



## **Welcome to the second newsletter for the A12 Margaretting Bypass concrete road reconstruction scheme.**

In this issue we share information about our scheme progress, as well as our activities to help enhance the local communities that we're working in.

### **Incorrect driver behaviours**

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Ingatestone and Fryerning Community Centre in August. It was great to meet with local residents and discuss the scheme as well as our contraflow plans.

Many attendees also wanted to discuss their ongoing concerns regarding incorrect driver behaviours, which are leading to rat-running, speeding, and an increase of HGV traffic through the Margaretting, Galleywood and Ingatestone communities.

So we can continue to help find solutions to these challenges, we recently met with representatives from Essex County Council, as well as Essex Police, to better understand both the short and long-term solutions to these problems.

Following the meeting, we've increased our signage at the extents of the B1002 (Margaretting and Mountnessing), to remind drivers that the road is for 'local access only' and that it isn't to be used as a 'through route' for A12 traffic. We've also installed extra signs in Galleywood to help remind HGV drivers that Margaretting Road / Maldon Road isn't suitable for them to use.



*Additional signage at the extents of the B1002*

Essex Police have used a speed camera van at key locations along the B1002, to help encourage better driver behaviour. On 29 September, they detected 24 speeding offences in 50 minutes from vehicles coming into, and out of the village. Essex Police will conduct further checks over the coming weeks.

And representatives from Essex County Council will be investigating if it's possible for traffic calming measures to be used, while finding out if the condition of the B1002 can be reviewed and improved, to help reduce any noise and vibration issues created by passing traffic.

### **Scheme progress**

So far, we've removed 18,969 cubic metres of concrete (that's the same as 7.6 Olympic sized swimming pools), installed 1,816m of new drainage (the same length of 17 Premier League football pitches back-to-back), and laid 17,243 tonnes of new asphalt (which is the equivalent weight of 92 Boeing 747 planes).



## Scheme progress (cont...)

Now our contraflow has been installed on the northbound carriageway, we're able to focus our attention on reconstructing the southbound carriageway. We originally intended to close the A12 junction 15 southbound entry slip during this time, but we were able to modify our plans to keep it open to help keep congestion to a minimum.



*Installing a new safety barrier*

We'll need to close the A12 junction 15 southbound entry slip road on a 24/7 basis from 8pm on 23 October 2023, until the 18 December 2023, so we can complete our work in this area. We'll then look to switch our contraflow onto the southbound carriageway, which'll allow us to start reconstructing the northbound carriageway.

Although we undertake a lot of our more disruptive work during the day, there will on occasion be a requirement for us to work at night, in order to complete specific sections of the scheme.

Such potentially disruptive work includes the use of what's called a percussive roller, which uses vibrations to help compact the sub-base layer of the reconstructed road. It's possible that some local residents may notice some minor vibrations when the work takes place. As a considerate construction scheme, we work within specific limits when it comes to noise and vibration. Our team will use specialist equipment to measure the vibrations of the percussive roller, in order to ensure we're well within our limits as it's being used.

## Helping to combat local pollution

In late July, we were made aware of a social media post, showing a pollution incident within a stream that runs under the A12. We investigated the scene, and called for an environmental emergency response team to



*The polluted stream as first discovered*

install measures to contain the pollution, while taking samples to help identify where it came from. We discovered that none of our works activity was connected to the drainage system or outfall where the pollution was found.

Having been reassured that the pollution wasn't the result of our own activity, we continued our investigation by undertaking extensive surveying of the drainage network, with CCTV surveys being used to help determine the conditions of the local drains. The results of the investigation revealed the discovery of a white substance within the drainage that matched the



*CCTV image of the pollutant*

colour of the pollution. Further samples were then taken of this substance, and a laboratory analysis showed that it had elevated levels of hydrocarbons, suggesting that the pollution was most likely to be a solvent based product, such as paint. As we're keen to help use our resources within the communities that we work in, we're organising for the site to be properly cleaned, ensuring that the polluting substance is fully removed.

## Get in contact with us

If you'd like more information about this work, then please call the 24/7 National Highways Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000, email [info@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:info@nationalhighways.co.uk)

## Helping the community at Barrow Farm Riding and Carriage Driving For the Disabled

National Highways is committed to leaving a lasting legacy in the communities in which we work. We're not just here to reconstruct a road, we also look to work with key members of the local community to understand where we can create a true positive impact whether that be from school engagement and science, technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) sessions, the training and upskilling of local people or aiding local projects and charities. One such charity that we've been able to use our skills and resources to help, is Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled.

Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled has been providing riding and carriage driving to the population of Chelmsford and the surrounding area for 47 years. Due to the specialist nature



*Enjoying a ride at Barrow Farm*

of their ponies, coaches and facilities they have riders coming to them from all over Essex. Based near Highwood, with a team of 11 wonderful ponies and horses, the centre provides both indoor and outdoor riding, along with carriage driving six days per week. 130 disabled children and adults enjoy a fun experience every week, improving their confidence, independence and social skills, along with having a physical therapy.

The riders and drivers at the farm have a range of disabilities, both physical and learning, with many having difficulties on the autistic spectrum. With the help of over 120 volunteers,

their coaches and yard staff provide a safe environment in which families feel supported and know their loved ones are enjoying their own activity. This gives the riders and drivers and their families an overall improved quality of life, both physically and mentally.

But unfortunately the busy activities at the Farm had caused their concrete yard to break up, which was unsafe for wheelchair users, the horses and the staff. As a charity, funding to pay for the work to repair the yard was a challenge for Barrow Farm, and so the A12



*The A12 team at the new yard's opening ceremony*

Margaretting Bypass team were more than happy to step in. During the charity's annual 3 week summer shut down period, the A12 team used their skills and resources to replace the stable yard and hardstanding, including the drainage.

The new yard was officially opened at a ribbon cutting ceremony on 9 September 2023. Karen Lehner, Vice Chairman at Barrow Farm said, "A really big thank you for the amazing piece of work you have just carried out at Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled. It was not, as you know, without its challenges but the eventual outcome was wonderful. We are so pleased with the new concrete on our stable yard. It will last us now for many years to come and enable us to carry on giving so much pleasure to all our riders and drivers."

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