



HS2 construction

Launch day for Wendover Dean Viaduct

Early January saw the long-awaited "launch day" for the first 90m section of the Wendover Dean Viaduct to be winched into place over the first of nine enormous concrete "hammerheaded" piers. Eventually three huge steel and concrete box sections (the others are 180m) will be joined and hauled in one piece over the whole 450m width of the viaduct, which spans the Misbourne Valley south of Wendover. The process will take all of 2024, it is anticipated.

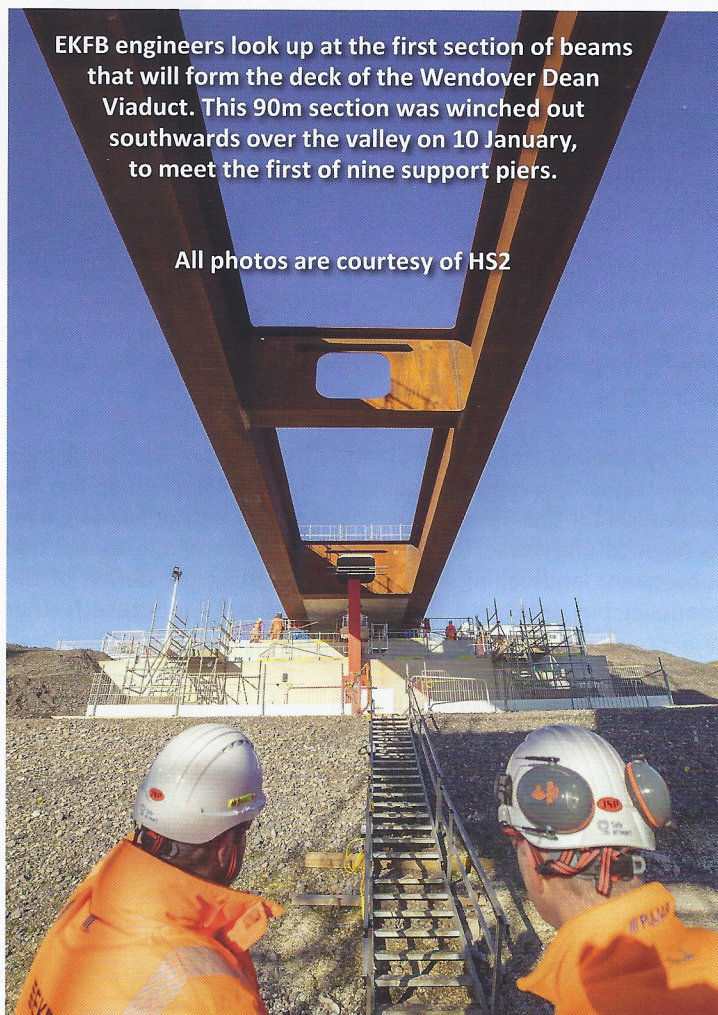
Wendover News was invited to a press visit on the following day, which was also attended by an ITV News crew and journalists from railway, engineering and construction publications.

Local residents naturally have strong views on HS2, given the huge cost, the scaling-back of the route, and the environmental destruction we are witnessing every day. There's little to add: the work has started in our area, and a lot of the damage has been done. Thanks to the sterling efforts of the independent Wendover HS2 Mitigation Group (see p19), some proposals have been challenged successfully, but overall there's no stopping it unless the next government has an unlikely change of heart.

However, there's no denying that as an engineering project, it is all deeply impressive. The dedication and skills of the engineers and construction crews is beyond doubt. See Wendover News December 2023, p26-27, for a full explanation (www.bit.ly/3RYXlqu), but note that we got Wendover Dean and Small Dean the wrong way round!

A similar method will also be used for the Small Dean Viaduct which will pass over the A413. The first pier has been installed (see p19). Unlike the Wendover Dean project to the south, this will mean significant road closures and traffic disruption.

