

news

Jones Bros and Cambridgeshire County Council: working in partnership to deliver The King's Dyke level crossing scheme

Summer 2021

THE King's Dyke level crossing scheme is being delivered by Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council.

At present, the King's Dyke at-grade level crossing is located on the A605 between Whittlesey and Peterborough and crosses the railway line between Ely and Peterborough.

It has long been a local issue owing to downtime of the barriers which causes significant delays to traffic travelling between Whittlesey and Peterborough.

Work will include constructing a new road and bridge over the Ely to Peterborough railway line. The level crossing will subsequently be removed as part of the programme.

As with all the family firm's projects, it will be aiming to boost

the local economy during construction, with opportunities for local suppliers as well as recruitment of apprentices and experienced operators.

Established in the 1950s, Jones Bros' leadership team consists of members of the second and third generations of the founding family. It employs more than 500 people.

The company is currently working on contracts in various sectors including highways, flood and marine defence, waste management and renewable energy around the UK.

The company runs an award-winning apprenticeship scheme, which has produced more than 40 per cent of its current workforce, with many of its senior managers having started out as apprentices or in a trainee role.

Giant bridge beams safely in place

THE King's Dyke level crossing scheme continues to progress well, with stunning pictures marking 420 tonnes of bridge beams being lifted into place.

The railway bridge, which goes over the Ely to Peterborough railway line on the A605, is the largest structure in the King's project and part of the road bypass, which also includes an underpass for a private access road.

Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK used a 1,000-tonne mobile crane to move the six 33m-long, 70-tonne beams into place. Together, the 420-tonne total weight is equivalent to three times that of New York's Statue of Liberty. Construction manager at Jones Bros, Rhydian Hafal, said: "It's really satisfying

to see a big part of a project like this go from the drawing board and onto the ground.

"Moving parts for structures of this size requires co-ordinated working to a strict timetable due to the railway being closed for a set window, and the team worked with absolute precision to achieve it."

Cllr Peter McDonald, Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council said: "It's great to hear the team successfully installed the beams and another milestone on this project has been

achieved." Following the installation of the bridge beams, 10 precast concrete stringcourse sections, which sit along the outer edge of the beams, were lifted into position along with a specially designed steel frame that allowed each unit to be safely secured down onto the beams.

The steel frames remained in position until the concrete pour for the bridge deck had taken place, being removed once the concrete had gained sufficient strength.

The concrete pour of the bridge

ABOVE: The final elements of the bridge structure are now in place. **LEFT:** The bridge deck prior to the final concrete pour.

deck saw more than 170,000 litres of concrete, the equivalent of about 1,150 baths, used. Rhydian said: "There were approximately 25 deliveries of concrete by mixer trucks, and we would like to thank residents and commuters for their patience."

After the deck was poured, 14 precast concrete parapet units were lifted into position by a 1,000-tonne crane. These units sit on top of the stringcourse and will provide edge protection for both vehicles and pedestrians using the bridge.

The installation of the parapet units completed the lifting activities that required the railway to be closed temporarily.

In total, the six 70-tonne beams were three times heavier than the Statue of Liberty!



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Kevin Woolner: 'I cannot speak highly enough of the team we've got here working on the site...'



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Kevin Woolner

Project close to home for drainage expert

ABLE to see his original home in Stilton from where he works on the King's Dyke project, works manager Kevin Woolner is one person who will know the impact the scheme will have on the area. Originally hailing from Stilton but having lived in Whittlesey for the past 16 years, Kevin, 59, is a recent addition to the staffing ranks at Jones Bros, joining the company in March after operating his own drainage installation company for five years.

He has worked on drainage installations across road and rail developments for more than 30 years, having first become involved with civil engineering at the age of 17. While the impacts of coronavirus on the economy has meant Kevin has temporarily paused his business, he has enjoyed the breath of fresh air and new challenges working on the project provides. Kevin, whose day-to-day responsibilities include

ensuring site health and safety policies are adhered to and helping reinforce earthworks along one section of the scheme, said: "I was driving past the development one day early in the year and the works caught my eye, so I just got in touch with Jones Bros asking if there were any positions for someone like myself with a lot of experience in the industry. "Thankfully they were able to bring me on board and since joining Jones Bros it has been an absolutely

brilliant experience, I cannot speak highly enough of the team we've got here working on the site. "Everyone is incredibly dedicated to their jobs and always willing to work hard and learn more and that makes the mark of a great team. "So many people in Whittlesey are following the project with great interest and they are very excited to see the development of the entire scheme from their doorstep."

The 'black stuff' that's a greener mix!

AN innovative approach to the construction of the King's Dyke project will significantly reduce carbon emissions as well as decrease traffic congestion. For the surfacing of the roads and pavements, Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK will be using a warm asphalt mix, as opposed to traditional mixes at high temperatures. This will reduce carbon emissions during production as well as throughout the laying process, and will also decrease the amount of smoke and fumes generated. In addition, the site team will have the opportunity to lay two layers in one shift speeding up the programme and thereby reducing traffic congestion, which will minimise disruption to commuters as well as have a positive impact on the environment. The process also improves durability and the

potential life of the asphalt. Rhyddian Hafal, construction manager at Jones Bros, said: "Reducing our environmental impact on projects is a high priority, and we are thrilled to be utilising this alternative method alongside Cambridgeshire County Council." Cllr Peter McDonald, Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council said: "The council's new Joint Administration has made a clear pledge to bring forward targets to tackle the climate emergency and I'm pleased we can reduce our carbon emissions on our infrastructure projects. "The work on site to use this special type of surfacing mix to reduce the impact on our environment is a great example."

