

A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements newsletter

August 2020



A2 central reservation: breaking out concrete

Welcome to our first newsletter for the A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements scheme.

The purpose of the newsletters is to keep you informed about the work we are undertaking to improve this increasingly busy part of Kent.

The Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions are a constraint on planned local development. This scheme to improve the junctions on the A2 will enable the proposed development and help boost the economy in the area by managing the predicted increase in traffic whilst also improving facilities for existing local residents.

Scheme location

The Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions are on the busy A2 trunk road separated by approximately 1.2 miles (2 kilometres). The Bean junction connects the Bluewater shopping centre and the B255 to the A2. The Ebbsfleet junction connects the A2 with the B259 Southfleet Road.

Ian Piper, Chief Executive of Ebbsfleet Development Corporation said:

“These improvements to the junctions on the A2 that serve the new Garden City are part of the vital infrastructure required to realise the vision for the area. It is great to see that work has started despite the obvious extra complexities that the coronavirus has meant for such projects.”



Bean South Field: hedgerow planting



We are proposing to improve both junctions:

Bean junction

We are retaining the existing layout with the current roundabouts enlarged. There will be a new bridge over the A2 for southbound traffic and a new slip road on to the A2 for eastbound traffic. New signalised crossings will be installed for pedestrians and cyclists.

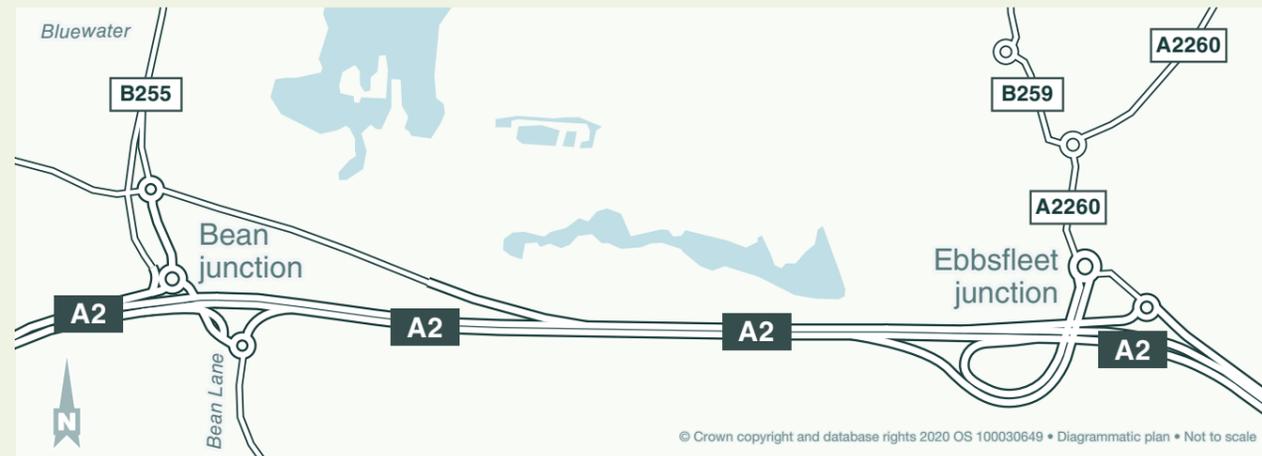
Ebbsfleet junction

The proposals will broadly follow the existing road layout with enlarged roundabouts controlled by traffic lights. The road between the roundabouts will be widened to a dual carriageway. The slip roads from the A2 will be retained and the slip roads to the A2 widened.

Scheme benefits

This scheme will provide the following benefits:

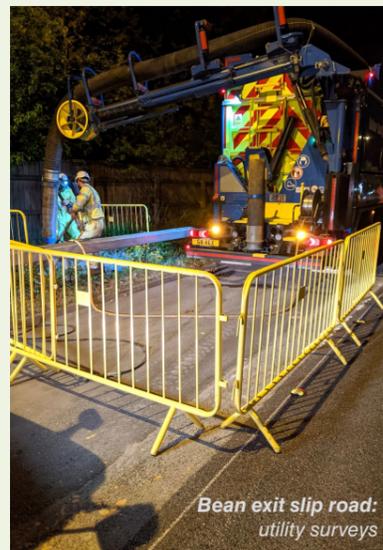
- support economic development, including jobs and housing growth
- increase road capacity to support future growth
- improve journey times at both junctions
- increase capacity for all road users without endangering safety
- improve safety for all road users
- provide better facilities for cyclists and pedestrians
- provide better access to public transport
- work to protect the local environment



What have we been doing?

