

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme July to August 2017

(Section 1 & 2 - Alconbury to the East Coast Main Line Section / 3 - East Coast Main Line to Swavesey / Section 4 & 5 - Swavesey to Milton)

Traffic Management:

Section 1 & 2. There were night closures at the end of July while the main beams of the Grafham Road Bridge over the A1 were placed in position.

Section 3: Traffic lights remain on Offord Road and Hilton Road for plant crossings. New Barnes Lane is now closed until April 2018. Occasional lane closures will continue on the A1198 between 09.30 and 15:00: when traffic will be monitored and TM removed where safe to do so.

Section 4 & 5: Narrow lanes and speed restrictions continue on the A14 between Swavesey and the Girton interchange. Speed is limited to 40mph in the narrow lanes and speed cameras are monitoring compliance. Lane closures are in place on the eastbound A428 by the Madingley turn-off and on the northbound A1307 between Girton Road and the A14.

Advanced warning - A14 Night time closures will be needed when we install the temporary bridge crossing of the A14 near Swavesey. This is currently likely to be late August.

Construction Activities:

Section 1: The new construction access from the A1 to land to the west is ready to be opened.

Section 2: Fifty percent of the River Great Ouse Crossings piles are in place, bringing the works close to the river itself. The pre-cast concrete yard has produced 360 separate units of the total 1600 required, which equates to over 1000 cubic metres of concrete cast.

South of Brampton Hut, a concrete pour for the east abutment of the bridge is imminent. This will take the new A14 over the realigned A1.

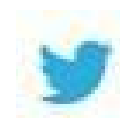
We have now completed approximately one hundred and forty 1.8m wide concrete piles; these are the tubes of concrete that are lowered into the ground to support structures. The longest of these reaches a depth of 38 metres. A further thirty-five narrower piles have also been completed, meaning that the piling for the bridges in the section of new road between Brampton Hut and Buckden is almost complete.

Earthworks are progressing well; we have placed 100,000 m³ of stone to form the River Great Ouse construction platform. A 600,000m² area of land has been stripped of topsoil for archaeological investigations. 350,000 m³ of fill has been placed to shape the embankments south of Brampton Hut, forming the realigned A1 and the new A14 in this location.

On a smaller scale we are nearing completion of a number of farm tracks, providing the farmers with revised access routes.

As the excavation of borrow pits continues, we are monitoring local fishing lakes to ensure that water levels are not adversely affected. Recharge lagoons have been created for

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ground water control. Over 1200 metres of ditches have been dug, providing a permanent drainage solution.

Section 3: Piling works continue at Mere Way and the New Barns bailey bridge is being erected. Bridge building at Silver Street & Corpus Christi continues and construction of the Hilton Road bridge is progressing well.

Section 4 & 5: Piling works next to the A428 continue, in preparation for the construction of two new bridges. Utility works are ongoing alongside the A14 from Swavesey to Girton, with the installation of water pipes and power cables. Work is also taking place alongside the A14 near to Swavesey junction in preparation for the installation of a bailey bridge.

The bridge is scheduled to be installed over both carriageways of the A14 in the last week of August. This operation will require a full night closure of the road. When the date of this closure is confirmed, details will be circulated. Once in place, the bridge will be used to transport construction materials from the borrow pit area in Boxworth to the north side of the A14 to build the new Swavesey junction. The bridge will remove any need for construction vehicles to travel on the A14 carriageway.

Environmental

Section 1, 2 & 3: The electric car charging points are in daily use in the compound car parks.

Section 4 & 5: The water voles that were temporarily housed at Noon Folly Farm have now been released into Longstanton Brook. A rare species of wildflower, commonly known as a Slender Tare has been identified on site. We have collected seeds and will replant these in a suitable area away from the works. A Ringer Plover has laid three eggs on the edge of our compound at Swavesey. The area has been segregated and we are now pleased to confirm that the eggs have begun to hatch.

Archaeology

Section 1 & 2: We will be starting archaeological investigations shortly in the flood compensation areas to the west of the A1 north of Brampton Hut.

Section 3: Across the 13km of the section, a total of 104 archaeologists continue their ground investigations near Offord Rd, Conington Rd, Hilton Rd and New Barnes Lane.

Section:4 & 5 A team of 14 archaeologists continues to working alongside the A14 close to Bar Hill. Another team of 30 continues with excavations at Girton. Details of finds will be made public in due course.

Community Engagement

In July we took our mobile visitor centre to Oakington, Alconbury, Harston, Fenstanton, Easton and Woodgreen Animal Shelter.

In August we have confirmed visits to the following places;
9th August **Willingham** (4-7pm), 12th August **Hemingford Market** (8.30am to 1.30pm),
19th & 20th August **Truck Fest Norfolk Showground** and 23rd August **Perry** (7-9pm)

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