

A3 Hindhead Improvement Major Improvement Works • Newsletter 11

Welcome to issue 11 of the Hindhead news. We are now eighteen months into the site work and many changes can be seen. The aerial photograph opposite shows a view looking northwards to the southern tunnel entrances (portals) at the top of the photograph. At the bottom of the photograph is the crane that has just lifted in all but one of the beams for Hammer Lane Underpass.

How are we doing against our targets for 2008?

Hammer Lane Underpass is on programme to have traffic running over it in October

Tunnelling started from the north and the south with a view to breakthrough in Spring 2009

Greensand Way Underpass and Canadian Memorial Underpass openings are now planned for September and traffic is now running over both structures

Work on Hazel Grove Bridge has started with the main steel beams programmed to arrive in September

Reducing the length of traffic management on the A3 is now planned for September



Coming in the Autumn - show of works exhibition Grayshott Village Hall 24/25 October 2008

Tunnelling Progress

The big event was the start of tunnelling in February. We now have (as of the middle of July) 375 metres of tunnel on both carriageways and have passed under the existing A3 at the Punchbowl bend.

Ground conditions have not been quite as expected and have slowed progress. But the tunnelling team have risen to the challenge. We have modified our construction sequences to ensure we breakthrough in Spring next year as planned. Tunnelling at the north end is progressing 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and at the south end it is restricted to daytime only Monday to Saturday.



Inside the tunnel



North Portals

Visitors to the northern viewing platform will see the conveyors in operation bringing excavated material out of the tunnel. It is then stockpiled and used to create the embankment to the north of the portals.

To the left of the picture in the foreground you can see an area being prepared for the main tunnel services building.

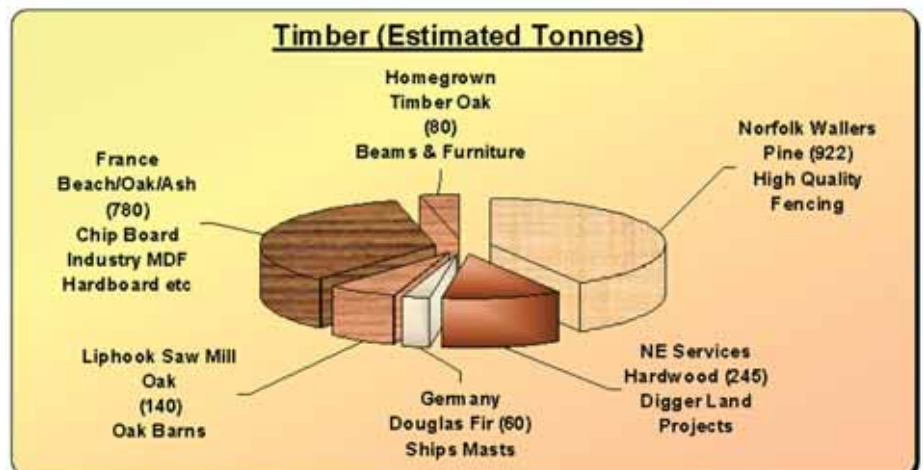
What happened to all the trees we cut down?

We have made sure that the trees and bushes cleared from the construction site have not gone to waste.

Where suitable the felled trees have been used for the manufacture of timber products including furniture, oak barns, fencing, chipboard and hardboard. Six large Douglas Firs (estimated at 128 feet long) were sent to Germany to be made into ship masts. Some of the timber has been re-used in the scheme for fencing and for the viewing platforms above the south and north portals.

The remaining logs and brash (branches, leaves etc) have been chipped on-site and transported to Slough power station as bio-fuel. We have also sent wood chip to a paper manufacturer.

After cutting the trees down we are left with the stumps, these are made use of by mulching and incorporating into the topsoil.



Progress with structures

Hammer lane

We are constructing Hammer Lane Underpass using a “top down” construction method. We have made the walls that support the bridge deck from concrete piles which were installed 20 metres into the ground from the surface.

We then remove the top part of the piles and cap them with a concrete beam to link the piles together. This provides a seat for the precast concrete beams that form part of the bridge deck.

Once the deck has been completed A3 traffic will be diverted back to run over it. Only then will we excavate the remainder of the ground to allow Hammer Lane to pass underneath. This method allows us to divert the A3 back earlier than would have been the case with a more conventional method.



Hammer Lane Beam Lift

Greensand Way Underpass

Now we have moved traffic back onto the A3 (running over the Greensand Way and Hindhead Hill underpasses) we can remove the extra lane on the Boundless Thursley Link road and construct the access route through the Greensand Way underpass to Thursley junction.

We plan to open the underpass in September and users of the Greensand Way (a long distance footpath) and local residents can cross under the A3 in safety.



Greensand Way Underpass

Canadian Memorial Underpass

The completion of the Canadian Memorial underpass was delayed because of a problem with BT cables. These had to be carefully lifted so that we could install the precast concrete units underneath.

We plan to move traffic back onto the northbound carriageway in time for the Bank Holiday weekend.

The underpass will provide a much desired safe crossing of Bramshott Common.



Canadian Memorial Underpass

Hindhead Together Newsletter - coming soon

Contact us

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

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Address: **Community Relations Manager**

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You can also contact the Highways Agency:

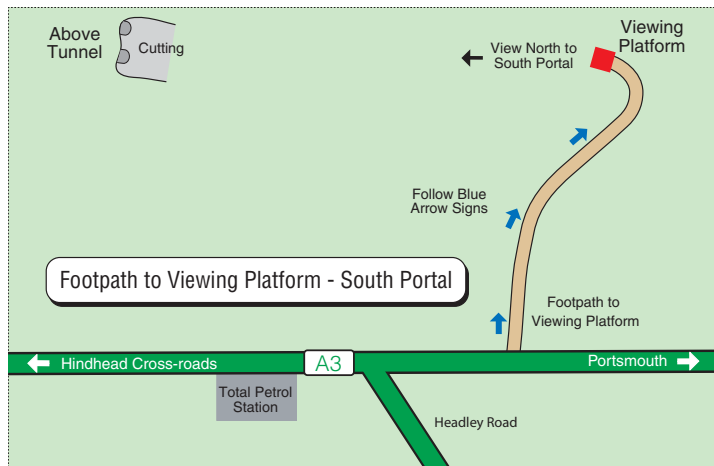
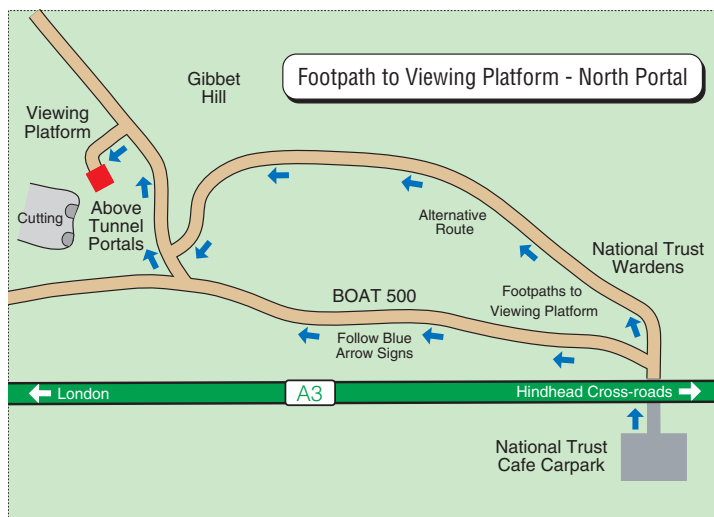
Email: paul.arnold@highways.gsi.gov.uk

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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.

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.