Surveys

Since the public inquiry for the scheme, which took place in October 2019, we have carried out several surveys. These include drainage surveys, ecology surveys and utility surveys. We have been installing overnight lane closures to allow us to carry out the works in the safest manner, reducing any impact to the road users. The surveys provide us with the type of information we need to help us build the scheme safely.



Removal of existing structures

We have been breaking out the concrete in the central reservation and removed the existing barrier both of which have facilitated the installation of new drainage. These works were complete by the end of July. We have also removed the existing gantry at Bean which took place overnight on Saturday 8 August.

Our temporary site compound

We have installed our temporary offices at Pepperhill, where the team will be based throughout the duration of the scheme. The work took place during spring 2020 with the offices fully operational by the end of July 2020.



Site clearance and ecology

Vegetation clearance has been carried out methodically and slowly with a licenced Ecologist present. Further vegetation clearance will be required to allow construction activities to proceed. By doing these works slowly and methodically alongside a licenced Ecologist, it encourages the animals to safely move away from the work areas.

We have been working with Natural England and Ecologists to minimise disturbance to wildlife. All works that are at risk of impacting protected species are carried out under the relevant wildlife licences under ecological supervision.



A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements

Current programme of works

- **August 2020**
 - Work continues on the A2 to prepare the central reservation for installation of concrete barrier.
- **Autumn 2020**
 - Early autumn: Installation of concrete barrier along A2 central reservation. Currently programmed to take 4 weeks with some overnight closures.
 - Late autumn: The central reservation is due to be completed.
 - Construction of the new slip road near to Bean requires work to the verge. Narrow lanes in place on the coastbound carriageway during the work.
 - Work starts at both Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions, with traffic management in place and some overnight lane and carriageway closures.
- **Winter 2020/2021**
 - Work in the verge of the coastbound A2 and at Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions continues.
- **Spring 2021**
 - Works starts to install the bridge at Bean mid-spring 2021. Work continues at the junctions and along the mainline carriageway.
- **Summer 2021**
 - Work in the verge of the coastbound A2 and at Ebbsfleet junction continues.
 - Work continues at Bean junction.
- **Autumn 2021**
 - The new bridge at Bean scheduled to be open to traffic in mid-autumn.
- **Winter 2021/2022**
 - Final stages of construction at Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions.
- **Spring 2022**
 - The improvements to both junctions will be opened for traffic.



Looking after wildlife

We have been working with Natural England to ensure that we look after the dormice at Bean junction. In Spring 2020 we planted hedgerow, near to Bean roundabout. This work had to be carried out prior to the start of the main works and during the right season. The hedgerow will provide an area for the dormice to safely go between the verge and the woodland during the site clearance works.



Supporting local employment

We have been and will continue to work with local organisations to encourage local employment in the area. We are also working with local schools so that we can explain the construction industry and the different ways of getting into it through our apprenticeship programmes and graduate schemes. We have attended careers fairs and undertaken STEM activities (Science, Technology, English, Maths) in local schools throughout Kent. Our aim is to have 5% of our workforce employed as apprentices, graduates or trainees within the lifetime of the project.



Case study:

Hannah Mayatt,
Apprentice Quantity Surveyor

Our apprenticeship programme has helped to recruit young talent into the industry who are local to the scheme, with five new apprentices due to join the scheme in September 2020.



One student who will be joining the team is Hannah Mayatt, an Apprentice Quantity Surveyor who has said she has 'landed her dream job.'

"I'm excited to start my career with one of the leading infrastructure companies in the UK, on a local multi-million-pound job. It's great to see that there are different options available to those wishing to join this industry. This opportunity will allow me to develop new skills and learn the industry as part of a supportive and integrated team. Having gained previous work experience on a regional job, which is part of the Ebbsfleet Development at Springhead Bridge, this has given me a passion for this industry and I can't wait to be a part of a project that will benefit local communities."



How can I find out more information?

You can find out more by going to our web page or by emailing or calling us.

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<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a2-bean-and-ebbsfleet-junction-improvements>

Email us:

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