HS2 update

Wendover HS2
Mitigation Action Group


Photo: HS2

Green Tunnel shell finished

The gap between the two tunnel sections to the north and south of Ellesborough Road was filled in October. [photo right]. The gap between the precast concrete segment arches was designed to be 10 millimetres, and this was tweaked to make sure that the final arch segments would fit properly. Before the tunnel was closed up, some 24-hour working was undertaken to deliver the concrete for the slab that securely ties the side wall segments to the central pillars.

To stop water getting into the tunnel it is wrapped with two layers of waterproof membrane installed from a moveable gantry. Further work is needed to install the 100 metre long acoustic portal hoods at each end of the tunnel, fit out the internal walkway, and backfill the cutting to cover the tunnel. This should be finished by the end of 2028. Landscaping and restoring the original Ellesborough Road alignment will follow on after that.

Grove Farm culvert progressing

Significant progress with the culvert can be seen just north of Ellesborough Road, with about 150 metres of precast boxes installed in the last month [photo below].

This is part of the mile-long drain that will carry run-off water from the Small Dean area to new ponds near Wellwick Farm and, like the tunnel, this will be buried as part of the land restoration.


Photo: Murray Cooke

The section between Small Dean and Ellesborough Road is being tunnelled using a boring machine to create a 2.4 metre diameter pipe, which will eventually join up with the box culvert section.

Noise mitigation

We are still pursuing better train noise mitigation and are meeting HS2's head of engineering and environment, to review the design of the Green Tunnel north portal building and its surrounding compound.

Visits to the tunnel

EKFB is now organising regular public visits to see the Green Tunnel works up close from the North Portal Compound. Contact the HS2 helpdesk if you would like to reserve a place.

'Wendover Link' progress

During September we attended a workshop with HS2, EKFB, and Bucks Council, which focused on the joint ambition to establish the 'Bucks Greenway' cycle route past Wendover. Despite being a Department for Transport and HS2 'Active Travel' initiative, we've not yet seen a plan to make it happen.

The workshop outcomes include actions on EKFB to define the route of the cycletrack. As the path is not part of the HS2 Act requirements there needs to be an initiative by Bucks Council to gain the necessary funding.

Our hope is that sufficient progress can be made for HS2 to actually build the cycleway as part of their landscaping works.

At the very least we need to ensure that the route is reserved and the section between Dunsmore Lane and A413 roundabout is completed.

Landscaping is starting

Until recently the civil engineering has been focused on the functional aspects of the railway, but work is now starting on landscaping in the Wendover area.

The first major section to be addressed is the south embankment of the Small Dean Viaduct next to the A413, with an area being cleared to allow the final landform to be established with vegetation and tree planting.

We requested that the number of mature trees planned to be felled be reduced, but as we go to press have not heard the outcome.

HS2 Reset and Wendover

Now that HS2 has agreed new contract terms with EKFB, we understand that the high level project plan for the civil engineering has been agreed. We had been expecting the details for Wendover to be revealed in October, but these should now be available when the HS2 Mobile Visitor Centre comes to the Wendover market on Saturday 21 November, 10am-2pm.

Issues with HS2?

If you're affected by the construction activity, please contact the HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 (which is available 24 hours a day) or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

If you have photographic evidence and please get a complaint reference number so that we can follow up issues as needed.

Need our help?

If you need further help, want to join us, or have ideas and suggestions that would mitigate the community impact, then get in touch at enquiries@whs2.org.

