

A69 Improving the traffic at Haydon Bridge Newsletter no.2 – July 2007

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our newsletter for the A69 Haydon Bridge Bypass.

The Start of Works Exhibition in February was very well attended. I hope that everyone who visited the exhibition found it to be a worthwhile and informative event.

Work on the scheme commenced in January and at the beginning of April a turf cutting ceremony was performed by Archie Robertson the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency, Peter Atkinson MP and Mrs Eileen Charlton, Haydon Bridge Parish Councillor who campaigned for many years, on behalf of the villagers, for the bypass to be built.

The site compound adjacent to Cemetery Road is now complete the site offices have been established and are fully functional, and the site boundary has been established. So far the project has progressed well and it is hoped that if we have a good summer, then this progress can be maintained.

I would like to thank everyone affected by the works for their tolerance with the inevitable disruption caused by the construction of the scheme.

John Atkinson

Highways Agency, Project Manager

Progress to date

The site boundary has been established and the footpath through Gees Wood has been temporarily closed. Unfortunately for dog walkers this path will remain closed for the duration of construction.

Prior to beginning excavation we had to close Cemetery Road, and it will remain closed until Christmas 2007. The road is closed to all traffic, including pedestrians, and the diversion to and from Alston is via the A686.

In general we have excluded all construction from the village, and we intend to continue this policy. However, on occasions we needed to use East Lands End Lane, to the west of the farm and outside the village boundary, while we complete our works access road. We anticipate this approach will be necessary until the late summer.

Upcoming works

We started the major excavation recently and will continue over the summer months. The material excavated at Esp Hill will be reused in the embankment next to the South Tyne. While we are doing this we have started installing the site drainage.

Work has begun on the construction of the South Tyne Viaduct, at West Rattenraw, and we started installing the piles. Throughout the summer months we will focus on building the river piers. Strict environmental guidelines mean that we can only work in the water between June and October to preserve the salmon breeding grounds.

Construction of the new bridge on Cemetery Road will start at the end of June followed shortly afterwards with the Gees Wood Bridge in early August.

We don't expect to start the East Lands End Bridge until October. We will build the bridge alongside the existing lane before diverting the new road through it.

Site safety

Since we started constructing the Bypass, staff from the site office visited local schools about the dangers associated with a construction site.

As the school holidays approach, staff will again visit the schools to give reminders to the children of the dangers of construction sites.

The environment

As part of our environmental work we have provided temporary otter holts, bat flight lines and badger fencing. We are monitoring these initiatives regularly.

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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.