

Great Barford Bypass First Newsletter June 2005

Introduction

Welcome to our first newsletter which is intended to provide an insight as to progress on construction of the A421 Great Barford Bypass. My name is Tim Hughes. I am the Highways Agency Project Leader for the scheme, based in our Bedford Office.

We plan to maintain good communication with local residents throughout construction. To help us achieve this, our contractor, Edmund Nuttall is a member of the 'Considerate Constructors scheme' which means they are continually measured against a set of criteria that puts your needs first. This includes keeping disruption to a minimum. We are collectively committed to measuring noise, which is currently well within required levels. Construction operations and site vehicle movements are being carried out with great care and consideration for the safety of the general public, and site workers. No building activity shall be a safety risk to others. The bypass is due to be completed by September 2006.

If you have any queries or problems or need any further information please do not hesitate to contact Peter Paskell, our site based Public Liaison Officer, on 01480 218 280.

Education and Environment Initiative

We have already established links with local schools. During March we accepted an invitation to visit a local Lower School. Here we provided the children with information about the construction of the Bypass and how long it will take to build.

We told them of the steps we take to protect the environment, wildlife, and about the archaeological items found on the site. Our Safety Advisor also explained the dangers that exist on construction sites.



Peter Paskell,
Public Liaison Officer at a local Lower School

Later on in the month the same children visited the site with teachers and parents to see our site for themselves and complete a geography project.

From the safety of a fenced area at the site of the new Water End Overbridge, some distance from the work, the children watched a large excavator loading soil into large dump trucks. They were told that what they were watching was the start of building a bridge and that where they were standing would be a dual carriageway.

Peter Paskell the Public Liaison Officer said "The children were really enthusiastic about the project and asked particularly relevant questions. They wanted to know how we were protecting the wildlife. We were able to tell them about our environmental protection. They will each receive a certificate for their site project".

Howbury Hall Underpass - Reinforcement required to strengthen the box shaped structure.

Howbury Hall Underpass - The concrete floor slab.

Newt Fencing - Start of works temporary Great Crested Newt translocation fencing to trap and move newts.

Kiln Excavation - Excavation of a Roman period pottery kiln, probably last used in the 3rd century AD.

Posthole Excavation - Most buildings in the Great Barford area from the Roman period were built of wood This photograph shows the remains of a single posthole which is all that remains of a building dating to the 2nd century AD. When in use this building may have been thatched with wooden planked walls.

Earthworks - Large earth moving machinery constructing the main carriageway, embankments and cuttings.

Earthworks - The main embankment forming operation has begun in earnest.

Black Cat Roundabout - This is an aerial photograph of Black Cat Roundabout, before enlargement.

Fencing - 12,000m of fencing have been installed to delineate farm boundaries and protect animals from traffic hazards.

Trial Panel - Built to demonstrate concrete finish, this is a small model of what the bridge piers will look like.

Casket Cremations - In the late 1st century AD the tradition of cremation was popular amongst the farming communities who once occupied the land around Great Barford. In many cases the cremation was accompanied by gifts. In this example a wooden casket, which appears as a black rectangle in this photograph, contained two small pottery jars, possibly containing offering for the gods.

Temporary Traffic Diversions - First area of tarmac laid to construct traffic diversions to accommodate traffic across the site during construction.

Water End Overbridge - Earth moving machines digging the large excavation for the bridge foundations.

Water End Overbridge - After the earth moving was completed a crane platform was built for the crane to place the steel bridge beams.

Coming soon - Structure

- Around the end of June - Bridge beams will be placed on Water End Bridge
- Mid July - Birchfield Road and Barford Road bridges foundations to commence.
- Around the end of July - the construction of the Howbury Hall underpass will near completion.

Coming soon - Earthworks

The main earthworks cut and fill operations began in April and are planned to be completed by October to take advantage of the summer months. This work is very sensitive to weather conditions and cannot be undertaken as efficiently in the winter. Drainage works are under way and will proceed until the end of the project duration.

Coming soon - Landscaping (trees and shrubs)

Trees and shrubs will be planted throughout the site. The trees will range from Standards, of between 2.5m and 3m high; Feathered Standards, between 1.25m and 1.5m and smaller trees up to 30cm.

Coming soon - Black Cat Roundabout

Construction of the new Black Cat Roundabout will begin to take shape. The new roundabout is twice as large as the old one. Temporary speed restrictions and traffic management will be required while this work is being carried out. Due to extensive phasing work necessary it is expected to take up to 14 months to complete this work.

Coming soon - Water End Junction

Construction of the new Water End Junction has already commenced. This will replace the existing A421/A428 roundabout. In July work will commence to construct the new approach roads. Temporary speed restrictions and traffic management will be required while this work is being carried out.

Stay away from construction sites warns Highways Agency - by Tim Hughes

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) reports that one or two people die each week on construction sites throughout the country. The HSE's advice is short and to the point - building sites are dangerous places and if you don't need to be on one, you should not visit.

The Highways Agency wants the works at the Great Barford Bypass to be as swift and as smooth as possible. But several residential streets lead on to the site, bringing members of the public into close proximity with the works and dangers. I can only repeat the HSE's advice - it is not safe for members of the public to visit building sites.

The HSE also warns us that 'building sites act like a magnet to children who don't understand the dangers there'. We all have a responsibility to protect children in the neighbourhood for the duration of the works. It is not enough just to tell them not to go, as they may not necessarily understand why it is dangerous.

Here are a few key points:

- Large vehicles coming and going - sometimes they are so big that they may not see you until it is too late!
- Building materials like bricks, pipes or sand - you do not know how safe they are, bricks and pipes may collapse and fall, and sand could have glass or other sharp things hidden within it.
- Heavy machinery - may look like big toys but it is extremely dangerous and can cause **SERIOUS** damage.

Please heed our warnings and do not venture on to the site uninvited. The HSE's publication educating children about the dangers of construction sites "Stay Safe, Building Site Safety" can be ordered free of charge by contacting HSE books on 01787 881165.

Rogue Traders

THE HIGHWAYS AGENCY ALERTS RESIDENTS TO BE WARY OF BOGUS "WORKERS" TOUTING FOR RESURFACING BUSINESS.

Householders who live in the areas close to new road construction projects have been approached by workers claiming to represent the Highways Agency and offering to resurface their driveways, the Agency has been told.

The workmen are reported to be using vehicles branded with markings and a fake logo that could easily be confused with the Highways Agency's own vehicle livery and logo. The Agency wishes to make it clear that such workers are not employees of the Highways Agency or its contractors.

Tim Hughes, Highways Agency Project Leader for the A421 Great Barford Bypass, said: "*Neither the Highways Agency nor its contractors would undertake this form of private work nor would we approach house holders in this way.*"

Anyone who is approached in similar circumstances should contact the police or Trading Standards as soon as possible, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

For further information contact:

The main site office is based on Roxton Road to the north of the A421. If you want to contact the team for any reason please call our Public Liaison Officer, Peter Paskell on 01480 218 280.

Or write to: The Great Barford Bypass Site Office, Edmund Nuttall Ltd, Roxton Road, Near Roxton, Bedfordshire, MK44 3BP.

If you would like a paper copy of this document in full with further information then please call HAIL on 08457 50 40 30 and quote HA97/05.

For further information on the Highways Agency call our information line: 08457 50 40 30