

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

HS2 Update

Chiltern Tunnel (Buckinghamshire) | Autumn 2023

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. This quarterly newsletter contains information about the works that are underway to build the railway in your area.

Catch up with progress on the Chiltern Tunnel and Colne Valley Viaduct by joining HS2 and Align JV's Construction Webinar

It has been a very eventful year on the C1 section of the HS2 route and great progress has been made on the construction of the Chiltern Tunnel in Buckinghamshire, the Colne Valley Viaduct between Buckinghamshire and London Borough of Hillingdon, and the landscaping of the Colne Valley Western Slopes in Hertfordshire. On 6 December we will be holding an online webinar where we will review the key milestones achieved this year and look ahead at the works to come in the new year.



Works to create the Porous Portals at the Chiltern Tunnel South Portal site.

Whether you are a local resident, business, or simply interested in the civils works underway to build HS2 in your area, please join us from 6:30pm. The construction review will be followed by a 30-minute Question and Answer session.

To join us on the webinar please book your place online in advance at www.HS2-C1-update2023.eventbrite.co.uk.



Online webinar

Wednesday 6 December
6:30pm to 8:00pm

For further details and to book your place, please scan the QR code below.



Chiltern Tunnel

Florence and Cecilia complete over 75% of the Chiltern Tunnel

Florence and Cecilia, the two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) mining HS2's longest twin-bore tunnel, have now completed more than 75% of their journey under part of the Chilterns. On average each TBM completes around 15 metres every day and they are on schedule to reach Chesham Road intervention shaft, near the B485, in early December.

Florence and Cecilia have been excavating the 10-mile-long Chiltern Tunnel for over two years now, including tunnelling under public assets such as the M25 motorway and the Chiltern railway line. Extensive daily surveying is taking place to monitor ground conditions as the TBMs make their way to the North Portal site near Great Missenden, where we expect to achieve breakout in February next year.



A view behind Florence, one of two TBMs.

Reinstatement of ground movement near Shardeloes Lake

We have now completed the reinstatement of the land near Shardeloes lake, just outside Little Missenden, Buckinghamshire. The process of backfilling the sinkhole that occurred in the summer has been carefully undertaken with material specially selected to match the density and moisture content of the surrounding land. The area will remain fenced until we are able to return next spring to carry out reseeding and landscaping works to restore the surface.

We would like to remind members of the public that the ground movement occurred on private land and request that you respect the privacy of the residents by not visiting the site.



Ground movement near Shardeloes has been filled in and the land reinstated.

Chiltern Tunnel Vent Shafts

Headhouse takes shape at Chalfont St Peter

Our first ventilation shaft at Chalfont St Peter is the most developed. The external walls of the headhouse are now constructed and we expect to finish the external structure next spring. We are continuing with our tunnel connection works, including demolition of internal walls, waterproofing the area and concrete reinforcement. These activities, together with external works which include drainage, services, and landscaping, will be the main focus taking us into spring next year.



External walls erected at Chalfont St Peter headhouse.



Headhouse structures taking shape at Chalfont St Giles

Chalfont St Giles

The outer walls of the headhouse structure are now starting to take shape at Chalfont St Giles and we expect to complete this headhouse by spring 2024.

Basement works at Amersham

The vent shaft in Amersham is at the halfway point along the Chiltern Tunnel and is visible from the A413. Recent works have focussed on the connections between the vent shaft and the twin-bore tunnel and preparing for the build of the headhouse structure in spring and summer 2024.

By the end of this winter, we will have completed all the internal civils works within the shaft itself, including permanent walls and floors for the operational rooms in the basement.



Steel fixing in Amersham basement.

Little Missenden

We are installing the permanent staircase and waterproofing the basement at Little Missenden. To seal the waterproofing membrane within the structure, we carry out what's known as a liner wall pour which requires a short spell of regular concrete pours to complete.



Waterproofing Little Missenden.

Chesham Road

At Chesham Road we have been preparing for the arrival of our TBMs, where they will be paused for some maintenance works, before setting off again for the final leg of their journey to the North Portal in South Heath.

As this shaft is being constructed for emergency access use only, the structure is simpler to build due to a lack of operational equipment. Headhouse construction has already begun, and so have external works, including drainage installation and water tank installation (for emergency service use).



Headhouse trench waterproofing at Chesham Road.

North Portal, South Heath

Just like Chesham Road, we are busy preparing the North Portal for the TBM breakthrough scheduled for early spring. The props used to support the headwall are slowly being removed in readiness to welcome Florence and Cecilia at their final destination. The temporary internal haul road has been completely removed, and the permanent internal road is constructed.



The North Portal head wall and track slab.

We have just completed building the concrete track slabs which the trains will run on and continue works with drainage installation.

When the TBMs arrive early next year they will be dismantled on site. This activity is likely to create a short but significant increase in site activity at the North Portal as the TBMs are stripped down to constituent parts and removed from site for re-use and recycling. A full update will be circulated to residents early in the new year to give full details of this activity as staff numbers increase on site.

