

HS2 Update

Colne Valley Viaduct | Summer 2024

Colne Valley viaduct progress update

Earlier this year the Colne Valley viaduct was built across the Grand Union Canal. During these works we had to close the canal and towpath just to the south of Harefield Marina off Moorhall Road to ensure the safety of both users of the canal, pedestrians and construction workers. From Friday 15 March we reopened the canal during the day for boats, with only two short stoppages each day for up to 30 minutes whilst construction activities took place. To construct

the crossing the launching girder – Dominique – straddled the concrete piers either side of the canal, whilst slotting the individual deck segments into place piece by piece. In the months since making the milestone crossing of the Grand Union Canal, Dominique's progress has been swift. The viaduct deck spans across the Harefield No2 Lake have been installed and the final section of deck is being constructed over land at the south embankment (south of Harvil Road).

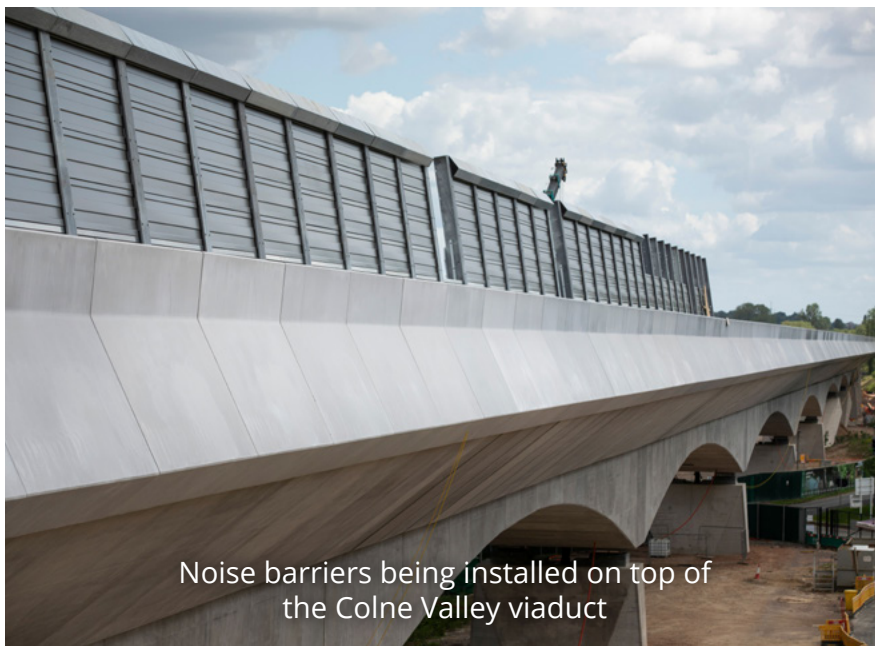


Construction of the Colne Valley viaduct over the Grand Union Canal, Harefield, March 2024

Noise barrier installation on the Colne Valley viaduct

Work to install the noise barriers and finishing works along the Colne Valley viaduct are now underway. These noise barriers are crucial to mitigate the operational noise of the railway and are an important key design element of the Colne Valley viaduct.

There are two different designs of noise barrier which will be installed on the sections of the Colne Valley viaduct. The basic noise barrier is 1.65m high and will be installed along the majority of the viaduct. In areas where the viaduct passes by sensitive locations or residential areas the noise barrier will be four metres high.



Noise barriers being installed on top of the Colne Valley viaduct



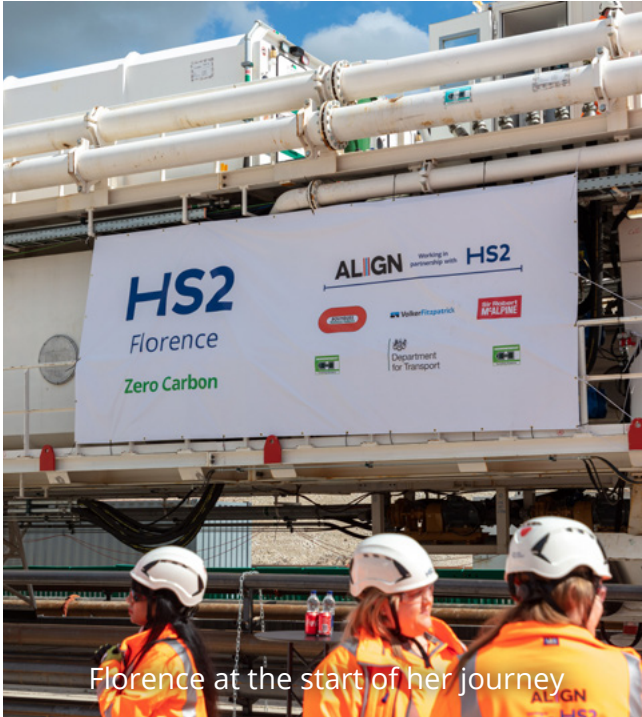
Noise barriers as seen from the top of the viaduct.

