



HS2 E Update June 2021

What is Buckinghamshire Council doing on behalf of residents?

Councillor Peter Martin has been appointed as Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport with responsibility for HS2 and EWR. Since his appointment, Councillor Martin has been undertaking site visits, attending meetings and meeting affected communities.

In the last month or so Buckinghamshire Council issued a number of press releases on the design of the Amersham Vent Shaft headhouse, the A413 road closure detailed below, our concerns around tunnelling on the aquifer and Wendover Dean Viaduct.

With regards to our recent approval of the Schedule 17 application for Wendover Dean Viaduct, we commissioned external advice regarding noise issues raised by local communities, as it was important that we ensured we had sufficient information to take the decision.

HS2 Ltd/Align needed to close the A413 for weekend working to carry out utility works. Buckinghamshire Council initially refused permission for 2 weekend closures and continued to discuss plans for these proposed works to cause the least disruption possible. We have worked with HS2 Ltd/Align to reduce the impacts by limiting the works to a single weekend and providing mitigation. The closure took place from 9pm on 18 June until 5am on 21 June and no major disruption was reported and works were completed to schedule.

Buckinghamshire Council has written to HS2 Ltd with a long list of questions regarding the potential impact of tunnelling and other structures on the Chilterns aquifer and chalk streams. HS2 Ltd has until now played down any risks to the aquifer but a recent article takes a more cautious approach and admits they face 'significant challenges' to stop cement leaking into the water system.

<https://www.building.co.uk/news/hs2-outlines-plans-to-stop-chiltern-tunnelling-contaminating-local-water-supplies/5112132.article>

Buckinghamshire Council also convened a special Hydrogeology meeting on 16 June with the tunnelling contractors, Align. In response to the rising concerns of the potential impacts of the aquifer, Align are also holding two public webinars on 22 and 24 June

<https://www.hs2.org.uk/events/hs2-align-environmental-webinar-water-in-the-chilterns-and-colne-valley/>

A meeting has also been organised for senior Members of the Council to visit the south portal site and have a face to face briefing on these issues.

Buckinghamshire Council has been working with other Phase 1 Highways Authorities and HS2 Ltd to agree an acceptable process for drawing down funds for road repairs caused or exacerbated by the construction. This is a key issue which the Leader and senior members raised with senior HS2 personnel last week.

There is no absolute requirement for dust and noise monitoring of all construction activities to be carried out on all HS2 sites, but the need for such monitoring is based on a risk assessment approach. Buckinghamshire Council has pushed back on noise and dust at Calvert and ensured cumulative noise impacts from different activities have been assessed. Noise and dust monitoring will be permanently undertaken in this area.

You can find HS2's air quality and noise reports here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/monitoring-the-environmental-effects-of-hs2?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=1ed1675d-7ef2-4d2b-a648-86157dfb6eab&utm_content=daily

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Inquiry Summer 2021

One year ago the Public Accounts Committee reported that the High-Speed 2 rail project was “badly off course” with project managers “blindsided by contact with reality”, as it raised serious concerns about the official account that had been provided to the Committee, over time, of the project's health.

The Committee is now recalling senior officials at the Department for Transport and executives at HS2 Ltd, as well as representatives of construction and local authority stakeholder groups.

If you have new evidence that has not previously been submitted on:

- How the HS2 programme is progressing
- HS2 Ltd and the Department's readiness to move into construction of Phase One
- How HS2 Ltd and the Department are managing other parts of the programme

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1283/high-speed-2-progress-at-summer-2021/>

Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) Report claims HS2 Ltd dishonest, over compensation

HS2 Ltd was described as "dishonest and misleading" in its handling of a compensation claim from a member of the public who had to sell their home to make way for the line, the report claims.

HS2 Ltd also "failed to properly engage" with the complainant leading to a breakdown in trust, the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman said.

HS2 has previously been accused of poor communication with communities in a previous PHSO report.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-57261284>

HS2 Residents' Commissioner Report 15 – May 2021

This Commissioner's focus remains on the property schemes, both discretionary and statutory, and on community engagement communications, with the emphasis on improving these areas wherever possible. In this report, she highlights the work she has been undertaking for the HS2 minister, Andrew Stephenson MP, as part of his Land and Property Review, and on community engagement issues, some of which she raised when she appeared before the Transport Select Committee in January.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/990678/HS2_Residents_Commissioner_Report_15.pdf

St Mary's Church, Stoke Mandeville

Archaeologists have been working in Buckinghamshire on the HS2 project and are excavating a medieval church and burial ground in Stoke Mandeville.

The Old St Mary's Church was built in 1080AD, shortly after the Norman conquest and may have been at first the private chapel belonging to the lord of the manor at that time.

There will be a field museum and open days so that local people can learn more about any discoveries.

