

HS2 Update

Spring newsletter 2025

Chiltern tunnel and Colne Valley viaduct

Following the last of the 1,000 segments, which make up the Colne Valley viaduct, being put into place in September 2024, we have also now completed some of the internal finishes and structures needed on the viaduct, in the last three months.

There have also been significant milestones for the ten mile long Chiltern Tunnel, the associated shafts along it and the area known as South Heath Cutting, at the northern end of the tunnel at South Heath near Great Missenden.

Colne Valley viaduct update

Robust kerb

Works on the robust kerb started in May 2023 and on Monday 6 January 2025 the last concrete pour for the robust kerb took place. The robust kerb is a 400mm thick reinforced concrete wall, which is part of the safety

system sitting next to the railway tracks and is a common feature on bridges across the world. It is also has an acoustic lining facing towards the railway tracks which is part of the noise mitigation for the trains.



Robust kerb on the inside of the parapet walls as the viaduct crosses Harefield No2 lake, looking north, in November 2024.

Internal jetty removal

In February this year the last span of the internal jetty was removed. The first jetty was installed in mid-2021 and by June 2022, all four jetties had been installed. These jetties were part of our internal haul road across the lakes and River Colne. The haul road supported the construction of the viaduct and by moving HGVs, works vehicles, supplies and workers, it kept thousands of construction vehicles off public roads, limiting disruption to local residents.

Removal of the jetties started in May 2024 with the team removing a total of 773 precast concrete (PCC) planks and approximately 3,000 tonnes of steel. This mammoth task was completed using a 90t long reach excavator specifically adapted to lift the concrete planks and steel beam, without any damage, from underneath the viaduct with minimal headroom. The cutting of the tubular piles and sheet piles

across the lakes and River Colne using specialist diving teams was completed in March 2025.



Long reach crane removing jetty on Harefield No2 lake.

Chiltern tunnel update

South portal

The Chiltern tunnel at the South Portal entrance next to the M25 at West Hyde in Hertfordshire has two bores which trains will run in – upline and downline – with a porous portal hood for each one. The works on the second hood were completed 31 January 2025. Designed to dissipate air pressure as the trains enter and exit the tunnels, work on the porous portals began in early 2023. A total volume of 9,500 m³ of concrete and 1,366 tonnes of steel rebar has been used to complete the structures.



Chiltern tunnel south entrance showing two porous portal hoods.

Chiltern tunnel shafts

The Chiltern tunnel has five shafts along its ten-mile length, four at Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles, Amersham and Little Missenden, which are for ventilation and emergency access, and one off Chesham Road at South Heath which is for emergency access only. Works continue on completing each of the headhouses on these sites where the internal machinery will be housed. All civils works are due to be completed by the end of 2025.

Chalfont St Peter ventilation shaft

This shaft is the most advanced and will be the first to be finished in Summer 2025. The team on site are working on internal civils and lift installation.



Chalfont St Peter ventilation shaft and headhouse buildings.

Chalfont St Giles ventilation shaft

At this shaft, the headhouse and buildings will be complete just after Chalfont St Peter in July 2025. The team here are also working on internal civils and lift installation.



Chalfont St Giles ventilation shaft and headhouse buildings.

Amersham ventilation shaft

In Autumn 2024 we engaged with stakeholders regarding the slight change of material for the wall. A flint wall will surround the headhouse building and this is due to be installed in June 2025. The cladding of the headhouse itself is due to be completed in August 2025.

Drainage realignment works have taken place on Whielden Lane, where we had to put in lane closures and a full closure. To ensure staff and visitors could access Amersham hospital, whilst Whielden Lane was closed, we operated a bus replacement service from Gore Hill/A355 bus stop near Tesco to the hospital.



Amersham ventilation shaft and headhouse building.

Little Missenden ventilation shaft

Cladding and lift installation works started in April 2025 and will be ongoing to August 2025. External works will complete in July 2025.



Little Missenden ventilation shaft.

Chesham Road intervention shaft

We are currently undertaking external cladding work to the headhouse buildings. Tunnel shaft connection, drainage and landscaping works are due to be completed by the end of June 2025.



Chesham Road intervention shaft.

Chiltern tunnel North portal and South Heath cutting

During the summer and early autumn of 2024, we created the foundations for the new road and Public Right of Way (GMI/2) bridge, which will go over the railway line. In February this year we began installing the bridge itself, with the two girders forming the deck of the bridge being lifted into place. The twin girders combined weigh 120 tonnes and are 55

metres in length. They were lifted into place in two sections using a crane over three days. As they were delivered using a long heavy goods vehicle, they needed to have a police escort. We are now working on the wing walls either side of the bridge deck.



First girder for GMI/2 bridge.

We also continue to create the foundations for the GMI/12 Public Right of Way footbridge and are currently constructing the

abutments. We will then start excavating to create the two central piers in the summer.

Leather Lane update

Earlier this year we carried out vegetation clearance in the area, ahead of the bird nesting season, so we can begin construction works later this year. Our designs were submitted to the consenting authority, Buckinghamshire Council, in April 2025, where they can be viewed on the council's planning portal. We had a very well attended community drop in event in May 2025, where the public could view the designs.

Porous portal

As with the South portal Chiltern tunnel entrance, the North portal will also have two porous portals. Works started in September last year and are well advanced, with the upline portal nearly complete.



Porous portal looking north

Community investment

Align partners with four charities – Action for Children in West Hyde and Pumpkins Animal Rescue Centre in Rickmansworth which are both in Hertfordshire; Rennie Grove Peace Hospice who provide palliative care and support services throughout Buckinghamshire and The Epilepsy Society whose national headquarters are in Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire. In 2024 Align, along with its supply chain and design partners, donated a total of £19,380 to our partners through fundraising initiatives. We have further supported them with material donations, volunteering and the sharing of skills.



In December 2024 we donated £1,600 to Rennie Grove Peace following a number of fundraising activities across our various sites.

In January 2024 we planted a hedgerow at Pumpkins and then a year later, in January 2025, we went back and planted a further 200 trees to enhance the hedgerow.



In 2025 we are focusing on one of Align's four charity partners in each quarter of the year so that we can generate targeted donations and support for their initiatives across our workforce.

Staff from Align helping with the planting.

Align also supports a number of other groups and organisations where our works have impacted the community.



In December 2024 Align's logistics team supplied and set up lighting for the Great Missenden Christmas Fair.



In February 2025 Align donated tree saplings to Chalfont St Peter Parish Council.



Align staff donate food to Hillingdon Foodbank on a regular basis, as well as volunteering.

Other community support

As well as our charity partners, we also provide support, including volunteers, for other groups and charities. In January 2025 we donated 3,000 tree whips to Settle Group who are a key member of Greener Herts, a social housing collaboration. These will be used in local communities 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 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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