

# Newsletter

## A46 Stoneleigh Junction

**April 2022**

Since we started work last winter, we have made significant progress in delivering the A46 Stoneleigh Junction Improvement Scheme with our appointed main works contractor Colas-SIAC Ltd.

In the time we have been on site we have transformed the junction and, viewed from the air, it's clear to see how the final layout will operate.



*December 2020*



*March 2022*

Fortnightly meetings are held with key stakeholders carrying out other works in the area such as HS2 and National Highways and the Stoneleigh junction construction team to ensure that any clashes and issues of concern can be dealt with before they become problematic. Sharing information is key to avoiding potential problems.

We've had some challenges. As well as other construction works in the area, we have managed the works through the COVID Pandemic. A vaccination centre was set up nearby at Stoneleigh Park which we had to protect from traffic congestion. Of course, we also have had to take many more precautions to ensure the workforce were working in a COVID-Safe environment such as enlarging our site office to allow social distancing and reviewing and modifying how works are done where required.

To create the new roundabout above the A46, we are constructing an additional bridge to complete the circle. The new bridge deck is now taking shape, following the delivery of 36 m beams that were lifted onto trestles under a weekend closure of the A46 late last year. The big moment will come in the summer this year when it will be moved by remote-control self-propelled modular transporters and lifted into its final place. This will require a full weekend closure.

Work is now planned to finish next Spring, with the removal of the compound and a final clear up being the last activity on site.

## Environment

We've carefully considered the environment throughout the works. We have made special provision for otters and badgers to ensure they continue to thrive locally.

As part of the earthworks, about 3200 cubic metre of soil containing the invasive species Himalayan Balsam (contaminated with both the plants and the seeds) was carefully excavated.

We chose not to take the contaminated soil to specialist landfill sites, which would have incurred huge costs to the project, not to mention the impact of hundreds of lorry trips on the environment in taking it to these sites. Instead, we devised a strategy to keep the soil on site and to contain and encapsulate it within landscape areas, all with the approval of the Environment Agency.

## Site Visits



We've welcomed a group of second year Civil Engineering students from Coventry University on site for a tour of the works and a talk about working in the industry.

Here they are shown standing under the new bridge deck, under construction in its temporary position.

## How to find out more

Updates on the progress of the scheme are posted monthly on our website. You can find out what's happening on site; see photos of activity; our construction methods explained and see amazing drone footage of the works month by month.

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/major-transport-construction-projects/a46-stoneleigh-junction](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/major-transport-construction-projects/a46-stoneleigh-junction)

For general enquiries or concerns about the project you can call 01926 412675.

## Moderately Interesting Facts...

- Across the two new bridges, there is a total of 109.44km of rebar (reinforcing steel rods). This is roughly equivalent to the lengths of 10,324 double decker buses, 1,140 Big Bens, 331 Eiffel Towers, 247 Empire State Buildings or 912 football fields
- The species of reed we have used in the swales and balancing pond can absorb heavy metal contamination, as well as providing habitat for wildlife and slow down the flow of water to help in times of heavy rain. In theory it should be possible to smelt the roots to extract the metals, but at the time of writing, no one in the office has ever tried this.
- The new bridge deck weighs the equivalent of approximately 147 African elephants or 736 tonnes.