

THE LINK



Costain Project Director,
Andrew Langley

"Firstly I'd like to say Happy New Year to everyone, here's hoping it is much drier than the end of last year.

We had another successful year in 2015 with all the structures well on their way and nearing completion to the junctions. The mainline roadworks from Shefferlands to the A6 look close to the end product.

We will be focusing on the remainder of the mainline carriageway and motorway sliproads, whilst completing the Lune West Bridge deck.

The wet weather experienced since October has naturally impacted the schedule and completion date. We will be working very hard to recover the time back in order to complete the scheme by autumn 2016.

It was great to see so many of you on the two Welly Walks we held last year. Both events helped raise lots of money for St John's Hospice and our Costain 150 Foundation, whilst helping people understand the complexity and scale of this fantastic project. We'd like to thank people for their continued support and patience while we build the link road which will connect the Heysham peninsula directly to the M6."

Help us choose the official name for the link road

More than sixty years after its was originally planned we are less than a year away from opening the Heysham to M6 Link Road. With construction progressing well, Lancashire County Council is giving you a chance to make your own bit of history by helping us choose the official name for the link road.

The name will be used on signposts, maps and the internet and will become the authorised, formal name we use when describing the road.

Look out on our website www.lancashire.gov.uk/heyshamlink (after 1 February) where you'll have the chance to vote for your favourite name from a shortlist or pop into our visitor centre and pick up a voting form.

Keeping up to date

From the 1st of February 2016 the Visitor Centre is relocating to our main site offices on Halton Road. The buildings on the former Broadoak site off Torrisholme Road are to be demolished and the land is to be landscaped as part of the scheme.

Visitors are welcome at the main office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 9-12pm, and at other times are by appointment only.

Costain Main Site Compound
Halton Road, Lancaster, LA2 6LW



Department
for Transport

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 **h2m6.enquiries@costain.com**

 **@Heysham_link**

 **www.lancashire.gov.uk/heyshamlink**

Directions: If traveling from Skerton, continue past the MOD Halton Army Training Camp. The main site entrance is on the right just before the new Shefferlands Bridge. If traveling from Halton take first left after passing under M6 bridge and the new Shefferlands Bridge. Security will notify the Community Relations Team of your arrival and will instruct you where to park and how to access reception.

Working in partnership





Bridging the gap - Structures Update

Lune West Bridge



Installation of the Lune West Bridge structural steelwork was substantially completed during the summer of 2015. The central bridge span was installed with the steelwork constructed 150mm higher than its final resting level at the Pier support on each river bank. The final phase of the structural steelwork installation involved the lowering of the bridge deck down on to the piers. Work commenced on the construction of the reinforced deck during the final stages of steelwork installation at a time that would allow it to progress without interruption during the lowering process.

This was a technically challenging phase that required a number of sequenced operations to transfer the load around the structural members until it rests in its final position and takes its final shape. During one of these operations a load transfer occurred that was not predicted.

It was at this stage in September that the operation was stopped for further analysis and to ensure the safety of all. Engineers revised the methodology to enable the bridge to be safely lowered in a timely manner, which was approved by independent structural engineers.

The bridge has now been lowered onto the permanent bearings and work has recommenced on the deck.

Torrisholme Road Bridge

The reinforced concrete deck works were completed ahead of schedule in early November. The final stages of earthworks to the wingwalls is ongoing and will be completed in the new year. This will be followed by installing the precast concrete base units and edge beams before finally waterproofing and installing the vehicle barrier.



Lancaster Road (A6) Bridge

The work required to realign the A6 Lancaster Road and construct Lancaster Road Bridge which will carry the existing A6 over the Heysham to M6 Link is progressing well. The stone facing and earthworks on either side of the new bridge are now complete. The precast concrete parapet beam has now been installed. This will be followed by deck waterproofing and vehicle parapet installation in the new year.



Foundry Lane Bridge

Work continues to extend the existing Foundry Lane Bridge which carries the road over the M6. This work is required to accommodate the new northbound slip road under Foundry Lane Bridge.

Removal of the side span was completed in July using a 500t mobile crane. Demolition and removal of the deck slab and existing west abutment was completed in August, followed by earthworks to dig out for new pier and abutment and create crane platforms.

Reinforced concrete works to the new pier, abutment and existing pier modifications commenced in September and are now complete. The installation of the new beams was completed in December 2015. Foundry Lane will re-open towards the summer of 2016.



