

## Improving M62 Junction 6 Newsletter Issue 1 – November 2007

### Keeping You Informed

Welcome to the first newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date with our progress as we make improvements to M62 Junction 6.

**Work has been under-way on site for about six months.** During the first eight weeks our focus was on minimising the effects of the scheme on the ecology and archaeology of the immediate area.

The work included the installation of new proof fencing, to keep them off the site, the re-positioning of hedges and other flora and an archaeological evaluation of the site.



### Revealing the past

Large quantities of Roman pottery, tile and coins were found along with evidence of metal working. Material dating back to prehistoric times (c. 5000 BC) was also found.

The finds point to a Roman industrial site in the area, and the prehistoric material represents the earliest dated evidence of human activity ever to have been found in the Merseyside lowlands.

### Earth Moving

The period between June and September saw the earthworks take shape for the new link roads and slip roads. Initially progress was slow due to the wettest summer since records began 250 years ago. Fortunately the weather in August and September was much better and we have managed to catch up and achieve our targets for this year.

The majority of the cuttings and embankments are now complete so we can concentrate on building the bridges and culverts during the winter, and then the road itself next spring/summer.

### Out of the ground

Work on all the new bridges is underway and already the foundations are complete.

The retaining walls for the M62 entry slip road bridge have been built (pictured above) and the 22m long bridge beams were lifted into place early in November.

Windy Arbor Road has temporarily been diverted to allow its new bridge over Link A to be constructed. Only when traffic is diverted onto the new bridge can the excavation for the last section of Link A begin.

### Managing the traffic

A key challenge for our team is to minimise disruption to road users. To achieve this we are designing our traffic management to avoid lane closures wherever possible. Generally we have managed to keep three lanes open, in each direction, on the M62 although we have needed to close the hard shoulder in places.

We have installed a CCTV system looking out for

broken down vehicles 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have a free recovery service for any vehicles which break down in the roadwork's.

On a few occasions recently, particularly during poor weather, traffic congestion on Tarbock Roundabout has been a problem. Delays like these will happen far less often when the scheme is complete.

## Going to plan

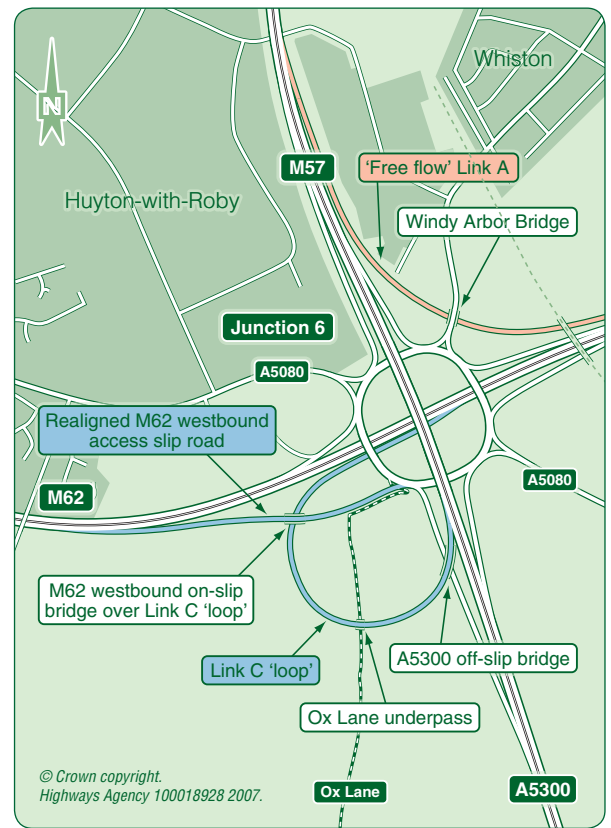
We're on target for an Autumn 2008 opening of the new Link A. The re-aligned M62 westbound entry slip road will open in Spring.

We're using material excavated from the site to build all the embankments around the project. There has been no need to import additional earth meaning much less construction traffic on local roads.

## Keeping you informed

We have a full time Public Liaison Officer, Paul Steventon, who can be contacted during working hours (see below). We aim to keep you informed of progress and changes to the traffic management. We have regular meetings with the Police and Knowsley MBC.

Knowsley councillors and officials visited the site recently and we gave a presentation to Whiston Parish Council in October. We have also contacted the local primary and secondary schools with a view to organising visits and educational opportunities.



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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

(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](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; 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.