

October 2015

Welcome to the October newsletter for our A556 Knutsford to Bowdon Improvement Scheme. This is the second of a series of updates we will be producing to keep you informed about the project.

Scheme update

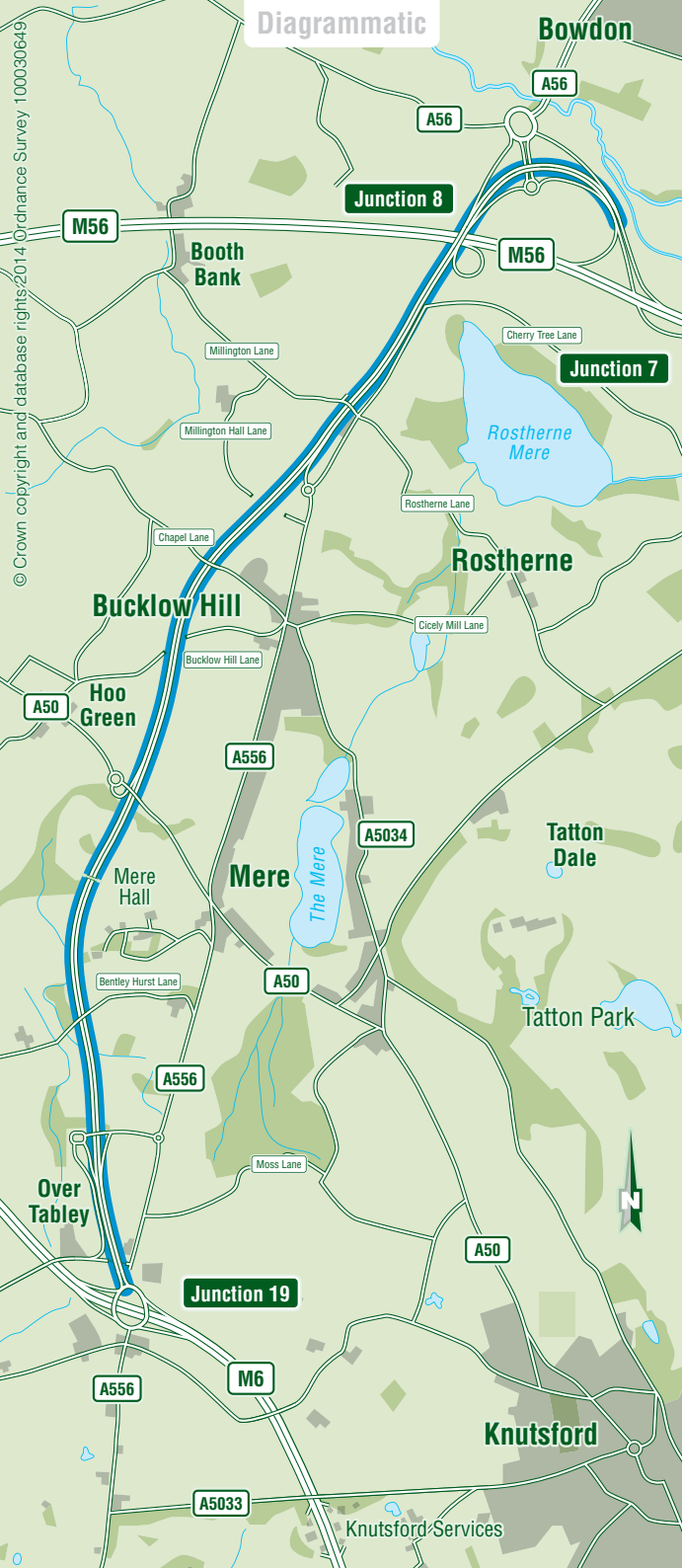
Work to construct the new 4.7 mile section of the A556 that connects the M6 Junction 19 near Tabley/Knutsford with the M56 Junction 7 near Bowdon is progressing well.

We have now prevented access for great crested newts from our working areas, allowing work to start in earnest across the project.

The team have utilised the extended daylight hours over the summer months to make significant head way with the earthworks activities. The current programme shows that over 50% of the bulk earthworks are now complete.

The various utility diversions and protection works that are being carried out across the project are almost complete.





Old Hall Lane underpass

The project has reached a key milestone with the completion of the first structure.

