

## Update on Lighting and Noise at the HS2 north portal works for the Chiltern Tunnel – January 2022



**TO:** Residents along Frith Hill (SHL), Bayleys Hatch and Potter Row who are close to the HS2 north portal works

The HS2 contractors, ALIGN, are building the barrettes and the headwall for the north portal and later the portal buildings, whilst EKFB are carrying out the earthworks from Jenkins Wood up to and beyond Rocky Lane.

We have been concerned about lights and noise throughout the area but in particular at the north portal and at the Chesham Road Intervention Shaft (CRIS).

Normal core working hours are 10 hours i.e., 8am to 6pm with a shoulder start up and close down time of an hour at the end of each working period - not for work but for positioning machinery and briefing staff etc. However, both contractors submitted a **section 61** request to Buckinghamshire council to extend working hours to 12 hours of work i.e., 7am to 7pm, Saturday 7am to 1pm, plus shoulder time.

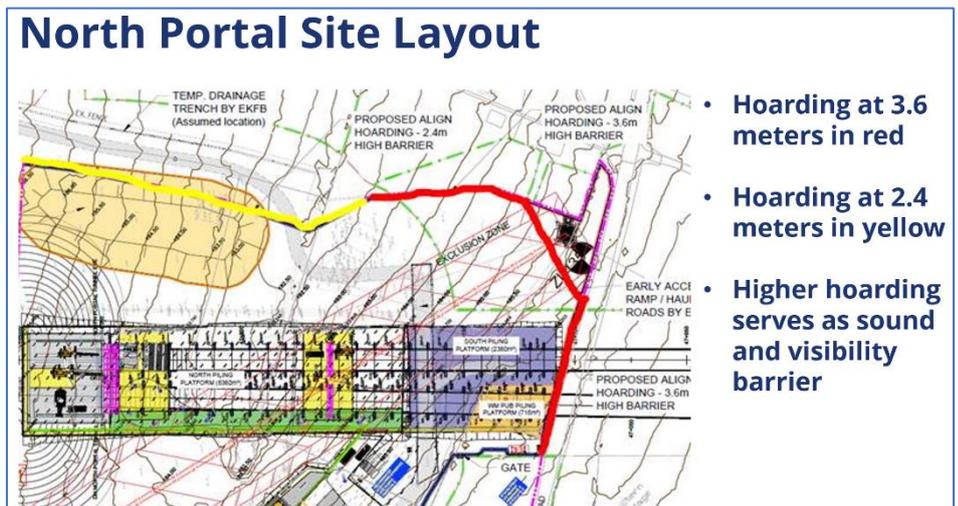
Permission was originally withheld whilst Buckinghamshire Environmental Health Officers reviewed the situation but was then granted. It is worthwhile pointing out that under the Act, that Local Authority only have 28 days to review/contest the submission under limited powers, before having to grant it unless there are specific compelling reasons against.

**Earthworks:** EKFB have been operating with a skeleton crew since November 2021 due to the poor weather. They are unlikely to ramp up operations until better weather in March 2022.

**Work on the barrettes and the portal headwall** by ALIGN will be noisy and should be completed by mid-summer 2022.

Both contractors have submitted a request to extend the working hours to **15 hours** - 7am to 10pm each weekday and in exceptional circumstances beyond 10pm!

Permission if granted is usually for six months and in this case would start in January 2022.



On learning of this further extension to **15** hours, the parish council resolved to exhort Buckinghamshire Environmental Health Officers to restrict this extension on the basis that the loss of darkness and tranquillity within the Chiltern AONB is unacceptable.

There has been a series of meetings with Buckinghamshire Council and the HS2 contractors to agree some mitigation of the impact. **Unfortunately, we do not think that Buckinghamshire Council can withhold permission.**

As part of the discussions, the contractors have agreed to the following forms of mitigation (which in my mind reinforces that they are well aware of the impact of the forthcoming work).

- Evening work up to 10pm only when necessary; they expect work to run down around 9pm!
- Noisy work to be carried out in daylight hours where possible
- Location of noise and dust monitors with data made public
- Muffle noise sources such as generators and compressors
- For vehicles waiting, turn off engines and headlights
- Instal exhaust silencers and set reversing alarms to the minimum
- Continuous concrete pours could run into late evening if problems are encountered
- Lights will face away from residents and be turned off after work ceases with minimum security light remaining – procedures similar to those implemented at CRIS following the GM Parish Council's protests, will be adopted at the ALIGN construction site at the portal
- A 2.4m barrier around the north portal site with a 3.6m barrier on the sides facing the residents of Frith Hill, Bayleys Hatch and Potter Row to mitigate both lights and noise – see diagram overleaf!
- Some properties very close to the construction site are to have secondary glazing fitted
- Temporary Earth Bunds have been built in various locations alongside the yellow brick road (Internal Access Road) up to Bowood Lane to act as noise barriers.
- Dust generation will be suppressed by keeping the area damp and Earth Bunds seeded

ALIGN have issued an Advance Works Notice of which the front page is outlined here which you should have received.

If not, it is available on [www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area) and will be on the Great Missenden Parish Council's website.

### Complaint process:

If you find that some of the work is an unacceptable intrusion, please note the time, date, location and lodge a complaint with a photo if applicable.

**You can make a complaint by visiting the HS2 website:**  
[www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain](http://www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain)

The easiest way is to download an HS2 complaint form, complete it and email it to [HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk), with copies to [clerk@greatmissendenpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatmissendenpc.co.uk) so that I can send it onto the contractor concerned and a copy to [EWRANDHS2enquiries@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:EWRANDHS2enquiries@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) for the Bucks Council HS2 team

**ALIGN** Working in partnership with **HS2**

**Chiltern Tunnel North Portal: Construction Update**  
December 2021 | [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)

**Notification**

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](mailto: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 hour 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.

Call our HS2 Helpdesk team on **08081 434 434**

Thanks, and in spite of all this, wishing you a Healthy and Happy 2022

**Cllr Mike Johnstone**

Contactable via [clerk@greatmissendenpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatmissendenpc.co.uk)