

**Issue 6**  
June 2004

# Introduction

Welcome to the sixth issue of the A34 Chieveley / M4 Junction 13 Improvement scheme newsletter.

This is the final newsletter in this format as the works move towards completion. We are going to produce an informative brochure to coincide with the opening of the scheme. The brochure will be made available to local people.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you

for your patience and co-operation since we started construction in the Spring of 2003.

Inevitably we have created some inconvenience for drivers and local residents but we have attempted to minimise the impact of our works during the time we have spent in Chieveley.



*Taking shape - viewed from the North East*

A34 Chieveley / M4 J13  
**improvement**  
SCHEME



## Overall Update and Comment

The next quarter will see some major and final road layout changes as the scheme nears completion. For those of you who have used the current road layout system you will have seen at first hand the vast changes that have taken place which up to now has been almost hidden from view. We are committed to delivering this much needed scheme to you as quickly and safely as possible.

We still urge you to take care when negotiating lanes of reduced width or where lane closures are in place. There are still many drivers who do not adhere to the speed limits in force within the work area – they are there for your safety, as well as ours. The Police will continue to enforce the speed limits.

In the paragraphs below you will see the changes due to take place over the coming months particularly in the construction of the bridges and alterations to the road layout.

Please do not forget if you wish to see the scale model of the scheme or obtain further details, we have a Visitor Centre at our site offices which you can arrange to come and see by telephoning our Helpline on 0845 600 2012 or come to our public meeting (see back page).

## Traffic Management

The need for our traffic management schemes continues to enable us to work adjacent to the existing traffic and allow construction of this project to move forward. As always our schemes balance the need to minimise delays whilst maximising the safety of our workforce and the travelling public. Throughout the length of the scheme, we will continue to maintain coned safety zones keeping public vehicles away from our workforce. Our traffic management teams maintain these areas so please drive carefully through our road works.



**Hard hats are not worn by TM operatives who are working adjacent to the live carriageway. Hard hats are compulsory in all other cases.**

The mandatory 40 mph speed limit will remain in force throughout the length of the road works on the A34, A339 and local Oxford road approach to our road works as well as other approaches to the scheme. Our continued long-term

commitment is to reduce accidents, so please keep to the speed limits and leave plenty of space between you and the vehicle in front.

The police prosecuted more than 1,000 vehicles for travelling in excess of the speed limit through the road works during the month of May, so please slow down.

We will continue to explore further improvements to our traffic management schemes to reduce congestion and improve safety where possible. All of our traffic management schemes are checked by experienced independent traffic experts prior to the scheme being implemented and following installation to ensure the highest standards of safety are maintained. We meet with the police and representatives from interested parties on a weekly basis to discuss our traffic management arrangements and forthcoming proposals with the safety of the public and workforce always at the forefront of our agenda.

## Forthcoming Traffic Management details

### M4

Off peak daytime lane closures in both directions for the construction works at Bussock Wood bridge. Overnight closure of the M4 West of junction 13 for 12 hours in both directions in July for bridge erection at Bussock Wood. Installation of the final narrow lane scheme with a 50 mph speed restriction to the M4 Westbound carriageway on the same night of the total closure, this will be in place for 5 days for completion of the remaining waterproofing, resurfacing and bridge joint works on the existing Chieveley interchange bridges. We will erect signs for the closure 2 weeks before giving the date and time.

### A34

The reduced lane width schemes both North and Southbound along the A34 through our road works will continue to operate.

Off peak nighttime lane closures will continue in both directions to enable more of the construction works to continue including the works at junction 13 roundabout.

Early June will see northbound traffic North of junction 13 moved over to the West Side of the A34, again creating an island site for more of our construction works.

We will be erecting a gantry across the A34, south of junction 13 roundabout towards the end of July. To minimise disruption to road users our intention is to lift this 42 metre single span gantry into position under a 15 minute closure of the A34. This will be carried out in the early hours of the morning when traffic flows are at their lowest. A short duration diversion route will be implemented via the A4 Robin Hood roundabout and the B4009 through Hermitage for the 15 minute closure.

Another word of advice from our dedicated Traffic Safety Control Officer Graeme Oddy. We have a number of signed site access and exit points along the road works to enable vital deliveries to get into and out of site. Please leave plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front to enable our site vehicles to enter and leave site safely. Again the police will continue to carry out speed enforcement so please keep within the signed speed limits.

## Highways

The last quarter has seen a significant advance in the surfacing and roadworks aspects of the scheme. Various new sections of the route have been completed and opened to traffic. Works will continue throughout the summer, bringing further section of the scheme on line and culminating in the opening of the new underpass in September. Below are some of the highlights achieved and an indication of the works in the next 3 months.

### A34 North

- ▶ **Northbound off slip to Chieveley opened over Bridge 4.**
- ▶ **A34 southbound diverted onto off slip to J13**

Both northbound and southbound traffic has been diverted onto new alignments in the last quarter. The focus of effort is now to build the northbound connection to the new A34 alignment through the underpass.

The next phase of works will include diverting all the A34 northbound traffic over Bridge 4 and onto the new alignment. This is to be achieved in early June and will allow completion of the final connection of the new alignment into the existing carriageway.

### A34 South

- ▶ **A34 northbound diverted over Bridges 5 and 6 into J13**
- ▶ **Hilton access roads opened**
- ▶ **A34 / A339 merge and diverge opened to traffic**

The southern end of the scheme has seen significant progress and change in the last quarter. The route of the permanent alignment is now defined and the works are focussed on making the connection between the existing A34 and new route. The next step in this process is to divert the southbound A34 over Bridge 8, taking the route completely clear of the old alignment. This diversion will be followed by construction of the approach ramp to the new equestrian bridge that will complete the bridleway link between Green Lane and Chalky Lane over the new works.

