



The A249 Grovehurst Road Improvement Scheme

By

Kent County Council

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 4



(Drone image showing works in progress and the newly erected Jackson Site Offices, closer to site of the A249 Grovehurst Road Improvement Scheme)





Dear stakeholder,

As the year comes to an end, this is to update you on our progress since the works started. We have now moved our site offices closer to the construction site of the A249 Grovehurst Road junction. With the completion of the new site compound, we are now better placed to manage resources, logistics, movement, and storage of materials for the project.

We have also set up an Info Hub on site for the benefit of the public and stakeholders. We will be welcoming stakeholders who are interested in knowing more about the project and have made an appointment to meet physically with a project personnel on site to discuss traffic management plans or other matters that are related to the project.

Starting in the New Year, we will be hosting monthly drop-in sessions on site for stakeholders/residents to attend and ask questions, have an overview of programme drawings/schedules, and discuss the scheme.

Following the completion of time critical activities and with piling works not commencing until the New Year, the traffic management on the southbound A249, towards Stockbury, has been temporarily removed. Jacksons, Kent County Council, and National Highways are now working to seek alternative traffic management arrangements, to provide a safe traffic management system that can be put in place, which minimises disruption as far as possible for when works will need to restart in early January 2024.

Attached with this newsletter, is a document containing answers to some frequently asked questions. These questions are those received to the project email address and those that were raised during the stakeholder engagement events. We are actively liaising with stakeholders regarding traffic management plans as schedules can change on short notice and we encourage stakeholders to contact us if they have any further questions or enquiries about the project.

Progress Update:

Currently, and ongoing until Christmas, activities on the structural aspect of the works includes excavation, construction, and testing of the piling platform to the north abutment. Mobilisation of the piling rig and associated attendant plant for the preliminary test pile, installing preliminary test pile and anchor piles, carrying out dynamic & static load testing of the test pile, and collating testing information for approval.





On the highway sections, currently, and ongoing until Christmas, activities include vegetation clearance, excavation of sub formation and general earthworks operations, undertaking trial holes to locate existing services, and removal of safety barrier systems. Drainage installation has already commenced on the northbound off slip, towards the Isle of Sheppey, and north of Great Grovehurst farm.

CCTV surveys on the existing drainage network are also ongoing. Other activities include removing the perimeter fencing and advance direction signs, removal of street lighting and installing protection matting to pond areas.

Planned Works Through January 2024

Traffic management is to be reinstalled to the A249 southbound carriageway, with details to be revealed once partners agree on an approach to reduce congestion as far as possible.

Following this, Jacksons will mobilise plant to excavate, import material to construct, and then test the piling platform to the Southern Bridge Abutment. Whilst this is happening, the piling rig will arrive to install 14no foundation piles to the Northern Bridge Abutment, then move to the newly constructed piling platform on the South and install 14no foundation piles for the South Abutment. Upon completion of the installation, and once the concrete has cured, the piles will be tested prior to works progressing. ‘

Working In Our Community:

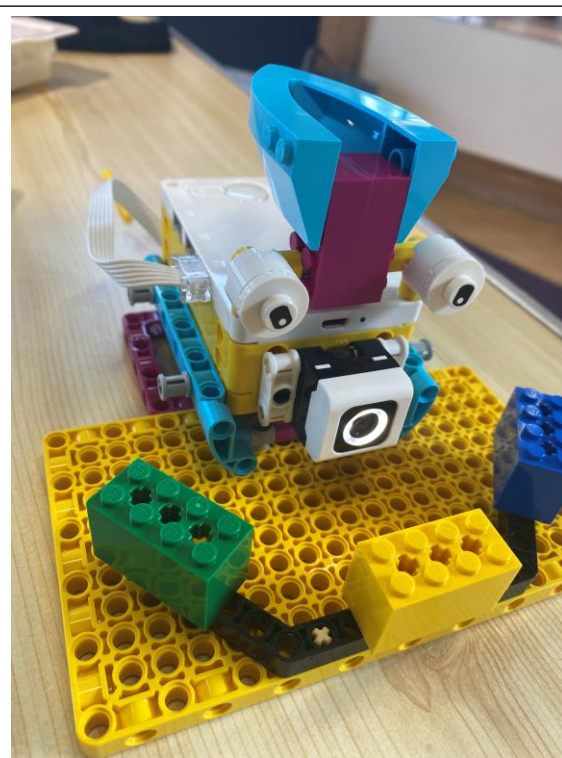
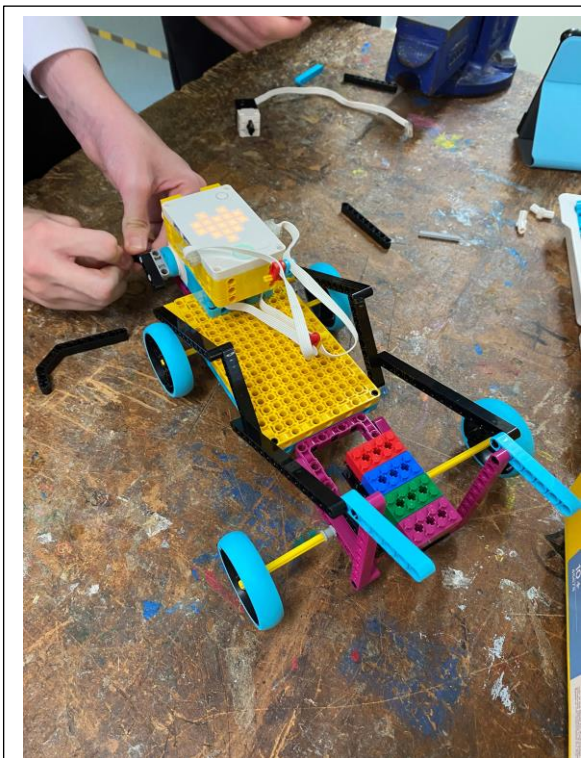
We started off our school visits at Highsted Grammar School, an all-girls school in Sittingbourne on the 3rd of November 2023. Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) lead and senior public liaison officer were present to undertake the Lego Education event that saw about 30 Year 10 pupils attend.

Lego Education is one of the ways we are using to ignite pupils’ interests in STEM and construction. The students seemed to really enjoy building their models, adding the motors and coding the directions/actions that they wanted their machines to go/do. The pupils were helped to undertake two different activities with the Lego and both activities went well.

We plan to visit other schools in and around Sittingbourne in the New Year to inspire young people to take up a career in construction and science.



Some photos of the LEGO models built by the students.



Finally, we would like to inform you that activities on site will be placed on hold from the evening of **Thursday 21st December** until **Tuesday 2nd January** for the Christmas break.

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