

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

# HS2 Update

Chiltern tunnel, South Heath cutting and Colne Valley viaduct | Spring 2026

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain.

This is a newsletter about HS2 works from Harvil Road in Hillingdon to South Heath, Buckinghamshire.

## Align JV to remove temporary access road at Chalfont St Peter site

With the main civils works at Chalfont St Peter ventilation shaft now complete, work can begin on removing the temporary access road linking the site to the A413 Amersham Road.

This is a significant milestone as it heralds the end of the busiest period of construction.

The temporary access road from the A413 to Chalfont St Peter ventilation shaft was built as part of our commitment to residents and the local community to reduce the impact of HS2 construction vehicles from the roads around Chalfont St Peter, particularly around Robertswood School and the Epilepsy Society. Over the course of five years of construction this access road has diverted thousands of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) away from sensitive village roads.

## When will work begin?

A small team is currently mobilising on the site installing temporary office units. Works to remove the road surface and to restore the landscape in the fields between the site and the A413 will begin in April and will continue through the summer months.

The road surface will be excavated and then removed by HGVs using the A413 Amersham Road with the original soil stockpiles that have been stored on site used to reinstate the land. The fields will be reseeded and replanted and returned to the landowner.

Works will be completed by winter 2026.



The temporary access road linking the Chalfont St Peter construction site to the A413 London Road will be removed this year.

## HS2 Reset Update

HS2 is undergoing a comprehensive reset to ensure that it is delivered safely and at the lowest reasonable cost. HS2 Ltd will provide you with updates on the reset and what this means for plans to build it in your area. All information in this newsletter was accurate and up to date at the time of printing and distribution.

## Align JV Chiltern tunnel and ventilation shafts update

Main civil works have concluded on HS2's 16-km Chiltern Tunnel and now completed across all five ventilation and intervention shaft sites. These structures provide essential ventilation and safety access to the Chiltern tunnel below. Here's a summary of the status of each location.

### Chalfont St Peter

Work on the ventilation shaft is complete. We are looking at the future design of Bottom House Farm Lane to restore the rural character of the lane when we remove the temporary access road and traffic signals.

### Chalfont St Giles

The ventilation shaft on Bottom House Farm Lane, near Chalfont St Giles is complete. We are looking at the future design of Bottom House Farm Lane to restore the rural character of the lane when we remove the temporary access road.

More information will be made available once these designs have progressed.



The pitched roof of the main building at the Chalfont St Peter site.

### Amersham

The Amersham shaft was fully excavated before the giant tunnel boring machines reached the site in March 2023. The headhouse, distinctive outer wall, and landscaping and planting have now been completed. The temporary car park and compound on the opposite side of Whielden Lane will remain for the next contractor to use.



Amersham ventilation shaft as seen from the air.

## Little Missenden

The ventilation shaft at Little Missenden was completed earlier this year with internal lifts fitted and planting and seeding of the landscape around the site now finalised.



Little Missenden ventilation shaft site.

## Chesham Road

Construction is also complete at the Chesham Road intervention shaft, one of the sites providing emergency access to the tunnel below. The perimeter security fencing has now been installed.

We designed each vent shaft to fit its surroundings in the Chilterns National Landscape, working closely with local communities. Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles, Little Missenden and Chesham Road were designed as a family of buildings that reflect local farm buildings.



Chesham Road ventilation shaft buildings.

With the structures now complete, this can be seen with the simple pitched roofs, like barns and the compounds arranged like farmyard courtyards.

## Next steps

Align JV has now completed the main civil engineering works at these sites and have entered a period of caretaking and maintenance.

Our duties and responsibilities at these worksites will be to maintain site security and to manage the land and assets within the site boundary.

From summer 2026 Align JV will also begin fitting out the ventilation shafts with the mechanical and electrical equipment which will be used to maintain the environment for passengers travelling on trains through the Chiltern tunnel.

The programme for these works is being developed and we will keep you updated on the progress in subsequent newsletters.



An example of a basement in one of the Chiltern tunnel ventilation shafts, ready for mechanical and electrical outfitting in 2026

## South Heath cutting – construction continues

Work around South Heath, near Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, has continued to progress steadily over recent months despite some very wet conditions in early 2026.

This section of works where the railway emerges from the north portal of the Chiltern tunnel, involves moving around 1.2 million cubic metres of earth, shaping the land, installing drainage, and preparing the route for eventual track installation.

As earthworks continue into spring and summer 2026, residents may notice earthmoving equipment, lorry movements, and construction teams working across the area as we take advantage of the longer daylight hours to create the cutting and three crucial railway crossings.

## New bridges and local connectivity

Two new pedestrian bridges connecting local Public Rights of Way **GMI/2** and **GMI/12** over the future railway line are now under construction and progressing well. The last of the piling and foundations (shown in the picture to the right) for the GMI/12 bridge were completed in February.



