

HS2 Update

Colne Valley Viaduct | Winter 2024

Colne Valley viaduct deck completed

The deck of the Colne Valley viaduct (CVV) was completed on Thursday 5 September 2024. The viaduct is the longest railway bridge in the UK, stretching more than 3.4km (2.1 miles) across a series of lakes and waterways between Harvil Road in Hillingdon and the A412, near Denham on the northwest outskirts of London. It is longer than the Tay Bridge in Dundee, the

longest railway bridge in the UK for 140 years, by just 100 metres.

The construction of the viaduct deck started in May 2022 and was completed with the viaduct's final segment being put into place in September this year. Each deck segment is uniquely shaped and the completion of these works was a significant moment for the project.



The final segment is lowered into place at the South Embankment, near Harvil Road in Hillingdon.

Over the 28 months that it took to complete the viaduct deck, a dedicated team of highly skilled engineers have moved across the valley crossing three lakes, the Grand Union Canal and the River Colne. The deck segments were

made on-site at the South Portal, next to the M25 in a purpose-built factory. The viaduct segments are all a slightly different shape to form the gentle curve of the viaduct.

A look at the viaduct in the landscape

Set low into the landscape, wider spans of the viaduct cross the lakes, with narrower spans used for the approaches. This design

was chosen to enable views across the landscape and to minimise the viaduct's footprint on the lakes.



Colne Valley viaduct as viewed from Denham Water Ski Club in, Buckinghamshire.

Continuing works on the viaduct deck

We have now also completed over 80% of the parapets, the walls either side of the deck. In August 2024 we installed the parapets over Moorhall Road in Hillingdon, and in September 2024 installation took place over the Grand Union Canal. The parapet works are due to finish in January 2025 when the last parapets are installed at the South Embankment, near Harvil Road.



The viaduct deck across Moorhall Road in Hillingdon.

Installing noise barriers on the CVV

Over 30% of the noise barriers have now been put in place. There are two different designs of noise barrier being installed on sections of the Colne Valley viaduct. The basic noise barrier is 1.65 metres high. In areas where the viaduct passes by sensitive locations or residential areas the noise barriers will be four metres high.

This four-metre-high barrier has been designed with two variations dependent upon where they are being installed. One

type has 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. The second is opaque and will not have a transparent section. Installation of the noise barriers is due to be completed in May 2025. Waterproofing of the viaduct deck is also taking place over the winter and will continue into spring next year.



Four-metre-high noise barrier installation on the viaduct deck.

Viaduct working hours

The launching girder that was used to erect the deck is now being dismantled and removed in shipping containers from the South Embankment near Harvil Road in Hillingdon.

Noise barrier installation works take place along the viaduct deck. These works will occur Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm. The waterproofing works take place over

longer hours, Monday to Saturday from 8am to 10pm, but will create minimal noise for nearby residents and businesses.

We are also now removing the viaduct jetty, our internal haul road, that we created across the lakes and River Colne to construct the viaduct. These removal works take place Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm and on Saturdays between 8am and 6pm.



Piers in Korda Lake where the jetties and cofferdams used to create them are now being removed.

Main South Portal site working hours

Now that the main civils works for the Colne Valley viaduct and the twin bore Chiltern Tunnel have been completed, some of the buildings are no longer needed. You will start to see the site being demobilised as some of the buildings are taken down

and removed. There are however some operations at the South Portal site that will need to continue around the clock, these are mostly in connection with tunnel finishing works and they will not be noisy works.



Porous portal construction at the South Portal site, in Hertfordshire.

Work continues to landscape the site between the M25 and the A412 from Monday to Saturday 7am to 10pm and

Sunday 8am to 6pm, with one hour start up and close down outside of those times.



Earthworks to landscape the Western Slopes around the railway trace at the South Portal in Hertfordshire.

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/

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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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