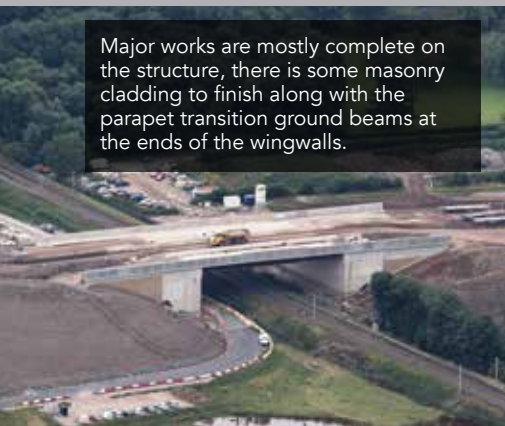
Milestone Canal Bridge

The deck is substantially complete with the precast concrete parapet due to be finished soon. The masonry cladding to the structure continues and waterproofing of the deck is well on the way, we're awaiting dryer weather in order to complete.



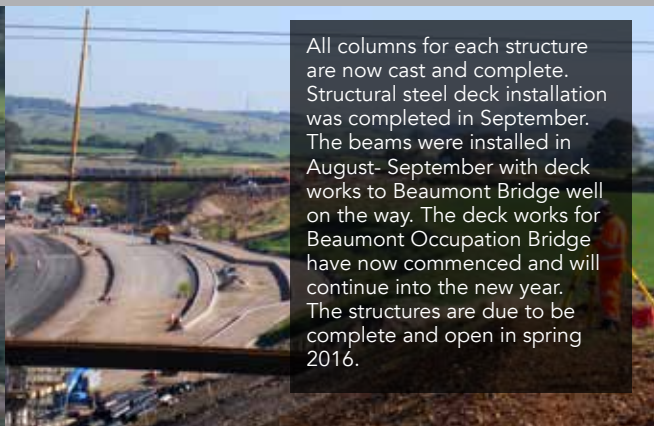
Folly Rail Bridge

Major works are mostly complete on the structure, there is some masonry cladding to finish along with the parapet transition ground beams at the ends of the wingwalls.



Beaumont Occupation Bridges

All columns for each structure are now cast and complete. Structural steel deck installation was completed in September. The beams were installed in August- September with deck works to Beaumont Bridge well on the way. The deck works for Beaumont Occupation Bridge have now commenced and will continue into the new year. The structures are due to be complete and open in spring 2016.



Carus Bridge

Structure complete and road reopened to traffic in June 2015.





Paving The Way - Roadworks Update

Caton Road (A683)



Works to complete the central Islands on Caton Road and final junction reconfiguration works are well on the way to completion with works programmed to move into their final phases in front of the Holiday Inn in the new year to then await connection on to the Lune Bridge towards the end of the project.

Lancaster Road (A6)



The work required to realign the A6 Lancaster Road and construct Lancaster Road Bridge which will carry the existing A6 over the Heysham to M6 Link is progressing well with the new bridge expected to open to traffic at the end of March 2016. Progress is also being made with the stone facing and earthworks on either side of the new bridge.

Northgate



Work is continuing to fully reconstruct the existing A683/Northgate junction and carriageway, which is additional works added to the scheme. The civils and surfacing works are now complete, allowing Northgate and the A683 upto Mellishaw roundabout to re-open to two-way traffic again prior to Christmas. In the new year work will continue on the remaining section of the A683 from Northgate to Morecambe Road including the new junction of Hadrian Road onto the A683. The heavy rainfall experienced in November and December unfortunately delayed progress of these works, the construction team worked hard to limit the delays as much as possible.

Morecambe Road (A683)



At Morecambe Road junction work continues on the west side with the highway construction for the new signal controlled junction being constructed as well as ongoing service diversions. Traffic has begun to use the new Hadrian Link allowing the final phase of surfacing works to be carried out. Accommodation works have also commenced at Morecambe Road School to provide additional waiting space for vehicles within the school grounds in order to reduce congestion on Morecambe Road at peak times.

Earthworks

We have had a second successful season and have now completed the majority of the bulk cut to fill with only the road formation and top-soiling works remaining. We were helped out by the Indian summer we experienced last year enabling us to retain our larger teams on site right through until the weather broke late in October. It was at this point we reduced our operations over winter until spring 2016.

