

Community Newsletter Update

Issue No.05

Bean Underpass

June 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 May 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:

- Additional vegetation clearance undertaken at the face of the second existing access tunnel to enable installation of rock netting to cliff face.
- Establishment of new primary survey control for the project including installation of survey prisms around site and construction of concrete plinths with survey nails.
- One small trial hole within the western verge of Bluewater Parkway to uncover existing HV service for future EV charging network establishment for Bluewater patrons.
- One large trial hole within the eastern verge of Bluewater parkway to uncover numerous existing services for upcoming development to the carriageway as part of the main tunnelling integration into existing road network.
- Maintenance of vegetation within reed beds to prevent habitation by local fauna.

What's next?

Works over the next 2 months:

- Removal of existing reed bed pond material and over pumping to dry the area prior to breakout of reed beds.
- Removal and disposal of rubble, vegetation and tree stumps at cliff face to provide a flat terrain for machine access.
- Installation of a new stone platform and berm at existing access tunnel portal.
- Commencement of rock netting activities.

Logistics:

- A closure accompanied by traffic management will be installed on the inside lane of Bluewater Parkway southbound to aid the above-mentioned works.
- Excavators and dumpers will be used at the cliff face to remove and transport the rubble and pond waste for disposal.
- All machinery will access the site through the existing access tunnel in the cliff from the Whitecliffe quarry side.
- The Bluewater Parkway closure will enable deliveries and access where access is not possible through the existing tunnel.
- A static closure on the B255 outside lanes will be implemented upon the commencement of rock netting activities.

Bean Underpass Ground-breaking Event – April 2026

Communication

It is our intention to keep you informed and updated on the works taking place at Bean Underpass throughout our works 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