

A3 Hindhead Improvement Major Improvement Works • Newsletter 10

Welcome to issue 10 of the Hindhead news. It is nearly one year since we started work and the critical activities are on time or slightly ahead.



Regular users of the A3 will by now be familiar with the diversion of the A3 at the north end to allow us to build the Greensand Way and Hindhead Hill underpasses. Now we have finished the tree clearing it is possible to see all the way through Boundless Valley to the northern entrances of the tunnels.

At the south end the first half of the Canadian Memorial underpass is nearly complete and so we plan to remove the two-way traffic on the southbound carriageway in time for Christmas.

There has been much activity in the Hammer Lane area where we have built a temporary diversion for the A3.

We have also started work on the southern entrances to the tunnel in Tyndalls Wood.

Key Activities for 2008

January - start Hammer Lane underpass (A3 traffic on a temporary diversion)

February - start tunnelling from the north

March - switch traffic back on to A3 at north end

April - start tunnelling from the south end

May - open Greensand Way underpass

July - open Canadian Memorial underpass. Start Hazel Grove bridge

October - complete Hammer Lane underpass and return traffic to A3

So how do we get the tunnels in the right place and to meet in the middle?

Around 15 years ago a network of survey stations were established in the area for the planned A3 improvements and these were linked to the Ordnance Survey grid. To check these existing stations, and establish new ones necessary for our works, we will be using the Global Positioning System (GPS).

This uses the same satellites as a car navigation system, but that is where the similarity ends. The GPS receivers are set on our survey stations for at least one hour to record their position. The results are processed later to give at least centimetre accuracy as opposed to the 5 to 10 metres obtained from car systems.

