

Welcome to the spring edition of our A556 Knutsford to Bowdon improvement scheme newsletter. This is the third of a series of updates we will be producing to keep you informed about the scheme progress.

Scheme update

Despite an exceptionally wet winter, we have made significant progress since the last newsletter.

The concrete works associated with the bridges at Tabley and Millington are now complete. Construction has started on all 5 of the other structures. We expect that they will all be open by the autumn.

A time lapse video is being taken to capture the construction of the green bridge. We will release footage as the build progresses.

You will shortly start seeing the new road layout around the A50.

Earthwork operations have started again with the movement of earth taking place in many locations across the scheme.



Aerial view of one of the attenuation ponds at Bowdon.

Ponds

Four new ponds are being provided along the route of the new road. They are designed to deal with rain water and other 'run-off' from the road surface which is often contaminated by engine oil and fuel spilled from vehicles as well as other liquids and debris from collisions and breakdowns.

As well as collecting the run-off, the special 'attenuation' ponds will slowly filter contaminants out of the water before it can be released safely at a controlled rate into the river network. This will significantly reduce the amount of untreated water that currently ends up in local watercourses.



Southbound carriageway construction progressing

M56 junction 8 bridge refurbishment

We would like to thank you all for your patience whilst we carried out the essential refurbishment works to the bridge.

The M56 slip road was due to be closed again in February for further works, however the team decided to complete all of the works under the one closure in order to minimise disruption to motorists.

What work is being carried out on the existing A556?

It's been almost 12 months since we started upgrading the current A556 to tie in with the new road layout.

Work has included:

- New drainage installations
- Utility ducting and cabling works
- Service diversions
- Widening works

We have now completed the southbound carriageway and have moved our works to the northbound lanes. This means that we have been able to reopen Cherry Tree Lane for traffic entering from the southbound A556 but it is still not possible to go from Cherry Tree Lane onto the A556.



Bridge beams being placed on Bowdon Bridge



Simulated rescue taking place

Emergency services exercise

The local emergency services recently staged a training exercise at the A556.

Teams from Cheshire Fire & Rescue, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue and North West Ambulance Service carried out an exercise to test emergency procedures and their response to a rescue at height scenario. The rescue was made as realistic as possible and even involved using a member of the construction team as the injured person.

Open day

Thank you to everyone who came along to the A556 open day in November.

All of the exhibition material is available to download on the A556 website.

Please make a note in your diaries that we have a further open day planned for Sunday 19 November 2016.

Welly walk

A 6km “welly walk” is being organised for the local community to walk along the line of the new dual carriageway on Sunday 17 July.

This event will give you a unique chance to walk along the route of the new road and see the progress we’ve made.

Please keep an eye on Facebook and A556 website for further details about how to register for tickets.

Money raised from this event will go to the local Children’s Adventure Farm Trust charity in Millington.

In the community

It’s been a very busy few months for the community team who have been getting involved with various local initiatives and community groups.

15 pupils from Great Sankey High School spent a day on site learning about the project and the different job roles that are required to deliver a major civil engineering project.

Students also had the opportunity to receive a tour of the scheme to see how construction is progressing.

The team were approached by Great Places Housing Association to assist in an initiative to transform an area of disused land on an estate in Knutsford into a children’s garden area. With the help of Three Shires Fencing contractors, the team got involved and undertook the initial site clearance.



Spotlight on...

Name: James Harrison

Job Title:
Graduate Engineer

Company: Capita

Brief description of role on A556: Producing utility

drawings and design.

Best part of the job? Seeing the full process of the project from design and into construction.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

Traffic management

The traffic management team, continue to liaise with local stakeholders to manage and reduce congestion in the local area.

Collaborative planning plays an important part in keeping the local network moving and we regularly meet and liaise with other local project teams such as those delivering work on the M6 to co-ordinate closures and diversions.

Facebook

Please visit and like our Facebook page. It contains the most up to date progress and traffic management information and photographs. Full aerial photographs are uploaded to showcase the development of the scheme.

Thank you

We would like to thank all of you in the local community for your continued patience and co-operation.



Contact us

If you have any queries relating to construction activities, please do not hesitate to contact the scheme's on site community relations team

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If you have any queries relating to Highways England, please contact our information line on **0300 123 5000** or alternatively email:

ha_info@highwaysengland.co.uk

For the latest information and updates, please visit our website where you can register for email alerts regarding the scheme:

www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a556-knutsford-to-bowdon-improvement

www.facebook.com/a556knutsfordtobowdon

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