

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

HS2 Update

Chiltern tunnel, South Heath cutting and Colne Valley viaduct | Autumn 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.

Focus on Tilehouse Lane, Hertfordshire

Tilehouse Lane, in Hertfordshire will reopen in late-October 2026, marking an important milestone in the delivery of the project and restoring a key local transport link.

Tilehouse Lane was closed when main works construction to build the railway cutting and bridge over the cutting started in January 2021. As the work around the railway is now complete the lane can be safely returned to public use.

The picture below shows the view of the Tilehouse Lane bridge and the line of the realigned lane as seen from above the Colne Valley viaduct north embankment. Extensive planting, fencing and seeding of the landscape around the railway is now complete across over three-quarters of the site.

A number of viewing platforms will be created and one of the finished platforms can be seen to the left of the picture below. These viewing platforms will be accessed in the future using paths across the site.



Above: The Colne Valley western slopes looking towards Tilehouse Lane and the Chiltern Tunnel in late summer 2026.

Reopening public rights of way in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire

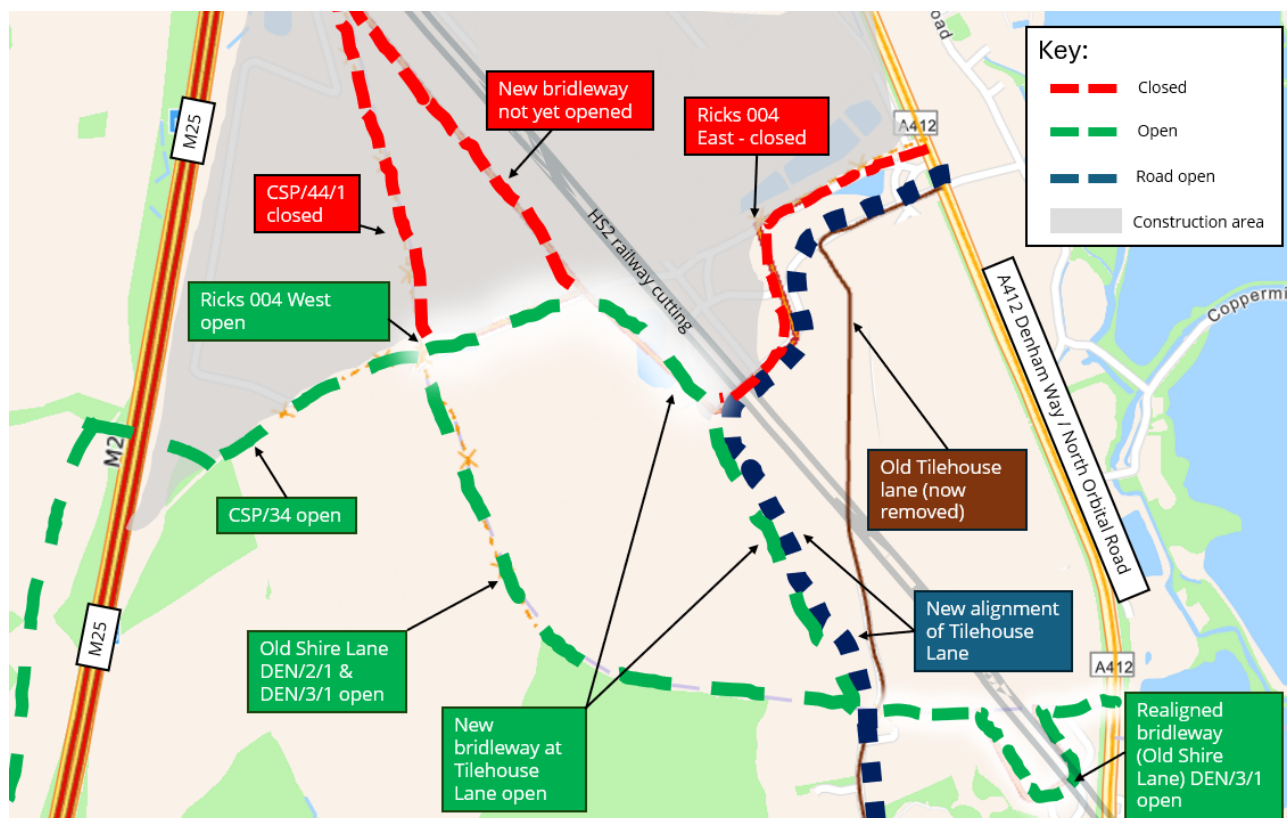
Colne Valley western slopes, near Denham, Buckinghamshire

