

## Hockley Viaduct restoration project completed



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Photo: Dave Allen

THE last piece of a vast restoration project has been completed.

Hockley Viaduct, the Victorian structure that carried a railway across the Itchen Valley south of [Winchester](#), has been restored in recent years.

It includes a signal and pieces of coloured glass have now been inserted into the arm. The pieces of red and green glass complete the signal which is positioned as 'clear to proceed'. Julia Sandison, chairman of the Friends of Hockley Viaduct, told Belgarum: "We've finally been able to carry out the last little thing that needed doing to the Hockley Viaduct ie to insert the coloured 'spectacles' into the signal arm.

"We had them for some time but with one thing and another have had to wait until Sustrans could carry out their work on the Viaduct, cutting back some of the overhanging trees. At last they're in place and the Viaduct looks spectacular!"

Julia explained: "The two lights are one red and one green and with these particular spectacles the green one is actually quite blue-ish. This is because the signal was lit with an oil lamp so the yellow flame would have turned the blue to green."

The viaduct was built in the 1890s and is primarily made of concrete. It carried the railway which ran from Newbury to Southampton and closed in the 1960s.

Plans in the 1980s to blow it up by the Army were dropped after a public outcry because of the impact on the valley and the expense of removing the debris afterwards.

Eventually the owners, the city council, decided it would be cheaper to repair and maintain it than any other option.