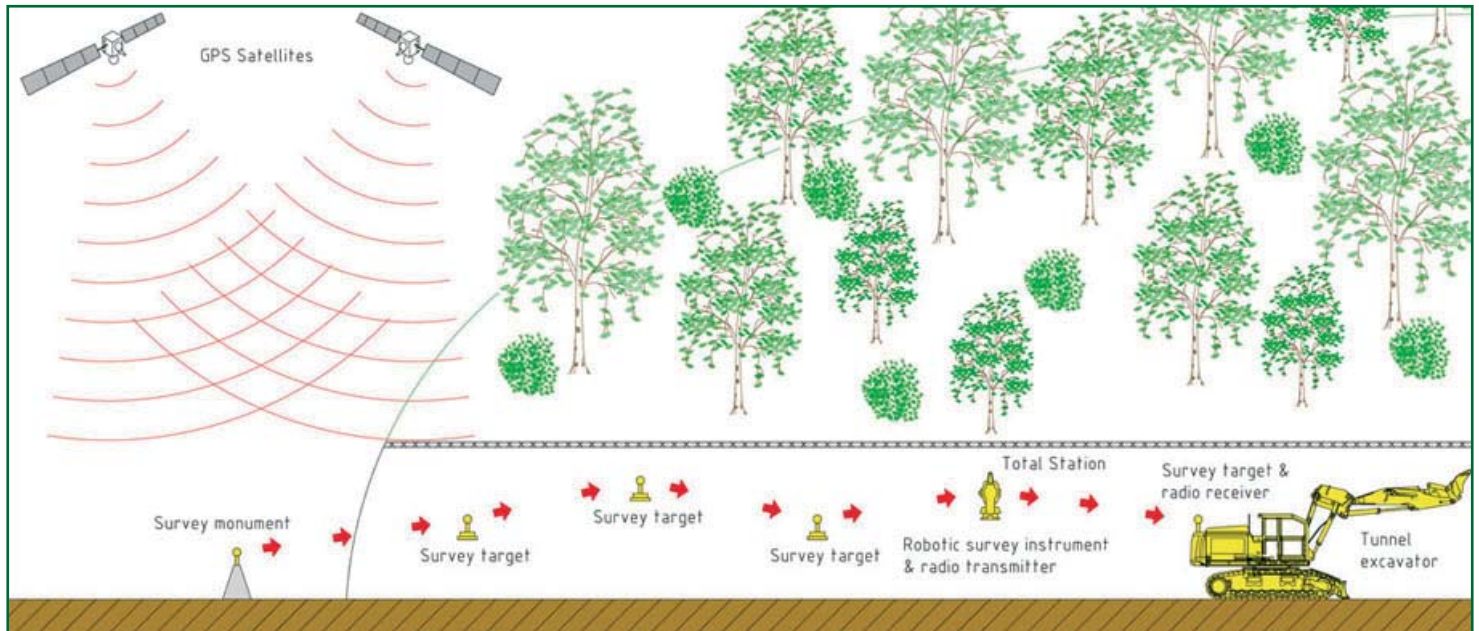


Survey "monument" with GPS receiver on top

Four permanent survey "monuments" have been established in this way at each end of the tunnel.

From these positions we will then establish more survey stations around the tunnel entrance and eventually inside the tunnel. The most advanced (the one nearest the tunnel face) station will be used to control the tunnel excavation.

Diagram showing how the excavator is positioned correctly



The tunnel guidance system consists of a robotic theodolite which will be orientated by sighting back down the tunnel, taking readings on the previous survey stations and then tracking targets on the tunnel excavator.

This tells the excavator operator his position in real time and so where to dig. In this way we will control the tunnel alignment.



Robot Theodolite tracking the excavator

South portal works

The good weather this autumn has enabled us to press on with earthworks in Tyndalls Wood and start creating the tunnel entrances. The scale of operations here can be judged by the size of the excavators. The foreground will be some 18 metres (60ft) lower in the final scheme. To the left of the picture is where there will be a large drainage pond to take the water run-off from the road.



North portal works

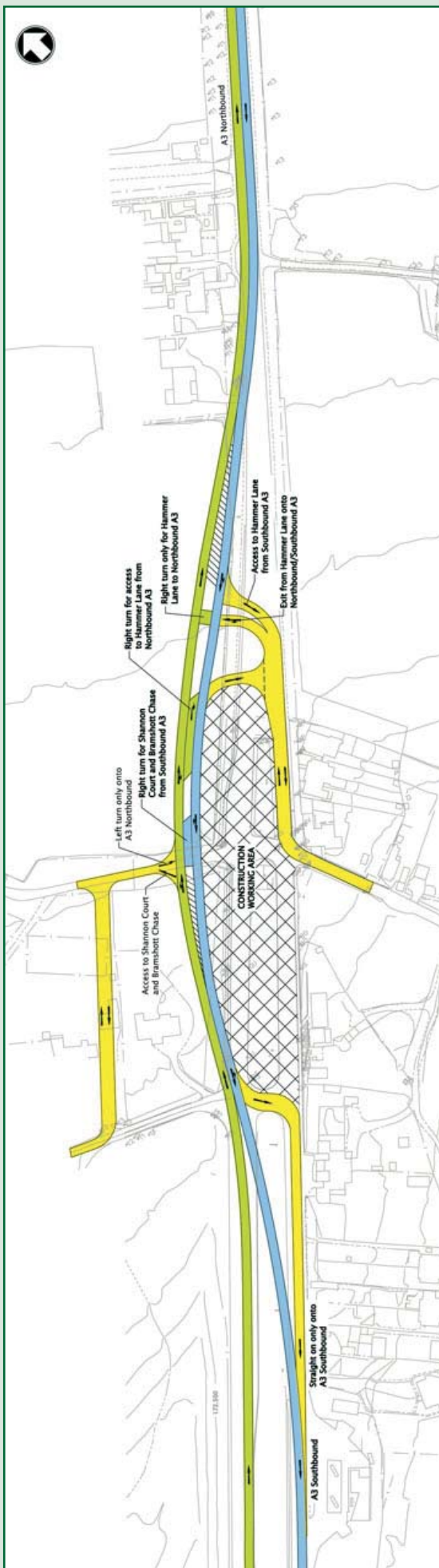
The north portal temporary works are now complete and work is underway installing service supplies and all the equipment necessary to start tunnelling.



