

## M1 Junction 13 to Bedford Improvements Newsletter Issue 4 - January 2010

### Introduction

Welcome to the fourth issue of the A421 Improvements Scheme Newsletter. Having been able to progress the project rapidly, thanks to a mild autumn, we were then slowed down by the recent inclement weather. We hope the weather improves to enable us to keep construction on programme. We would like to highlight the progress we have made to date and look at what we will be doing in the future.

### Mainline

Much of the eastbound carriageway foundation layer has been constructed between Marston Junction and Marsh Leys, to allow clean site access. Surfacing activities in the New Year will focus on the area near to M1 Junction 13, side roads and junctions along the A421 as opposed to the mainline.

### West of M1

The main embankment and drainage is now complete. Road construction is well underway, with the majority of the foundation layer in place.

### Brogborough and Salford Road bridges

All bridge beams are now in place. The concrete deck on the M1 bridge at Brogborough has been cast and parapet construction is under way. Temporary edge protection will be removed early in the New Year which will involve some overnight disruption on the M1. The deck to Salford Road Bridge has also been completed.



New bridge deck at M1 Brogborough

### M1 to Salford Road

Work on the road construction is well under way with the majority of the foundation layer in place. Kerbing, signs and street lights will begin early next year and traffic will be moved onto the new roundabout. The existing signalised junctions will then be de-commissioned.

### Brogborough

Brogborough cut is almost complete, the small amount of remaining earth will be moved as soon as weather permits in 2010.

### Manor Farm / North Common Farm

Work has begun on Manor Farm Bridge. The reinforced earth walls will be complete soon followed by concrete works to the abutments.

North Common Farm Underpass is nearing completion, with the sidewalls well underway and due for completion in January.

### Landfill Site to Beancroft Road

Drainage works between the landfill site and

Beancroft Road are complete as far as possible. The road foundation layer is in place on the westbound carriageway and the first asphalt layer will follow soon.

The steel beams were placed on Vale Road and Wood End Bridges in November.

## Marston Junction

Preparation work continues here for the construction of the new junction which involves the removal of earth either side of Beancroft Road. The column supports for the new bridge at Beancroft Road are complete and the steel beams were erected in December.

## Lower Shelton

Lower Shelton link road was opened to the public on Friday 27th November. The extension to the underpass at Lower Shelton is also nearing completion.

## Hoo Lane

The first of the eastbound carriageway concrete surface water channels are now complete between Lower Shelton and Marsh Leys and the first layer of asphalt surfacing will begin in the New Year.

## Fields Road

The bridge over the new A421 has been constructed. The bridge over the existing A421 will be completed during January. The re-aligned Fields Road will be open in early 2010.

## Manor Road

The steel truss to the new bridleway bridge at Manor Road was erected in November. Works will continue during 2010 to construct the bridleway on either side of the new bridge.



Manor Road bridleway bridge

## Marsh Leys

The supports to both bridges at Marsh Leys roundabout are all underway, piling was completed in September. The bridge beams have been installed on the new railway bridge over the Bedford to Bletchley line.

## Cowbridge/A6

Works at Cowbridge and the A6 were completed on schedule in November. The road has now been handed over to Bedford Borough Council who will continue to monitor the signals.

## Landscaping

We have excavated for 21,485 plant positions and have planted 11,325 specimens of various species such as Maple, Alder, Silver Birch, Dogwood, Hazel, Hawthorn, Ash, Privet, Crab Apple, Black Poplar, Wild Cherry, Blackthorn, English Oak, Blackberry, Willow, Black Elder and Mountain Ash.

The bulk of the planting work has taken place at junction 13, throughout Brogborough cut, Wood End Bridge and the approach to the new Marsh Leys Bridge.

Some background information -

- The Planting season is November to March
- We are currently planting 2,000 specimens a day
- The approximate total number of plants to be placed on the project is 250,000
- Bedford sits in the intersection of three regional provenance zones (zones. 403,402,405). We have employed nurseries from each zone to promote the growth of hardy stock that compliments the natural ecological balance of the area.

## The Environment

On World Environment Day earlier this year the A421 project pledged to donate 1 tree for every person working on site that day. During National Tree Week on Sunday 6 December 115 trees out of the 360 we had adopted were planted. Trees were a mixture of oak, silver birch, cherry plus others. Surrounding these, shrubs were to be planted.

## Lower Shelton School Firework Night

Our contractors Balfour Beatty received an invitation from this local school to sponsor their Firework night. The school offered them the use of the school hall, on the night, to put on an exhibition to show local residents the progress of the scheme and answer any questions they might have. With the opening of the link road being imminent this was a very timely event for us to take part in.

