

Haughley New Street to Stowmarket Improvement | A14

Construction News issue 3 – January 2008

We started construction of this new section of A14 between Haughley New Street and Stowmarket in June. The scheme will improve safety and journey times.

So what have we done in the last three months?

We started work on the Haughley Road underpass in September; the foundations are in place and the concrete walls are being cast in sections. These will hold back the soil on the embankments and support the bridge deck. This new bridge will allow safe access for local traffic under the new A14. We are also in the process of constructing the Tot Hill Culvert (a tunnel through the embankment). Once this is complete the stream will be diverted through the culvert under the new dual carriageway and the road construction can continue across the valley.

Foundations have been completed for Tot Hill bridge, which will form part of the new two level junction, and construction of the retaining walls is under way.



Our contractors Birse Civils Limited have been busy with the earthworks and these are broadly on programme. We have been putting down the stone sub-base for the road, and the first sections of blacktop surfacing at the western end of the scheme have been laid. We have also completed the concrete surfacing and kerbing to the two new lay-bys. We have carried out all this work with minimum disruption to local homes and businesses.

We have excavated to create balancing ponds so that surface water running off the new road will collect within these ponds from where it will be allowed to drain slowly into the existing watercourses. These ponds will perform a vital function in flood prevention and pollution control.

We have formed new embankments and cutting slopes at the side of the road and completed sections have been

covered with a layer of topsoil, treated with weed killer, and seeded.

Future work

To reduce the problems caused by queuing vehicles waiting to turn into the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Bury Road, we are developing a revised road layout for the entrance in consultation with Suffolk County Council. This new layout will allow more cars to queue safely before entering the Recycling Centre and will help to reduce congestion for other road users.

The Environment

Near to the construction areas, we have cleared the existing embankment along the A14 of all trees and brambles to discourage badgers from returning to their old setts. We have put up six kilometres of new badger fencing to help keep them away from the construction areas and encourage them to relocate into new habitats outside the works.

We are continually looking for ways to increase the environmental



sustainability of our work and one aspect of this is increased recycling on the project. We have used recycled broken glass to form the filters for the drains. The glass is treated to ensure there are no sharp edges and this has proved to be an excellent use for waste glass.

School Visit

Two members of the Birse site team visited Crawfords Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School in Haughley on 30 October 2007. They gave a talk to the pupils, aged 4 to 9, on safety and issues arising from the

scheme. This included ecology, the environment, archaeology and the advantages the scheme will bring. The pupils were very interested and asked some good questions. As the visit was a success we hope to visit again when the scheme is nearing completion.

If you have any comments or would like further information, you can contact Birse Civils Limited's Public Liaison Officer, Alan Jones on 0800 032 9760 or visit our website: www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/13030.aspx

Contacting the Highways Agency

For questions or comments

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