Simon Eccles

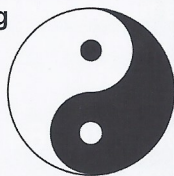


All photos are courtesy of HS2

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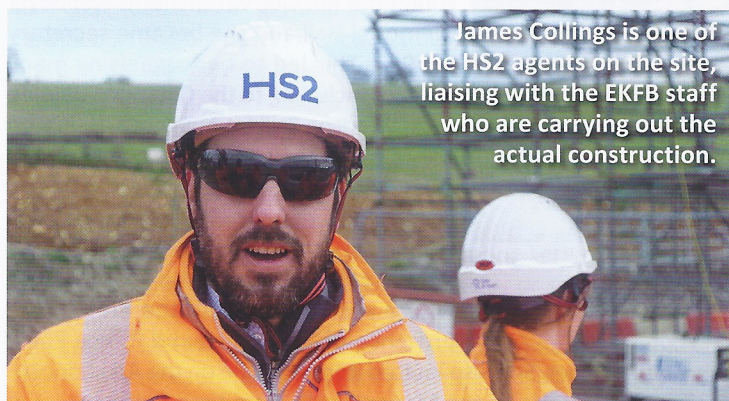
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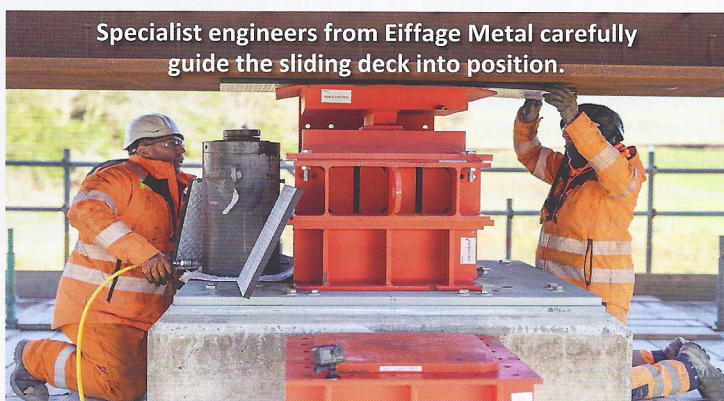
An aerial view of the whole viaduct site over the valley on 10 January, with the first section in place after launch.



The temporary guide 'nose' of the beam resting on the first pier during the first deck slide.



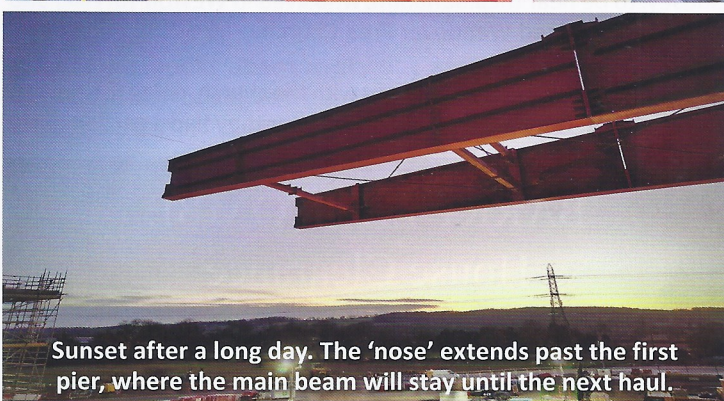
James Collings is one of the HS2 agents on the site, liaising with the EKFB staff who are carrying out the actual construction.



Specialist engineers from Eiffage Metal carefully guide the sliding deck into position.



A view from the launch side of the deck being winched into position. The white machine below left is one of the winches.



Sunset after a long day. The 'nose' extends past the first pier, where the main beam will stay until the next haul.

Swim in Wendover!

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Pool

The Wendover Swimming Pool is open every day of the week with sessions in the morning, during the day and in the evening. Become a member and enjoy reduced price swimming - but membership is not required, you can just turn up and swim!

We're located on the schools' campus off Wharf Road in the centre of Wendover. Check our website for opening times, membership details, swimming prices and admissions policies.



WendoverSwimmingPool



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