

A3 Hindhead major improvement works Newsletter 7

A3 Hindhead Gets Green Light

WELCOME to Issue 7 of the Hindhead News, which includes the latest news on the progress so far, and what we will be doing in the next few months.

Since our last newsletter in Autumn 2003 much has happened. The Public Inquiry process has been completed and the Secretaries of State have announced their decision on the Public Inquiry.

On 27 October 2006 the Secretaries of State gave the go-ahead for the scheme.



Illustration - approaching the tunnel from the south

When will work start?

Key dates are:

January - February 2007. Site clearance to gain access to the sites of the tunnel portals.

19-20 January 2007. A local exhibition to show the current scheme and to explain the construction proposals and programme of work. Further details of the exhibition are on page 3.

April-December 2007. We will establish the main construction site just to the north of Boundless Road on the site of the chicken farm and construct the Greensand Way underpass with

the associated roads to connect to the Thursley junction. During this time we will also construct access to the north portal, build the Boundless Road underpass and the new Hindhead Hill pedestrian underpass.

March 2008. Work will start on the tunnel and the main highway works.

August 2011. We aim to have completed construction and opened the tunnel to traffic.

The programme of works will be shown in more detail at the exhibition.

The phasing of the works is designed to keep any disruption to road users and the local community to a minimum.

What will happen now

To begin with you will not see a great deal happening from the roadside. However, preliminary works including soil sampling and marking out boundary fences have already started.

The next visible signs of activity will be when we start work on site clearance in January 2007.

Continually working to protect the environment and the wildlife

We have already carried out surveys and preparation work to help us minimise the impact the scheme may have on the environment. Our Construction Environmental Management Plan identifies all the habitats found and we have consulted with Environmental Bodies and specialist consultants of Ecology and Landscape to ensure we have taken the right precautions to protect the environment during construction.



Illustration - approaching the tunnel from the north

These include:

- updating site surveys for dormice, badgers and reptiles to pick up on any changes to their habitats since our last surveys were carried out and making sure all appropriate construction measures are considered for their protection.
- developing new homes for reptiles which we will have to remove from our work areas.
- producing a plan of how we can clear trees and scrub, during the dormouse hibernation season, so that the dormice can move out of the site during the summer without too much disruption, and obtaining a special licence for this work from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- carrying out site clearance work outside the bird nesting season.
- carrying out bat roost surveys before felling trees.
- erecting badger, deer and reptiles fences to keep the species outside areas of potential risk during construction and outside the completed highway.
- having an ecological and landscape Clerk of Works to ensure that the construction works are carried out to plan.

We will also:

- keep as much of the existing vegetation within the construction site as we can.
- protect vegetation with fences.
- replant and seed site compound, storage areas and access routes at the end of works.

We will continue to update you on how everything is working out.

Final decision

The Secretaries of States' decision largely confirmed the published scheme as promoted by the Highways Agency at the end of the Public Inquiry. It also confirmed the two significant changes recommended by the Inquiry Inspector:

- the status of BOAT 500 should remain unchanged (the Agency proposed to downgrade it from Byway to Bridleway).
- a new footpath underpass should be built at the north end of the scheme (Objector's alternative 21) to connect footpaths 89 and 90.

Managing traffic

We will work hard to keep traffic running smoothly during the work. We are already working closely with Surrey and Hampshire County Councils as well as Surrey and Hampshire police to see how this is best done.

During the day we will always allow traffic on the A3 to flow in both directions throughout the construction.

To make sure we keep everyone safe, and to manage traffic when we are constructing the underpasses and on line improvement works, it will be necessary to:

- extend the length of single lane carriageway along the A3 at the Boundless Road end.
- have a reduced speed limit.
- have a short night time closures in one direction for essential work, such as modifying road layouts.

We will give you advanced notice and keep you informed of all traffic management operations nearer the time. We will do this with our newsletters, early warning signs and the Highways Agency's website.

Special precautions will be taken during site clearance in Boundless Valley to enable logging lorries to get to and from the A3 and the site in safety.

Keeping you informed

Ian Whyte, who works for Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering, is the Community Relations Manager and is ready to answer any questions you may have. His details are as follows:

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Tel: 01428 601050

Address:

Community Relations Manager

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You can also get in touch with the Highways Agency:

Email: paul.arnold@highways.gsi.gov.uk

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Welcome to our public exhibition

We are staging a local exhibition to show the current scheme and to explain the construction proposals and programme.

Members of the A3 team will be present to explain the proposals and answer any questions.

All are welcome and entry is free.

The exhibition will be held:

Friday 19 January 2007 4pm to 9pm

and

Saturday 20 January 2007 9.30am to 4pm

Both days are at the same venue:

**Grayshott Village Hall, Headley Road,
Grayshott**

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Safe driving at roadworks

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



During 2005, five workers were killed and 12 seriously injured in the course of their work on Highways Agency roads. This was the worst year since 1999.

For the safety of all road users and roadworkers, drivers approaching roadworks are advised to:

- 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