



Chiltern Tunnel North Portal: Construction Update

December 2021 | www.hs2.org.uk

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. We are following Government and Public Health England (PHE) advice on working safely during the pandemic. As we increase face to face engagement, in addition to virtual engagement, we will ensure all events and meetings adhere to the guidelines. The health and safety of our workforce and the communities we work within is our priority. If you have any questions about this, please contact our Helpdesk to find out more. This notification is to update you on our next construction phases at the North Portal taking place from January 2022.

What are we doing?

Over the last few months, you will have seen our site at North Portal being set up. The North Portal is where the trains will enter and exit the 10 mile-long Chiltern Tunnel and is being constructed within a large site on the north side of Frith Hill (South Heath Leg).

In January 2022, we will begin the next phase of our work which consists of strengthening the ground between the North Portal and Frith Hill as well as the creation of the North Portal head wall, ready to receive the tunnel boring machines (TBMs).

Why are we doing these works?

These works will create a stable support to the tunnel for the passage of the trains. Below ground, a total of 96 barrettes (concrete supporting pillars), arranged in 24 rows of four, will be constructed by the diaphragm walling (d-walling) method. The ground is excavated and backfilled with concrete to form a pillar that helps to strengthen the ground surrounding the tunnel. When the TBMs arrive, they will bore through sections of the barrettes to form a safely strengthened tunnel.

D-walling will also be the method used to construct the head wall; a continuous wall made up of 16 panels. Each panel is constructed using a narrow trench dug into the ground, which is supported by bentonite (engineering fluid), fitted with reinforcing metal rods and then filled with concrete. This will be where the TBMs exit the tunnel.

If you have a question about HS2 or our works, please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Duration of works

Mid-January to summer 2022. Working hours are Monday to Friday 7am up to 10pm and Saturday's from 7 am to 1pm. We will also be on site for one hours start and shut down outside of those times.

What to expect

Site lighting during working hours. Noise from plant and machinery. Construction traffic.

What we will do

- Erect sound barriers around sections of the site facing residents
- Turn off main lights when not in use
- Do all we can to minimise disruption and keep the community updated.

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When are these works taking place?

Mid-January until summer 2022. Site hours will be:

- 7am – 10pm Monday to Friday
- 7am – 1pm Saturday
- We do not anticipate working on Sundays, though some repairs and maintenance may be carried out over the weekend

We aim to meet our planned working dates, but these can change due to the impact of the weather or programme changes. We will do all we can to keep you updated.

Will there be noise and how will it be managed?

Due to the nature of the works, construction noise can be expected from our activities. To lessen the impact, a noise barrier has been erected at strategic locations around the site boundary to reduce the levels of noise leaving the site. We have also installed noise monitoring equipment at several locations. These monitors provide accurate readings that inform us immediately if the works generate unexpectedly high levels of noise which are above accepted levels. Should this happen, then an investigation will be undertaken by our noise and site teams to see how the works can be further controlled. Where possible, noisy activities will be scheduled for daylight hours to lessen disturbance.

How will we manage site lighting?

Mobile lighting will be used in the works areas. These task and tower lights will be placed in strategic positions, directed away from residents as much as practically possible. The site will only be lit this way during working hours. Less intrusive security lighting may be visible after these times as the site is staffed 24/7.

What route will construction vehicles use?

The existing internal haul road that is accessed via the A413 / Link Road roundabout is our dedicated route that will accommodate all our construction traffic including heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).

Staff are encouraged to take public transport where possible and use the Align shuttle busses between local stations and the worksite. Align utilise a car sharing app that assists staff and workers at minimising single occupancy journeys, where safe to do so.

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Future ancillary portal building

We will be organising events for the local community early next year to hear your views on the appearance of the mechanical and electrical building next to the portal. We will contact you further next year to finalise dates and invitations.

Map of works area

North Portal site below:



Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on [08081 434 434](tel:08081434434)

Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes ensuring you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help you.

The Residents' Commissioner

The independent Residents' Commissioner oversees and monitors our commitments to you.

The commissioner's reports and our responses can be found at www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner

The Residents' Commissioner makes sure we fulfil the commitments in the HS2 Community Engagement Strategy (<https://bit.ly/3oOA25j>).

The Residents' Commissioner can be contacted on: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Construction Commissioner

The independent Construction Commissioner regularly meets our Chief Executive Officer to raise any concerns or emerging trends across HS2.

The Construction Commissioner's role has been developed to monitor the way we manage and respond to construction complaints.

The commissioner mediates on disputes about construction, involving individuals and organisations, that we can't resolve. The commissioner advises members of the public about how to make a complaint about construction.

The Construction Commissioner can be contacted on: complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out about HS2 and properties along the route by visiting:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property

Find out if you can claim compensation at:

www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2

Holding us to account

If you are unhappy for any reason you can make a complaint by contacting the HS2 Helpdesk. For more details on our complaints process, please visit:

www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/contact-us/how-to-complain/

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High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.

Registered office: Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.

Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 888 8512 56

Contact us

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

 Minicom **08081 456 472**

 Email **HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk**

Write to:

FREEPOST

HS2 Community Engagement

Website **www.hs2.org.uk**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your local area, visit:
www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk

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