

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

HS2 Update

North Chilterns Area | Winter 2025

EKFB
Working in
partnership with **HS2**

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway for Britain. Should you have any questions or enquiries regarding our works, please contact the Helpdesk details of which can be found in this newsletter. We will be keeping our local website <http://www.hs2inbucksandbox.co.uk> up to date with information on our works in the local area

What's inside this newsletter

Our newsletter is a great way to keep up to date with all things HS2 in the North Chilterns area. In this winter edition, we'll look back at achievements across the project in 2025. We'll also review construction progress and planned works over the next few months and shine a spotlight on some of the community investment and social value initiatives we've delivered this year.

You'll also find:

- Key milestones achieved in 2025
- What's coming up:
 - Wendover green tunnel entrance works
 - Small Dean viaduct Christmas works
- Traffic management requirements
- Aerial footage
- Community and business funding
- HS2 fossils finds on display
- Social value projects and community support
- Transition to Rail Systems



Join us at our community events...

Over the year we run specific community events and drop-in sessions in our Mobile Visitor Centre and local village halls.

To find out where your next local event is taking place, please visit on the HS2 website for the latest information.

www.hs2.org.uk/events

Key milestones achieved in 2025

Small Dean viaduct deck slide

Earlier this year, we successfully completed HS2's longest and heaviest single-stage viaduct deck slide at Small Dean, moving a 4,500-tonne structure into position over four days. Using PTFE-coated pads and a precision cable system, the deck was slid at speeds of up to 10 metres per hour.

This achievement followed four years of preparation, including site clearance, utility diversions, road realignments, and construction of abutments and six piers. The deck was then carefully lowered onto its permanent bearings, marking a major milestone for one of only two above-ground sections of the HS2 route through the Chilterns. Work continues with the realignment of Small Dean Lane and the A413, alongside landscaping to integrate the viaduct into its surroundings.



Small Dean viaduct, February 2025

Completion of the low permeability wall

A major environmental protection measure was completed this year at the Wendover north cutting with the installation of a low permeability wall. Constructed in stages and anchored deep into the clay, the wall helps manage groundwater and reduce flood risk, protecting nearby brooks and supporting the long-term stability of the cutting.

The works took place over a four-week period during the summer, with the road reopened in August following excavation, slab installation and resurfacing.



Reinstating Nash Lee Road following the closure in August 2025

Rocky Lane realignment

This summer, we completed the realignment of Rocky Lane, an important milestone for construction in the area. The six-month closure enabled extensive works including earthworks, drainage installation, utility diversions, and full road construction.

The new permanent road layout allows traffic to pass beneath the future railway via the underbridge, which is still under construction.



Rocky Lane realignment in operation

What's coming up...

Small Dean viaduct, A413 London Road

At the viaduct site, we will be working over the Christmas period to continue the installation of parapets on the viaduct deck and to complete backfill at the pier closest to the Chiltern Line railway. We will be working in and around the railway during this period (25 – 29 December). Railway travel will be impacted during these days while we work under railway possession. For more information on changes to railway timetables, please visit:

<https://www.chilternrailways.co.uk/tickets-and-times/changes>

Parapet installation on the viaduct will resume in early 2026 over the A413, London Road. As we will be using a crane on the road to lift the parapets, there will be overnight closures to complete this work safely. An advance works notice will be shared prior to the works with the dates of these overnight road closures.

To sign up to our latest updates, you can register via the QR code or the link on the right.



Small Dean viaduct over the Chiltern railway line



Sign up to our mailing list by scanning the QR code or clicking [here](#)

Wendover green tunnel, A413 Wendover bypass

To maintain construction progress and site logistics for the Wendover green tunnel, a new entrance from the A413 Wendover bypass is currently under construction and will resume into early 2026. The new access will support continued movement of vehicles and materials while excavation and portal works are underway at the Wendover north cutting. The works will include drainage tie-ins, subbase preparation, kerb installation, new tarmac laying, and final white line painting.

