

Extending the M6 motorway • Carlisle to Guards Mill Newsletter no.2 – January 2008

Keeping You Informed

Welcome to the second newsletter in the series of updates throughout the life of this major project.

The £174 million M6 extension scheme is taking shape on the A74 between Carlisle and Guards Mill.

We are upgrading the A74 to motorway standard, this includes building a new bridge over the west coast main line at Mossband, a new bridge over the river Esk and creating a local access and non motorway traffic link road between Carlisle and Gretna.

Construction began in July 2006 and will hopefully be completed by December 2008, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the first section of the M6 opening.

What has happened.

The most obvious changes have been at the Esk bridge and Mossband Viaduct

At the Esk Bridge we have completed the steel structure, placed the concrete deck and fitted the safety fence.

At Mossband Viaduct we have placed the 136 beams over the railway and we're now constructing the deck for the road surface. We are also building the approach embankments to carry the road.

At the new Vehicle Inspectorate site the cutting is now complete and the VOSA facility is being built.

What happens next?

At the Esk Bridge we will be laying the road surface in readiness for traffic due to use the road in March 2008 when we open the new bridge. We will then waterproof and resurface the existing bridge.

Work on the bridge deck and embankments at Mossband continues ready for the planned traffic switch in summer 2008.

In the coming months the widening of the road will continue with a traffic contraflow being put into place following the Christmas break. This will allow the adding of the additional lanes, central reservation work and resurfacing between Floriston and Todhills services.

Although there will be speed limits in place and narrow lanes we will keep two lanes of traffic running in each direction at all times.

Environmental plus point for the Carlisle to Guards Mill Scheme.

To date 228 adders and 281 lizards have been caught within the site. Where possible these have been moved adjacent to the site but the majority of the adders have been rehomed in Matterdale.

More Information?

As the scheme develops we will keep you informed using more newsletters. Our Highways Agency information line (HAIL) on [08457 50 40 30](tel:08457504030) will also provide up to date information during the work.

Visit the area of our website dedicated to the scheme to see pictures of the construction as it progresses:

www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/5069.aspx

If you would like any further information you can contact us on this email address:

m6carlisletoguardsmill@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Our Public Liaison Officer Ailsa Westgarth is on hand to answer any questions you may have about the project. Please contact her on [01461 336100](tel:01461336100) or [0845 160 3178](tel:08451603178)