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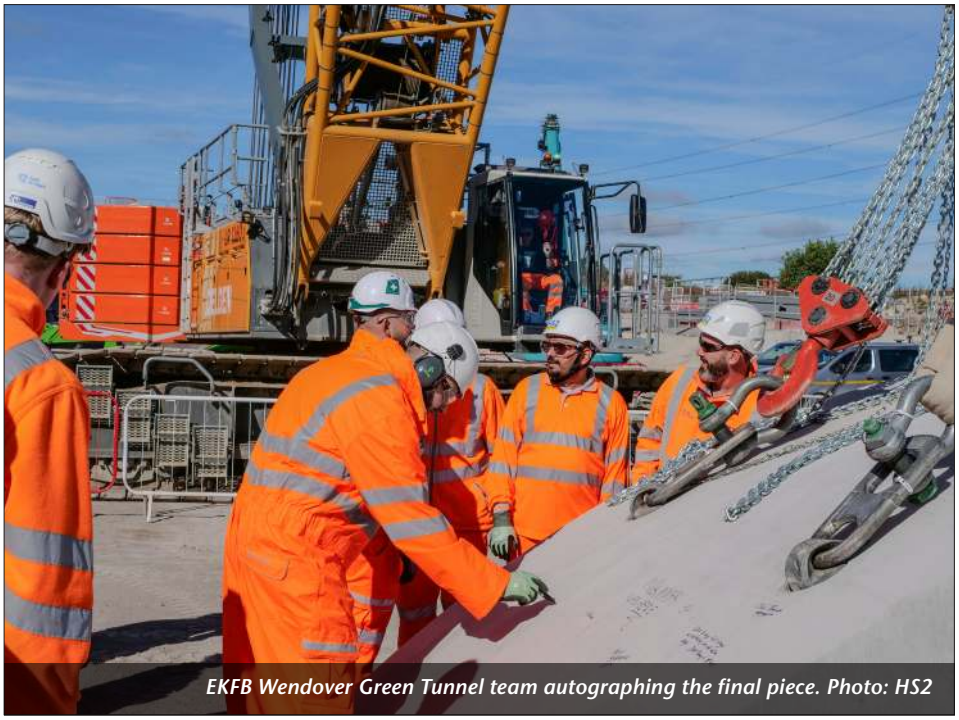
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Please mention Wendover News when responding to adverts

EKFB Working in partnership with HS2

Information provided by EKFB, the prime contractor for HS2 in the Wendover and Stoke Mandeville area.



EKFB Wendover Green Tunnel team autographing the final piece. Photo: HS2

Wendover green tunnel

The Wendover green tunnel has reached a significant milestone, with the central section of the structure now complete following the installation of the final pre-cast concrete segment. The achievement marks the first time the tunnel's two halves have been connected, bringing together more than 18 months of construction activity.

More than 1.2 million cubic metres of material, predominantly chalk, has been excavated to create the tunnel cutting. This material is now being carefully reused and compacted as part of the backfilling process, helping to shape the landscape that will eventually sit above the structure.

With the central structure now complete, the focus turns to the next phase of construction. Teams will continue work on the tunnel portals, floor slab and internal fit-out, while backfilling and landscaping activities progress across the site. We will also be starting the preparation works for returning Ellesborough Road onto its original alignment, with the road currently being carried on a temporary bridge. Once complete, the road will run over the top of the tunnel as the final shape of the landscape begins to emerge.

Stoke Mandeville

In the Stoke Mandeville area, Public Right of Way crossings are progressing well. The overbridge carrying the SMA/9 footpath has had most of its parapets installed. The Risborough Road underpass has also had parapets installed in October and backfill around the concrete structure. We are preparing to realign and widen the existing path along Risborough Road and narrow a short section of the old road in November. Piling for the acoustic barrier is currently underway on the Stoke Mandeville south embankment and placement of soils is underway on landscaping bunds along the Aylesbury embankment and Aylesbury south cutting ready for seeding later this autumn.

Upcoming traffic management:

2-25 November, 24-hour traffic management on Risborough Road (formerly the A4010) and Old Risborough Road

6–7 November, overnight closure on Ellesborough Road for street light inspections (times TBC)

Editorial note:

As we were preparing to go to press we had notification from EKFB that the Leather Lane overbridge near Gt Missenden will be opening on Monday 2 November.

The lane was closed on 1 September 2025 to enable construction of the new green overbridge. Since then, road traffic has been diverted in both directions via Potter Row, Frith Hill, and the Aylesbury Road (A413).

There is nothing in the notice about a planned opening ceremony, ribbon cutting or popping open champagne bottles. If you choose to go there to celebrate unofficially, please don't drink and drive and park sensibly if you need to drive there. Follow any safety advice given by EKFB staff.



Photo: HS2

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