To carry out these activities safely, traffic management will be in place, including off-peak lane and road closures of the Wendover bypass. We may be required to complete some of these works during evening or overnight hours, these measures are designed to minimise disruption to road users.



Wendover green tunnel construction, Autumn 2025

Traffic management requirements

Over the next few months we will need to implement temporary traffic management to ensure we can complete all necessary construction activities safely for both road users and our workforce.

Below you can see a summary of what to expect in your area, further information will be communicated via email and the HS2 website (www.hs2.org.uk/route-map) and you can also come and see us at our events.

Location	Works	Traffic management
Rocky Lane (The Lee Parish Council)	Plant crossing	Two-way traffic management until late 2026
Small Dean Viaduct, A413 London Road (Wendover Parish Council)	Parapet installation	Overnight closures (Jan – Feb 2026)
A413 Wendover Bypass (Wendover Parish Council)	New entrance construction to Wendover green tunnel	Overnight working and traffic management (Jan - Feb 2026)

EKFB aerial footage

One of the best ways to see the progress we are making on site is from our aerial footage. If you scan the QR code below, it will allow you to view the latest of HS2 works in your area.

The footage gives an annotated overview of where different structures will be found once HS2 is complete, along with an update of how the landscaping is currently looking.



Scan me or click [here](#)!



HS2 fossil finds go on display at Oxford University Museum of Natural History

A selection of fossils discovered during the construction of the HS2 rail project were put on public display this autumn in Oxford.

The temporary display at Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUMNH) includes finds made by HS2's main works contractor EKFB working on cuttings and tunnels across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and West Northants.

The fossils include the partial remains of marine reptiles called ichthyosaurs, as well as smaller creatures they would have hunted. They provide a valuable insight into life beneath the warm seas which covered large parts of central England during the Jurassic Period between 201 million and 145 million years ago.



Above: Fossils discovered on the HS2 project on display at the OUMNH

The oldest ichthyosaur found during the project is thought to date from around 183 million years ago. The remains of the 3 to 4 metre-long animal were discovered near Greatworth in Northamptonshire.

The remains of a second ichthyosaur were discovered near Waddesdon in Buckinghamshire. It is thought to be around 25 million years younger and would have been around 5 to 6 metres long. The remains consist of 18 vertebrae along with several neural spines and ribs, indicating that the Waddesdon ichthyosaur was likely scavenged by other predators after it died, with the bones scattered across the seabed.



Left: HS2 fossil finds go on display at Oxford University Museum of Natural History: HS2 senior engineer Simon Butler (L) and EKFB lead geologist Giles Hemmings (R) with Dr Emily Swaby at the OUMNH

HS2 Community and business funding

Wendover

We are delighted to have supported Wendover's new skatepark with a £40,000 donation. Officially opened on 17 August, the skatepark offers a safe, inclusive space for young people to socialise, stay active, and enjoy sports like skateboarding, scootering, BMXing, and rollerblading.



The Lee

The climbing frame at The Lee Common playground, had gradually deteriorated over time. As part of the HS2 community investment fund, The Lee were able to upgrade this space to offer children a safe and fun space to play. The investment ensures the playground remains a valued part of the local community in The Lee for years to come.



Working in
partnership with

HS2

Are you a local community group or business that's looking for support from HS2?

The Community and Environment (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) schemes will provide up to £40m of funding throughout the construction of HS2, supporting community-led projects.

The Funds also support initiatives that bring benefits to local communities, such as the provision of new community facilities or support for local heritage and culture.

You can find more information about eligibility and how to apply on the HS2 website.

Alternatively, you can get in touch with your local Community Engagement Team to find out more information and support.

www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/community-funding/



From construction to a working railway: how HS2 will take shape

A driving force behind HS2's revised scheduling plan is the completion of an initial section of the HS2 route where high-speed trains will be tested - the **'test area'**

A review as part of the reset has concluded that insufficient time had been allocated to safely complete the railway's multiple testing stages. The test area will now be delivered in phases, allowing testing to start earlier and ensuring the programme remains on schedule.

