



The A249 Grovehurst Road Junction Improvement Scheme

By

Kent County Council

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 9



Aerial view of structure for the new bridge, and the new northbound entry slip under construction.

We are considerate constructors



We are registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme
Call: 0800 783 1423 visit: www.ccscheme.org.uk






Dear stakeholder,

Works on the scheme continues to progress, and whilst traffic management is essential for completing the works safely for both construction workers and the travelling public, minimising the disruption the works cause remains a key priority. We are therefore continuing to monitor the impact of the traffic management regularly, to enable us to be proactive to any alterations required.

Programme Update

We have told Kent County Council that an extended timeline will now be required to complete the scheme. The updated programme and schedule now estimate the project to be completed by June 2025 instead of the end of 2024 as originally anticipated.

These delays were caused in part by constraints on the traffic management, where the southbound A249 had to be fully reopened at the end of last year while alternative solutions were found to prevent extensive delays to traffic leaving the Isle of Sheppey, along with further restrictions applied while Network Rail undertake urgent repairs to the nearby Kingsferry Bridge.

Issues with trapping reptiles found on site, so they could be safely relocated, and delays with utility works have also contributed to the extended timeline.

Based on current estimates, the northbound exit and entry slip roads, heading towards the Isle of Sheppey, will reopen in August 2024; near enough the same time as the new bridge deck is installed; with traffic management on the A249 due to be lifted in January 2025 and all other road works being complete by May 2025.

Traffic Management Update

As you are already aware, the exit slip road of the A249, northbound, heading towards the Isle of Sheppey is currently closed. During this closure, we will be completing realignment works on the existing slip road and removing the existing roundabout, north of the bridge.

The diversion route takes traffic up the northbound A249, towards the Isle of Sheppey, before turning around at the Kingsferry Bridge roundabout back on to the southbound A249, towards Stockbury, when vehicles can exit via the southbound slip road. One lane of the northbound A249 exit slip road will be reopened during the urgent repairs to the Kingsferry Bridge planned at various times in June and July, to help ease traffic flow in the area and minimise disruption as far as possible.



Works Update and Upcoming Works

Below ground concrete structures are now completed on both sides of the A249. The arms to support the bridge deck have now been installed with construction of concrete walls on both sides of the road now underway and expected to be finished later in May.

Highways

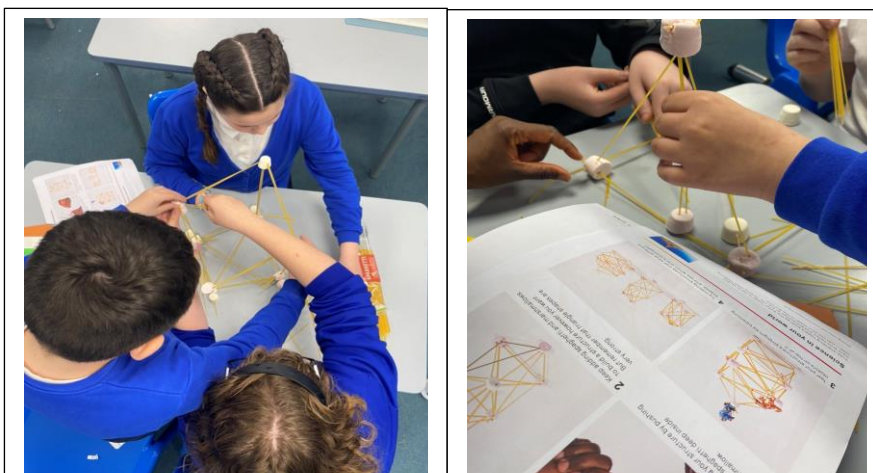
In the coming months, our highways team will continue with earthwork operations, locating and diverting utility services, drainage works and traffic management activities.

The construction of the northbound entry slip road is already underway, with works extending to the northbound exit slip following its closure last week.

Working in our Community

On April 19, a session was held at Newington Church of England Primary School to introduce Year Six pupils to the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM). This session, known as the spaghetti-marshmallow challenge encourages pupils to show their creative problem-solving abilities and teamwork skills. Participants were tasked with making structures using spaghetti and marshmallows, which were then put to the test by placing objects on them to determine their strength and durability.

Public Liaison Officers Shannon and Juliet, along with site engineer Teodora, led the session which was attended by about 30 pupils. The activity was both engaging and informative, with each group of students demonstrating enthusiasm for the challenge presented and actively participating in the subsequent question and answer session.



Pupils Participating in the spaghetti and marshmallow challenge at Newington Church of England Primary School



On April 22, the project team provided 12 sheets of plywood to local volunteers of the Bat Conservation Trust. This is to help in their efforts to provide and preserve natural habitats for bats. Works manager, Andy Fright, presented the donation to the charity, which is enough to build about 10 bat boxes, which will shelter hundreds of bats seeking places to roost.



Terry Hopper from the Bat Conservation Trust and works manager Andy Fright.

Kind regards.

The Project Team.

For more information about the Grovehurst Road Project, please visit: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/a249grovehurstroad> on the Kent County Council website.

For further enquiries, please send an email to GrovehurstRoad@jackson-civils.co.uk or call the Jackson PLO on 07811941681