The four metre high barrier will be in two designs. One will have a transparent section at the top, and will be positioned on the viaduct sections over the lakes to maintain views for train passengers and reduce the visual profile of the viaduct, whilst the other will not have a transparent section. Following on from the design events in 2019 and 2022, where we shared the proposed designs, we have engaged with local authorities and stakeholders and have further modified the barriers.

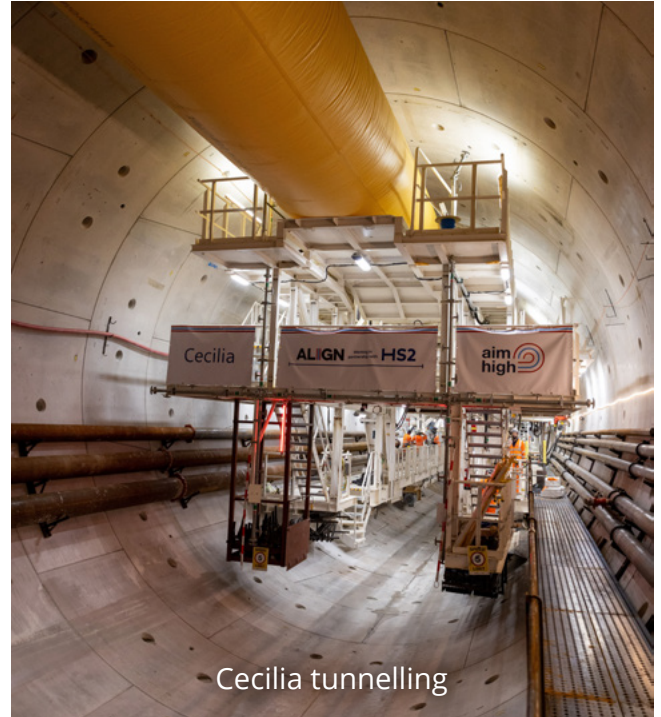
We have begun the installation of parapets and noise barriers along the viaduct but to install the sections safely over the public highway we will need to close Moorhall Road to all users overnight from Monday 12 August 2024 to Sunday 25 August 2024 between 10pm and 6am every night. For full information on this road closure, please see the works notification posted at: <https://www.hs2.org.uk/work-items/overnight-closure-of-moorhall-road-hillingdon-for-parapet-installation/>

Florence and Cecilia breakthrough

Our Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs), named Florence and Cecilia, began their journeys under part of the Chiltern Hills in May and June 2021. Over two and a half years later, on 7 February 2024, Florence broke through at the North Portal in South Heath, near Great Missenden, having safely completed her 10 mile journey. She was followed by Cecilia on 26 March 2024.



