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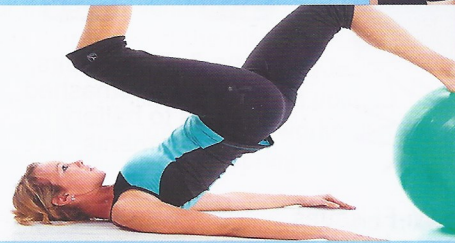
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Cutting remarks: HS2



Temporary traffic lights.
 Photo: Murray Cooke

Lane residents from
 this section.

EKFB has placed a pair of benches beyond the bridge, with what would be a lovely view of the Vale of Aylesbury to Waddesdon and beyond, except for

Finally the Ellesborough Road diversion section has opened to traffic, although not yet quite as planned. There are still traffic lights that control a temporary single lane in the last few tens of metres approaching the lower end of the junction. This is due to ongoing delays in repairing an underground cable and moving an electricity substation to improve road safety.

the huge scar carved out by HS2. Eventually this will disappear under the green tunnel, but by then the diversion road will be surplus to requirements. Its eventual fate is unclear.

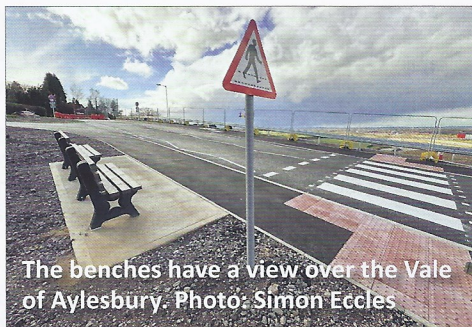
A pedestrian crossing gives access to Coombe Hill and the benches from the other side of the diversion road and the Ellesborough Road pedestrian path, with speed bumps to slow traffic.

Otherwise the new diversion section is complete. It's a 30mph clearway (ie you can't stop to admire the view), with pedestrian pavements. At the Wendover end, it starts just before the cottages, then turns sharp right off Ellesborough Road and left onto a new girder bridge. From there it goes up the hill to re-join Ellesborough Road, where it eventually turns right in the direction of Butlers Cross and Ellesborough itself.

Why is all this disruption necessary in the first place? The route of HS2 will take it under Ellesborough Road, so a cutting needs to be excavated. Eventually this will be roofed and grassed over to form the "Green Tunnel." Several cottages on that section were demolished where the cutting will go.

The remaining cottages can be accessed by a small spur junction to the left. Soon there will be a temporary access road for Bacombe

Originally HS2 wanted to close Ellesborough Road for the duration. However, pressure from Wendover Parish Council prevailed and EKFB built the expensive diversion route. The girder bridge will allow traffic to flow while the cutting is excavated below it.



The benches have a view over the Vale of Aylesbury. Photo: Simon Eccles

The cutting will also allow massive dump trucks to transport the vast hills of excavated chalk built up from the Great Missenden cutting, past Wendover to where it's needed to form the Stoke Mandeville embankment.

Words by Simon Eccles, with thanks to Murray Cooke from Wendover HS2 Mitigation Group for information and photograph.

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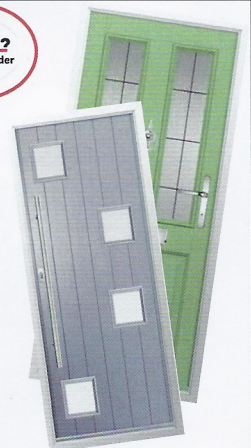
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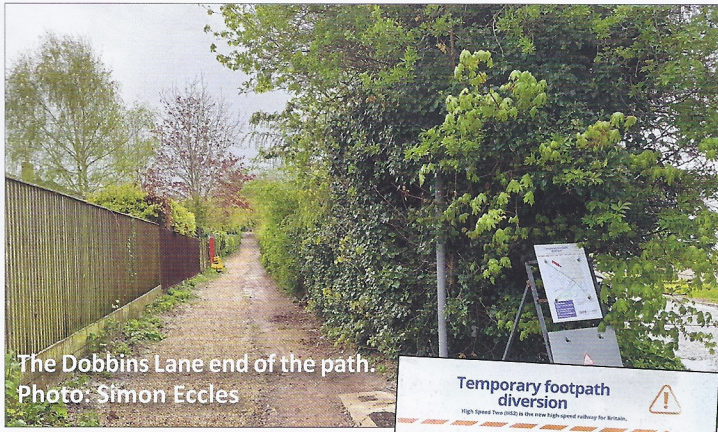
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On 15 April the path between Dobbins Lane and the Station Approach Business Park, and from there to Wendover Station, reopened after 21 months. It had been closed to install a water supply pipe for the HS2 concrete works beside the Wendover bypass.



The Dobbins Lane end of the path. Photo: Simon Eccles

While the works were originally only expected to take eight weeks, the job turned out to be more complex.

There may be a few future days of closure to allow Thames Water to connect the pipe to its water main, but in the meantime commuters and dog walkers will be happy that this well used right of way is available again.

Although the path up from Dobbins Lane has been gravelled, the linking path down to the business park was still completely overgrown and impassible as Wendover News went to press.

This linking path is built on the remains of the embankment that once took the RAF Halton supply railway from the former station goods yard sidings (now the Business Park site), and was never laid with a hard surface.

The path from Dobbins Lane also connects to the Folly Bridge over the railway and bypass. For the time being this remains closed and

walkers cannot get any closer to Folly Bridge than the turning for the path down to the Business Park.

Before HS2's works started, the path over the bridge connected to footpaths between Ellesborough Road and Nash Lee including the Aylesbury Ring route, which was also popular with dog walkers and joggers. The diversion at the entrance at Dobbins Lane says that section of the footpath is likely to remain closed until "summer 2026," although the fact that the path has been gravelled all the way to the bridge holds out some hope that it will be opened that far before long. It would be a good viewpoint from where to watch the HS2 works.



This is as close as you can get to the Folly Bridge for now. Photo: Simon Eccles



The path to the station was impassible on 15 April. Photo: Simon Eccles

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