In conjunction with the reopening of Tilehouse Lane and the completion of landscaping at the Chiltern tunnel south portal and Colne Valley western slopes, we are opening the new bridleyway along Tilehouse Lane and the western leg of the Ricks 004 and the DEN 3/1 footpaths, restoring connectivity for walkers, cyclists and other users (please see map below). The phased restoration of these routes has been made possible because the landscaping of the Colne Valley western slopes is now complete.

HS2 and its contractors will continue to work from the existing office facilities onsite as works transition to the next phase of installing railway systems. We will regularly review opportunities to open up those rights of way which remain closed.

The map below illustrates the public rights of way that will become available in the weeks after Tilehouse Lane reopens. This may be subject to further change, and full notification will be made in the event of any changes to these plans.

Map showing public access and rights of way across Colne Valley western slopes, near Denham, Buckinghamshire



A works notification detailing the opening of Tilehouse Lane and the walking routes available will be published ahead of the official reopening.

Leather Lane, Buckinghamshire is reopening in November 2026

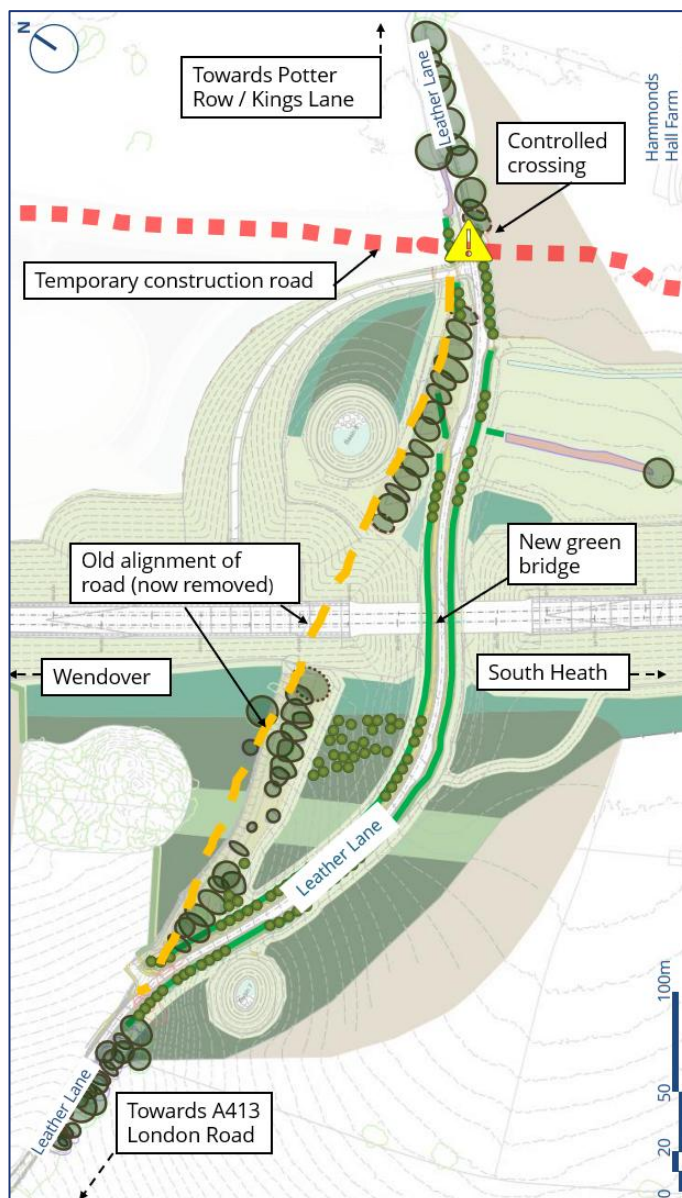
Leather Lane, near Great Missenden, will reopen to road users on Monday 2 November 2026 following the completion of the realignment of the road to incorporate a new green bridge over the railway.



