



An aerial photograph of Albury Road taken by drone

A120 Little Hadham Bypass and Flood Alleviation Scheme

Project Newsletter
September 2021

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the A120 Little Hadham Bypass and Flood Alleviation Scheme Newsletter.

A significant infrastructure project for the county

Once complete, the new 3.9km Bypass to the north of Little Hadham will alleviate congestion caused by the Little Hadham traffic lights and provide more reliable journey times.

Hertfordshire County Council have worked in partnership with the Environment Agency to develop the scheme which includes flood alleviation measures. New road embankments across the River Ash and Albury Tributary valleys will act as flood defences to reduce flood risk to the village and other nearby communities.

The scheme will improve air quality in Little Hadham and also ultimately benefit the county's economy, with more reliable transport links to Stansted Airport alongside other long-term advantages for Hertfordshire.

New Bypass takes shape as tarmac is laid across the site

The first layers of asphalt have now been laid across approximately two thirds of the mainline.

The project remains on track to complete within the revised timeframe of Winter 2021, with a hopeful opening by the end of the calendar year.



Albury Road and Bridge from above as asphalt is laid across the site

Building your new Bypass and Flood Alleviation Scheme

As we reach the final few months of construction, progress is being made across the site at pace. Here are a few highlights from September.

Bats benefit from flourishing hedgerow



Hedgerow

Barbastelle bats are one of the UK's rarest species with the creatures known to have just two breeding sites in Hertfordshire – one of those being just beyond the east of the Bypass. Throughout the year, bats use a variety of landscapes and habitats as they feed, roost and travel.

To maintain the bats' foraging routes we planted 3.7km of new hedgerow on the boundaries of the scheme before the start of construction. These new hedgerows are now flourishing and maintaining the feeding habitat for this important species, as well as providing homes for all the other wildlife that can live within them.



Barbastelle bat

Lloyd Taylor Drain nearing completion



Lloyd Taylor Drain. Laying of Grasscrete inset

Works should complete at Lloyd Taylor Drain next month. This channel will have a far greater flow capacity than the existing watercourse that runs behind the housing of Standon Road.

Hadham Park Underpass



Hadham Park Underpass from above

Progress continues as the construction of Hadham Park Underpass nears completion. The construction of Tensar walls is ongoing – these are types of retaining walls. This structure combines crossings for bats, farmers and bridleway users; maintaining their links across the scheme.

Flood Alleviation Scheme: An update from the Environment Agency

Topsoil is now being reinstated below the **Albury Tributary** reservoir spillway as the major works are now reducing and less working space is required. These areas will soon be seeded with wildflowers and grasses.

Netting will be installed on the embankment slopes in the coming weeks to prevent badgers known to be in the area from burrowing, which could weaken the embankment and its ability to safely hold back flood water if they did so. The netting will also be covered in topsoil with grasses.

The northern side of the **River Ash** embankment has been covered in top soil ready for seeding with grass. A maintenance access track is also being built. The River Ash embankment is the inlet to the River Ash culvert, which has a debris screen and platform area from which the screen will be able to be cleared by a grab lorry.

Scour protection is being installed at the spillway from the Albury Tributary reservoir. Should the spillway operate in a very rare event when the reservoir is full, the scour protection will help to safeguard the embankment.

The dark pockets in the concrete area shown in the image above will eventually have grass growing from them to both soften the visual appearance and provide new habitats. This material is known as *Grasscrete*.

In the future, maintenance vehicles will be able to travel across the concrete to access the embankment and road drainage ponds.

Progress has also been made on the **Lloyd Taylor Drain** diversion channel, which is being built to replicate natural channels in the area with a gravel bed. The banks of this will be seeded with wildflowers and grasses in due course.



Albury Tributary reservoir spillway



The northern side of the River Ash embankment



Scour protection being installed at the spillway from the Albury Tributary reservoir



The upper length of Lloyd Taylor Drain



Archaeologists discovering a corn dryer during excavations in 2019.

Learn all about the archaeological discoveries on site!

Earlier this month we worked with Cotswold Archaeology to launch a dedicated online resource of information about all of the fascinating archaeological findings on site from more than 2,000 years ago with a library of videos, 3D models, photographs and more. From Roman pottery and coins to a corn dryer and cremations. Find out more by visiting: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/a120bypass

Roadworks and road closures

There are no planned road closures planned, associated with the scheme.

What's coming up in the next month?

- Road surface will continue to be laid throughout the mainline of the Bypass.
- Works continue on the drainage and safety barrier at the River Ash. Grasscrete will also have been laid at River Ash.
- Drainage works throughout the site will continue.
- Hadham Park Underpass will have both the drainage and reinforced earth wall completed with the possibility of asphalt (road surface) laid over the structure.
- Work on the Lloyd Taylor Drain will draw to a close.

Keep in touch

You can find out more about the project by visiting our dedicated website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/a120bypass



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You can watch our progress on site with our latest drone and time-lapse footage. Visit our **YouTube** channel: <http://bit.ly/A120videos>

You can also call the GRAHAM site team at Standon Road on **01279 314182** for immediate enquiries and concerns.