

A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements newsletter

April 2021

Welcome to the third issue of the A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements newsletter, which includes details of what we have been doing in the last few months and an overview of our future plans. We hope you find it an informative and enjoyable read.



Construction at Bean junction

The A2 is a major road in south-east England connecting London with the English Channel port of Dover in Kent. The local area is predicted to see significant growth in the future. This scheme will provide additional capacity at each junction to accommodate the new developments, while improving journey times and increasing safety. This is great news for the local and regional economy.

Scheme description

The Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions on the busy A2 trunk road are separated by approximately 1.2 miles (2 kilometres). The Bean junction connects the Bluewater shopping centre, Bean village and Greenhithe to the A2. The Ebbsfleet junction connects the Ebbsfleet train station, the Swanscombe peninsular and Southfleet to the A2.

Improvements at Bean junction include:

- Enlarging the existing roundabouts.
- Constructing a new bridge over the A2 for London-bound traffic.
- Constructing a new slip road from Bean onto the A2 for coastbound traffic.

Improvements at Ebbsfleet junction include:

- Enlarging the existing roundabouts which will be controlled by traffic lights.
- Widening the dual carriageway between the roundabouts.
- Improvements to some of the existing A2 slip roads.



What has been happening recently?

Bean junction

We have installed the foundations next to the A2, which will support the new bridge. To carry out these works safely, the London-bound entry-slip road at Bean was closed 24/7 for four weeks. This meant we could carry out more work during the day-time, and less work at night which was having an impact on the local community. In April, further work will be done to the existing bridge, which can be found below in the programme of upcoming work activities. Information will be provided to local residents and businesses about this.



Piling work at Bean junction

Planting of trees in the Crown Estate land, located behind Beacon Drive to the south of Bean junction, has been completed ahead of schedule. We have planted various types of feathered trees, which are native to the area, across 1.15 hectares in total. We have placed several logs in the field, which came from the vegetation clearance we carried out to aid the new habitat creation area. This will improve the environmental quality of the land that was previously used for farming.



Crown estate tree planting

In addition to these we have also completed other works, including:

- Draining the existing pond in Bean North to make way for the construction of the new Coast-bound entry-slip road at Bean.
- Started drainage installation and road widening on the B255 to widen the road which should improve traffic flows out of Bluewater.
- Removal of the traffic islands at Bean north to keep traffic moving.

Ebbsfleet junction

- Commenced earthworks in Ebbsfleet North to enable the widening of the east roundabout.



- Commenced service diversions at Ebbsfleet to make way for the roundabout widening, without affecting the provision of services to the local community.
- Construction of retaining walls at Ebbsfleet to allow west roundabout widening.

A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements

Current programme of works

Spring 2021

- Work continues to install the new bridge supports at Bean, which will involve lane closures on the existing bridge, 24/7 from mid-April for four weeks. There will be no access for HGV's on the bridge, whilst these works are carried out. There will also be a temporary footpath in place, to maintain access for pedestrians.
- Continue work preparing the area for the new coast-bound on-slip.
- Work starts on the hard shoulder of the A2 coastbound carriageway.
- Starting construction of the foundations for a new overhead electronic sign which will display messages for road users and monitor traffic flows.

Summer 2021

- Installation of the new bridge beams at Bean, which will be completed in Autumn.
- Construction of the new bridge deck following the beam installation.
- Installation of the new overhead electronic sign supports.
- General works will continue at Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions.

Autumn 2021

- The new bridge at Bean will be completed and open to traffic by the end of November 2021.
- Works will continue at Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions.

Winter 2021

- Final stages of construction at Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions.

Spring 2022

- The improvements to both junctions will be opened for traffic.



Community involvement

Charity and the community

Two members of our team have sadly lost family members to cancer in the last year. We are raising money for Cancer Research, by sponsoring the new reinforced earth wall which is being made out of 23,000 sandbags, is six metres high and 80 metres in length. The wall was completed at the end of March and will accommodate the road widening and improved cycling and pedestrian facilities. To date, we have raised over £7,600.



Constructing the retaining wall

Donating supplies

The project team have donated £400 worth of food and toiletry items to the Northfleet charity Hive Hope. We bought various non-perishable items the charity needed to help local people struggling.



We also donated over 50 Easter eggs to another local charity that supports disabled children, young people and their families. The Easter eggs were delivered by eight members of the team on Thursday 1 April.



Ensuring customer safety

Safety is our top priority whilst carrying out works. We also try to ensure the layout of our traffic management is clear and easy to navigate for road users. We understand there has been some confusion over the access points into the coned off areas meant only for our work vehicles.

All our works access points are identified by signage and green cones. We have also installed extra signage and temporary barriers. We are looking at creative ways to tell road users that these access points are for work vehicles only – under no circumstance should a member of the public enter a coned work area. We hope these efforts reduce the possibility of an accident occurring to either our workforce and road users.

How can I find out more information?

You can find out more by going to our web page or by emailing or calling us.

Visit our website:

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a2-bean-and-ebbsfleet-junction-improvements>

Email us:

A2BeanandEbbsfleetJunctionsImprovements@highwaysengland.co.uk

Call us:

0300 123 5000

If you get into trouble on the motorway, stay calm and exit at the next junction or service area.

If that's not possible:

1. Put your left indicator on and move into the left lane.
2. Exit left into an emergency area or onto the hard shoulder.
3. Put your hazards on.
4. Get behind a safety barrier where it is safe / possible to do so, and keep well away from moving traffic.
5. Call Highways England on **0300 123 5000** then a breakdown provider for help.

If you cannot do the above, or in an emergency, stay in your vehicle, keep seatbelts and hazards on, and call **999**

For more advice about what to do if you break down on a motorway or major A road, scan this code, or go to highwaysengland.co.uk/breakdowns



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