

Great Barford Bypass Second Newsletter December 2005

Introduction

Welcome to our second newsletter in which we will give an insight into how we are progressing with the construction of the bypass. We have had good weather for road building this year and our contractor has made excellent progress.

We are still on programme to complete the bypass by Autumn 2006. The new bridges are progressing well, as are the main earth moving activities and major diversions of utilities apparatus. As a consequence of all this construction work the form of the new bypass is now clearly visible.

During the construction activities this year our contractor has worked hard to minimise any disruption to local residents and road users. As a result of this we have received good reports from our Considerate Constructors Scheme auditors.

As part of planning for when the road opens next year, we are liaising with a number of organisations who hope to stage a charity events day on the Sunday before the road opens. Events currently being considered include a fun run and a sponsored walk for local school children.



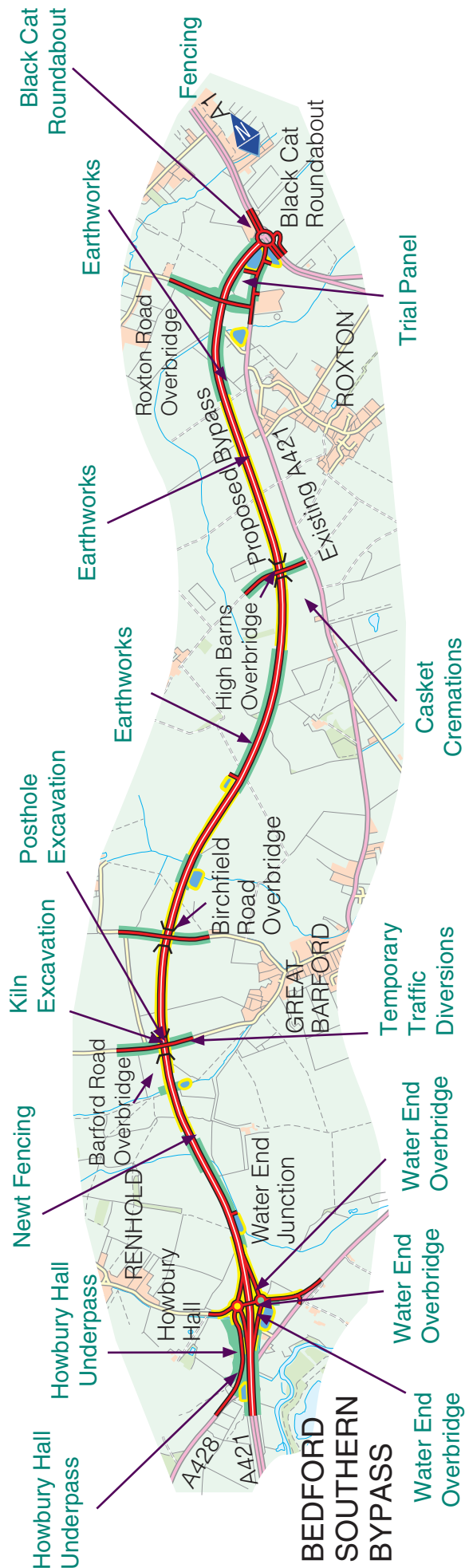
If you would like more details or would like to take part then please contact Peter Paskell for further information.

We are planning to issue a further newsletter before the road opens to traffic. Finally on behalf of the whole Great Barford Bypass project team I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Education & Environmental Initiative

This year, Peter Paskell, the Public Liaison Officer for the A421 Great Barford Bypass Project was invited by the 1st Great Barford Girl Guide Unit to give a presentation on the progress of the Project. Peter gave the presentation to about 30 of the Guides aged from 10 to 13 years of age, along with their four Guiders who were also in attendance. Following the presentation there was a question and answer session with the Guides. The questions ranged from, "Are there any women Civil Engineers?" "How do you protect the Environment?" "How do you obtain the land for a new project?"

Following the presentation a letter was received at the project office from Assistant Guider, Mrs Vivian Johnson, thanking Peter, "...It was a most interesting talk, and I know that the Guides learnt



KEY

- Bypass
- Embankments
- Cuttings
- Balancing Pond
- Existing Woodland

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Construction Programme		Project on time												
		2004			2005			2006						
Activity		S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Offices/Fencing														
Environmental														
Earthworks													Summer	
Pavement Works														
Structures														
Finishing Works														Landscaping, Tie-ins

Drive safely while works are under way

So far this year, four workers have died and five have been seriously injured in incidents on the Highways Agency's routes in England. This compares to one death and 17 serious injuries on the Highways Agency's network in 2004, and two deaths and 10 serious injuries in 2003.

Tim Hughes is the Highways Agency's Project Leader for the A421 Great Barford bypass which includes the work on the A1 at the Black Cat roundabout. He said:

"We don't want work on the A1 at Black Cat to contribute to the next batch of these statistics, so although a 40 mph speed limit might seem frustrating at times, it is there for the safety of drivers and the workforce. I would like to urge drivers to observe the restrictions for everyone's safety."

I am also concerned that people may start to get over confident if they use the road regularly and feel that they know what restrictions are where. But it's important to remain cautious and observe the signs, as things will be changing all the time as the roadworks progress.

One of the aims of the project is to provide safer and healthier communities in Great Barford. We don't want that to be at the cost of accidents and injuries to either construction workers or road users while the bypass is under construction."

Opening Festivities

Charity Events Day/Fun Run before the opening

If anyone is interested in the Charity Events Day/Fun Run, either helping or participating please contact our Public Liaison Officer, on the number below, to express your interest.

If you want to contact the team for any reason please call our Public Liaison Officer, Peter Paskell on 01480 218 280.

Or write to:

The Great Barford Bypass Site Office
Edmund Nuttall Ltd.
Roxton Road
Near Roxton
Bedfordshire
MK44 3BP

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)

Driving through roadworks

If you do have to drive through roadworks, please take extra care.



- Keep to the speed limit - it is there for your safety
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not on the roadworks
- Keep a safe distance - there could be queues in front

- Get into the correct lane in good time - don't keep switching
- Be alert for works traffic leaving or entering roadworks
- Observe all signs - they are there to help you

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