

Community Newsletter Update

Issue No.08

Bean Underpass

October 2026



Above: Artist's impression of the Bean Underpass as seen from Bluewater



Above: Artist impression of the Bean Underpass as seen from Whitecliffe

Dear Neighbours,

This is our October edition of the monthly project newsletter where we provide periodical information to keep you acquainted with the works taking place on the Bean Underpass project.

Erith Contractors have been appointed by the Kent County Council to undertake the works which will include the construction of a new underpass beneath the B255, linking the Whitecliffe development in the east to Bluewater Shopping Centre in the west. The underpass will primarily accommodate the Kent Fastrack bus service along with supplementary cycleways and footways.

Progress since last month:

- Completion of Class 1A install for new road embankment surcharge embankment.
- Settlement markers installed within fill to monitor the consolidation of the material over next 5 months.
- Rock netting installation ongoing on west cliff face of B255. Works taking place at the crest currently will switch to the bottom of the cliff.
- BW Pkwy West works ongoing with installation of ducting, drawpits, kerbs and drainage.
- Temporary filling adjacent to surcharge embankment and installation of pile mat for storage of tunnelling apparatus and later installation of sheet piling cofferdam.
- Ongoing construction of temporary substation near existing Bluewater substation, for upcoming tunnelling works.

What's next?

Works over the next 2 months:

- Completion of drainage and kerbs to BW Pkwy West.
- Installation of footway and carriageway surfacing, lighting columns, bollards and signage and removal of hoarding to BW Pkwy West.
- Completion of rock netting to west cliff face of B255.
- Installation of piezometers, extensometers and settlement studs for ongoing surcharge embankment settlement monitoring.
- Installation of temporary tarmac to surcharge embankment of tunnelling works access.
- Tunnellers' site establishment.
- Installation of temporary works platform and commencement of tunnel canopy anchors installation.
- Installation of vibro-monitors and settlement monitors assets, and CCTV drainage surveys on the B255.

Logistics:

- BW Pkwy West closure to remain in place until approximately late-November.
- BW Pkwy East closure to remain in place at least up to the tunnelling works in early-2027.
- B255 southbound daily closures for approximately 1-week in early-November.

Communication

It is our intention to keep you informed and updated on the works taking place at Bean Underpass throughout our work with regular newsletters, timely information notices and community meetings.

If you would like to register to receive these updates and invitations to our meetings via email, please contact our community liaison team (contact details below).

Your personal information will be kept safe in line with current GDPR regulations and will not be used for any other purpose.

Following our commencement on site, we will be looking to arrange our first Community meeting, which will give you the opportunity to meet with the management team in person and raise any questions you may have about the works.

About Erith

The Erith Group is a family-run, employee-owned trust, founded in 1967 by Tom Darsey. The company's ethos then, as it is today, is one of quality of service and client satisfaction with a strong emphasis on Safety.

Since its formation, the company has grown to form a Group comprising: Erith Holdings Ltd; Erith Contractors Ltd; Erith Haulage Ltd; Erith Plant Services; Erith Training Services and Swanton Consulting Ltd.

Our primary business is to service the construction and related industries through its Enabling Services comprising of demolition, asbestos removal, remediation, earthworks, infrastructure, basement reconstructions, waste recycling and haulage.



Meet the team....



Project Manager
Ajay Rayaprolu



Community Liaison/Conduct Manager
Cherrie O'Kane

SITE WORKING HOURS

MONDAY to FRIDAY:

08:00 to 18:00

SATURDAY:

08:00 to 13:00