

Green Tunnel contractor change

Align JV, the construction contractor for the Chiltern Tunnel and the Colne Valley viaduct, says that it will be taking over from EKFB as the contractor for the Wendover Green Tunnel later this year. This was mentioned in the trade press last year and confirmed Align JV in a recent webinar about its progress with the Chiltern Tunnel.

Just before Christmas, Align said it was 90% of the way through the 10 mile (16km) Chiltern Tunnel which it started boring in 2021, and expects to break through at the northern end during 2024.

Murray Cooke from the independent Wendover HS2 Mitigation Group says: "Our understanding is that EKFB will complete the excavation for the Green Tunnel during 2024 before handing over to Align to undertake the actual construction of the tunnel and subsequent landscaping. We are investigating the details of the handover but anticipate that this change will just cause further project delay."

Wendover Viaducts progressing

In early January HS2 started the "launch" of the Wendover Dean



A pier foundation such as this will soon be constructed adjacent to the newly aligned A413 London Road

Viaduct deck – also see pages 20-21. There's an HS2 web page with timelapse video at www.bit.ly/3RZCgvW.

Two other significant developments planned for January include the initial realignment of the A413 to move it away from the Chiltern Railway line to allow piling for two viaduct pier foundations for the Small Dean Viaduct, north of the current Wendover Dean Viaduct. There will still be night-time road closures following the diversion. The other very visible work is the completion of the first pier, closest to Rocky Lane. The short vertical section was completed in December and the 50 ton precast

"hammerhead" is due for delivery and installation by the time you read this. These concrete structures will support the girders underneath the viaduct deck. A further five piers are expected to be completed during 2024

Ellesborough Road cutting excavation

Further excavation for the Green Tunnel cutting beside Ellesborough Road continued in January, and another bridge is planned here to carry the Thames Water main and sewage pipes. Crash barriers and road signs have now been installed on the diversion road which will allow excavation through Ellesborough Road to be started.

Issues with HS2?

If you're affected by construction activity, contact the HS2 Helpdesk team on **08081 434 434** or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

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. Also see whs2.org for updates.



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