

## A421 M1 Junction 13 to Bedford Improvements Newsletter Issue 5 - April 2010

**Welcome to the fifth issue of the A421 Improvements Scheme Newsletter. After the recent inclement weather which initially slowed construction, the weather and ground conditions have now improved to enable good progress to be made throughout the scheme.**

**Following the cold weather in January and February, a team carried out work to repair frost damaged carriageway on the existing A421.**

Much of the focus this year has been on side road and junction construction at M1 Junction 13, bridge construction at Marsh Leys Junction, Kempston, and the new Fields Road junction that opened on time in March. Changes to the road layout are frequently being made as the scheme progresses, these are designed to keep road users and our workers safe, **so please be careful.**

### M1 Junction 13 to Brogborough landfill

#### West of M1

Construction of the off-line section of the A421 Milton Keynes link is well under way, as are the foundations of the re-aligned M1 Northbound exit slip road. Construction of the new western roundabout at Junction 13 on the Milton Keynes link road is due to start after Easter.

M1 Brogborough and Salford Road bridges – The new Salford Road bridge deck is nearing completion and we are currently completing the abutments to the M1 bridge.

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#### M1 to Salford Road

Kerbing to Salford Road is nearing completion and surfacing will be significantly complete in early April. Erection of signs and street lights has begun, there will be night time lane closures at the A421, Junction 13, during this time.

Construction of Salford Road roundabout is progressing well together with the M1 Southbound entry and exit slip roads. Lighting columns are currently being installed on the new Salford Road.

#### Brogborough

Earthworks recommenced in mid-March thanks to the improved weather, allowing work on the mainline to progress in anticipation of opening the new road at the end of this year.

#### Manor Farm/North Common Farm/landfill site

Construction of the new North Common Farm access is complete and opened to traffic at the end of March.

Works to switch the existing A421 onto its new alignment are due to be completed by the end of April.

#### Landfill site to Beancroft Road, Marston Moretaine

Traffic switched onto a realigned section of A421 near the landfill site on 19 March. A new turning area for landfill traffic has been incorporated in the works, to allow the remainder of the re-aligned A421 to be constructed.

Construction of the new bridge at Vale Farm has progressed well and will be complete in the next few months. Wood End Bridge will be completed and in use by the end of April.

## Beancroft Road to Fields Road, Wootton

### Marston Junction

The new bridge at Beancroft Road is nearing completion. The new roundabout opposite the Little Chef is taking shape. A full closure of Beancroft Road will be required to fully complete the tie-ins and surfacing works. This will also include the closure of the Lower Shelton Link Road. The closure dates will be notified to local residents by letter during April.

### Hoo Lane

A421 surfacing of the existing Marston Moretaine bypass between Hoo Lane and the Marston Moretaine Roundabout is now complete, with just some overnight drainage works to be constructed over the coming weeks. Bedford Road Roundabout will be constructed after the opening of the new road.

## Fields Road to A6

### Fields Road

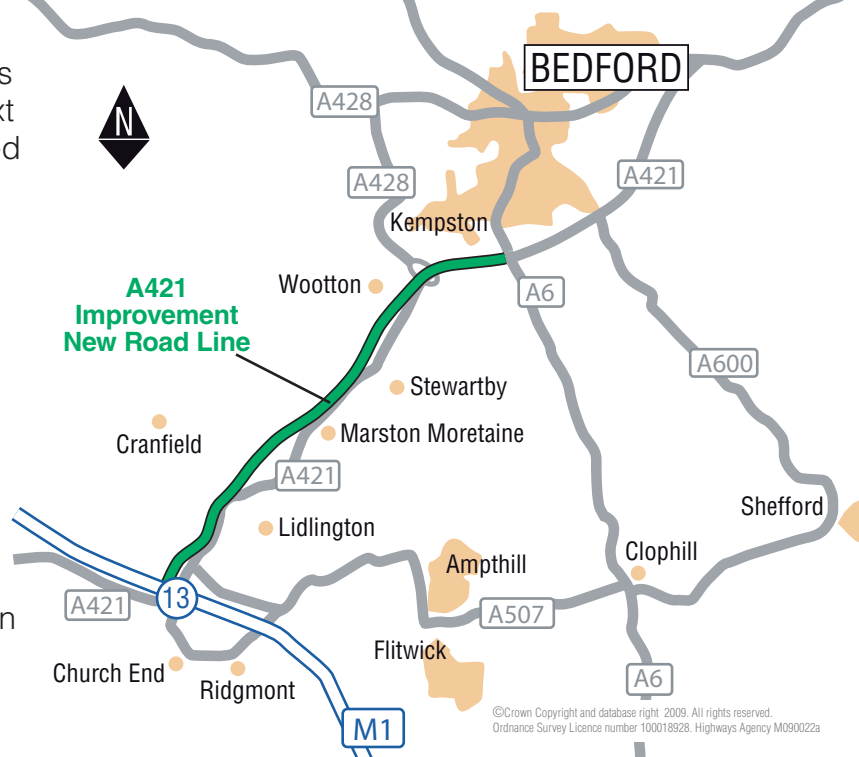
Fields Road opened on 15 March allowing traffic to pass over the new bridges and use the new roundabout on the existing A421. Some minor finishing works are still required and these will be completed under full A421 overnight closures between Manor Road and Fields Road during April. This will include the closure of Fields Road itself.

