

# Wolvercote | A34

## Viaduct Replacement

## Introduction...

**W**elcome to our fifth newsletter advising you of progress with the replacement of the A34 Wolvercote Viaduct.

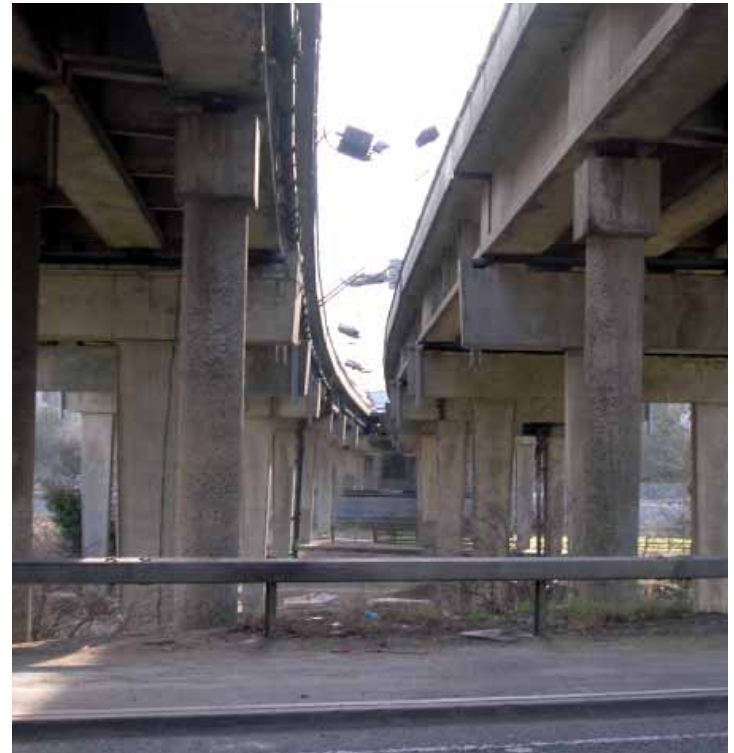
We hope you have found our previous newsletters useful and that they have provided you with an insight into the project.

We have now moved into the construction phase of the scheme which will take about 2 years to complete (Summer 2010).

Since the exhibition in May we have set up the site compound adjacent to the Viaduct on the south side of the A40, continued with survey, ecological, site clearance and archaeological works, and commenced works on the temporary viaduct.

Costain, who are working on this scheme on behalf of the Highways Agency, are delighted to have been awarded this scheme and are looking forward to completing it, as efficiently as possible with minimum disruption to the travelling public.

Our aim in publishing this newsletter, at quarterly intervals, is to keep you informed of our progress. This will be supported by articles that we hope you find interesting.



*View of A34 Wolvercote Viaduct from the A40*

## Project Outline

The main components of the scheme are:

- **Construct temporary southbound bridge deck to the east of the existing structure**
- **Demolish the existing northbound bridge deck and rebuild**
- **Demolish the existing southbound bridge deck and rebuild**
- **Slide the temporary southbound bridge deck into its permanent location**
- **Demolish the temporary southbound piers and remove the temporary North abutment**

The scheme will alleviate the traffic delays associated with ongoing maintenance of the existing structure.

### This newsletter includes the following sections:

- **Project Outline**
- **Progress and Forthcoming Programme**
- **Traffic Management**
- **Environmental Issues**

# Progress and Forthcoming Programme

Since arrival on site in early May this year the following work has been undertaken / completed.

- **Completion of a temporary access ramp from the lay-by (northbound) on the A34 south of Peartree interchange to give access to the works area adjacent to the south end of the viaduct.**
- **Commenced widening of south abutment embankment (southbound)**
- **A40 temporary diversion**
- **70% of piling completed for the temporary viaduct**
- **Installation of sheet piles for north and south abutments. Excavation for the new temporary abutments has commenced**
- **Protection of southern watercourse**
- **Completion of badger mitigation works**

The next three months taking us up to Christmas 2008 will see completion of all the sub-structure for the temporary viaduct, completion of the north and south temporary abutments, erection of steelwork and commencement of the deck works.