Above: Leather Lane bridge construction in August.

The green bridge has been designed to retain characteristics of the ancient holloway and to act as a vital wildlife crossing for birds, bats and mammals across the new railway. The landscape design was developed following engagement with local community groups and stakeholders and has retained the iconic “lone oak”.

Works will continue in South Heath cutting and temporary traffic management will remain in place on Leather Lane until at least summer 2027 to facilitate the safe operation of the construction haul road crossing.



Above: A plan of the new alignment of Leather Lane in November 2026, with the temporary haul road crossing.

Leather Lane finishing works – further closure proposed in May 2027

We will open Leather Lane on 2 November 2026 and the road will remain open for public use with exception of a short period of closure for approximately three to four weeks in May 2027 to complete tie-ins with local access and accommodation works.

We will notify residents and road users of any future closures or impacts with an advanced works notification and will work with our neighbouring works contractor EKFB to ensure that these works do not coincide with any closure of Rocky Lane, wherever possible. When these final road works are complete it will restore the connection between the A413 London Road and Potter Row / King's Lane and The Lee.

GMI/12 bridge deck arrives in South Heath

Progress has been made on the construction of the GMI/12 bridge after the delivery of the huge deck spans in September. The bridge spans 103 metres long and will be 3.9 metres wide and the deck was manufactured off-site and transported with great care to be installed by a dedicated team using a 600-tonne crane. GMI/12 will be reopened to the public in early 2027 when the main civils works are completed in the area. Please look out for future updates for further information.



Above: Deck sections for GMI/12 being installed across the cutting in September 2026.

South Heath cutting general progress update

The programme for the works at South Heath cutting is progressing well and Align remain on target to complete main works in late summer 2027. To ensure that the site remains safe for operatives and for the local community, the programme to open the public rights of way across the site has been adjusted and GMI/12 and GMI/2 will now reopen between spring and summer 2027.

We appreciate your patience and recognise the disruption that this continued period of closure has for residents and walkers in the area. We remain committed to restoring access as soon as we can do so. The headline programme for the South Heath site is as follows:

Milestone	Date
Leather Lane reopens	2 November 2026
GMI/12 reopens	Date to be confirmed, 2027
GMI/2 reopens	Date to be confirmed 2027
South Heath cutting complete	August 2027

Amersham ventilation shaft, Buckinghamshire - fire tank installation

Align will soon begin works to install fire-fighting tanks and the connections in the compound at Amersham ventilation shaft, which is currently used for site parking.

The works will start in November 2026 and will require a short period of overnight closures of Whielden Street, near Amersham Hospital, while we carry out removal of small trees and other vegetation to create a corridor wide enough to install water mains and foul water networks for permanent operations.

A notification will be circulated to our neighbours in the area well in advance to advise of the hours of works and the diversion route planned.



Above: Amersham ventilation shaft building pictured from the site boundary.

Mechanical, electrical and plumbing works begin

The programme of mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) installation works across multiple ventilation shaft sites in which support the Chiltern tunnel is now underway.

Works to date have included the installation of temporary welfare cabins at the ventilation and intervention shaft site at Chalfont St Giles. This will be repeated at Little Missenden in November and Chesham Road in early 2027.

Once the site enabling work is complete, the first major MEP installation works are scheduled to begin at the South Portal in December 2026, followed by Chalfont St Peter in February 2027 and Chalfont St Giles in March 2027. Works will then progress at the North Portal ancillary building near South Heath, Little Missenden, Chesham Road and Amersham sites throughout 2027 and will continue at all sites through to 2028.

As the programme advances, we will continue to inform you about upcoming activities and any temporary impacts associated with the delivery of these important works.

Next community engagement event on Wednesday 18 November

Our Community Engagement team will be holding a community drop-in session at Great Missenden Memorial Centre from 5pm to 7pm on Wednesday 18 November 2026. Come along to meet us and find out more about our works in the South Heath area.