Christmas works closures

All Align's work sites and compounds in the will close for construction works for the Christmas period this year from the end of Friday 22 December 2023 through to Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Our security and site management teams will continue, but no construction work will take place. We wish you all a peaceful Christmas break!

Community Investment update

Align JV is active in the local community. Here are some of the ways we have tried to contribute to the communities we live and work in.

Site visits

We have hosted many visits this year at our shaft sites with a range of stakeholders. Students, village associations, and residents are amongst some who have attended site and had the opportunity to engage with site engineers who were pleased to share their knowledge with interested parties.

Site visits are more enjoyable and convenient in the warmer months when the weather and ground are dry. If you'd like to arrange a visit one of our sites, please send an email to: communityengagement@alignjv.com.



St Georges Infant and Nursery, Amersham

Our team attended St Georges during half term and helped redecorate their staffroom. Volunteers were keen to help apply a fresh coat of paint to give the staffroom a makeover in time for the teachers' return. Our catering contractor, Bon Appetit, also helped St Georges by donating new crockery, cutlery, chopping boards, mugs, and glasses in preparation for their return. We hope the teachers have enjoyed their new space.



Volunteering at St Georges

Remembrance Day, Chalfont St Giles

Align were pleased to be asked to support the annual Remembrance Day service at Chalfont St Giles again this year. We helped to ensure the event went smoothly by organising, managing, and funding the road closure and diversion in the village. This was the third year in a row that we have been able proud to contribute our skills and time to the village service.

Chalfont St Giles Parish Council thanked Align and their contractors for their help and support. Having a professional team creating the road closures helps to reduce the risks. We are booked to assist with the same event next year.



Remembrance Day in Chalfont St Giles

Community Investment update (continued)

In our summer newsletter we introduced you to our new charity partner, Pumpkin's Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre (PWHRC) in Rickmansworth. PWHRC rescue and rehabilitate local wild animals.

Pumpkin's Centre grand opening

PWHRC in Rickmansworth officially opened on Thursday 26 October and we are proud to support this wonderful local charity through donations and volunteer work.

In December we will be helping to plant a hedgerow at the centre using trees to create a safe and secluded area for rescued animals to exercise in for years to come.

For further details on the fantastic work being done by Pumpkin's Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre please visit them at:

www.thewildlifehospital.org.uk

Could you use our help?

Do you run a local community project, charity, or good cause that would benefit from some of the skills and volunteering time that our workforce has to offer?

Local projects that have benefitted from our help recently include schools and community centres in need of painting and maintenance, weed clearance in churchyards, and traffic management at local events.

Contact us by email to:
communityengagement@alignjv.com



Align volunteers work to clear the new site for PWHRC.



Align's volunteers have a break for tea.

Community Investment update (continued)

Align JV is active in the local community. Here are some of the ways we have tried to contribute to the communities we live and work in.

Amersham Christmas traffic management

The Amersham Christmas light switch-on event is a busy event that locals flock to each year. For this event to be successful, a road closure and diversion is required. Align were happy to support this annual event by organising, managing, and funding the road closure and diversion.

We hope all who attended had a very enjoyable evening.

Great Missenden Christmas lights

Great Missenden Parish Council got in touch as they needed temporary site lighting to assist with their Christmas light switch on event. We were happy to loan some tower lights that could easily be transported to their event site and collected after use.

Primary Engineers

HS2 are piloting a Primary School programme in 2023, targeting 10 schools in three areas. The chosen areas for this pilot are Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, and Hillingdon.

Primary Engineers will train up teachers from each of the 10 selected schools in each area (30 in total) to deliver workshops to Primary age students.

Students will have at least one session with their teacher and volunteers to learn about building and testing their own rail models while getting to interact with engineers in class.

We look forward to working with Primary Engineers.

Work experience and Career days

We recently attended a career fair at Stony Dean School and hosted Year 10 and 12 students from Chalfont Community College on work experience. On completion of the work experience the students presented back to members of the Align Project team what they had learned about the project and the careers that they could aspire to in construction and engineering.

Drop in events – come and talk to us from 3pm to 7pm

We have hosted a number of drop in events throughout to 2023. These are where residents and businesses can pop in and talk to the engagement team about the project, any local impacts from our works or how we can support local groups through community investment.

Our last session of 2023 will be hosted jointly by Align and EKFB:

Thursday 7 December, from 3pm to 7pm

Gt Missenden Memorial Hall, Link Road, Gt Missenden, HP16 9AE.

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**

Please contact us if you'd like a free copy of this document in large print, Braille, audio or 'easy read' format. You can also contact us for help and information in a different language.

HS2 Ltd is committed to protecting personal information. If you wish to know more about how we use your personal information please see our Privacy Notice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-two-ltd-privacy-notice>

Reference number: HS2-MW-EK-Ph1-Ar-Ce-C1-CR-33-27/11/2023

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.

Registered office: Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.

Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 888 8512 56