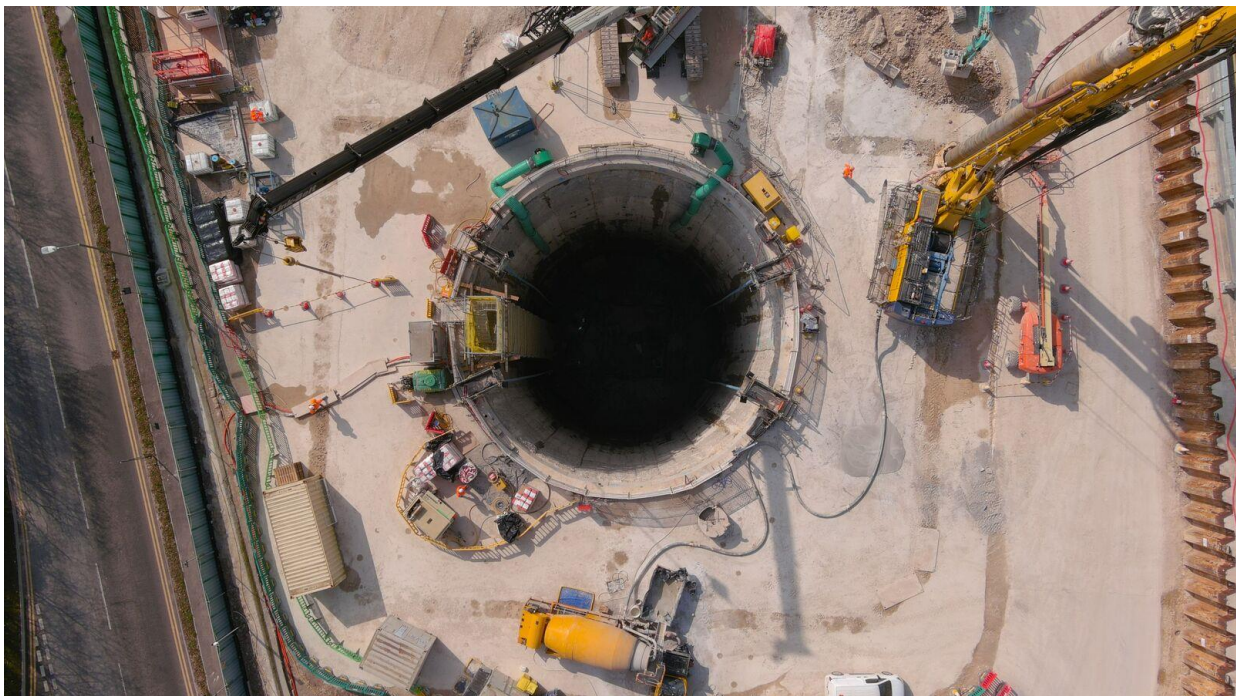
## What is happening this year?

The two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) constructing the Chiltern Tunnel are due to arrive at Amersham in March 2023. They have already passed the shaft at Chalfont St Peter and are now making their way to the next shaft off Bottom House Farm Lane, Chalfont St Giles. They are due to arrive in September this year. Amersham is the next shaft, followed by the one at Little Missenden. The final shaft is off Chesham Road near Hyde End. The TBMs will emerge at the North Portal site, which is at South Heath near Gt Missenden in March 2024.

Once the TBMs have passed through the Amersham Vent Shaft, our remaining works at Amersham will consist of waterproofing of the shaft walls, creation of the foundations for the shaft buildings and lining the inside of the tunnel wall. This is done using a process called "Slip-forming". This will involve the continued pouring of concrete over 24 hours for several days. The process itself is slow, so whilst it is done over a long period, there will only be one or two concrete HGVs visiting the site at any one time, keeping lorry movements to the site to a minimum. We will ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum and noise is managed on site. We have recently successfully completed these works at Chalfont St Peter shaft site without disruption to local road users or residents.

## Shaft excavation has now been completed

The picture below is of the excavated shaft at Amersham. Preparation works for the arrival of TBMs will now continue until they arrive. Once they have passed through the shaft, works will then focus on constructing the internal structures of the shaft as detailed above.



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

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## Updated design for Amersham shaft building

We recently held engagement events in Amersham to give residents the opportunity to see the updated design for both the building which will sit above the vent shaft, and the landscaping at the site. The vent shaft building and two small ancillary buildings on the site will house all the mechanical and electrical equipment which will be used to support the running of the railway. This includes fans, access lifts, signalling and power. Once the railway line is running the shaft buildings will only need to be accessed for maintenance, or if needed by emergency services. There are no lights proposed on the building, apart from those needed for security and maintenance.

## Artist impression of the shaft building

The visualisation below shows the building and the landscaping as it will look when approaching from the A404 from the west in the first year following completion. The updated design sees the height of the circular single storey building reduced by more than 2 metres and the 'crown' of steel fins replaced with perforated pre-patinated zinc panels to help match the natural tones of the surrounding landscape. Building on feedback from Buckinghamshire Council, the design of the weathered steel boundary wall is replaced by a more traditional stone wall made of flint. The stone is naturally occurring within chalk hills like the Chilterns and flint facades have been a prominent feature of local architecture for hundreds of years. The layout of the buildings will remain unchanged, with the spiral shaped walls echoing the shape of the site and the shaft beneath. Extra planting will be provided on the A413/A404 side of the site. Please visit the Amersham page on <https://www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/tunnels/headhouses-and-ventilation-shafts/amersham-vent-shaft-headhouse/> to find out more.



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



# 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property)

Find out if you can claim compensation at:

[www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2](http://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/](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/contact-us/how-to-complain/)

**Reference number:** HS2-MW-Align-Ph1-Ar-Ce-C1-Prog-works-27-22/08/2022

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## Contact us

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

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

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

Write to:

**FREEPOST**

**HS2 Community Engagement**

Website **[www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)**

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**[www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk](http://www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk)**

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