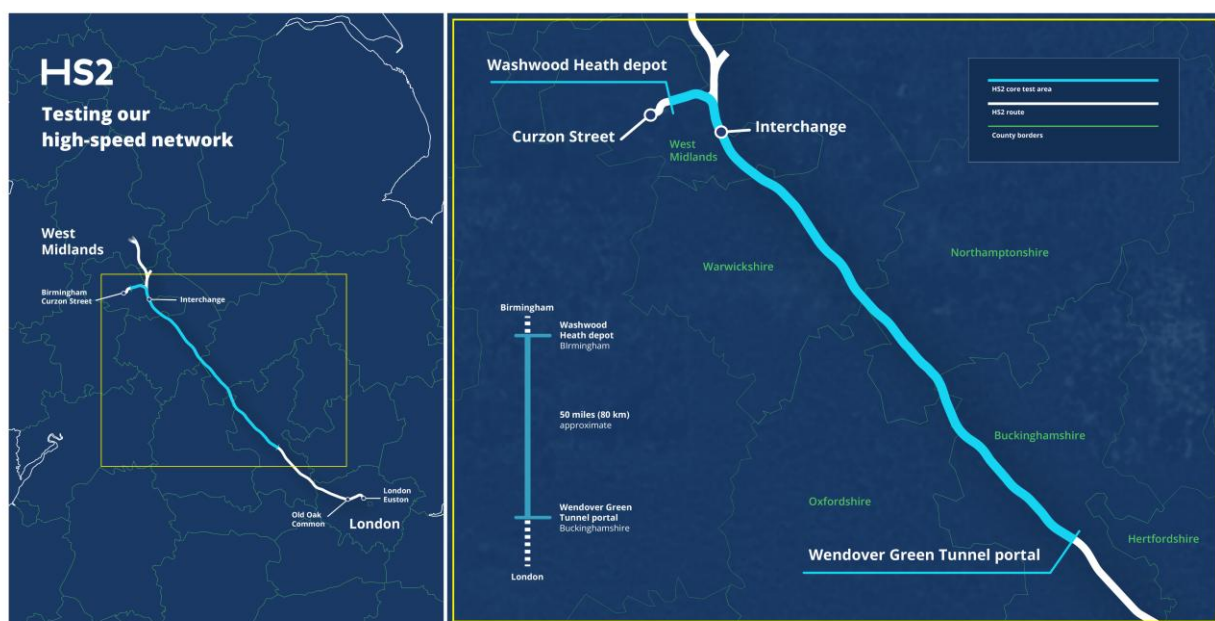
The first section is approximately 50 miles long and runs from Washwood Heath in Birmingham to the north portal of the Wendover green tunnel in Buckinghamshire. This section of the trace will be overlaid with track, power, signalling and communications systems ready for testing to begin.

The completion of civil engineering works on this section of the route is now the overriding priority, ready for Rail Systems. Alongside the need to operate within the annual funding envelope from government, it is why decisions have been made to defer works elsewhere on the route.

This means that we will continue to keep building and progressing with the programme to ensure that we are able to fully deliver the critical pathway for the HS2 test area.

For more information on the transition to Rail Systems click [here](#), or visit:

<https://mediacentre.hs2.org.uk/blogs/from-civils-to-systems>



Test area map above; Washwood Heath to Wendover

Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes making sure you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help.

Residents' and Construction Commissioner

The independent Residents' and Construction Commissioner oversees and monitors our **community engagement strategy**, making sure we fulfil our commitments to you.

The commissioner monitors the way we manage and respond to complaints about construction and advises members of the public how to make complaints.

The commissioner helps settle disputes involving individuals and organisations that we can't resolve.

You can find the commissioner's report and our responses at:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-hs2-commissioner

The commissioner can be contacted on:
hs2commissioner@dft.gov.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the route by visiting:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property

Find out if you're eligible for 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 our HS2 Helpdesk team.

For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website:
www.hs2.org.uk/contact-us/how-to-complain

Reference number: HS2-EKFB-25-1500

Contact us

Our HS2 Helpdesk team are available all day, every day. You can contact them by:

 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 area, visit:

www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk

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