

Ellesborough Road is ready for the dump trucks

Ellesborough Road was closed for two days in May to allow road safety improvements on the new diversion, including lights for the zebra crossing on the Ridgeway route to Coombe Hill. Behind the scenes a large concrete slab has been installed to allow massive dump trucks to cross the old road without damaging the Thames Water main and sewer pipes, which have proved difficult to move due to delays with the utility companies.

The new concrete slab which will enable transit over Ellesborough Rd, also showing how far the road will have to drop to get trucks under the girder bridge.



This means that HS2 will be able to start the "mass haul" of spoil from Great Missenden to Stoke Mandeville before the pipes have been moved; and this may well have started by the time you read this. It will be interesting to see how the heavily loaded dump trucks will cope with the steep slope down from the old road to pass under the girder bridge on the new diversion, and back up again when they return empty.

Water at Dobbins Lane

Following the installation of a mains water supply pipe at Dobbins Lane reported last month, a second pipe is being installed to carry clean waste water from the future excavation of the green tunnel cutting to Wendover Brook; to maintain the amount of water that

goes into the Weston Turville Reservoir nature reserve.

The water pipe enclosed within security fences

HS2 has installed this as a surface pipe running behind the

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Lionel Avenue and Bridleways houses, protected by high security wire fencing just beyond the end of their gardens, with impacts on their views. We are trying to get HS2 to bury the pipe to improve the visual impact as we expect this will be used for three to four years. HS2 also needs to install a massive underground water chamber

in the fields to cope with future water flows that will be altered by the concrete lined tunnel. On 9 May it held a drop-in event at the Tennis Club to inform local residents about the "12 round trips a day" volume of HGV traffic that will occur in Dobbins Lane for several weeks in June as they transport the diggers and concrete to the site; which in turn requires the construction of an access track capable of handling 30 ton lorries over the fields. We understand that Bucks Council has been funded to repair damage to local roads affected by HS2 lorries, and hope that any resulting potholes will get fixed.

Small Dean Viaduct progressing



View of the piers for the HS2 decking over the A413

Over the May Bank Holiday weekends HS2 managed to finish the installation of two piers for the Viaduct close to the railway line. Piling for the final (sixth) pier requires the realignment of the A413 and work has now started on that. Passing motorists can see how short the piers are, and how low the actual girders supporting the viaduct will actually be over the A413.

Chilterns Cycleway closure?

The Chilterns Cycleway uses Small Dean Lane as a safe route for cyclists to travel between Wendover and Dunsmore. The importance of keeping this open was acknowledged in the HS2 Act with a specific "assurance" to keep access available for non-motorised traffic. We managed to get HS2 to provide a bridleway around its Small Dean Compound to achieve this while the viaduct piers were being installed. However HS2 has advised that it can't find a "reasonable endeavours" way of maintaining this during the construction of a bridge under the HS2 track. This is expected to take until September next year. The only available route for road bikes avoiding the traffic on the A413 will be by using Ellesborough and Missenden Roads via Butler's Cross. We're trying to get this sorted, and hope to have better news for you next month.

Learn what's next

We're holding a Public Meeting at Wendover Memorial Hall on Friday 28 June at 7pm sponsored by the Parish Council. Come along and hear what's happening with HS2, what it means in the Wendover area, and what we're doing about it. This "Socialise and Inform" event follows on from the successful format of the meeting we held last November; and includes both free wine and an opportunity to have your questions answered.

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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