



HS2 E Update

May 2021

What is Buckinghamshire Council doing on behalf of residents?

Buckinghamshire Council and Chilterns Conservation Board have raised concerns about the impact of HS2's tunnelling operations on Buckinghamshire's aquifer and chalk streams and have asked a number of questions of HS2 Ltd/contractors. You can read the full position statement here:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/4516763/chilterns-conservation-board-and-buckinghamshire-council-position-statement-2-1.pdf>

The Council is carefully monitoring the impacts of an HS2 concrete batching plant being constructed at Calvert. Environmental Health Officers will be measuring any noise and dust impacts. See press release below:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/council-keeping-a-close-eye-on-the-new-hs2-concrete-batching-plant-at-calvert/>

Council officers meet monthly with senior Department for Transport HS2 officials to discuss various issues.

Recruitment is underway for 2 local HS2/EWR Traffic Marshalls who will be mobile, working with the HS2 contractors Traffic Control Site Officers (TCSOs) to resolve issues which are within the Council's powers. These officers will also need to work with the DfT inspectors, East West Rail Traffic Ambassadors and HS2 Traffic Control and Safety Officers.

HS2 Ltd/Align still need to close the A413 for weekend working to carry out utility works. Buckinghamshire Council is continuing to discuss plans for these proposed works to cause the least disruption possible. We have worked with HS2 Ltd/Align to reduce the impact by limiting the works to a single weekend. This is now proposed to take place in June.

The Schedule 17 application determination for the Wendover Dean Viaduct has been extended at the request of Buckinghamshire Council so that additional information is provided in relation to drainage, hydrogeology and noise.

Buckinghamshire Council is leading work with other Phase 1 Highways Authorities to reach a highway condition and maintenance agreement with HS2 Ltd.

Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) is launched heading northwards beneath The Chilterns

The boring machine launched on 13 May and will operate 24 hours a day, it will take around three years for the tunnel boring machine (TBM), called Florence, to dig the 10-mile long tunnel under the Chiltern hills.

At 170 metres in length, the 2,000 tonne TBM is also the largest ever used on a UK rail project. As is traditional, all TBMs are given female names, and Florence is named after Florence Nightingale – a name suggested by local children due to her residence at nearby Claydon House in Bucks.

<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/hs2-launches-its-first-tbm-as-tunnelling-begins-in-the-chilterns-13-05-2021/>

High Speed Rail Act 2017 Schedule 17 Statutory Guidance published 5 May 2021

The purpose of the Guidance is to provide further information and guidance to all planning authorities that will determine a request for approval under Schedule 17 to the Act. The Guidance also highlights the key differences in the processes and controls conferred to planning authorities under Schedule 17 and the powers they use to routinely determine applications for planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-rail-london-to-west-midlands-act-2017-schedule-17-statutory-guidance/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-act-2017-schedule-17-statutory-guidance#justification-for-modifications>

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/>

Jones Hill Wood, Wendover

Felling work has now been allowed to continue at Jones Hill Wood following the recent legal challenge to Natural England issuing a bat licence, which was overturned. It is sad to see this iconic piece of ancient woodland being cut down.

<https://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/19286853.campaigners-react-losing-fight-hs2-work-jones-hill-wood-near-wendover/?ref=twtrrec>

HS2 Dedicated Education Web Pages

HS2 Ltd has recently updated their Education resources. They aim to inspire young people to take up Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics subjects (STEM).

<https://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/education/>

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
Amersham, Gore Hill roundabout improvement works	Nov-Spring 2021
Jones Hill Wood, site set up	Mar 2021-Summer 2021
Archaeology and bat house works, South Heath	Jan 2021-Spring 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
Calvert early works	Oct 2020-Summer 2021
Chetwode compound	Jan-Jun 2021
Quainton 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)	May 2021
South Heath cutting Footpath GMI/12 overbridge and GMI/2 accommodation overbridge Leather Lane overbridge and highway realignment	South Heath (CDC package 1)	May 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
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
Bicester Road Embankment Waddesdon South Cutting Bridleway FMA/1 overbridge A41 Bicester Road realignment and overbridge Footpath WAD/4 Accommodation overbridge	Putlowes to Waddesdon (AVDC package 9)	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

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

EWR and HS2 enquiries Mailbox EWRANDHS2enquiries@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

HS2 Helpdesk

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