### Marsh Leys Junction

The two new bridges at Marsh Leys Junction are currently having the beams installed and a series of overnight closures of the roundabout are in place to facilitate this. A421 traffic will still be able to pass through the junction east and west bound.

### Marsh Leys to A6 Junction

The new railway bridge over the Bedford to Bletchley line is nearing completion. Widening works and overlaying of existing A421 Westbound started during the weeks leading up to Easter, including new construction surfacing on the approach to Marsh Leys railway bridge.



## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT/ROAD CLOSURES FOR FUTURE WORK

### A421 temporary 40mph speed restriction

with average speed cameras and single lane running from the M1 Junction 13 to the A6

### M1 Junction 13 – overnight slip road closures

**A421/M1 Junction 13** – overnight lane closures for construction of Salford Road roundabout on-going until early May

**A421 Brogborough/Lidlington** – overnight closures on-going until end April

**A421 Wood End** – overnight closures on-going until early May

**A421 Beancroft Road and Lower Shelton Link Road** – overnight closures to the end of May

**A421 Fields Road** – overnight carriageway closures on-going until end of April

**A421 Marsh Leys Junction** – carriageway and lane closures for bridge beam installation on-going until end of April

**A421 no right turns to or from the B530** – at the site of the former Interchange Retail Park roundabout, full closure Spring 2010

**A421 no right turns** – to or from Bedford Road, Marston Moretaine

## THE ENVIRONMENT

### Fairtrade fortnight 22 February – 7 March 2010

Following on from the recent national Fairtrade fortnight the project has continued to order and supply Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar.

During the fortnight over 200 site people attended specific project briefings relating to Fairtrade and other environmental topics.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### ICE visit Marston Vale Middle School

The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Graduates organised a school visit on 17th March to Marston Vale Middle School as part of the ICE's commitment to support and promote professional learning to both students and existing practitioners. Two members of site staff from the A421 Improvements Scheme gave a two hour presentation to Year 8 students to encourage their interests in maths and sciences for their GCSE subjects and to introduce them to the prospects of a civil engineering career.

The presentation included the M1 Junction 13 bridge lift DVD and the ICE video on "Who is an Engineer". Students then took part in a structure building activity where the students, in groups, built a structure using straws that was capable of holding a plastic cup while being filled with water without spilling it. The activity was a success and positive feedback was received from the school. The ICE are planning a further visit to the school for Year 7 students.



If you need help using this or any other Highways Agency information, please call **08457 50 40 30** and we will assist you.

## A421 Project Helpline

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Jan Bath,**  
**Balfour Beatty Public Liaison Officer,**  
**A421 Improvement Scheme,**  
**Hoo Lane (off Woburn Road),**  
**Wootton, Bedfordshire,**  
**MK43 9EH**

Email: [Jan.bath@bbcel.co.uk](mailto:Jan.bath@bbcel.co.uk)

Tel: **0845 481 0867**

## Contacting the Highways Agency

You can also get in touch with the Highways Agency about the A421 Improvement by:

Email: [A421M1toBedford@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:A421M1toBedford@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

Tel: **Roy Brunsdon 01234 796099**

Web: [www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4584.aspx](http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4584.aspx)

Post: **Highways Agency, Major Projects, Woodlands, Bedford MK41 7LW**

## For general information about motorways and trunk roads please call the information line on:

**08457 50 40 30**

Lines open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

BT landlines 4p/min; calls from mobiles usually cost more

Real-time traffic information:

**08700 660 115**

Lines open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

BT landline calls cost no more than 8p/min; calls from mobiles usually cost more

## Safety at roadworks



**The Highways Agency is working with the industry and road users to reduce the risks of working on the roads.**

For the safety of roadworkers and all road users, when you are approaching roadworks:

- Keep within the speed limit – it is there for your safety.
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching.
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks.
- Be alert for works traffic leaving or entering roadworks.
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front.
- Observe all signs – they are there to help you.