Greensand Way Underpass

We used a 500 tonne crane to lift these precast concrete units to form the underpass (see picture on front page). A concrete floor is then cast to connect the units, the joints between the units sealed and then the ground re-instated. Through the underpass you can just see the earth bank separating the work site from the temporary diversion of the A3.





The temporary diversion is planned to be in place until October 2008. Over Christmas 2007 this layout will be simplified to a similar principle as the layout before work started but making use of the diversion for northbound traffic only.

Keeping the traffic moving

We know that a driver's first reaction to cones on the road is often to try and find another route. We have been working at how we can give drivers more information and persuade them to stay on the A3 rather than divert onto unsuitable alternative routes. So we have introduced the following to help drivers:

- Free vehicle recovery between Thursley and Liphook junctions
- Live journey time information
- CCTV coverage of our roadworks.

Free recovery and CCTV coverage means we can clear breakdowns and accidents quicker and reduce delays.

The journey time information gives drivers an indication of how long it is currently taking to travel between either Liphook or Thursley to the Hindhead lights. We obtain the data on journey times from Trafficmaster and this is then displayed on two mobile variable message signs and also on our website.

Unfortunately there have been problems with the signs reliability but this is being worked on.



The website also has historic information on journey times by day and time of day for the previous six weeks. This will help people plan journeys during quieter times.

Drivers may have noticed that Southern Counties Radio now gives delay times at Hindhead. They are getting the information from our website.

Hindhead Together's work starts

The Hindhead Together Partnership held their launch event on 29th November.

The event was a chance for local people to hear about the plans and how they could get involved. The work will draw on what local people and organizations think and will provide a framework for the more detailed planning process.

The chair of the Hindhead Together Partnership is Poul Christensen, who is also deputy chair of Natural England and a South East England Development

Agency Board member. He visited the tunnel site in September and met representatives of local businesses to hear their views.

Mr Christensen is aiming to ensure that, amongst several priorities, development is appropriate to the needs of local people and businesses.

Hindhead Together also now has a project co-ordinator, Caroline White. She has recently worked for the Surrey Police Authority and has been heavily involved in community engagement, communications and consultations. Caroline lives near Haslemere and knows the Hindhead area well. The Hindhead Together Partnership is working alongside those building the road scheme to make the most of the economic, social and environmental opportunities to realize the vision for the wider Hindhead area.

For further information on Hindhead Together Caroline White can be contacted at the Witley Centre on:

Tel: **01428 683207**

Email: **caroline@hindheadtogether.org.uk**

Address: **c/o Witley Centre**

Witley, Godalming, Surrey GU8 5QA



Poul Christensen



Caroline White

Keeping you informed

Ian Whyte, who works for Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering, is the Community Relations Manager and is ready to answer any questions you may have.

His details are as follows:

Email: **ian.whyte@bbcel.co.uk**

Tel: **01428 686000**

Address: **Community Relations Manager** A3 Hindhead project office, Portsmouth Road, Thursley, Surrey GU8 6NN

You can also get in touch with the Highways Agency:

Email: **paul.arnold@highways.gsi.gov.uk**

Website: **www.highways.gov.uk**

Tel: **01306 878475**

Address: **Highways Agency** Major Projects, Room 2A, Federated House, London Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1SZ

The viewing point is accessed by following the signs from the National Trust car park. Please note it is a 20 minute walk away and in places the path is quite steep and muddy.



Visitor centre opening hours

Monday to Saturday 9.00am-4.00pm. Staff will generally be available at the centre to answer questions on **Tuesdays 10.00am-noon** and **Thursdays 2.00pm-4.00pm** or, at other times by appointment only.

The visitor centre is located at the entrance of the site offices.

For real time traffic information:

08700 660 115

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**

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.