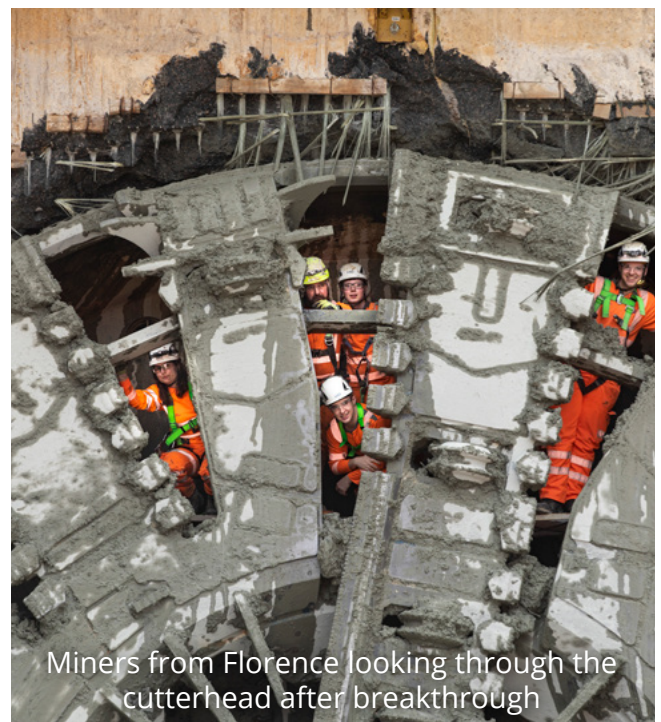
Florence at the start of her journey



Cecilia tunnelling



Florence breakthrough at the North Portal, South Heath



Miners from Florence looking through the cutterhead after breakthrough

The Chiltern Tunnel is the longest tunnel on HS2, requiring over 112,000 tunnel segments to complete both bores, with 3 million cubic metres of spoil being excavated in the process.

Update on works at the Chiltern Tunnel South Portal (near West Hyde, Herts)



Work at the South Portal site continues to create the porous portal structures which will dissipate noise and air pressure at the southern entrance to the 10 mile long tunnel.

The milestone breakthroughs for Align's TBMs are also significant because they signal the last deliveries of spoil and chalk from the tunnel operations to the South Portal. With tunnelling complete, all the material needed to create the calcareous (chalk) grass landscape around the South Portal is now on site. This is being processed, ready for the earthworks team

to finish the mammoth task of creating the new landforms that will become the Western Slopes.

The picture below shows the main site from the air, with the land between the trace of the railway and the A412 North Orbital Road slowly being transformed into rolling calcareous grassland as chalk from the TBMs is dried, placed and seeded. Summer 2024 will see this area of the South Portal transformed as the site landscaping works progress.



Tunnel facts and figures

Diameter of
cutterheads
10.26m

Internal diameter
9.1m

Length of tunnel
boring machines
170m

Weight of each
machine
2,200 tonnes

Average distance
mined each day
16m

**Best production
figure (Oct 2023):**
44m in one day, 232m
in one week, 842m in
one month

**Five
shafts**

**38 cross
passages
between each
tunnel bore**

Chalk from the tunnel is being used
to create 127ha of chalk grassland at
the South Portal. This area is called the
Western Slopes and will be a new public
amenity around the operational railway.

For more information on how the twin bore Chiltern Tunnel was created visit
<https://www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/tunnels/tunnel-drives/chiltern-tunnel/>

Next community event



- **Tuesday 13 August 2024**
4 - 7pm Mill End Community Centre, Church Lane, Mill End,
Rickmansworth, WD3 8HD

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.

If you live near one of our sites or near the Colne Valley Viaduct or Chiltern Tunnel and you would like to arrange a site visit, please send an email to: communityengagement@alignjv.com. We are always happy to share the engineering and construction expertise being applied to the construction of HS2 in your area. Please be aware that there is a high demand for visits to our sites and there may be a waiting list, but we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Community investment

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 over the last few months.

Foodbanks

We are continuing to work with the local foodbanks and collect contributions by staff and suppliers on a fortnightly basis for distribution to select local foodbanks. We are encouraging colleagues to keep up the good work in contributing to these sources of food for local residents in need.

Woodoaks scrub bashing

Volunteers from Align supported Woodoaks Farm, near Maple Cross, with their conservation efforts. The team reduced the size of the scrub which crowded out many of the very rare species that used to flourish in chalk grasslands, providing them with more space to breathe and grow.



Volunteers from Align helping out at Woodoaks Farm in May 2024

Pumpkin's Wildlife Hospital – hedgerow

A large team of volunteers from HS2, Align JV and our supply chain partners attended Pumpkin's to plant a future hedgerow. The ground conditions were tough due to the very cold weather in January, but the team managed to finish the installation of the donated saplings for the hedgerow.

Settle Group/Greener Herts – tree donations

Settle Group, a key member of Greener Herts and a charity, gratefully accepted our donation of 550 tree whips to be planted in and around social housing complexes in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire.



Some of the volunteers planting a future hedgerow at Pumpkin's Wildlife Hospital in January 2024

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/

Reference number: HS2-MW-Align-Ph1-Ar-Ce-C1-CR-49-23/05/2024

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


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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:

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