

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme July to September 2018

Sections 1 & 2 - Alconbury to the East Coast Main Line
Section 3 - East Coast Main Line to Swavesey
Sections 4 & 5 - Swavesey to Milton
Section 6 – Huntingdon

A word of caution we ask you to share

In the coming months we will begin surfacing new sections of the road.

It is not uncommon for rogue traders to claim fraudulently an association with road projects such as ours, and offer to lay spare asphalt or 'black top', as it is referred to in the industry.

Please be aware that no one associated with the project will be selling excess surfacing materials to the public or local businesses. Please pass this message on to as many people as possible.

Thank you

Traffic Management:

Sections 1 & 2: Narrow lanes and a 40mph speed limit remain in force on the A1. There will be a closure of the A1 northbound in mid-August to "tie in" the new A1 with the old. "Tie in" is a term used to describe the process of connecting the old road with the new and usually requires new surfacing to be laid between the two sections of road. When we carry out this operation it nearly always requires a closure of the road to allow us to do so safely.

Section 3: Over the next few months a number of the side roads which cross the new A14 will be completed. This will require some weekend closures to complete the necessary "tie in". Signs will be put out on the roads in advance of these closures to notify users of the times and dates.

Sections 4 & 5: Closures of the A14 will be needed in August and September to allow us to work safely on the bridges at Swavesey and Bar Hill and to remove the temporary bridge near Dry Drayton.

The week-day night time closures of the A14 between the Girton Interchange and Milton will end shortly as the works move into their second phase. Limited night works are anticipated from September to the end of this year.

Construction Activities:

Sections 1: Work on the southbound A1 is almost finished, with traffic now using the new alignment. We continue to work on the northbound carriageway and the "tie

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in” with the existing road is planned for later in August. We will then focus on the new local access road between Ellington Junction and Wooley Road.

Section 2: Work on the new layout for Brampton Road is progressing well and in early September we will undertake a weekend closure to complete the “tie in” of the road and completion of the new roundabout, which will be part of the local access road into Brampton. Close to our Brampton compound and very visible from both Brampton Road and the A1, we are creating a structure that will take the new A14 over the top of the local road.

The River Great Ouse viaduct work is progressing well. The final steel beams to complete the viaduct frame should be positioned in August.

Section 3: The second new bridge and local access road at Silver Street was opened to traffic on 20th July, the conclusion of a great team effort which began with piling in the spring. This was preceded on 2nd July by the opening of Potton Road. Work on the bridges at Hilton and Offord continues and these will be open in the autumn.

Through this section of the work (visible as you pass along the A1198) you can now begin to see the foundation layers of the road being laid.

Sections 4 & 5:

Work continues on the new bridge at Swavesey. Overnight closures of the road have allowed us to undertake work on the deck of the bridge. The layout of the new junction and the associated roundabouts is now much more obvious



The side sections “abutments” for the new bridges at Bar Hill are progressing well and the steel girders which will span the A14 and form the bridge for the new junction can be seen resting beside the east-bound carriageway, as pictured. We expect to lift these beams into place in September, when there will be a Friday night to Monday morning closure of the A14.

We have now hauled approximately

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700,000 tonnes of clay across the A14 using the temporary bailey bridge near Dry Drayton. This operation has now been completed and the temporary bridge will be removed in August, using a Saturday night full closure of the A14.

Traffic on the eastbound A428 approaching Girton was moved onto a new alignment on 28th July to allow work to be undertaken on the existing carriageway, as seen below. The bridge through which the traffic is now running will take the new A14 westbound link road over the top of the A428.



Along the Cambridge Northern Bypass, the lengthy period of night work required for phase 1 of the work will soon come to an end. During this time we have removed the safety barrier from the centre of the road and resurfaced it so we can move traffic over to construct the widened section of this part of the A14. During phase 2 the majority of the work will be carried out during the day.

Section 6 Huntingdon Works: Some of the early preparatory work in this section of the scheme will start later this year, but the removal of the viaduct cannot begin until we have A14 traffic on the new road. The recent information we have shared about how the completed layout around Huntingdon will look can be found via this link:

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[A14-Cambridge to Huntingdon- Preview of plans for Huntingdon](#)

Archaeology

The extensive excavations by Mola Headland's 250-strong team of international archaeologists have now finished on site. Over the last two years they have investigated areas totalling 350 hectares, equivalent in size to 8 Vatican cities, uncovering 45 Roman pottery kilns, 7 prehistoric burial grounds, 8 farmsteads spanning the Iron Age and Roman periods, 3 prehistoric ceremonial henges, 2 brick kilns, 3 Saxon settlements (one with royal connections) and a deserted medieval village dating from the 8th to the 12th century. Finds amount to nearly 15 tonnes in weight, including ancient artefacts, animal and human bones, metal work & pottery. Over 140 tonnes of soil samples have been collected and sieved. Analysis of the microscopic seeds and fauna within will provide clues to the crops and character of earlier landscapes across the region.

Having recorded every find meticulously, the team will now interpret their findings which span 6000 years of human history. During the off-site phase of work, the archaeologists will be joined by scientists and other experts as they begin to study the information revealed by the A14 excavations. The results will be used to rewrite not just the history of Cambridgeshire, but that of the wider region, informing communities, schools and other groups about this aspect of the A14 scheme. A series of books and an exhibition of the finds will constitute an important part of the A14's legacy.

Community Engagement

We recently took the mobile visitor centre (MVC) to both Huntingdon's & Bedford's river festivals. We welcomed nearly 700 customers who wanted to find out more about the about the project and how it will improve their journeys. If you'd like to see the plans and ask questions, the MVC will be at the following events:

Southoe Village Fete – 11/08/2016
Barhill Tesco – TBC
Little Paxton Village Groups – 15/09/2018
Milton Country Park Autumn Festival- 23/09/2018
Prickwillow Ploughing Festival – 06/10/2018

If you'd like to book the MVC to visit your village or town, please email us at

A14CambridgeHuntingdon@highwaysengland.co.uk

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Volunteering

Good relationships with the communities around our project is very important to us and vital in the realisation of the positive legacy we aim to leave.

Shown above are members of the A14 team who recently helped Cambridge Cyrenians, a charity for the homeless, renovate their allotments. These green spaces give homeless people a safe

environment to gain valuable gardening skills & build the confidence needed to leave life on the street and gain employment. The allotment project, run by a dedicated group of Cyrenians' volunteers, harvests the fruit and vegetables grown to sell at local markets.

On another occasion, one of our night-work teams responded to a request from the Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust, which maintains Milton lake & country park, to save the grass at a new play area. Fresh grass turf was suffering in the hot weather & without irrigation facilities nearby was in danger of dying. Our team took a road sweeper to the park to give the grass a much-needed soaking (see below).



We are always looking for local volunteering opportunities for our staff. If you or your parishioners have any community projects where we could provide some people power to help, please call our helpline on 0800 270 0114 or email Samantha.kedie@thea14.com.

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A14 Charity Welly Walk

Very sadly in the last 12 months three valued members of our project team have died from cancer. To honour their memories, we're organising a charity '**Welly Walk**' on **Sunday 9th September 2018**, raising money for Cancer Research UK.

The walk will follow the new A14 route between A1198, Ermine Street and Swavesey Junction. This is a unique opportunity for members of the public to explore 10 km of what will eventually be the new road carrying traffic between Cambridge and Huntingdon.

We'll soon publish full details, including how to book a place, so please come along with family and friends - with your support, we can help Cancer Research with their ambition to ensure that 75% of all cancer patients diagnosed in 20 years' time will survive for at least 10 years.



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