## Traffic Management

To construct the scheme it is necessary to employ traffic management. This includes:

- **A34 narrow lanes (but retaining two in each direction during the day and at peak times)**
- **A34 night-time single lane closures. There will be no full lane closures**
- **A34 mandatory speed restriction (40 mph) for the safety of road users and road workers**
- **A40 narrow lanes (but retaining one in each direction during the day and at peak times)**
- **A40 speed restriction (30 mph) for the safety of road users and road workers**

## A34

As part of our commitment to minimise our impact on journey times, we have altered our construction methods and have implemented a local narrow lane scheme on the A34 on the approach to Peartree Interchange. This scheme operates utilising a 40 miles per hour mandatory speed restriction. This enables us to gain access into the south side of the A34 Wolvercote Viaduct to construct an access and work on the south bridge abutment.

## A40

The narrow lanes on the A40 past our site entrance and under the A34 Viaduct continue with a mandatory 30 mph speed restriction. The second phase running eastbound traffic behind the existing bridge piers, has been completed and traffic has now been placed back onto the original A40 alignment retaining the narrow lanes to continue our works.

The pedestrian operated traffic signals will continue to run to assist foot and cycleway traffic crossing the A40.

We are pleased to say that there are no delays as a result of the installation of these schemes.

## Cycle / Footway

A40 north side is closed at present to enable works to continue on the north side and the path diverted onto the southside.

The Oxford canal tow path from the stables north of Godstow Road to the viaduct has been closed but the bridleway remains open and has been trimmed back to facilitate access.

The above schemes have all been signed in accordance with current standards and alterations will be publicised using information bulletins in many formats, including the media. We ask you to take extra care during these phases for the sake of your safety and that of workers and other road users -Thank you

The speed limits through the narrow lanes (reduced lane widths) are there for your safety as well as our workforce

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY  
OBSERVE THE SIGNS  
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE  
OBSERVE THE SPEED LIMIT

## Environmental Issues

As part of continuous improvement drive the A34 Wolvercote Project has been registered with Considerate Construction Scheme. The aim of this initiative is to evaluate the project performance against criteria based around the Environment, Good Neighbours and Respectfulness.

## Ecology

Although it appears that a lot of vegetation has been cleared from the project site only that which was necessary has been removed. An ancient hedgerow alongside the canal side bridleway has been trans-located and is doing well in its temporary location. It is intended that the hedge will be put back in its original location at the end of the project. Before we started excavation work we ensured the survival of over 200 slow worms and grass snakes, all safely trans-located to two sites especially prepared for them. Several areas of species rich grassland have also been relocated. When the project is completed the landscape will be sympathetically replanted and over time will look as it did before we arrived.



## Archaeology

During topsoil clearance operations evidence of Roman occupation has been discovered. Under guidance from the County Archaeologist the site was investigated with a small-scale excavation to enable us to understand the site better and was then recorded. The archaeology is in an area that will not be disturbed and will now be preserved 'in-situ' for the future.



## Forthcoming Public Meeting

The Project Team will be holding a number of meetings throughout the construction period to give the public an opportunity to discuss the works.

Public Meetings will start promptly at 7 pm. It is intended that Costain staff will give a brief description of the general works and then forthcoming works. This will be followed by a Question and Answer session to allow members of the public to ask specific questions. The meeting will be held at:

Wolvercote Young Peoples Club  
St Peters Road, Wolvercote  
on

Tuesday 23rd September 2008 at 7pm

## Project Helpline

If you have any queries or wish to bring to our attention any problems, then please contact Trevor Spice, Costain Community Relations Manager on our Helpline (telephone number shown below) and he will address your particular query or problem.

Our aim is to ensure that the minimum of inconvenience is caused to you. We promise to respond quickly to your complaint through personal contact and with a quick resolution.

**Project Helpline Number: 0845 602 2547**

Costain's 24 hour project helpline is available to answer questions and give details of construction work or visit the HA Website.

## Contacting the Highways Agency

You can also get in touch with the Highways Agency about the Viaduct Replacement:

Email: [A34WolvercoteViaduct@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:A34WolvercoteViaduct@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

Tel: **08457 50 40 30**

Website: [www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)

By post: **Highways Agency  
Major Projects  
Room 2B, Federated House  
London Road  
Dorking, Surrey RH4 1SZ**



A34 Wolvercote Viaduct

For real time traffic information:

**08700 660 115**

[www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo](http://www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo)

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(Calls from BT landlines to 0870 numbers will cost no more than 8p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

For general Highways Agency information:

**08457 50 40 30**

email: [ha\\_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(Calls from BT landlines to 0845 numbers will cost no more than 4p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

## Safe driving at roadworks

*Remember that tiredness can kill. Take regular breaks from driving.*



**During 2006 two workers were killed and 19 seriously injured in the course of their work on Highways Agency roads.**

For the safety of all road users and roadworkers, 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.