<https://www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/archaeology/st-marys-church/>

HS2 ongoing work

You can see the work that is taking place in Buckinghamshire on the HS2 website, Commonplace section, (Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire) and also sign up for automatic alerts. HS2 Ltd or contractors are committed to send out Advanced Warning Notices 2 weeks ahead of works commencing:

<https://hs2inbucksandoxfordshire.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/works-in-your-area/details>

Works in Buckinghamshire

Although still classed as preparatory/early works there are some quite substantial impacts already being experienced by our communities. I have listed some of the main works (but this is not a comprehensive list)

Works	Duration
Colne Valley Viaduct construction	Mar 2021-2023
Closure of DEN3/1 footpath	Oct 2020-Oct 2021
Jones Hill Wood works	Mar 2021-31 Aug 2021
Archaeology and bat house works, South Heath	Jan 2021-Spring 2021
Full weekend closure of A413 at Little Missenden	18 Jun 2021-21 Jun 2021
Archaeology and tree planting, Rocky Lane to Leather Lane	Jan 2021 -Spring 2021
Aylesbury A418 utilities diversions	Mar 2021-Nov 2021
St Mary's church, Stoke Mandeville archaeology	Sep 2020-Summer 2021
Marsh Lane and Old Risborough Road closures	May 2021-6/4/2026
Fleet Marston ecology works	23 Mar 2021-31 Dec 2021
Calvert early works	Oct 2020-Summer 2021
Chetwode compound	Jan-Jun 2021
Quinton construction activities	Sep-Spring 2021
Waddesdon works	Jul 2020-Spring 2021
Steeple Claydon utility works	Jul 2020-Aug 2021
Twyford - Newton Purcell early works	Oct 2020-Summer 2021

HS2 Forthcoming Works Packages submission to Buckinghamshire Council

Please note however, forecast dates are subject to slippage by contractors

Schedule 17 package	Location	Planned submission date
Little Missenden Vent Shaft Plans and Specifications and restoration agreement.	Little Missenden	May 2021
South Heath cutting Cottage Farm accommodation overbridge TLE/2 Footbridge Bowood Lane overbridge and highway	Bowood Lane (BC package 1)	June 2021
South Heath cutting Footpath GMI/12 overbridge and GMI/2 accommodation overbridge Leather Lane overbridge and highway realignment	South Heath (CDC package 1)	June 2021
Wendover Green Tunnel Ellesborough Road re-construction Wendover north	Nash Lee (AVDC Package 04)	July 2021

cutting Nash Lee Road and overbridge		
Calvert Cutting / Footpath SCL/13 Green Overbridge / Calvert Green Overbridge / School Hill Green Overbridge / Shepherd's Furze Inverted Siphon / East West Rail Overbridge /Charndon Lodge Underbridge	Calvert South (AVDC Package 13a)	June 2021
Calvert Cutting Addison Road Overbridge IMD South Culvert IMD South Culvert IMD North Culvert Perry Hill Overbridge Portway Farm ATS West Street Overbridge Sewage Works Access Twyford East Culvert Portway Culvert	Calvert North / Steeple Claydon (AVDC Package 13b)	June 2021
Twyford Embankment / Twyford Viaduct / Cowley Embankment / Twyford Cutting / Godington East Viaduct / Godington East Embankment / Chetwode Embankment	Twyford to Chetwode (AVDC Package 14)	June 2021
SCL/8 Footbridge	Steeple Claydon	June 2021
Waddesdon Embankment Footpath WAD/3 Accommodation underbridge Needles Farm Accommodation overbridge Waddesdon North Cutting Quainton South Embankment Station Road realignment and Aylesbury link overbridge Quainton Cutting	Waddesdon to Quainton (AVDC package 10)	June 2021
Chesham Road intervention Shaft Plans and Specifications	Chesham Road	July 2021
Footpath ELL/20 Overbridge / Stoke Mandeville South Embankment / Aylesbury South Cutting PRA line diversion, overbridge and underpass Stoke Mandeville Relief Road and overbridge	Stoke Mandeville (AVDC Package 5)	July 2021
Bicester Road Embankment Waddesdon South Cutting Bridleway FMA/1 overbridge A41 Bicester Road realignment and overbridge	Putlowes to Waddesdon (AVDC package 9)	July 2021

Footpath WAD/4 Accommodation overbridge		
Waddesdon Embankment / Footpath WAD/3 Accommodation underbridge / Needles Farm Accommodation overbridge / Waddesdon North Cutting / Quainton South Embankment / Station Road realignment and Aylesbury link overbridge / Quainton Cutting	Waddesdon to Quainton (AVDC Package 10)	July 2021
Doddershall Embankment / Woodlands Cutting / Bridleway QUA/28A Accommodation overbridge	Quainton to Grendon Underwood (AVDC Package 11)	July 2021
North portal design and external appearance of buildings	Land to the west of Frith Hill	July 2021

Key Design Elements as described in [HS2 Information Paper D1: Design Policy](#) have been subject to community engagement on design developments.

Buckinghamshire Council HS2 coordination team

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