WORK EXPERIENCE



Lydia Williams, who undertook an industrial placement while a student, talked about the importance of work experience in a previous newsletter. She said: "Gaining experience in the industry has made me realise how much there is to learn so it's really helped me. I would definitely encourage others to get experience in the industry where possible."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Coronavirus message

HEALTH and safety is one of the utmost priorities for Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK. To protect its staff and local residents, we have put measures in place such as risk assessments and social distancing as well as doubled the size of suitable hygiene and welfare facilities on site. Staggered breaks will also be introduced as the number of people on site increases. Additional full-time cleaners are employed at both compounds, which is also subject to a one-way system.

Facebook group

STAY up to date with the latest information by liking the King's Dyke Level Crossing Scheme's Facebook page. It is updated regularly by Cambridgeshire County Council with news and information from site including progress, recent work, upcoming activity and important traffic management announcements. You can also view the latest opportunities for recruitment and supply chain partners via the page. To find out more, visit: www.facebook.com/KDCrossing/

Recruiting now

JONES Bros Civil Engineering UK is recruiting for permanent key roles as work continues on site at the King's Dyke project. To view and apply, visit the Jones Bros careers page at www.jones-bros.com.

Safety message

CONSTRUCTION sites are not a playground. Please do not trespass on the King's Dyke level crossing site. In addition, please have patience in passing construction traffic entering or exiting from the site compounds.

Log on and explore the site with CGI

READERS are reminded to explore an interactive computer generated image (CGI) web page, which opens up the King's Dyke scheme online, as well as provides a glimpse as to what it will look like upon completion.

The page aims to offer the community some of the benefits of visiting the site which haven't been possible during the pandemic. Supporting education and increasing the accessibility of engineering is a passion of Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK, the contractor delivering the £32m King's Dyke Level Crossing Scheme. The web page, which features videos, maps, and latest site images, offers the chance to understand more about the project and civil engineering itself as well as learn about some of the individuals working on the scheme and their journey into the industry. The CGI web page can be found at <https://kingsdyke.jones-bros.com/>.

SUPPLIER SPOTLIGHT: Gemmix

We're here to keep the concrete coming

A COATES-based concrete supplier has helped lock in key structures of the King's Dyke level crossing scheme. Gemmix, which has been trading in East Anglia since 2001, has supplied ready-mix concrete across the span of the project to ensure vital portions of the scheme can be constructed.

The company has been involved with the appointed contractor Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK since the commencement of works at the site. It delivered more than 170,000 litres of concrete for the recent pouring of the bridge deck, alongside a total of 320,000

litres for the construction of the underpass as well as a regular supply of concrete for the installation of signage and other necessary fixtures. Company director at Gemmix Darren Hire said: "We are very pleased to be a major supplier for the King's Dyke project as it is one of the largest projects we have worked on as a company. "One of our crucial tasks has been to provide concrete as needed in a timely and efficient manner, ensuring that the concrete was continuously mixing and advancing onto the site where needed in order to help line up with what Jones Bros required. "Thanks to our fleet of lorries, we've been able to deliver this with minimal interruptions to traffic from one of our two nearby depots and ensure the concrete could arrive on time and within the specifications needed for the structures. "Being a local company, we are excited to see the scheme progressing and play a part in the development of it, as we know how key of an impact this project will make on the community when it is finished."



Darren Hire, director at concrete supplier Gemmix, said: "Thanks to our fleet of lorries, we've been able to deliver [concrete to site] with minimal interruptions to traffic."

No traffic jams - just jam doughnuts!

Heaps of praise for Heath as he keeps the traffic flowing

THE spotlight was very firmly on one of our traffic management operators from Amberon Traffic Management Peterborough, with his story securing local media coverage. Heath Johnson received dozens of gifts from happy commuters for his efforts in keeping the traffic moving. From free coffees to a large box of Krispy Kreme doughnuts, Heath shared the generosity of passing motorists on Facebook, with positive comments

flowing in response. Speaking to the *Cambridgeshire Times*, he said: “All I can say is a big thank you to the people of Whittlesey, not just for the freebies but just for being so friendly to me as they pass. “It makes my job so worthwhile. “Usually when you're working on traffic lights and stopping people going to work or going home you expect people to be angry and upset, but it's been the total opposite, they have been amazing to me.”



Do you have a query? Then get in touch...

ANYONE with a query relating to the transport scheme can get in touch with our team via email or by phone. Tracey Cain is the public liaison officer and she is the principal site contact for the community. Please contact Tracey by email tracey.cain@jones-bros.com or phone 07435 548 707. The site team is also working closely with community groups and the town council to help keep local people updated on the scheme's progress. Copies of this newsletter will be circulated to homes near the construction site and will be made available to pick up for free at the local post office, council offices, and other public buildings such as libraries. It will also be available electronically on request.



Tracey Cain.



Traffic management

UPCOMING efforts on the King's Dyke project will be concentrated in completing the works associated with the railway bridge and starting work on both roundabouts over the coming months. The work will mainly involve completing the earthworks between the railway bridge and the eastern roundabout, as well as the installation of drainage, ducting, and the laying of kerbs, with the majority of this work to be done without traffic management. Traffic management is expected to be undertaken for a short period in August to complete the removal of a fire hydrant at the eastern tie-in. Further traffic management will be required in September at the western tie-in opposite Funtham's Lane to allow the existing BT Openreach ducting to be lowered to the required level which will allow for the new road to be constructed over the top. The traffic management at the western tie-in is expected to be in place for two to three weeks.

Key dates and milestones

August 2021 – Railway bridge scheduled for completion.
March 2021 to December 2022 – phase 2 and 3 earthworks as well as highway construction works. Further details will be published in future newsletters and at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/kings-dyke