

## **A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme August to September 2019**

**Section 1 and 2 – Alconbury & Ellington to East Coast Main Line**

**Section 3 - East Coast Main Line to Swavesey**

**Sections 4 and 5 - Swavesey to Milton**

**Section 6 – Huntingdon**

### **Traffic Management:**

**Sections 1 and 2:** Further weekend closures of the A1M from junction 14 to Alconbury will take place during September to allow the completion of very low-noise surfacing (VLNS). This second phase of work follows the VLNS already completed through Alconbury by the A14 IDT. Phase two will be carried out by Highways England's maintenance contractors, Road Maintenance Services Ltd. Further information can be found at [www.trafficengland.com](http://www.trafficengland.com)

On the A14 between Ellington, junction 20 and Brampton Hut junction 21, there will be further weekday overnight closures (8pm to 6am) on both carriageways from Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 September to complete gantry and communications work.

**Section 3:** A further weekend closure of the A1198 Ermine Street is scheduled for the weekend of 7/8 September to complete paths and verges and a further closure may be needed later in the month.

**Section 5:** Lane realignments are taking place to allow access to other work areas. There has also been a number of night and weekend closures on the J32 slip roads to allow access for the road widening work. Details of the next closure will be available on our social media pages and website nearer the time.

### **Construction Activities:**

**Sections 1 & 2:** Much of the improved environmental barrier is now in place through Alconbury and during September, Highways England's maintenance contractors will complete the very low noise surfacing.

Good progress continues on the new A14 and the final asphalt surface will be applied in early September. The last three gantries will be erected shortly, the technical equipment having been tested already on the gantries already in place.

Woolley Road, a local access route from the new A14 Ellington junction northwards along the western side of the A1, will open by the end of September.

**Section 3:** Final surfacing and white lining continues on the new A14 southern bypass and is on course for completion early in October. Electronic signs are being fitted into the gantries and side roads and bridges crossing the new road are prepared for handover to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). Silver Street was the first of these to be completed and has been adopted by CCC. Further work is needed on paths and verges around the A1198 (Ermine Street) junction with the A14, as

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mentioned in the traffic management section above. The final bridge under construction at New Barns Lane is due to open before the end of September.

Planting areas are being prepared and seeded across this section as the main sowing season approaches.

**Sections 4:** Following the opening of the new eastbound exit slip at junction 29, Bar Hill, eastbound lane realignments were completed at the end of August. These will enable A14 traffic to travel along the route of the new local access road while work on the main carriageway is carried out. Work on the second bridge on the Bar Hill roundabout is continuing.

During a full eastbound closure between J26 and J30, the sections of the new pedestrian bridge which will span the A14 at Swavesey, shown below, in our pre-cast yard at Bar Hill, were moved to the structure taking shape near Cambridge Services, (pictured on page 3) and lifted into place over the weekend of 31 August -1 September.



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The sections of the deck will rest on the blue temporary supports shown above, while joined to the sections already in place. Eventually the deck will be suspended, as shown in the artist's impression of the finished bridge below.



On the south side of the A14 between Bar Hill and Swavesey, access tracks are being built to enable Highways England to maintain the new balancing ponds.

The new roundabout at junction 30, Dry Drayton, opened overnight on 28-29 August. The new local access road approaching the Dry Drayton roundabout and bridge is now being surfaced and is due to be with opened to traffic in early September.

**Section 5:** Piling work beside Kings Hedges bridge continue during the day to avoid causing disturbance at night. The piling work at the guided busway bridge is now finished and the beam installation will start shortly. Work to widen the eastbound slip road at J32 continued during the weekend of 31 August -1 September.

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**Section 6:** Utilities diversions, drainage work and vegetation clearance continue on Hinchingsbrooke Park road and footpath closures and diversions remain as shown right. Ground investigations (trial holes) are being undertaken in the station car park.

Following the completion of archaeological investigations, utilities work will start on Mill Common. Construction work will also begin on the pond located within the Hinchingsbrooke loop.

Our environmental team will be installing swift boxes at several properties near the viaduct and railway station, following expressions of interest from residents. (see environmental news below).



We have started holding a series of public information events about the work we're doing in Huntingdon. Details for events can be found on our [keep in touch page](#).

### Environmental News: High Homes for Huntingdon's Swifts



Thanks to the interest and concern of local residents, our environmental team has started to install a number of swift nesting boxes to the exterior of houses near Huntingdon's viaduct.

Swifts, as pictured, never settle voluntarily on the ground, spending most of their lives in the air. They drink, feed, mate and sleep on the wing. They migrate from Africa to spend midsummer in the UK and northern Europe, before returning to winter in southern Africa. Sadly, they are now amber-listed in Britain,

meaning they need human intervention to help reverse the decline in their numbers. Having adapted to human sites they will build their nests in all suitable hollows in buildings, returning to the same nesting site annually. We hope that the provision of nesting boxes will encourage swifts to return to Huntingdon to breed and, in collaboration with local residents, our legacy will include an increase in the number of these intriguing long-distance flyers in Cambridgeshire.

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