### M4 and Underpass

- ▶ **M4 westbound on slip opened over Bridge 3**
- ▶ **M4 eastbound off slip opened over Bridge 2**

The works to the main underpass have progressed significantly over the last period as described in detail below. All efforts are now targeted at completing the new road into the underpass to open up the structure to main A34 traffic.

The underpass represents the lowest point of the scheme, some 14m below original ground level. This is a natural sump for surface water which is collected through the drainage system into a deep pump chamber. From here it is lifted using four large electric pumps capable of transferring 450 litres per second into the filtration basin to the north west of the works. The basin is designed such that after passing through a pollution interceptor the water will naturally soak away into the chalk aquifer.

## Junction 13 Roundabout

The refurbishment works to the existing roundabout have now commenced in earnest. All the Statutory Authority diversions are now complete and this allows the work to signals, signs and lighting to progress. The roundabout itself will be locally widened which together with increased width at the entry stop lines, will allow the junction to operate in the final scheme without the present level of congestion.

## Structures

The structures on the scheme are now substantially complete. You will now see the innovative 'weathering steel beams' that have been used. These do not need painting and therefore reduce maintenance works in the future in the pursuit of a more sustainable project

Our largest structure and logistical challenge on the scheme is of course the M4 underpass.

Bulk excavation under the M4 though delayed recently by particularly unseasonal weather will be complete by the time you read this newsletter, fully exposing this cathedral like structure allowing follow on works providing a road through in July.

Removal of Bussock Wood Bridge during an overnight closure of the M4 on the 13th March was a success with motorway opened an hour early.

A second motorway closure is planned to erect the truss of the new bridge in July.

Completion of bridges by the Hilton Hotel has allowed the temporary diversion of the northbound A34, releasing large areas of the old road for new construction.

In June a further temporary diversion of the southbound A34 over the third bridge in this area will release the remaining areas of the old A34.

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## Community Relations

### Forthcoming Public Meetings

Project staff will be holding a number of meetings throughout the construction to give the public the opportunity to discuss the works. Public meetings will start promptly at 7.30 pm. It is intended that project staff will give a brief description of the general works and then forthcoming works. This will be followed by a Question and Answer session to allow members of the public to ask specific questions.

#### Venue:

Chieveley Village Hall and Recreation Centre  
High Street, Chieveley, Berkshire

**Tuesday 8th June 2004 at 7.30 pm**

**Tuesday 14th September 2004 at 7.30 pm**

We would like to thank all of you who have attended our meetings and sincerely hope to see you at the final one. We trust you have found the meetings informative and helpful, that you were able to raise concerns directly with senior members of the project and that, in most cases, they were satisfactorily resolved.

Some of the interested parties that have attended the site or received a presentation from the team:

- Japanese Government Officials
- Ministerial Visit - Dr. Kim Howells
- Chieveley Parish Council
- Portsmouth University Students
- Vodafone
- Construction Engineering School
- West Berkshire Council
- West Berks Business Partnership
- Chieveley Primary School
- Curridge Primary School
- St. Michaels School
- Newbury Chamber of Commerce
- Institute of Civil Engineers

- Meredian TV
- Diamond Project, Harwell
- Nationwide Building Society
- CITB
- Oxford Institute of Advanced Motorists
- Ukranian Government
- Individual and small groups of local people

## Considerate Constructors Scheme

We are pleased to have been awarded the Considerate Constructors Gold Award. The citation stated 'The whole of the work area and the site office, welfare facilities and the plant compound were very clean and well maintained. The site team's consideration and attitude towards the convenience and welfare of the travelling public and the neighbours were exceptional and this all added up to a successfully completed contract'.

# Nuisance and Complaints

For the duration of our works, we sincerely hope that there will not be too many reasons for you to complain.

However, it is inevitable with a contract of this size that some problems will arise. If you have any queries or wish to bring to our attention any problems, then please contact Trevor Spice, Project Community Relations Manager on our Helpline (telephone number shown below) and he will address your particular query or problem.

Our aim is to ensure that the minimum of inconvenience is caused to you. We promise to respond quickly to your complaint through personal contact and with a quick resolution.

## Helpline **0845 600 2012**

Costain's 24 hour construction helpline is available to answer questions and give details of construction work or visit our website.

Following the final meeting in September and the completion of the scheme later that month there will be a diminishing presence by Costain. If you have a complaint or enquiry please call the Costain numbers shown below. However, those numbers will in due course be disconnected. Calls should then be directed to the Highways Agency on:

The Highways Agency Information Line – **08457 504030**



Trevor Spice  
Community Relations Manager

# [www.A34M4.com](http://www.A34M4.com)

## Further information

If you want to discuss or write to us about an issue, please contact:

**Costain Limited**  
**Site Offices**  
**Oxford Road**  
**Chieveley**  
**Newbury, Berkshire RG20 8XX**  
  
Tel **01635 247508**  
email **A34 Project@Costain.com**

Contact the Highways Agency  
**Highways Agency Information Line**  
**08457 504030** (calls charged at local rate)  
  
Highways Agency website  
**[www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)**

Costain with Mott Macdonald are responsible for the design and will carry out the construction on behalf of the Highways Agency. Gifford WSP are the Highways Agency's site representatives overseeing the progress of the scheme.