

## A34 Wolvercote Viaduct Replacement Newsletter Issue 8 - February 2010

### Welcome to the eighth issue of the A34 Wolvercote Viaduct Replacement Scheme Newsletter, keeping you informed about the progress of the scheme.

We hope you have found previous issues informative and that they have given you an insight into the works. You will have seen that we have opened the northbound viaduct on schedule and are now progressing well with the southbound viaduct (see forthcoming programme inside).

The project team would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation and understanding whilst construction activities take place. The team has strived to ensure the work has not affected traffic and local people too much.

We would urge you to take care and adhere to the speed limits in force on the A34 and A40. They are for the safety of both the travelling public and the workforce.

### Project Background

The existing viaduct was originally built in the early 1960s. The viaduct has deteriorated over the years and requires frequent maintenance. Due to the rising cost of the maintenance and the delays it causes to the traffic, it was decided to replace the viaduct with a new one.

We have constructed a temporary viaduct to the east and diverted the southbound traffic onto it. We have demolished the old northbound viaduct and built a new one in its place. This was completed on Saturday 26th September 2009 and northbound traffic was diverted

**This newsletter includes the following sections:**

**Project Background**  
**Progress & Forthcoming Programme**  
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**Community Activities**  
**Traffic Management**

onto it. The southbound traffic remains on the temporary viaduct. We are currently building the new southbound viaduct and the deck from the temporary viaduct will slide across Spring 2010.

### Progress and Forthcoming Programme

Over recent months the following work has been undertaken:

- Northbound viaduct opened to traffic on Saturday 26th September 2009
- Demolition of old southbound viaduct (October – December 2009)

The next three months will see the following work taking place:

- Completion of the new southbound viaduct piers
- Completion of north approach and south departure road construction
- Bridge slide
- Joining of the two bridge structures
- Demolition of temporary piers and removal of site compound
- Landscaping

## Environmental Issues

### Ecology

As we near the end of the project it is time to prepare for the replanting of the embankments and surrounding areas.

### Translocated hedgerow

The site contains an ancient hedgerow which following initial ecology surveys was temporarily translocated to a new position during the construction period ready for replanting near to its original position on completion of the scheme. Following the ecologist's specifications for this process the hedgerow has established and continues to flourish in its protected temporary location awaiting its final positioning.

The Wolvercote ditch waterway that has been buried in a series of pipes will once again be returned to an open stream. The small corner of King's Meadow, used as a temporary spoil storage area, will be levelled off and reinstated to match the meadow. The tarmac car park, offices and the caravan park will be taken away and the pasture lands replanted. New fences, hedges and seeds are on order ready for the reinstatement. Within a short while there will be a new bridge and a renewed landscape, the goal is to leave the environment in a better state than we found it so you would not know we had even been there!

### Archaeology

With excavations now complete the archaeologists have packed up their tools and will prepare a report of their findings. This should take about six months. The report will then be presented to the Oxfordshire County Archaeologist for inclusion in the County Heritage Environment record.

## Community Relations

The team has continued to involve itself in the local community by undertaking the following initiatives:

**Cotteslowe Primary School:** Removing concrete and metal etc from the play hills in the school

playing field and revamping it with top soil and grass seed.

**Trax (Charity):** Laying of a large concrete base for a shed, greenhouse and covered area for disabled persons to undertake gardening.

**Wolvercote Young Peoples Club:** Sponsorship for a water project in Kenya which has been undertaken by the members of the club.

Due to regular contact throughout the scheme with the local residents of the village a Christmas tree was sponsored by the A34 Wolvercote Project Team.

## Traffic Management

The following restrictions remain in place:

- A34: Lanes narrowed; two lanes will be kept in operation in both directions during the day and at peak times.
- A34: Night-time single lane closures.
- A34: There is a 40mph speed restriction in place for the safety of road users and construction workers.
- A40: Lanes narrowed; one lane will be kept in operation in both directions during the day and at peak times.
- A40: There is a 30mph speed restriction for the safety of road users and construction workers.
- The average speed camera system on the A34 helps maintain traffic flows through the road works and reduces incidents and accidents.
- The A40 north cycle path and footpath remain closed with a temporary signal crossing to assist those crossing the A40.
- The Oxford Canal towpath remains closed but the bridleway is open.
- There are planned closures of the A34 Southbound on several dates during February/March. The closures will be notified in the media and information flyers.
- In addition, there will be a total overnight closure of the A34 in Spring 2010 to enable the north and southbound viaducts to be 'stitched' together. These will be notified to you as above.

## RoSPA

During 2009 the project received a prestigious RoSPA Gold Award at the leading occupational health and safety awards programme from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. The awards recognise achievements and excellence in work-related health and safety performance by private and public sector organisations. The team are currently working on their submission for the 2010 awards ceremony. Another Gold Award is expected.



## Considerate Contractors

The project continues to receive high scores by the independent Considerate Contractors Award scheme following its second site inspection during 2009 where the site maintained a high score of 37.5 (out of 40). The inspection looks at both the management of internal site aspects including welfare, safety and the environment as well as the external communication and co-operation with the local neighbours and stakeholders.



## Forthcoming Public Meeting

**Wednesday 3rd March 2010 at 7pm**

The meeting will start promptly at 7pm. It is intended that Costain staff will give a brief description of the general works and forthcoming works. This will be followed by a question and answer session. The meeting will be held at:

**Wolvercote Young Peoples Club  
St Peters Road, Wolvercote**

## 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.

## 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**

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

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

## Project Helpline

If you have any questions, please contact Trevor Spice, Costain Community Relations Manager on our helpline.

Our aim is to ensure that the minimum of inconvenience is caused to you. We promise to respond quickly 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.

For general information about motorways and trunk roads please call

Information line:

**08457 50 40 30\***

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

Live traffic information

**08700 660 115\***

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

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

\*Calls from landlines to 08457 and 08700 numbers can cost up to 8p per minute but are free from some landline providers; mobiles usually cost more. Please check costs with your service provider.



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