

HS2 Construction

We have had the construction of HS2 on our doorstep for a couple of years now and several residents and businesses have raised concerns regarding the extent of the works. These comments have included phrases such as ‘wholesale destruction of the countryside’ and why is such a large area being used when the width of the completed railway will be only 20 – 30 metres wide.

Most residents will be unfamiliar with the construction of major infrastructure projects, and we in this Parish don’t just have one we have two! Namely the M42 Junction 6 and HS2.

In order to try and reassure residents that what is happening is quite normal for major construction work, and the situation will improve when the work is completed, the Parish Council has obtained a booklet containing aerial images of the completed section of HS1 as it runs through Kent. This work was completed in the early 2000’s and the photographs were taken a year or two after this. They show how the mainly rural areas along the line of the railway have been regenerated.

Five images have been selected from this booklet and these are briefly described below:

Image 1

This shows the centre of Ashford with the interchange station in the centre of the image and a Eurostar train at one of the platforms. The through route of HS1 is initially on a viaduct to the right of the station and then descends into a cut and cover tunnel as it heads west towards London.



Image 2

In this image taken to the west of Ashford, the line of HS1 passes through a short cut and cover tunnel before crossing over the M20 Motorway at Tutt Hill.



Image 3

Close to Leeds Castle HS1 runs parallel with the M20. In the distance is the 360m long cut and cover tunnel at Eyhorne Street.



Image 4

In this image yet another cut and cover tunnel at Boxley near to Maidstone.



Image 5

This last image shows HS1 alongside the M2 Motorway near Singlewell at the western end of the route through Kwenton.



If anyone has any questions or queries regarding these images, then please contact the Parish Council and we will be pleased to answer them. One of our councillors is a retired highway and railway engineer who worked on the design of HS1 through Ashford and the surrounding areas.