With our main construction activity now 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.

Donation of safety barriers to The Misbourne school, Buckinghamshire

As part of Align's commitment to supporting local communities, the team donated almost 200 traffic and site management barriers to The Misbourne school to assist with the safe and effective running of school events.

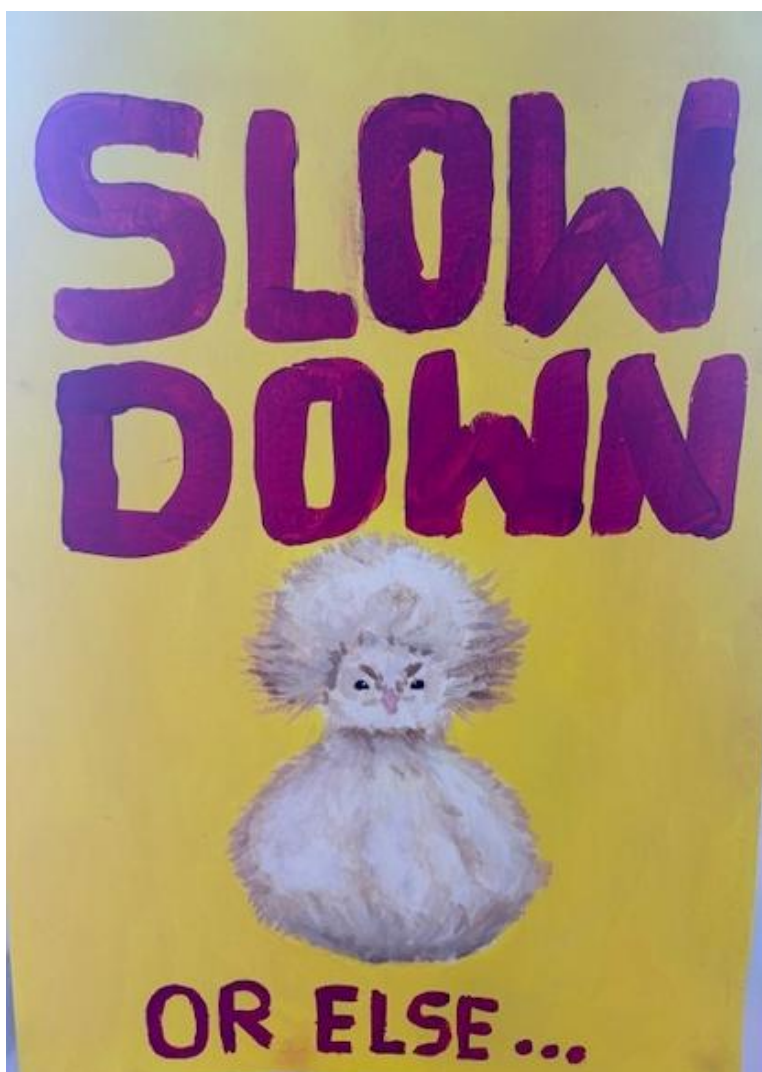
The barriers will help the school deliver a range of activities such as sports days. We continue to look at ways in which site or office equipment which may otherwise be disposed of may be reused or repurposed for the community. Should you have any ideas or suggestions about how we may reuse or recycle used equipment, please do get in touch.

Community speed awareness posters, South Heath, Buckinghamshire

Residents in South Heath concerned about the speed of local traffic through the village contacted Align for help to produce signs that could be posted in prominent spots around Frith Hill, King's Lane and Potter Row in the village as a reminder to drivers to take care on village roads.

Align funded the printing of ten weatherproof signs each individually designed by local children. These have now been proudly posted in full view of the road.

Look out for the poster when driving through the village (but please pay attention to your speed).



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 questions you may have.

Drop-in sessions are held 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/

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

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

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 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

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-ALIGN-26-2634

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.
Registered office: Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.
Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 888 8512 56

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

Please contact us if you'd like a free copy of this document in large print, Braille, audio or easy read. You can also contact us for help and information in a different language.

We are committed to protecting personal information. If you would like to know more about how we use your personal information, please see our privacy notice (www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-two-ltd-privacy-notice)