

Colchester Rapid Transit System Northern Approach Road

WORKS UPDATE

Work undertaken between Dec 2023 and Apr 2024

The periods of heavy rain have had an impact on some of the planned activities, but we have been able to make positive progress as outlined below with 100% of the preparatory works complete.

- A number of critical ducts have been dug relating to new lighting, new signals and drainage. These were the activities we had recently started during night works
- Installation of the attenuation tank for drainage (see image)
- Ongoing drainage activities on all sections of the site
- Completion of utility diversions for UKPN, Cadent and Anglia Water ensuring that services for residents are not disrupted. The BT diversions are to be completed
- Installation of temporary signals at the junction of Mill Road and Northern Approach Road



Installation of attenuation tank



View of site looking north from Turner Road

- We apologise for the disruption caused when the new temporary lights at the Mill Road junction with Via Urbis were installed. Whilst the issues were investigated the site was manned by operatives 24/7 to make amendments as necessary. A permanent solution has now been installed and the signals are working effectively.

Our priority remains with the safety of all road users and with keeping the network moving and we thank you for your patience whilst we worked to resolve the issue.



If you would like to help us do our bit for the environment and receive email updates about the scheme, instead of through the post please scan the QR code to register your details.



Colchester Rapid Transit System

Northern Approach Road

WORKS UPDATE

What next?

With the preparatory works now complete we can concentrate on the critical stages of construction. Between May – August 2024 the target is to focus on:

- Kerbing for the RTS outline
- Initial surfacing works to the RTS lane and new footway / cycleway
- Installation of acoustic fencing for the long-term noise reducing measures for residents along the western site boundary
- Construction of the central island that splits the RTS from the main carriageway
- There will be approximately 14 road crossings installed for drainage, signals and service ducting for the A134. We aim to minimise disruption as much as possible, but we do anticipate travel delays with the use of two and three way traffic signals throughout Northern Approach Road which will be needed for the duration of the works
- Installation of new street lighting columns throughout the site
- Between 28th May and 28th June traffic will be unable to turn left into Mill Road when heading northbound on the A134 (Northern Approach Road). This is to allow for the installation of the new bus lane and associated works (see plan below). Mill Road west remains accessible for traffic approaching from other directions.



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WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Chestnut House Kindergarten and Colchester Toy Library

The Chestnut House Kindergarten on Mill Road and the Colchester Toy Library are pictured below receiving the annual handmade wooden toy contributions from Sisk staff.

We hope that the children get as much enjoyment out of playing with the toys as the Sisk apprentice carpenters got out of making them.



Sisk staff with Kelly at the Chestnut House Kindergarten and Christine from the Colchester Toy Library

National Apprentice Week

Early February saw National Apprentice Week which we supported, with an event at Colchester Job Centre.

Staff spent a morning talking to prospective apprentices about what a career in construction could look like. Advice was given about courses and how construction is a much bigger picture than what is visible on site.

We hope more local people will be inspired to consider a career in construction and maybe join the other Colchester based apprentices currently on their training journey with us.

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WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Colchester Community Shop

Following the Sisk volunteering day in December where we helped with the initial renovations, March 1st saw the grand opening of the new Colchester Community Shop.

All the hard work from the organisers and army of local volunteers came to positive fruition when Cllr John Jowers as the Colchester Mayor cut the ribbon to officially declare the shop open.

The shop is located off Hawthorn Avenue in Greenstead and will offer a bridge between foodbanks and mainstream supermarkets. Residents within the Colchester postcode areas can sign up for a yearly £5 membership fee and have access to essential shopping items for 30% less.

The shop is a labour of love from the Divine Ministries in Colchester led by Elizabeth Alake-Akinyemi and Sisk are proud to have played a small part in seeing Elizabeth’s vision become a reality.



Mayor John Jowers cutting the ribbon



Sisk staff with Elizabeth Alake-Akinyemi



The new shop front

If you have an idea for a local community project that we could support then we would love to hear your thoughts at rtstakeholderliaison@sisk.co.uk



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Frequently Asked Questions

What times are works allowed to happen on site?

The hours agreed with Colchester City Council are for site works to be permitted between 7:30am – 6:30pm Monday to Fridays. Beyond these times special dispensation will be required from the City Council.

Why do you carry out works at night-time?

The nature of the construction work means that there will at times be unavoidable disruption. We aim to minimise impacts to the highway as much as possible and one of the ways we can do this is by undertaking works at night when the traffic flows are lighter. This is considered safer for both workers and the public compared to daytime options.

As above, special permission is required from Colchester City Council before any night works can proceed.

The temporary lights are faulty, how do I report an issue?

We are regularly monitoring the site traffic management in place including the barriers, cones and temporary traffic lights. If a problem with any temporary traffic lights for the Rapid Transit is identified outside of the working hours then this can be reported to the out of hours number on 0330 0433030.

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Why are your construction workers parked around the estate when parking is at a premium for residents?

We are aware of reports of workers parking in the residential areas which we will happily investigate, however **all** personnel working for or on behalf of Sisk on the Rapid Transit System (Northern Approach) are bussed into site every day as part of the works contract.

There may be times when construction vehicles are seen to be parked at different locations including the road sweeper, but this should only be for a short period of time whilst waiting to carry out required works around the area of the site. If in doubt about the identity of a vehicle you have spotted please get in touch with us.



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Northern Approach Road

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

Why have you closed the footways along the Northern Approach Road?

We are working simultaneously on all sections of Northern Approach Road to enable the project to be delivered quicker than if we were phasing the works. As this is a live site it is necessary to close the footways where the RTS is being constructed for the safety of both pedestrians and the construction workers.

The footways between Bruff Close and Mill Road will remain closed for the duration of the works which includes the suspension of the crossing points at the junctions with Wallace Road and Mill Road.

Where can I cross the road if the crossing points are closed?

We are seeing pedestrians continuing to cross towards Wallace Road and we strongly encourage pedestrians to use the signalised crossing between Hakewill Way and the hospital.

Why are there no works happening on site?

Although the working hours are 7:30-6.30pm there will be occasions when works don't happen. There are sometimes mandatory safety briefings which requires the attendance of all site staff but which will generally see the teams return to site in a short space of time.

The nature of the works means that the weather can also play a part in whether site activities are viable. The periods of intense wet weather experienced at the start of the year has affected our intended productivity but we are working hard to make up the lost time.

You have temporary lights out that I cant see on Onenetwork, are you working illegally?

Many of the works involving lane closures, road closures or temporary traffic lights are progressed under a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) which covers the whole project.

It would not be uncommon therefore to check <https://one.network/uk> and not see information for works that you can see on the highway. We are aiming to provide the specific details for these works in the weekly lookahead that we email to stakeholders who have signed up for email updates. (see information on page 2)



Scan the QR code for
detailed information
on the project