To date we have moved approximately 1.7m m3 of material of a proposed 2.1m m3, and plan to complete all remaining earthworks by Easter 2016

Walters Project Manager - Rob Bashford



M6 Motorway

M6 motorway works have progressed well despite the autumn showers the southbound on-slip is due to open to traffic in January 2016 which will allow works to the southbound off-slip to go into the final phases ready for opening both sliproads fully in May 2016. The new northbound sliproads are estimated to open more towards the summer 2016.

Further closures and restrictions will be required as the scheme nears completion on order to tie in new sections of carriageway to the existing. Notification of this Traffic Management will be communicated on the project website and twitter, as well as being shared with local media.



Community News

Andrew Langley with Catherine Butterworth (St John's Hospice)



The Welly Walk

"Excellent event again. Well done to all who made it happen."

Well done Costain, and all the others who volunteered and helped raise money for the Hospice.

"Had a great day today welly walking!"



Following an incredibly successful Welly Walk held April last year, 2900 people took part in the Halloween themed "Wicked" Welly Walk on Sunday 1st November 2015. A 4km walk along the route of the new Link Road raising money for St John's Hospice and Costain 150 charities.*

Head of Fundraising at St John's Hospice, Catherine Butterworth, said, "This has been another amazing event working in partnership with Costain which shows not only how the community are supporting this road, but also their constant commitment to support their local hospice. A big thanks to all our walkers, marshals, volunteers and businesses who have allowed us to raise over £40,000 for the hospice and the Costain 150 charities."

Costain's Community Relations Officer, Tom Horton said "It was great to see everyone embrace the event. There was a Glastonbury-like atmosphere created by the mud and fancy dress outfits. I'd like to thank the hospice staff and the Heysham to M6 Link project team for their hard work and commitment. We're also very grateful to the organisations that provided much needed provisions for the event. Hopefully this is not the last event we host before the road opens next year. For now, we will get back to building the new road."

* The Costain 150 Challenge commemorates Costain's 150th anniversary and has raised over £1million in 2015 for the Costain Charitable Foundation's four chosen charities – the British Heart Foundation, Samaritans, Macmillan Cancer Support and youth charity The Prince's Trust.

Community Fund Launched



A fund has been set up to provide grants of up to £500 to voluntary and community groups in the Lancaster & Morecambe District. The Costain H2M6 Community Fund is directly funded by Costain's project team building the Heysham to M6 Link Road scheme on behalf of Lancashire County Council. The fund has been open to applications throughout the year.

The fund aims to support activities that will benefit the local community impacted by the construction of the Heysham to M6 Link Road and which align with the project's vision: Leaving a Lasting Legacy.

This year over £3000 in cash has been awarded to community groups such as; Skerton Boxing Club (see picture above). Vale of Lune RUFC juniors, Morecambe Ladies FC, Heysham Atoms ARLFC juniors, Lancaster Boys and Girls Club, St Luke's Primary School (Skerton).

VIP Visits



David Cameron and George Osborne visit the project in May 2015.

Chamber of Commerce Update

Lancaster District

Alistair Eagles - Chamber Director and Managing Director of Seatruck Ferries in Heysham



When stuck in the Lancaster and Morecambe traffic it is hard to imagine that life will ever be any different. But within the space of a few months the M6 link will be operational, opening up what I believe will be a huge opportunity for both business and pleasure in the area.

During the recent 'Welly Walks' organised by Costain Ltd, a key theme that kept coming back from the participants was the surprise about just how short a distance it is from end to end. At just under 5km the scheme will transform journeys from the motorway removing the majority of heavy goods vehicles from the central areas of Lancaster.

Down at the port the ferry operators are looking at ways to encourage more traffic and the M6 link is the key part of the strategy moving forward. More traffic will result in more local jobs and the potential for port centric logistic activities is now very real.

However to focus purely on the port business would be short sighted as the sphere of opportunity is much wider and many existing businesses

and new start-ups can also use the M6 Link as a springboard for action. Strangely for an otherwise vibrant community with leading educational establishments on our doorstep, the number of new business start-ups in this area is actually very low. It seems we have misplaced and need to rapidly re find our entrepreneurial spirit!

You may have a great idea, you may think that you would never get the funding, you may just be unsure how to take the first step. If this sounds familiar then the next time you are stuck in a traffic jam between Asda and Salt Ayre let your eyes drift to the other side of the road, where the Chamber of Commerce office is located. The Chamber office is manned 9-5 and can help you to start, grow and market your business.

With the new road on the way isn't it about time that we all grabbed the opportunity that it presents?