



HS2 E Update

July 2020

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>

HS2 Forthcoming Works Packages

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

Schedule 17 package		Forecast date
Chalfont St Peter vent shaft		Aug 2020
Calvert box (13A)		Aug 2020
Small Dean viaduct		Delayed to Nov 2020
Wendover Dean viaduct		Aug 2020
Chilterns North portal		Aug 2020
Permanent widening Bottom House Farm Lane		Sep 2020

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

Chris Packham's legal challenge appeal

Naturalist and campaigner Chris Packham launched a case to review the government's decision over HS2. This was dismissed by the High Court, however the Court of Appeal decided to hear the case on 8 July 2020. One of the key reasons Lord Justice Lewison gave for approving the hearing was the 'considerable public interest' that has been shown.

The judges reserved their ruling.

Iron Age skeleton discovered in Wendover

An Iron Age skeleton with his hands bound has been discovered by HS2 project archaeologists, who believe he may be a murder victim. The remains of the 2,000-year-old adult male were found face down at Wellwick Farm near Wendover in Buckinghamshire. Full article can be viewed [here](#).

Chiltern Society HS2 photo diary

Keith Hoffmeister of the Chiltern Society has been photographing the HS2 route across the Colne Valley Country Park and the Chilterns for over ten years. He intends to continue with this project as construction progresses showing the impact at a number of locations. The pictures are now available in the Chiltern Society's HS2 Photo Diary. <https://chilternsociety.org.uk/hs2-photo-diary/>

The intention is that Keith will continue to update the pictures regularly. It is the only photographic record that we know of and as such will be a valuable reference source both now and in the future. With thanks to Keith for sharing.

Infrastructure and Projects Authority Annual Report

The Infrastructure and Projects Authority has just released their annual report. HS2 has fallen from a classification of Amber/Red which it has held for 7 years to Red in the latest report. A red classification means "successful delivery appears to be unachievable, and the project may need to be re-scoped or have its overall viability reconsidered". <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infrastructure-and-projects-authority-annual-report-2020>

New HS2 Board Members

The Secretary of State for Transport announced the appointment of three Non-Executive Directors to the HS2 Board to 'strengthen oversight and scrutiny of the UK's largest infrastructure project'. Further details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-board-members-to-strengthen-oversight-of-hs2-as-it-enters-next-phase-of-delivery>

Buckinghamshire Council HS2 coordination team:

Jackie Copcutt jackie.copcutt@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Tel: 01296 383793

HS2 Blueprint Mailbox HS2Blueprint@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

HS2 Helpdesk: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk Tel: Freephone 08081 434 434