These bridges will maintain important local connections once trains begin running, ensuring access routes and pathways remain open across the new railway cutting. A signed diversion route via other public footpaths and Public Rights of Way is in place for the duration of these works.



In addition, the building of the Leather Lane green bridge, pictured to the right, is on track and the wingwalls which form the supports for the distinctive green bridge design are being built in-situ. Construction will be completed and Leather Lane will reopen in late 2027.

## Community events – South Heath cutting drop-in events

Align's Community Engagement team will be holding community drop-in sessions at Great Missenden Memorial Centre from 5pm to 7pm on the following dates. Come along to meet our team and find out more about our works in the area:

- Wednesday 25 March – 5pm to 7pm
- Wednesday 3 June – 5pm to 7pm

With Align's main works now predominantly in the South Heath cutting we will be focusing our community events in this area, however, please do reach out and get in touch if you want further information on any of the HS2 works in the Colne Valley or the Chiltern tunnel areas.

## Chiltern tunnel north portal

The Align JV team at the Chiltern tunnel north portal finished the last pour, comprising of 47 cubic metres of concrete in March this year, to complete the emergency walkway from the tunnel to the portal building.

The walkway will guide passengers safely out of the portals and up to the north portal building in the event of an emergency. With this latest pour, all concrete work at the north portal site is now complete.

The ancillary building, pictured in the photo below with its distinctive green roof, is ready for the installation of operational equipment in the next stage of the construction of the railway.



A view of the Chiltern tunnel north portal and ancillary building, looking toward Frith Hill, from February 2026.



An Align worker puts the finishing touches to the concrete walkway at the north portal in March 2026.

## Chiltern tunnel south portal, Colne Valley Western Slopes, and the Colne Valley viaduct – construction updates

With the remediation of the land around the Colne Valley viaduct nearly complete we are aiming to finish our landscaping works in Hillingdon and Buckinghamshire by the end of summer 2026. In line with the end of these works we will be removing some of the temporary construction access points near the Colne Valley viaduct:

- Moorhall Road bellmouth removal works – expected to take place over several nights in July 2026
- Removal of A412 North Orbital / CVW North Embankment crossing near West Hyde – expected to take place over several nights in July 2026

The above works will necessitate overnight road closure to safely complete the works. We will undertake the road closures concurrently to reduce the impact on road users and residents. Full notification of these works will be provided in advance of them starting.

### Dews Lane and Harvil Road, Hillingdon – junction works

In addition, we will be completing the removal of the bellmouth used for construction and traffic signals at the junction of Harvil Road with Dews Lane in the London Borough of Hillingdon. We expect to undertake these works in June 2026, with traffic management and lane closures in place to facilitate the changes.

Confirmation and notice of these works will be published when the works periods have been confirmed. In the event of a road closure, we will be sure to provide plenty of notice to local communities that may be impacted by the works.



A view of the completed Colne Valley viaduct looking from Hillingdon towards Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire.

## Engaging with local communities

We know that planning and building the railway disrupts the lives of local people. We will always try to do the right thing and reduce disruption as much as we can.

Our specialists work across each section of the route and will keep you informed about work taking place. They will also respond to any question you may have.

Drop-in sessions are held regularly and provide important updates on the project. We encourage attendees to share feedback so we can understand the views of our communities.

We work closely with community groups and local authorities to find ways to mitigate any potential disruption caused by the construction of HS2.

Our teams also support community and school projects to benefit the areas where we work. These include giving back to communities by volunteering, fundraising, or providing materials, labour or investment. Our helpdesk is open 24/7 – ring us on 08081 434 434 if you would like to discuss an idea with our team.



### Keep up to date on HS2 activity in your area

To receive notifications of our upcoming activity, sign up for email notifications:

**[www.engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list/](http://www.engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list/)**

To view more detail on what work is happening near you, visit our interactive map:

**[www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map)**

Find out what engagement events are coming up in your area at:

**[www.hs2.org.uk/events](http://www.hs2.org.uk/events)**

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## Stay informed about the progress of HS2

We are committed to keeping you informed about the planning and progress of HS2.

Please complete the form below to join our mailing list and receive emails about the aspects of the project that you are most interested in.

If you would also like to receive information about current or planned HS2 construction works in our area, please complete our **[local mailing list form](#)** or you scan the QR code.



**Follow us on social channels**



# 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](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-hs2-commissioner)

The commissioner can be contacted on:  
[hs2commissioner@dft.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.hs2.org.uk/contact-us/how-to-complain)

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## Contact us

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

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

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 Email [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

Write to:

**FREEPOST**

**HS2 Community Engagement**

Website [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)

To keep up to date with what is happening in your area, visit:

[www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk](http://www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk)

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