



# The A249 Grovehurst Road Improvement Scheme

By

**Kent County Council**

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 5



*Aerial view of ongoing vegetation clearance at the site of the new Grovehurst Road Junction.*



Dear stakeholder,

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break. We are happy to be back to work and on site to continue from where we left off. Before the Christmas break, we informed you about new developments that will kickstart in the new year, which enable us to invite stakeholders to site, to gain a better understanding of the project.

We will be hosting regular drop-in sessions from next month for local stakeholders and businesses. These sessions will take place in our new on-site information hub. Details will be sent via email and attendance is strictly by RSVP.

### **Traffic Management Update**

As a reminder, following the notice we sent out to stakeholders before the Christmas break, works will begin on the southbound side of the A249, heading towards Stockbury. This includes installing a piling rig, which will be used to lay foundations for the new bridge.

To complete this safely, a temporary lane closure will be put in place starting on Monday 8th January 2024 until summer. Instead of the single-lane restriction being in place on the entire length of the Sheppey Crossing, traffic will begin to merge after the entry slip road from the Kingsferry Bridge thereby reducing the length of roadworks required in this direction.

The alteration in the traffic management has been achieved by working with National Highways to review the reduced length, to ensure there are no compromises in public or construction worker safety. A temporary 50mph speed limit will be in place for the length of the roadworks. The alternative traffic management arrangement will reduce the impact on travel time and traffic movements on the Isle of Sheppey, however it is likely that road users will still experience some delays during the morning peak.





*Satellite image showing one running lane due to the southbound traffic management.*

Reiterating what Kent County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Neil Baker, said: "We understand that major projects like this cause disruption, but we are committed to minimising this as much as possible. That is why we have listened to feedback from the community and worked with our contractor and National Highways to come up with an alternative way of managing traffic when we are working on site.

We will continue to monitor the situation and remove or adapt the traffic management when we can."

Also, please be reminded that each day from **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January** to **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January** between **10pm and 2am**, there will be a road closure of the A249 northbound mainline, heading towards the Isle of Sheppey, from the start of the Grovehurst exit slip road to the end of the northbound Grovehurst entry slip road. This is to accommodate offloading of a piling rig within the barriered off section to the north abutment.

A diversion will take traffic up and over at the A249 Grovehurst Road junction using the northbound exit slip road to return to the mainline using the northbound entry slip road.



As always, we will continue to monitor traffic conditions and communicate any new traffic management plans or changes to stakeholders who have opted to be included in our traffic management mailing list as the project continues. If you would like to be included in this mailing list, please send an email to [Grovehurstroad@jackson-civils.co.uk](mailto:Grovehurstroad@jackson-civils.co.uk)

### **Progress Update**

Before Christmas we commenced activities on the structural aspect of the works which include excavation, construction, and testing of the piling platform to the north abutment. On the highway sections, activities included vegetation clearance, excavation of sub formation and general earthworks operations, undertaking trial holes to locate existing services, and removal of safety barrier systems.

We also commenced drainage installation on the slip road off the Grovehurst Road junction on to the A249, towards the Isle of Sheppey and north of Great Grovehurst farm. CCTV surveys on the existing drainage network were also carried out. Other activities included removing the perimeter fencing and advance direction signs, removal of street lighting and installing protection matting to the pond areas.

### **Planned Works for January**

In January, the following works will be continuing as the southbound traffic management is installed, heading towards Stockbury:

- Earthworks operations
- Digging of trial holes to locate existing services
- Temporary Safety barrier installation
- Removal of surplus soils
- Drainage Installation
- Surveys on the existing drainage network
- Removal of fencing
- Removal of signs





As the works progress, be assured that we will keep you updated of any changes, and we will respond promptly to any enquiry or query sent to us through the project email address.

#### **Working In Our Community:**

Towards the end of January our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) lead and Senior Public Liaison officer will attend Westlands School to undertake another Lego Education activity. Lego Education is one of the ways we are looking to promote pupils' interests in STEM and construction, and we are very much looking forward to this engagement.

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](mailto:GrovehurstRoad@jackson-civils.co.uk) or call the Jackson PLO on 07811941681**