## Help us get our Safety Badges please!

Our contractors Balfour Beatty were approached by the 1st Wootton Cub Scout Pack requesting help for their cubs to gain their safety badges, by explaining the dangers of playing on building sites. The scouts were given an interactive presentation on health and safety issues and took part in a PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) race.

## Current Traffic Management

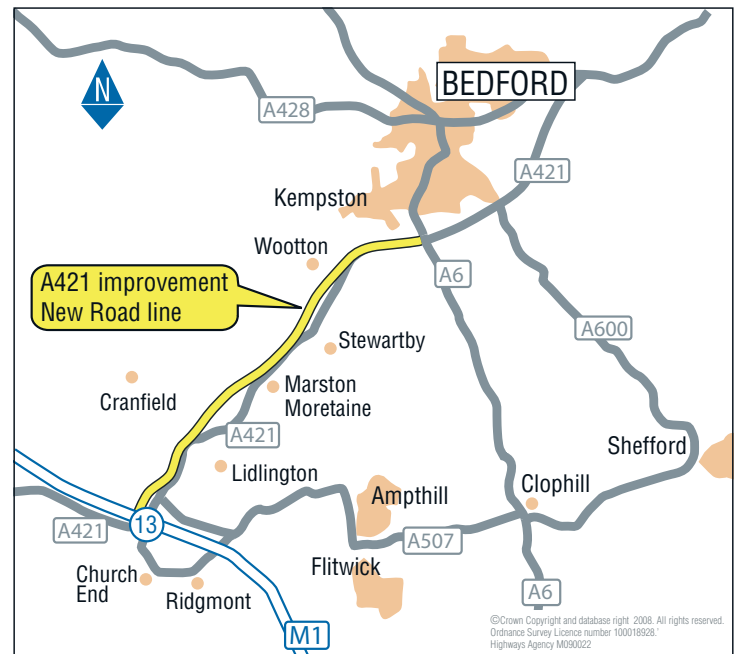
- M1 Junction 13 overnight slip road closures
- M1 Junction 13 to 14 overnight lane closures
- A421 temporary 40 mph speed restriction with average speed cameras and single lane running from the M1 Junction 13 to the A6
- A421 no right turns to or from the B530 at the site of the former Interchange Retail Park roundabout
- A421 no right turns to or from Bedford Road, Marston Moretaine

## Future Traffic Management

- A421/M1 Junction 13 – Overnight lane closures for construction of Salford Road roundabout
- A421 – Fields Road, overnight carriageway closures
- A421 Marsh Leys Junction, carriageway and lane closures for bridge beam installation – March
- Closure of B530/A421 Junction - March
- Bedford Road, Husborne Crawley - overnight closures from A421 roundabout to the truck stop access during February/March

## Future Work

- Construction of M1 and Salford Road Bridges
- Construction of A421 re-alignment west of M1
- Roundabout and slip road construction at the M1
- Construction of new Salford Road
- Bridge construction at Manor Farm, Vale Farm and Wood End
- Road construction of A421 diversion at Brogborough
- Bridge construction and roadworks at Marston Junction
- Bridge construction and roadworks to Fields Road
- Bridge construction at Marsh Leys Junction
- Roadworks to westbound carriageway Marsh Leys to A6
- Bridge construction at Marsh Leys Railway





During their second Considerate Constructor assessment, Balfour Beatty scored 38 of a possible 40 points. This is great news for the project, we need to continue the hard work and look to improve further for the next assessment.



If you have any comments or would like further information, you can contact, Balfour Beatty's Public Liaison Officer Jan Bath or the Highways Agency's Project Manager Roy Brunnsden. (see below for details)

## A421 Project Helpline

If you have any questions, please contact:

Jan Bath,  
Balfour Beatty Public Liaison Officer,  
A421 Improvement Scheme,  
Hoo Lane (off Woburn Road),  
Wootton,  
Bedfordshire,  
MK43 9EH

Email: Jan.bath@bbcel.co.uk

Tel: 0845 481 0867.

## Contacting the Highways Agency

You can also get in touch with the Highways Agency about the A421 Improvement:

Email: A421M1to Bedford@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: Roy Brunnsden (01234 796099)

Website: [www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4584.aspx](http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4584.aspx)

By post: **Highways Agency, Major Projects, Woodlands, Bedford MK41 7LW**



If you need help using this or any other Highways Agency information, please call **08457 50 40 30** and we will assist you.

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

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 and to 0870 numbers no more than 8p per minute, mobile calls usually cost more.

## Safety at roadworks



**The Highways Agency is working with the industry and road users to reduce the risks of working on the roads.**

For the safety of roadworkers and all road users, 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.