The underpass at Old Hall Lane will provide access beneath the new A556 for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

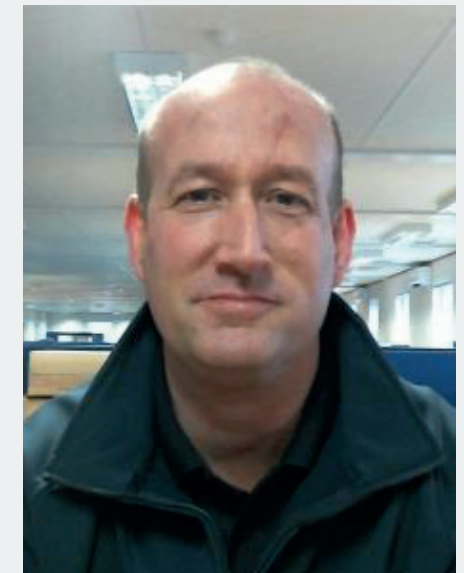
A total of 290m³ of structural concrete has been used to build the underpass in Tabley which connects Old Hall Lane to Chester Rd.

Did you know?

- There are approximately 250 people working on site every day.
- 97.07% of the current total of waste on the project has been diverted from landfill.
- Our contractor on this scheme has raised over £11,000 for charity in 2015.

Spotlight on...

- **Name:** Keith Scott
- **Job Title:** Traffic Management Safety & Control Officer
- **Company:** Costain
- **Brief description of role on A556:** My duties are to ensure safe and pleasant passage through road works for motorists and pedestrians.
- **Best part of the job?** Positive feedback from the public



What is next?

We will be doing less earthworks over the winter months because weather conditions affect what we are able to do on site. Earthwork operations will re-commence in spring 2016.

The current A556 works will continue to run with all four lanes on the southbound carriageway until early 2016 when it will switch to the northbound carriageway.

The narrow lanes will remain between Cherry Tree Lane and Bowdon roundabout to allow us to continue upgrading the road to modern standards for when the new road is open

Save the date

To celebrate our first twelve months on site, we are holding a public open day on Saturday 7th November 2015 from 10am until 2pm.

The local community are invited to come along to the site offices on Chester Road, Little Bollington.

There will be an exhibition showcasing the progress of the construction of the A556, an opportunity to look at future plans for de-trunking and a chance to see some of the machinery and plant that we are using on site.

Traffic management

We are holding regular traffic management meetings on site with representatives from the

local community and parish councils.

The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the forthcoming road works and to obtain valuable local information.

We have already made significant changes to diversion routes and signage we use for overnight closures of the A556 as a result of these meetings.

Just a reminder that the entry to the M56 westbound at junction 8 will be closed until mid November. Cherry Tree Lane will be closed at the junction with the A556 until March next year.

Please visit the project page on the website for up to date information regarding road closures and traffic management.

Balsam Bash

Eleven volunteers took part in a Balsam Bash on Fri 24th July. The event was run to help the

Friends of the Bowdon Bollin tackle the Himalayan Balsam that is taking over land on the Bollin to the detriment of local wild flowers.

The team had a great afternoon and were pleased to be able to clear a large area for the group.

What a Hoot

Karl Heath, Environmental Advisor on the scheme presented an 'Ecology on the A556' assembly to staff and pupils at High Legh Primary School.

The children learned about our environmental mitigation measures that are in place to ensure protection for great crested newts, bats, badgers and barn owls while the new road is being built.

Special thanks Lower Moss Wood Wildlife Hospital, who assisted the team and kindly brought in two real barn owls to show to the pupils.



If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

Road worker safety campaign

BBC Northwest tonight recently ran a feature on the signs that have been erected on the A556.

The posters, which were designed by the children of workers on the project, were put up to encourage safe driving for our staff who work on site. We take the health and safety of our workers incredibly seriously and want the A556 scheme to be a safe place for staff and public



Facebook

The A556 Knutsford to Bowdon Improvement Scheme now has a Facebook page. Please visit the site for the latest news and updates from the project.

Thank you

We would like to thank the local community for their ongoing patience and co-operation

Contact us

If you have any queries relating to construction activities, please do not hesitate to contact the project's Community Relations Team

Chris Burrows

Community Liaison Manager

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Sara Brady

Assistant Community Liaison Manager

Tel: **07717 838978**

Email: **a556HAIL@costain.com**

If you have any queries relating to Highways England, you should contact the information line on **0300 123 5000** or alternatively email

ha_info@highwaysengland.co.uk

For the latest information and updates, please visit our website where you can register for email alerts regarding the scheme:

www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a556-knutsford-to-bowdon-improvement/

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